

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest industry news, plus a full page from **Dispense Assist**.

EBOS' new CFO

EBOS Group Limited has announced the appointment of Alistair Gray (pictured) as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective from Sep.

Alongside this change, EBOS's current CFO, Leonard Hansen, will transition to the role of Chief Risk Officer as part of EBOS's strategic fortification of its executive leadership.

Gray, formerly the Deputy CFO at Endeavour Group, is noted for his leadership within the company's ALH Hotel business and its largest retail entities, Dan Murphy's, BWS, and the hospitality group.

Joining Endeavour Group ahead of its demerger from Woolworths, Gray has been integral in managing the finance teams.

He also held senior roles at Toll Group, Mondelez International and Coles.

John Cullity, CEO of EBOS, praised Gray's extensive retail and supply chain expertise and his fit for EBOS's healthcare and animal care businesses.



BCNA urges swift action

BREAST Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) has welcomed a PBAC recommendation to subsidise the breast cancer drug Enhertu (trastuzumab deruxtecan) for HER2-low metastatic breast cancer on the PBS.

However, BCNA's Director of Policy, Advocacy & Support Services, Vicki Durston, emphasised that challenges remain as the drug continues to be out of reach for many due to its cost.

Durston highlighted that despite PBAC's recommendation, AstraZeneca, the pharmaceutical company behind Enhertu, has yet to lower the price of its Patient Access Program, keeping the drug financially inaccessible for many.

The current program requires patients to pay up to \$50,000 in co-payments, a significant burden for women.

BCNA has persistently called on AstraZeneca to ensure greater equity in access to Enhertu, noting its potential to prolong lives.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, an AstraZeneca spokesperson said, "AstraZeneca is pleased to learn

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that the PBAC recommended reimbursed access to Enhertu and we will continue to work with the Department to finalise the next steps to enable a timely PBS listing.

"While the PBAC continues to review applications under the current guidelines, we believe the ongoing Health Technology Assessments review is critical to continue to drive reform to the PBS to deliver earlier, faster, fairer access to medicines."

AstraZeneca stated it supports Medicines Australia's vision for faster access to medicines, with reimbursed access achieved within approximately 60 days of registration with the TGA.

The company's spokesperson explained that currently, the average time from registration to reimbursement is 466 days.

"AstraZeneca continues to advocate for an Interim Cancer Fund, as we believe this is the best way to provide faster and fairer access to new medicines, bridging the gap between TGA approval and PBS reimbursement," the spokesperson concluded. JG

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Australia commits \$30m to end malaria

THE Australian Government has just announced a \$30 million investment to help eliminate malaria in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

In 2022, there were over seven million reported cases of malaria, with rising infection rates in some countries.

The new package will support

governments and communities to develop better testing tools, improve treatments and strengthen mosquito control.

In addition, James Cook University will receive \$5 million in funding to support Pacific countries to monitor and control mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, dengue and zika virus.

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Dispensary Corner

FIRST, Hollywood and influencers were to blame for the “trout pout”, the swelling that often occurs after injectables, as well as “duck face” when posing for a selfie.

Now, there’s “Ozempic face”, a side effect of taking the controversial weight-loss drug.

Think sunken eyes, gaunt cheeks and saggy skin.

And according to a panel of surgeons, celebrities like singers Robbie Williams and singer Jessica Simpson are all suffering from the same affliction.

“Ozempic face’ is essentially the same characteristics that we see when patients have rapid or regular weight loss,” said Dr Smita Ramanadham, a plastic surgeon in New Jersey.

“We see a loss of volume in the face, and when we lose fat in the face we see signs like the cheeks are more sunken in, more sagging skin and a general hollowing out of the features.”

While Ozempic has been often lauded as a miracle weight-loss drug by celebrities in the past, other side effects include a whole host of gastrointestinal issues from constipation to nausea.

It was also reported last year that with the rise of Ozempic, there has been an increase in plastic surgery to manage the side effects, from tummy tucks and neck lifts to face fillers.

From vomiting and saggy skin to multiple surgeries under the knife, it’s clear that following Hollywood stars’ weight-loss plans is not as glamorous as their careers may seem.

Bol to speak at PC2024



PHARMACY Connect (PC2024) has revealed that Olympian Peter Bol will be sharing his journey from adversity to athletic greatness at the conference in Sep in Sydney.

Bol, known for his prowess in middle-distance running, has represented Australia at multiple prestigious events, including the 2016 Rio Olympics, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

“Fresh from the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, Bol will delve into the champion mindset, offering insights on mental toughness, goal-setting, and maintaining focus amid many distractions,” PC2024 convenor Kos Sclavos said.

Bol’s journey from Sudan to international athletics is a tale of perseverance and determination.

Born amidst Sudan’s civil strife, he and his family sought safety in Egypt, eventually making Australia their home when Bol was four years old.

Confronting various hardships, including limited financial resources, Bol remained steadfastly committed to his athletic pursuits.

Sclavos emphasised that pharmacists can glean vital lessons

from Bol’s story, discovering how setbacks can pave the way for success with the right mindset.

Bol’s tale of triumph promises to empower attendees to surpass their limits and achieve more, both personally and professionally. JG

Bacon adds heat

WHILE advocacy group, Sweltering Cities, has welcomed the launch of the Federal Government’s heat mapping tool to help communities cope with the worst of extreme heat, it says more needs to be done.

Executive Director Emma Bacon said, “people aren’t underprepared for extreme heat through lack of knowledge, they’re being prevented from following health advice because they’re anxious about electricity bills so don’t turn on air con”.

She argued that the map should be a “wake up call” for the govt to implement new programs and funding to help communities stay safe in the face of dangerous heat levels.

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