



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature and a **December MIMS Update**, plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- NOVA Pharmaceuticals

Save with Pointrs

POINTRS is offering a free 30-day trial, giving pharmacists the opportunity to save big on their next holiday.

Using cash, airline and credit card loyalty points, members save up to 81% on flights - **p5**.

Emergency med

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' emergency contraception Novella-1 is available now to order for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers - see **p6**.

College and students re-sign MOU

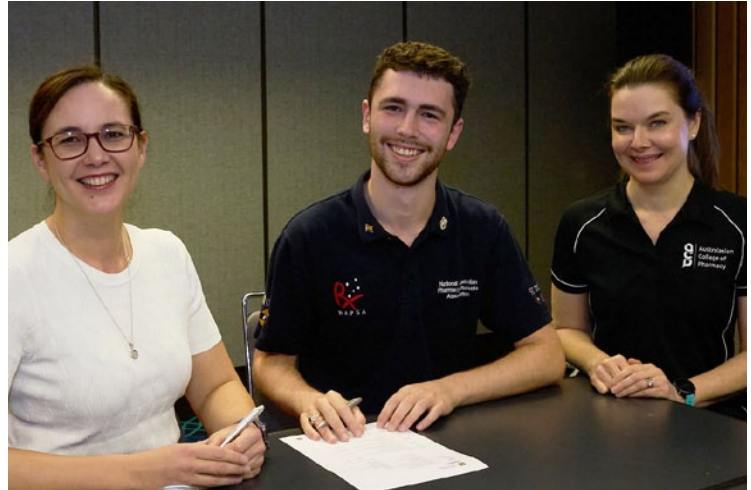
THE Australasian College of Pharmacy announced this week the re-signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

The MOU was officially signed during the 2024 Pharmacy Connect Conference in Sydney by College CEO, Amanda Seeto (**pictured left**), and NAPSA National President, Sebastian Harper (**pictured centre**), with College Chief Pharmacist Suzy Nash on the right).

The partnership signifies a commitment to support the development of pharmacy students across Australia, the college said.

The collaboration will focus on providing additional education and training to support the transition from university to practice, ensuring that pharmacy students are well-prepared for their future careers in the industry.

Seeto said she looks forward to providing pharmacy students with up-to-date resources and the



chance to engage in professional development activities.

In addition, the college is offering NAPSA members complimentary college membership during their tertiary education.

Harper also welcomed the renewal of the MOU and the opportunity it offers students to learn and complement their

university studies.

To start NAPSA members on their full scope of practice learning journey, pharmacy students can access the College's uncomplicated cystitis training.

"With UTI services in community pharmacy now available Australia-wide, this training is a must for pharmacy students," Seeto said. *KB*



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Plunkett steps down from RUM

AFTER many years as the Chair of the Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM) Project, Warwick Plunkett has stepped down from this role.

Amanda Seeto, Australasian College of Pharmacy CEO and a former Deputy Chair of RUM, was elected as his replacement at the Nov Board meeting.

Plunkett has been an integral part of the RUM Project since its inception in 1998 and continues to be a tireless advocate for the collection and disposal of unwanted medicines from consumers, with the involvement of nearly all community pharmacies around Australia.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Plunkett, Seeto commented that he had been involved with RUM throughout its growth and development over the past 25 years and helped guide the program to being the success it is today, with well over 800,000 kilograms of returned medicines being incinerated in the past 12 months.

The Board joined with Seeto to acknowledge Plunkett's contribution and look forward to working with him during his last 12 months on the Board.

US pharmacies struggling

NEARLY three out of 10 US drugstores that were open during the previous decade had closed by 2021, with Black and Latino neighbourhoods most vulnerable to the retail pharmacy closures, according to new research.

Shrinking reimbursement for prescriptions, rising costs and changing customer shopping habits are putting pressure on pharmacies, and the chains have reportedly been closing money-losing stores and transferring prescription files to more profitable locations.

Fei Sim contemplates the year ahead



EXCLUSIVE

SCOPE of practice, digital health and greater collaboration with external stakeholders look set to feature in 2025, says Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President Fei Sim.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* about what the year ahead will bring, one of the key developments Sim expects to see is the rapid upscale of scope expansion.

"With that will come the challenges of navigating a lack of national harmonisation - so we will continue to call for harmonisation."

There are also reviews and policy work happening at the government level that will affect pharmacies.

"For example, we have the scope of practice review being released.

"It will be interesting to see what the government does in terms of its implementation."

With the federal election in the first half of next year, Sim says it is important to have bilateral support for the pharmacy profession and its work.

"The work that we do as

healthcare professionals doesn't stop and it doesn't change, and that recognition needs to continue, and the work needs to continue."

She also points to the need to close the difference between federal level healthcare activity and state-based activity.

"We have the national health reform agreement that is happening at the moment.

"It's not specific to pharmacy, but we fit in one of the commitments in that the national health reform agreement is bringing the federal, state and territory governments together to see how we can better achieve collaboration and benefit from it."

The Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan and Strengthening Medicare initiatives are ongoing, with pharmacy given a seat at the table.

Sim expects the health system will continue to face more and more pressure with an ageing population and increased healthcare needs.

"And we will see next year how the evolution of pharmacy practice will continue to support this."

The PSA released the *Pharmacists*

in 2030 report this year, its flagship vision for the future of Australian pharmacy practice.

"That will guide not just external people's views around who we are and what we can provide, but it also helps guide us on how we would continue to advocate in the direction that we will go."

Sim expects to see digital health ramped up, driven by real needs on the ground.

"As we continue to provide more clinical services, clinical documentation needs will rise, and with it our need to access healthcare data.

"So I think there will be continuous movement in the digital health space."

She also anticipates seeing more innovative projects, pilots and trials, coming through partnerships with universities, primary health networks and other government and non-government agencies.

"A lot of innovative work comes out of those sort of projects where you trial a particular innovation and create the evidence, and then the evidence can be used by us to continue to advocate for wide-scale implementation," Sim said.

This year has been a significant year for pharmacists and the pharmacy profession as a whole, with a positive lens placed on pharmacists and what they can do.

"Our profession as a whole has greater connection than ever before with the government, with the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Primary Health Networks and other external stakeholders.

She hopes for that to continue in 2025, but would like to see more unity within the profession.

"I think moving into next year, I would like to see our profession being more united.

"We are a small profession, a small but mighty profession.

"The more unity we can have, the more alignment we can have within our profession, the better it is for our profession." KB

See more from our interview with Fei Sim in the *Pharmacy Daily Year in Review special report, coming out next week.*

Qiara's clinically supported probiotics boost family health



QIARA probiotics, derived from healthy human breast milk, are designed for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, babies, and the entire family. Unlike typical probiotics isolated from food or gut bacteria, Qiara's *Lactobacillus fermentum* CECT5716 strain is uniquely sourced from breast milk, offering

benefits like restoring gut and breast tissue flora. This strain has been extensively researched for over 15 years and is supported by clinical evidence. Qiara's range includes a daily gut and immune health probiotic for teens and adults, as well as options specifically designed for pregnant women, breastfeeding

mothers, kids, and infants. Manufactured in Australia, Qiara probiotics are trusted, evidence-based probiotics. Qiara's range can be purchased in a variety of pharmacies across the country, including TerryWhite Chemmart, Blooms the Chemist, Amcal, Priceline Pharmacy, and many more.

Delta fights with care



LA ROCHE-POSAY is continuing its 'Fight With Care' initiative, a global campaign highlighting the harsh side effects of cancer treatment on skin - an issue that causes more than half of patients to stop or reduce treatment because of various skin concerns, which can include itching, burning, scars and severe dryness.

The company has teamed up with Aussie songstress and cancer survivor Delta Goodrem for the second year in a row. "We're thrilled to have Delta Goodrem continue to support our Fight With Care campaign," said L'Oreal Dermatological Beauty MD, Penelope Thornett. "Delta's battle with cancer inspired many, and like La Roche Posay, she's passionate about helping cancer patients improve their skin comfort and quality of life." La Roche-Posay has also joined forces with the Princess Alexandra Research Foundation in Qld to create Australia's first onco-dermatology clinic, giving cancer patients who have skin impacts access to specialised dermatological care through the hospital.

Nourishing for bubs

AROMABABY'S Moisturising Nappy Change Cream (RRP \$19.95) is a thick cream designed to cleanse and moisturise all in one step. The concentrated formula is enriched with natural vitamin E, organic avocado and rose oils, ensuring it gently cares for sensitive skin and also has a pleasant scent. The versatile product doubles as a cleansing cream and make up remover for mums too, and is available in assorted sizes, including in a baby gift hamper.



Ease constipation with Caruso's EZE solution



CARUSO'S Constipation EZE contains a combination of herbal ingredients which have been carefully selected to help promote bowel waste elimination and maintain bowel regularity.

Available at pharmacies around Australia, including Chemist Warehouse, the product is formulated to relieve constipation, increase bowel evacuation and improve bowel regularity. The main ingredient is fennel, which is used in traditional Western herbal medicine to relieve abdominal bloating and wind, alongside cascara, yellow dock and green banana powder - a rich source of resistant starch. The Australian-made supplement is free from animal products, artificial colours and flavours, and does not contain dairy, gluten, lactose, nuts, preservatives, soya bean, or yeast. Caruso's Constipation EZE is available in 60-capsule bottles for RRP \$39.95.

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Dispensary Corner

WHEN you think of other jobs that pharmacy skills could be useful for, 'chocolatier' probably wouldn't spring to mind.

But one Canadian pharmacist has broken the mould, so to speak.

While serving pharmacy customers in the city of Saskatoon is her full-time job, Venessa Liang serves up luxury chocolate bars under the moniker 'FoodiePharmBabe' on the side.

Liang crafts the edible artwork in her garage, which she's transformed into a choccie laboratory that would make Willy Wonka jealous.

She only makes a couple hundred bars each season, and they go for between A\$55-\$110 a-piece - often selling out in a matter of minutes.

"I'm treating each single bar like it's a piece of art, so what I'm selling isn't just a tasty chocolate bar, it's something that I've poured hours and hours into, in terms of flavour combinations, artistic styles, painting, and then the actual chocolate used," Liang shared.

According to the talented chocolate maker, precision is the key to being both a successful pharmacist *and* a thriving chocolatier.

"I'm an oncology pharmacist, so that means that I help cancer patients with their care [and] calculate chemotherapy doses," she explained.

When it comes to chocolate-making, Liang said it gets her creativity flowing and "kind of gives me a little bit of a break from the heaviness of work".

Regional recognition

PARKES pharmacist Lochie Pettiford (pictured) has been recognised for his dedication to mentoring pharmacy students in rural and regional areas.

The managing partner and Pharmacist in Charge of Parkes Pharmacy was awarded the inaugural Rural Pharmacy Preceptor Award by the School of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney in Nov.

He was nominated by students for his outstanding clinical placement support and supervision.

In 2024, university preceptors supported more than 1,200 students to complete almost 1,800 clinical placements.

"It was very surprising to be recognised but it's great to know the students who came here to Parkes enjoyed their time," Pettiford said.

"That's what we at Life Pharmacy Group strive to provide the students - an experience that's not just standing in the dispensary, it's about getting out and learning what pharmacies, particularly in rural environments, can achieve."

The University of Sydney Pharmacy School launched the student-nominated Pharmacy Preceptor Awards this year, to allow students from across all degree programs to nominate pharmacy preceptors who have made a significant impact on their clinical learning or development as a future health professional.

Preceptor awards were presented in five categories including community pharmacy preceptor, hospital pharmacy preceptor, rural/regional pharmacy preceptor and the Dean's Choice Award.

"These awards will help future students understand who offers good pharmacy placements and hopefully that encourages others to



come out to the Central West and experience life here," Pettiford said.

Third-year Bachelor of Pharmacy student, Sonja, completed her placement in Parkes and said she left the placement feeling as though the country was home.

"The main thing that stood out to me was how he inspired us to be pharmacists of integrity and sincerity, and to always put patients first," Sonja said.

"Particularly in a town with limited access to doctors, Lochie showed us [the importance of a] pharmacist's role in the community was and how passionate he is towards consistently improving the quality of care, services provided and trust with patients." *KB*

Baby formula preparation errors

A **SMALL** US study suggests that many parents may be making measurement errors when preparing baby formula.

The study involved 84 infant caregivers who were asked to prepare several baby formula products, with the amounts of water and powder used measured by researchers to determine accuracy.

The parents made a measurement error of over 10% about a third of the time.

The primary aim of the study was to assess the accuracy in the presence or absence of a simulated crying baby, but they found it made little difference.

The main source of error came from measuring powder rather than water, and typically resulted in underdilution (that is, too much powder).

"Due to possible negative health outcomes from overdilution and underdilution errors, some caregivers and infants may benefit from interventions to improve formula-feeding practices," the researchers concluded.

Read the study [HERE](#).

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New Products

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New Indications

- **Adalimumab (rch) (Humira)** is now indicated for the treatment of chronic non-infectious anterior uveitis in paediatric patients 2 years of age and older who have had an inadequate response to or are intolerant to conventional therapy, or in whom conventional therapy is inappropriate.
- **Kit for Ga-68 Glu-urea-Lys(ahx)-hbed-CC radiopharmaceutical preparation (Iluccix)** is now indicated for the selection of patients with metastatic prostate cancer in whom Lu-177 vipivotide tetraxetan prostate-specific membrane antigen-directed therapy is indicated.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*