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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, a feature page from Metagenics plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- Glucojel

Pointrs free trial

WITH over 5,000+ hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel - see page five for the free trial offer.

Sim speaks out

AS SHE opened PSA24 this morning, PSA National President Fei Sim said cutting red tape and proper remuneration is necessary to empower pharmacists to truly practice to full scope and "to do what we are trained to do in being stewards of medicine".

"We can do more of course, but we must also be supported and remunerated to do more.

"We cannot keep expecting pharmacists to do more with less," she emphasised.

PSA rewards its top professionals



THREE exceptional Australian pharmacists were honoured today by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) during their national conference, PSA24, held in Sydney.

The 2024 PSA Symbion Excellence Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of pharmacists to their profession.

The recipients are: Dr Amy Page, Pharmacist of the Year, (pictured left); Jackie Lockley, Early Career Pharmacist of the Year (pictured centre); and Peter Halstead, who won the Lifetime Achievement Award (pictured right)

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim, who presented the awards, said, "the PSA Excellence Awards celebrate pharmacists who exceed expectations, engage in innovative practices, and set high standards



for others to follow".

Page was recognised for her clinical leadership in the quality use of medicines and her volunteer work raising the profession's profile.

Her career includes roles such as the President of PSA's Victorian branch, the inaugural Director of the Centre for Optimisation of Medicines, an academic at the University of WA, and member of the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

Lockley was celebrated for her impactful relationships with patients and communities, highlighting the role of pharmacists beyond dispensing medicines.

She is a community pharmacist in Canberra's inner north who is utilising pharmacogenomic testing to support specialised patient care.

Halstead, who has worked in



pharmacy for more than 40 years, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions to advancing the pharmacy practice.

During his career, he has held roles such as Director of the Australian Pharmacy Council, and GM of the Pharmacy Regulation Authority, South Australia. JG

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TGA warns on ads

THE TGA is reminding businesses and media that it is illegal to advertise prescription-only medicines, including weight loss drugs, to the public.

Such advertisements can undermine health practitioners' advice and create inappropriate demand for medicines.

The *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* applies to anyone publishing information about therapeutic goods.

Media platforms must ensure their content does not promote these products directly or indirectly.

In the last six months, the TGA has issued over 70 infringement notices, totalling over \$1 million, to 19 entities for unlawful advertising.

This includes more than \$300,000 related to weight-loss medicines and three notices to a mainstream media outlet (*PD* 10 Jul).

Thyroid cancer drug lists



IPSEN Australia's Cabometyx (cabozantinib), a once-daily oral medication for thyroid cancer, is now available on the PBS.

The medication is for patients with locally advanced or metastatic differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC) that has progressed after prior VEGFR-targeted therapy, and is refractory or ineligible for radioactive iodine (RAI).

In Australia, thyroid cancer cases have quadrupled since 1982, with 1.2% of Australians projected to be diagnosed by age 85.

DTC, the most common form, affects around 4,000 Australians annually, predominantly women.

Though typically treatable when detected early, some DTCs can aggressively spread to other body parts, such as the lungs and bones.

While the prognosis for DTC is generally positive, with an 80-95% 10-year life expectancy, those resistant to RAI have a reduced expectancy of three to five years.

Beverley Garside, CEO of The Australian Thyroid Foundation, said the PBS listing of Cabometyx was a significant step for patients.

"The approval of Cabometyx offers an alternative treatment for those who have exhausted other options, alleviating the financial burden on patients," said Garside. JG

Pharmacy Daily ON LOCATION



PSA24

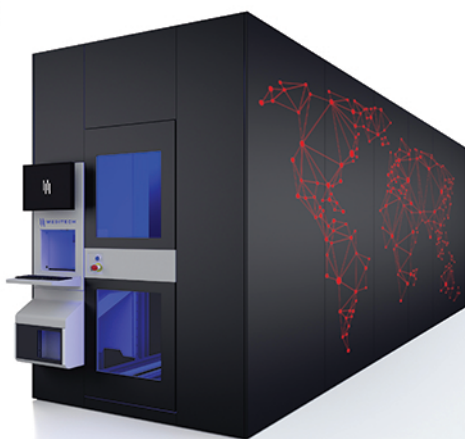
Today's issue of *PD* is coming to you from Sydney, reporting on the PSA24 this week.

THE PSA24 has kicked off today at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

The venue is packed out with hundreds of pharmacists, wholesalers, suppliers and the *PD* team, who have just heard PSA National President Fei Sim open the national conference.

The buzz of enthusiasm is palpable as industry colleagues catch up with one another over coffees, and eagerly await further insights from PSA24.

Also on the agenda for day one are the PSA24 Excellence Awards, masterclasses, policy panels, and much more.



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Pharmacists urged to consider last-minute scope of practice accreditation as CPD deadline looms



PHARMACISTS who have not completed their end-of-year accreditation are urged to consider locking in opportunities before the 30 Sep deadline to ensure pharmacists are recognised for continuing competence, especially with the roll out of scope of practice.

With a growing industry worth \$5.69 billion, pharmacists are encouraged to consider the benefits of a fully integrated approach to patient care, both in terms of expanded patient care, as well as meeting a growing consumer demand for complementary medicines.

Australasian College of Pharmacy Chief Pharmacist, Suzanna Nash, said there are opportunities for those pharmacists who want to evolve their business and professional

development, by providing an integrated approach to patient care.

“It’s an exciting and innovative time in the Australian primary healthcare system with community pharmacists able to provide more healthcare services to patients,” Nash said.

A whole-of-health approach

PAULA Hann, Metagenics Australia and New Zealand, Regional Vice President said:

“For many Australians, community pharmacists are often the most accessible healthcare professionals, and their expertise can be particularly valuable when educating patients on ‘whole of health’ approaches to medicines and wellbeing.

“Spanning a range of treatments and practices including vitamins, supplements and herbal



products, and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, consumer demand for complementary and alternative medicines has risen dramatically in recent years.”

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

Expand your scope today



ONE of the most timely accreditations available for pharmacists to undertake right now is ‘Integrative Pharmacists: Expand your scope of practice’, a training course that has been developed by Metagenics in partnership with the Australasian College of Pharmacy.

Completion of the six-module course will provide pharmacists with up to 17 CPD credits suitable for inclusion in their CPD plan, a certificate of completion for each module, as well as the ability to open an account and offer Metagenics products within their pharmacy clinic setting.



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Dispensary Corner

ANXIETY and depression are major health issues, but simply prescribing a medicine may not be the best course of treatment.

A new study from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has found anxiety and depression can be eased through bonding with a dog.

The study comprised of 200 women, more than half of whom were childhood abuse survivors, and found their attachment to a pet was linked with lower anxiety levels.

Having a strong connection with a dog was also associated with reduced depression and insecure human attachment.

One key takeaway was that pets can compensate for the lack of a stable relationship some people experience.

Some businesses are already putting dogs to use for their effect as a calming agent, with various airports around the world deploying "canine therapy" to interact with nervous flyers prior to take-off.

Further studies have shown travellers who have a positive interaction with a playful puppy before boarding a plane will release endorphins which help them navigate the journey.



T2D drug slows TUD care



A NEW study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* has found that semaglutide is linked to a reduced need for medical care related to tobacco use disorder (TUD) in smokers suffering from type 2 diabetes.

Compared to seven other anti-diabetes medications, patients on semaglutide were less likely to seek medical help for TUD, including those receiving a diagnosis, smoking cessation medication, or counselling.

Conducted by researchers from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, and the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, the study used a target

trial emulation framework.

The researchers compared the new use of semaglutide to other diabetes medication in three groups: patients with both type 2 diabetes and TUD, those with both conditions plus obesity, and those without obesity.

It was found that semaglutide was associated with lower smoking-related health care utilisation across all groups, within 30 days of prescription.

The findings align with previous reports suggesting semaglutide might reduce the desire to smoke, but the researchers caution against using it off-label for smoking cessation without further clinical trials to confirm its efficacy. *JG*

Acne linked to abnormal serum levels

PATIENTS with acne vulgaris have significantly lower levels of serum zinc, selenium, and vitamin D compared to the general population, according to new research published in the *Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology*.

The case-control study involved the collection of blood samples from 100 patients over the age of 18 who have received a diagnosis of acne by a dermatologist, and

100 patients without acne.

Researchers also investigated how nutrient levels varied with the severity of acne, and discovered that levels of zinc were lowest in patients with grade 4 (the most severe) acne.

The researchers suggested that future acne studies should assess factors such as nutritional status, sunlight exposure, and hormonal disorders.

Skin cancer rising

DEATHS from non-melanoma skin cancers have nearly doubled in Australia since 2000, with new research from the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) revealing a hidden danger.

Most fatalities are linked to a high-risk form of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), often found on sun-exposed areas of the head and neck and typically treated with local removal.

Published in *Pathology*, the study's findings showed non-melanoma skin cancer deaths rose from 400 annually in 2001 to almost 800 in 2021.

Study lead Dr Andrew Dettrick, Sunshine Coast Health pathologist, stressed the urgency of addressing non-melanoma skin cancers.

"Non-melanoma skin cancer is often trivialised due to its high prevalence and generally easy treatment," he said.

"However, a subset of SCC carries a high risk of metastasis and death."

Dr Dettrick called for improved definitions, diagnostics, and treatment management to prevent cancer spread.

"While most patients have excellent prognoses, with cure rates of 91-95% following localised removal, outcomes worsen significantly once the cancer advances," he noted.

UniSC's Dr Rebecca Donkin highlighted the study's potential impact on patient outcomes, which will help clinicians to identify high-risk incidences early and enhance disease management and survival rates.

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