

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest pharmacy news, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Willach

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DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

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WILLACH Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up.

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Butler backs 60DD, as PSA partners up

THE Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) "difficult reform, but good policy" in his opening address at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) national conference, PSA24, on Fri.

Butler announced that nine million scripts have been issued under 60DD, saving Australians more than \$50 million on their medicine costs, with the next round of medicines to be added in Sep.

He added that despite "the litany of catastrophic consequences" predicted at the time of 60DD, applications to open new pharmacies continue to climb.

"Since I announced 60-day scripts, the government has received more than 120 applications to open new pharmacies, which is about 25% higher than the number I received in the corresponding period before the announcement," he said.

Butler also launched the roadmap for PSA's strategic vision, *Pharmacists in 2030* (PD 01 Aug), calling it "bolder and broader in its

ambitions than its predecessor".

"We can continue to work constructively, openly and maturely together, as I'm really confident we have in the last two years," he said.

The PSA also signed two key agreements to support pharmacy students and enhance pharmacists' mental health.

PSA renewed its partnership with

the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), backing its initiatives and the NAPSA Congress, to ensure professional and education opportunities.

Additionally, PSA recommenced its Memorandum of Understanding with the Pharmacists' Support Service, reinforcing its commitment to mental health resources. *JG*

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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

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 Zureen EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arentis 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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Opioid safety kit

MONASH University has launched an online Opioid Safety Toolkit for consumers. Co-developed with PSA and PainAustralia, it offers advice for safer opioid use, and how to create a safety plan in case of adverse reactions.

Funded by the Health Dept, the toolkit was created by pharmacists, consumers, and health professionals.

The toolkit highlights naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication, which is available for free at pharmacies around Australia.

Currently, less than 2% of at-risk patients receive naloxone.

Lead Investigator Professor Suzanne Nielsen said the toolkit leverages over a decade of research into opioid safety.

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim encouraged pharmacists to use the toolkit to support patient education and promote naloxone uptake.

PSA celebrates its high achievers



DEDICATED professionals were recognised in front of their peers at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's national conference (PSA24) last week.

Bowen-based pharmacist James Oh was named the 2024 PSA MIMS Intern Pharmacist of the Year (**PD** breaking news).

Oh (**pictured**) graduated from James Cook University last year, when he also received the Prof James Dare Graduate of the Year award, which recognises academic



and leadership success, as well as community engagement.

Since then, he has led in his practice MedsChecks and immunisation as opportunities to optimise patient care.

Tasmanian pharmacist Esther Staal (**pictured**) was also awarded the 2024 PSA Locumate.ai Locum Pharmacist of the Year.

Staal is an empowered locum pharmacist focused on continued learning and professional development to improve practice

to care for different communities, from the goldfields of Kalgoorlie to the retirees in Vasse.

Taking out the 2024 PSA Viatrix Pharmacy Student of the Year award was Shylee-Jade Hadar-Pagliari from James Cook University.

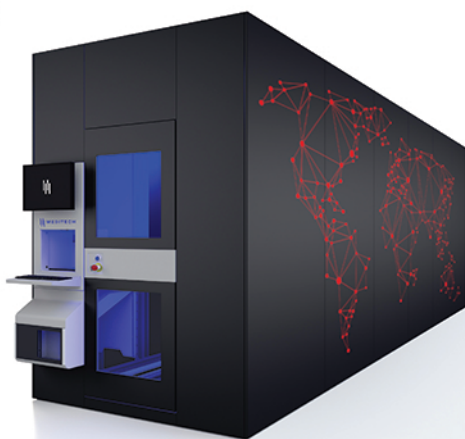
The People's Choice award was handed to Hayden Scott from the University of Canberra.

The annual PSOTY awards recognise and celebrate outstanding pharmacy students by showcasing their counselling skills to the profession, and is a highlight of PSA's annual flagship conference.

Furthermore, a new cohort of 26 PSA Fellows was recognised for their significant contributions to the PSA and the profession.

Among the new Fellows is Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health - the only pharmacist currently serving in Parliament.

For the full list of Fellows elevated by the PSA, **CLICK HERE**. JG



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Dispensary Corner

WHEN you're researching something as intricate and complex as human DNA, sometimes you just need luck.

A pair of studies published in the *Science and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* journal has found human DNA actually has a lot in common with baker's yeast, of all things.

Specifically, your common loaf of bread may contain, along with your Vegemite or preserve of preference, a mechanism that helps DNA copy itself.

The studies have visualised a molecular complex in both human DNA and yeast that keeps parts of the replication machinery from falling off the DNA strand.

Researchers say that at least 40 different diseases, including cancers and some rare conditions, have been linked to problems with DNA replication.

So perhaps your morning slice of toast could one day lead to all kinds of health advancements.



PSA Shark Tank sees innovation thrive

INNOVATION and creativity were in the spotlight at last week's annual PSA24 conference, where clever devices like a needle-less hepatitis screening tool and an AI-powered diabetes platform were showcased during the Pharmacy Shark Tank session.

During the afternoon, four start-ups pitched their products in front of a live audience and four Shark Tank judges, who each had \$3,000 to invest.

The Sharks were Bridget Totterman, PSA National Board Director; David Lai, Trade Marketing and Category Manager at Viatrix; Nick Foster, CFO at PSA.

Start-ups included Hepatitis WA, Aarian Health, which is focused on diabetes solutions for patients, as well as Cinch Pharmacy, which has created a video communication platform for pharmacists.

Dr Adrian Sheen (**pictured**) also demonstrated his invention, the Widdleometer, an internationally-patented device that tracks slow urine flow in older men from the privacy of their own homes (*PD* 26 Oct 2023).

"Merv was a patient of mine who died unnecessarily," Dr Sheen said.

"He had a blockage to his urine system caused by a large prostate,



but he took no action about it and did what most men do - he preferred to live in denial.

"Now the solution to the problem is the Widdleometer," Dr Sheen said.

Hepatitis WA, Cinch Pharmacy and Widdleometer all received investment from the judges, but it was Hepatitis WA's blood screening project that also took out the People's Choice Award and won an additional \$1,000 investment.

"Australia has signed on to the global target for eliminating viral hepatitis, which is Hepatitis B and C by the year 2030," commented Hepatitis WA CEO Brent Bell during his presentation.

"In order to do that, we need to find better ways to screen the community," he added.

In partnership with Pharmacy

777 Applecross, Hepatitis WA has developed a needle-less tool to help pharmacists screen patients for hepatitis within their stores.

By using the new tool, patients can self-collect up to 800ml of blood while being supported by their pharmacist.

A pathology lab courier picks up the sample and takes it to the team at Hepatitis WA, where a GP reviews the results and communicates them with the pharmacist, who then discusses them with the patient and connects them with treatment.

Foster congratulated all of the entrepreneurs for their efforts on the day.

"I've been doing the Pharmacy Shark Tank now for three years and I'm just absolutely gobsmacked by the innovation that I've seen in all the ideas that have come through and I want to give that credit to everyone today," he said. *JHM*

PSA25 announced

THE PSA National President Fei Sim confirmed that its national conference, PSA25, will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney, from 01-03 Aug 2025.

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