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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from E45.

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Manage shortage

EARLY findings show that the drug tirzepatide performed better overall across trials, both for blood sugar control and weight loss.

The researchers of the study, presented at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes conference, say tirzepatide may help with the shortage of semaglutide.

Guide future vision: PSA

WITH a vision for the future of the profession, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has opened consultation on its *Pharmacists in 2030* report, due for release next year.

The 2030 report, which follows on from the PSA's *Pharmacists in 2023*, aims to set the agenda for the next six years to ensure pharmacists meet the changing needs of Australians and the health system.

To achieve this, the PSA is inviting all pharmacists, industry stakeholders, and the broader Australian community to provide feedback on the future of pharmacy, **HERE**, before consultation closes in Nov.

National President Fei Sim (pictured) says it's an opportunity to participate in the creation of a plan that will not only guide the future of the profession but also contribute to a healthier, more accessible healthcare system.

"*Pharmacists in 2030* will look at the roles pharmacists of the future



can play to support patients at all stages of care," Sim explained.

"To ensure sustainability, these roles must be supported with recognition and remuneration.

"Our vision for *Pharmacists in 2030* involves all pharmacists, in all specialist areas of practice from community to hospital, credentialed to general practice and beyond, to be empowered to work to their top and full scope of practice," Sim said.

"This is the foundation of our pharmacists' future," she added. *JG*

Tangible solutions

THE third edition of the Pharmacy Forecast Australia by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) was launched on FIP's World Pharmacists Day this week, highlighting the need for an expansion of pharmacist-led prescribing roles.

Announced as one of 35 key recommendations to help strengthen Australia's fragmented and inequitable health system, the SHPA President Tom Simpson said the third edition draws on insights from 120 pharmacy leaders from every state and territory, covering regional and metro areas & hospital; across six themes, impacting the nation's health system.

"The timeliness of Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2023 will help empower policy-makers with tangible solutions and ideas to pressing health issues," explained Simpson.

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GPs slam pilot expansion

CONCERNS have been raised around the evaluation processes for health reforms by the peak GP lobby, following the decision to expand Qld's Scope of Practice Pilot.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Vice President and Qld Chair, Dr Bruce Willett said, "if a pilot is being extended before it has been started, let alone appropriately evaluated, then it does raise concerns about the importance of properly evaluating patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness in the decision-making processes.

The RACGP strongly objects to the Pilot, where pharmacist prescribers will write out scripts for various conditions and then "sell meds to patients" based on their recommendations.

"This pilot creates a strong conflict of interest," Willett asserted.

"There is a reason why we have always separated the prescribing and dispensing of medications."

Willett also added that "front of

mind is the fact that Qld is facing a severe shortage of pharmacists".

"The net result of this pilot is likely that it will be not only more difficult to see your GP, as they try to track down what the pharmacist is doing, it will also be more difficult to access your medications because many pharmacists will be busy doing other work," Willett explained.

"Healthcare reform needs to make our system safer and more efficient, we should not be pursuing a Band-Aid approach."

President Dr Nicole Higgins also spoke out against the expansion decision saying, "while GPs value the work of pharmacists, and we back team-based models of care where pharmacists maximise their skills to the full, patient safety must come first".

"It would have made more sense to wait for the recommendations from the federal scope of practice review before expanding the pilot," Higgins concluded. JG

Vale Ross Brown as PSA pays tribute

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has paid tribute to Ross Brown who passed away over the weekend.

Brown was PSA's second National President (1979-1980), and a NSW branch councillor for 40 years, one of Australia's highest-ranked Army Reserve officers, and a former Director and Deputy Board Chair at Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API).

Since his registration in 1952, he helped develop Australian pharmacy into what we know today, pioneering the use of computers when he oversaw the installation of the country's second-ever IBM 360 computer at API, the PSA stated.

National President Dr Fei Sim said in tribute, "Ross Brown was an inspiration".

"He set the foundation for the PSA during his years as our National President and we will always remember the significant contribution he has made to the



profession more broadly.

"He is widely recognised as one of the greatest modern contributors to the combined development of pharmacy professional services, corporate pharmacy, military pharmacy and academic pharmacy in New South Wales and Australia.

"Ross was a tireless advocate, his support was instrumental to the success of the University of Sydney's Pharmacy School and the Pharmacy Practice Foundation, as well as the establishment of the Ross Brown Scholarship for elite athletes studying pharmacy," Sim said.



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Dispensary Corner

A FLOCK of sheep found their way into a greenhouse in Greece and ate more than 600 pounds (272kg) of marijuana plants being cultivated for medical use.

Yiannis Bourounis, the owner of the greenhouse in Magnesia, said his crop had already been damaged by heat and recent floods when a flock of sheep managed to enter the greenhouse and feast on the remaining cannabis plants.

He estimated the sheep munched their way through more than 272kg of plants.

Bourounis told *thenewspaper.gr* that the sheep were "jumping higher than goats" after eating their ill-begotten greenery.

Greece legalised medical marijuana in 2017, and the country opened the first cannabis production plant earlier this year.



Liver cancer hope

RESEARCHERS have discovered a new way to treat a common type of liver cancer.

The Centenary Institute-led study revealed, **HERE**, that an encouraging treatment utilises a new drug called Blockmir CD5-2, in combination with a drug called programmed cell death protein 1 antibody.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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