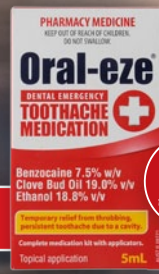


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## ANZCAP extends Foundation Program

**THE** Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) has announced a one-time extension to its Foundation Program for Australian pharmacists, which was originally due to close this month.

Now available until Jun, the program is the fastest path to gaining ANZCAP recognition as a resident, registrar or consultant through evidence of prior professional experience, and includes a 25% saving on the first year of recognition.

“We’re thrilled with the runaway success of the Foundation Program as pharmacists from across all care settings have embraced ANZCAP, including many who have only very recently begun compiling their personal evidence,” said Tom Simpson ANZCAP (Lead&Mgmt), President of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

“The extension of the Foundation Program - through which recognition is attained without the requirement to complete a practice

portfolio - will ensure pharmacists who have begun gathering their documentation have time to complete the process.”

He emphasised that this is the only extension that will be provided.

The program offers a launching pad into portfolio management that can help grow pharmacists’ careers over the long term.

Simpson added, “if you are recognised as a resident or registrar, your next step is the ANZCAP Independent Program, through which you can seamlessly record evidence of your experience and expertise in the ANZCAP digital platform and collate portfolios aligned with one or two of 46 specialty disciplines”.

**Today's issue of PD**  
**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Glucojel

The training initiative was formally opened in Oct last year at the 81st FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brisbane (PD 18 Oct 2023).

The ANZCAP Foundation Program will now close to Ahpra General Registered Australian pharmacists at 11.59pm AEST on Sun 30 Jun 2024 - more info [HERE](#). JM

**Grow with TWC**  
**TERRYWHITE Chemmart** (TWC) can help pharmacies increase average transaction value with scripts, retail sales, rewards, and health services in a single app.  
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**Healthcare Professionals:** Review the full Product Information (PI) before prescribing or recommending DermAid 1% cream, DermAid 1% solution, DermAid 1% spray. Full PI is available from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd and can be accessed at [ebs.tga.gov.au](http://ebs.tga.gov.au)

**References:** 1. Grieve KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol*. 2015; 56(2):e30–4. 2. Van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavriksen AP, Arends BWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012119.pub2.

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## ASA bites back

**THE** Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) has hit back at ABC *Four Corners'* major investigation into the chronic pain industry, which found claims of fraud, waste and abuse.

The episode, named 'Pain Factory', aired last week.

The ASA claims the episode aired "unverified allegations of the misuse of Medicare" and "there is a lack of transparency in the availability and interpretation of that data that alleged self-interest above patient interest".

In addition, the *Four Corners* report failed to include details about how Medicare and private health insurers validate claims, said ASA.

"Patient records were the other missing link in completing the clinical picture in an effort to bring into disrepute a highly skilled, ethical, and patient-focused specialty," said ASA.

"Some of the broad brush claims made, not by the impacted patients, were inflammatory and try to bring into disrepute the work done by anaesthetists around Australia on a daily basis."

ASA's statements follow the response from the PHA yesterday (*PD* yesterday).

## RCPA unveils PGx guide

**THE** Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has introduced a new guide to help health professionals understand when they should consider pharmacogenomics (PGx) testing for 35 medications commonly used in Australia.

The online document was created to address a lack of standardised guidelines for PGx testing in Australia and is now live on the RCPA website.

The guide was the result of a project conducted with several associations, including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The country sees around 250,00 hospital admissions annually as a direct result of medication-related problems - with two-thirds of these potentially preventable - draining the health care system of \$1.4 billion per year.

PGx testing, which analyses how a person's genes influence their response to medications, offers the potential to personalise treatment and improve therapeutic outcomes.

However, a lack of consistent guidelines around when PGx testing should be performed has long been a barrier in clinical practice.

Thus, RCPA kicked off the PGx project in 2022, enlisting a multidisciplinary advisory group which included experts in pathology, pharmacology, and prescribing practice, to carefully review international and Australian



guidelines, approved product labels, and prescribing guidance to develop the nation-wide indications for PGx testing.

According to A. Prof Luke Hesson, who co-chairs the RCPA's PGx Advisory Group, the project has successfully produced an invaluable resource for health professionals.

"PGx is growing as a field and there are now many medications with prescribing guidance based on the results of PGx testing," he said.

"This RCPA resource will help doctors to identify when to consider PGx testing and which genes to test.

"By using PGx testing, we can provide patients with the correct choice and dose of medication."

He also pointed out a need for Medicare rebates for PGx tests in Australia, "given that some of these tests are important for identifying patients at serious risk of toxicity".

As part of the project, the RCPA has submitted two funding request applications to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), with decisions expected in 2025. *JM*

## Profit on a platter

**DISCOVER** how Glucojel's jelly beans can deliver "profit on a platter" to the pharmacies that stock them - more on **page five**.

## Hypertension

**A GROUNDBREAKING** international review has found that dietary fibre is critical in managing high blood pressure or hypertension, which contributes to 19% of deaths around the world.

According to the review published in *Hypertension*, dietary fibre also plays an important role in reducing cardiovascular disease risk.

"Despite numerous guidelines recommending lifestyle modifications as first-line treatment for hypertension, specific recommendations regarding fibre intake have been notably absent," explained lead study author, Associate Professor Francine Marques from the Monash University School of Biological Sciences.

The review revealed that each additional 5 grams of fibre per day is estimated to reduce systolic blood pressure by 2.8 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure by 2.1 mmHg.

## UNSW's new Dean

**PROFESSOR** Cheryl Jones has been appointed as the new Dean of Medicine & Health at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

She is currently the Head of School and Dean of Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney, where she led the introduction of the new Sydney Doctor of Medicine program and the rural Dubbo Stream.

UNSW Sydney Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Attila Brungs said Jones' appointment, which is effective from Jun, affirms the Faculty's "commitment to combine outstanding teaching with cutting-edge research to address major global health challenges".

## Making a run for mental health in Melb

**MELBOURNE'S** Run the Tan event is back, putting mental health in the spotlight.

Taking place at the Tan Track on 21 April, the run aims to raise \$100,000 for charities like Lifeline, RUOK and Beyond Blue.

"Run the Tan has not only helped reshape the historical books but has also inspired a new generation of athletes and enthusiasts to strive for excellence, all in support of mental health," said Darren Templeton, Run the Tan founder.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp will officially open the run.



"We know that one in five Australians will suffer mental illness in any year, and that running for 15 minutes a day reduces the risk of major depression," said Capp.

"I'd like to thank all the participants coming together for this important cause." *JHM*

## No clear link found

**NEW** research published in *Nature Medicine* shows that attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children is unlikely to be directly caused by maternal diabetes during pregnancy.

The findings, which challenge previous research, emerged from a 20-year longitudinal study of mothers and babies in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Taiwan, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

"Our study found only a modest association between maternal diabetes and ADHD after considering the intricate interplay of various influential factors," the study's co-author, A/Prof. Zoega said.





## Dispensary Corner

**NO ONE** likes standing in long queues, but the situation is so dire at one particular pharmacy in the UK, that local government officials are in "urgent talks" to find a solution.

The hospital pharmacy servicing Jersey - the largest of the Channel Islands, between England and France - is so under the pump that it is regularly leaving customers frustrated and in tears over prescription collection wait times.

Jersey backbencher, Deputy Lucy Stephensen, said she saw "one person in tears" and others "angry at the level of service", but added "staff were doing their best".

She added, "I've spoken to people both inside and outside the health service who tell me they've suggested ways that this situation could be improved over several years, so why can't we get under the bonnet and sort it out?"

The pharmacy's customers have also spoken out about the issue, with patient Rachel Tippett telling the BBC that delays in getting medication for her ADHD meant she had to borrow tablets for a friend.

"I've been taking medication for two-and-a-half years, and I've seen this situation getting worse and worse," she said.

The long-standing problem was brought up at during a meeting last week by the island's Health and Community Services Advisory Board, with Health Minister Tom Binet saying extra staff would be recruited "as soon as possible".

# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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## Probiotic Gut Support with Bioglan Medlab SB5B™

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