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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, and full pages from:

- Glucojel
- Wizard Pharmacy
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

Useful launch offer

NOVA Pharmaceuticals has a launch offer for pharmacy with its Elactalyte ice blocks and a free sampling unit available. See more on [page six](#).

Data on child deaths

THE Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan Project has achieved another first with data on the delivery of specialist paediatric palliative care in Australia.

Prof Meera Agar, Chair of Palliative Care Australia said, "for the very first time we can clearly see the gaps that need to be addressed" - see [HERE](#).

8CPA negotiations tough

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has stated that it "will not agree to cuts on cuts for patients or community pharmacies" as it hammers out the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

The government had agreed that negotiations for the 8CPA would commence in Sep last year to achieve agreement, before the next tranche of 60-Day Dispensing cuts, on 01 March this year (PD 01 Sep 2023).

With that date fast approaching, the Guild's 8CPA Negotiating Team has been in Canberra every week since Sep, "actively and earnestly negotiating" with the Department of Health and Aged Care.

However, the Guild stated, "despite our best endeavours to secure an agreement, time is running out for commencement within the agreed time frame".

"Progress has been made, but the Pharmacy Guild cannot agree to terms that would send Australia's network of community pharmacies



backwards and is not in the interests of our patients".

In late Aug 2023, the Guild even agreed to pause its 'Save Your Local Pharmacy' campaign in exchange for an early 8CPA.

The Guild added, "there is still ample opportunity and good faith to resolve the remaining issues of contention, should the Guild's efforts be reciprocated with renewed urgency from the Minister and the Department.

"We remain committed to agreeing to an 8CPA within a matter of weeks." JG

Special edition out

THE latest issue of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA's) flagship *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR) is out now, and is a special edition dedicated to the final ever Geriatrics Therapeutics Review.

Available online, the issue celebrates the end of the long-running education series and features a selection of content from the 146 peer-reviewed scientific articles published over the past four decades.

Some key highlights of the special issue are a commentary from geriatrician A/Prof Michael Woodward on what has changed in drug treatment of Alzheimer's disease in the last 30 years, and a 20-year retrospective on 'deprescribing' from physician Prof Ian Scott.

There is also a reprint of the original GTR article on deprescribing - see [HERE](#).

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Top appointment

DEMENTIA Australia welcomed the appointment of Robert Fitzgerald AM as the next Age Discrimination Commissioner last week.

Fitzgerald will operate within the Australian Human Rights Commission to lead the work of preventing age-based discrimination, and promoting equality across the areas of employment, education, suitable accommodation, and the provision of various goods and services.

Fitzgerald will spearhead initiatives to combat age-related disparities and advocate for the rights of older people in Australia.

He contributed to the Dementia-Friendly Communities Roundtable in NSW Parliament in Sep 2022, which resulted in the inaugural NSW Parliamentary Friends of Dementia Action Plan 2023-2025 released in Sep 2023.

Dementia Australia Executive Director, Services, Advocacy and Research Dr Kaele Stokes said, "Fitzgerald has long championed the rights of older people, including those with a cognitive impairment, and this new appointment acknowledges his commitment to serving this community".

"In 2024 more than 421,000 people are living with all forms of dementia, and they are more susceptible to elder abuse, social and financial abuse as well as neglect."

LPG swims Cole Classic



LIFE Pharmacy Group (LPG) team members have helped raise more than \$77,000 for breast cancer research in one of the world's most celebrated ocean swim events.

LPG staff, friends and family joined forces with those from other companies, to participate in the 42nd Cole Classic Ocean Swim at Sydney's iconic Manly Beach, earlier this month.

This year, 70 swimmers (pictured) represented LPG, Pharmacy Phusion and Fugen Constructions to raise funds and awareness for Breast Cancer Trials, formerly called the Breast Cancer Institute of Australia.

The Breast Cancer Trials team said, "we would also like to say a special thank you to friends, family, and 'anonymous donors' for supporting our cause and being a part of our vision to improve and save the lives of people affected by breast cancer".

"Every donation, no matter how small, brings us closer to a future without this disease.

"As we mentioned on the day,

total deaths from breast cancer have fallen 30% in the past 20 years, and this is largely due to treatments identified through our research program."

The LPG team has been swimming in the Cole Classic since 2010 and has raised more than \$570,000 for various charities. *JG*

Period talk too late

SCHOOLS need to do more to educate their students about periods and support those who experience early onset of menstruation, revealed research from Flinders University.

The research published in *Sex Education* reported that more than 12% of girls in Australia will have their first period between the age of eight and 11 years of age.

Yet the national school curriculum does not provide formal education - to girls or boys - until they are 10 to 12 years old - see more [HERE](#).

Sleep apnoea aid

NEW data has revealed that 40% of Aussies agree that they would do anything to stop their own or partner's snoring.

Another source revealed that more than 200,000 Australian couples sleep separately due to the snoring of one partner, which often has detrimental effects on the relationship.

On this Valentine's Day, Australian Maxillofacial Surgeon, Dr Paul Coceancig has suggested that if patients have concerns about their snoring habits, their local pharmacists can help in several ways.

For example, aiding in meds management for those with sleep apnoea, identifying medications that can worsen symptoms, including muscle relaxants and sedatives that cause the throat to relax, increasing airway obstruction.

Pharmacists can also collaborate with healthcare providers to adjust treatment regimens accordingly, minimising the exacerbation of sleep apnoea symptoms.

They can assist individuals with sleep apnoea in obtaining prescribed treatment such as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy.

Community pharmacists can educate patients on correct CPAP equipment usage, costs, and training, troubleshoot any issues, assist with sleep screening tests, and ensure adherence to treatment for optimal effectiveness.

Webinar on ubiquinol's impact on heart

KANEKA Corporation has announced an upcoming NutraIngredients webinar titled 'Ubiquinol: Science Updates in Cardiovascular Health with World-renowned Cardiologist & Pharmacist', to be held on Wed 28 Feb at 7pm AEDT.

The webinar will feature Australian integrative cardiologist Dr Ross Walker, and pharmacist Bobby Mehta.

They will cover ubiquinol's

impact on lipid profiles, improving endothelial function by increasing nitric oxide production for healthy blood vessels, and effective cholesterol management in adults.

Additionally, the webinar will explore, in the context of over 90 scientific studies, ubiquinol's role as a prime antioxidant in reducing oxidative stress and as a natural anti-inflammatory agent.

For free registration [CLICK HERE](#).

4 WEEKS TO GO

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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



Dispensary Corner

JENNIFER Wang, a Toronto pharmacist and digital creator, has emerged as an unexpected authority on fashion as she combined her medical background with a keen eye for fabric analysis.

Wang gained attention recently when she critiqued a popular 'accessible luxury' brand's oversized trench coat in a TikTok video.

She is a millennial with the sewing vocabulary of a 19th-century seamstress and the TikTok cadence of a Gen Zer.

In a video, she inspected the garment in a store and analysed its components, pointing out "comically small buttons" that didn't suit the weight of the coat, impractical hardware on the sleeves, and stitching that looked rushed.

"The fabric was mostly polyester, with some viscose and spandex, and sure, the drape was nice, but at this price, I'd pick something else," commented Wang.

While a few commentators defended the coat, others appreciated the context during a cost-of-living crisis, but how does a pharmacist know so much about fabric?

Wang explained that in her university days, she bought clothes the way most of us do - she picked what looked good.

But she eventually became frustrated by dresses with snagged fabric, pants that were tragically wrinkled and sweaters that pilled after only a few washes, and none of these items were very old.

Vitura's new proven hand at the helm

VITURA Health appointed Robert Iervasi (**pictured**) as Independent Chair and a Non-Executive Director of its Board yesterday, replacing Dr Marcia Walker who had held the position of Interim Chair since Sep last year.

With a background in both corporate governance and consumer products, Iervasi said he is focused on driving profitability and growth with decades of experience as a CFO, General Counsel and CEO through the various executive and Board roles he has held.

These include companies such as Asahi Beverages, HS Fresh Foods Group, Allpress Espresso and Circular Plastics Australia.

Through these roles, Vitura stated Iervasi has a proven ability to identify opportunities,



mitigate enterprise-wide risks and implement revenue and cost synergies for the company.

Vitura stated Iervasi will pay special attention to employee engagement, which he believes is integral to the success of an integrated business, and is core business for most boards.

CEO Rodney Cocks said, "Robert brings a wealth of experience to Vitura having recently concluded a distinguished executive career at a global level with Asahi Beverages as Group CEO, which delivered exceptional operational, and

financial growth, and the \$16 billion acquisition of CUB".

"Joining Vitura at this time represents an exciting opportunity.

"The growth already achieved by Vitura, coupled with Vitura's relentless ambition to enhance the healthcare experience, means that we are well placed to continue to grow and excite our consumers."

Iervasi added he is keen to bring his experience in consumer products and FMCG to Vitura as "we work towards redefining healthcare in our markets".

His remuneration as Chair of Vitura is \$120,000 per annum and he will join the Company's Audit and Risk and Nomination and Remuneration Committees.

Vitura stated Walker will remain on the Board as an independent, Non-Executive Director. JG

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