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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of pharmacy news, plus a full page from **Wizard Pharmacy**.

ARTG lists Ryeqo

WITH one in seven women living with endometriosis, clinicians now have an alternative and specific treatment option to consider for their patients.

Gedeon Richter Australia announced yesterday the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) listing of Ryeqo 40/1/0.5 (relugolix, estradiol, norethisterone acetate) in adult women of reproductive age for the symptomatic treatment of endometriosis, with a history of previous medical or surgical treatment for the disease.

Learn more about Ryeqo, a single, once-daily tablet, [HERE](#).

CWG eyes the US market

CHEMIST Warehouse Group (CWG) is looking at expanding into the US market, according to co-founder Jack Gance.

Speaking at a conference hosted by the Australian Retailers Association in Sydney this week, Gance said the low-cost pharmacy retailer saw the US as a potentially significant new market, reported *The Australian*.

"The US market is something we really want to go into," he said.

"The US has changed.

"We have been over there recently, and pharmacy shops are just dead.

"A Chemist Warehouse model over there would just boom."

Gance's comments to the retail conference made it clear that he wanted to step up his company's international footprint, despite his acknowledgement that other Australian retailers such as Bunnings have not done well with their overseas expansion.

However, he said he believed that

Chemist Warehouse did have a good business model which could work in the US.

"Australian retail is very much advanced compared with other countries," he said.

"America probably has a lot more choice and variety but our retailers do a much better job.

"We have some great retail ideas and great retail concepts."

He added customer data would help to know what they wanted. *JG*

Call on 'white coats'

WITH pre-voting open for the elections in Dunkley, a peak body protesting the impact of 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) is calling on all "white coats" polls to tell the community why a vote for Labor is a "destruction of community health".

In a WhatsApp post yesterday, the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS) said the "numbers are in from our data partner, \$20 million has already been ripped from pharmacies in the last six months, and only some general non-concession holders have benefited".

CAPS is conducting a webinar on 28 Feb at 8pm AEDT to generate support ahead of the by-election stating, "we need white coats on the ground on the day to hand out 'Do Not Vote Labor' flyers", and brief the profession on the impact of 60DD to date.

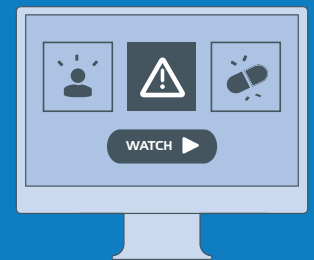
To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Capital raising

MEDICINAL cannabis company ECS Botanics has received binding commitments for \$4 million via a placement of 181.8 million new fully paid ordinary shares at an issue price of A\$0.022 per share to meet customer demand.



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Dispensary Corner

AN EVENT that's run for over 1,000 years at the secluded Kokusekiji Temple in Japan was held for the last time last weekend, becoming the latest Japanese tradition to fall victim to the country's ageing population crisis.

In near-freezing winter temperatures and wearing nothing but white loincloths, throngs of men wrestle one another in a bid to claim a talisman during the country's Somin-sai festival, more famously known as the "naked man festival".

In an online post, organisers of the festival conceded they had been unable to find enough willing young participants to alleviate the pressures placed on ageing locals who are unable to keep up with the demands of the ritual, reported *CNN Travel*.

"This decision is due to the ageing of individuals involved in the festival and a shortage of successors," Daigo Fujinami, Chief Priest of the Kokusekiji Temple, commented on the shrine's website.

Japan's population has been in steady decline since its economic boom of the 1980s, with a fertility rate of a low 1.3.

The winner of the scramble for a bag of talismans blessed by the chief priest was Kikuchi Toshiaki, 49, a resident and member of the festival's preservation association.

"It is sad that the festival is ending," said Toshiaki.

"I participated in hopes that it would be a memorable festival," he commented.

CKD drug's new indication

THE TGA has granted a new indication for Jardiance 10mg (empagliflozin) that will enable a broader group of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) to receive SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy than before.

Jardiance 10mg is now indicated and available on private prescription to reduce the risk of kidney disease progression in adults with chronic kidney disease.

This applies to CKD Stages 2 and 3A with urine albumin to creatinine ratio [ACR] ≥ 30 mg/g, or CKD Stages 3B, four and five, irrespective of urine ACR.

According to Prof Carol Pollock, Renal Physician at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, this milestone not only expands the group of kidney disease patients eligible for SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy



to slow disease progression but supports screening for early detection as "intervention is shown to be beneficial in patients with early disease".

"For patients with emerging signs of kidney damage, the ability to commence treatment earlier, when there is the greatest potential to stabilise or delay the decline of kidney function, shows the public health benefits are likely to be significant," added Pollock. *JG*

World's most advanced heart right here

THE Federal Government is providing \$50 million to develop and commercialise the world's most advanced artificial heart, a technology that, it stated, could halve deaths from heart failure globally and contribute \$1.8 billion to Australia.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said, "as well as the obvious health benefits, this is an incredible story of Australian ingenuity and sovereign manufacturing, with collaboration across universities, clinical hospitals and industry to develop the world's most advanced artificial heart".

The Artificial Heart Frontiers Program brought together five universities, three clinical partners and an Australian company to develop three next-generation cardiac technologies,

collectively known as the Total Artificial Heart.

Every year, over 23 million people around the world suffer from heart failure, but only 6,000 will receive a donor heart.

Nearly 500,000 Australians live with heart failure.

Each year, around 60,000 Australians are diagnosed with the condition and are hospitalised for it.

Around 100 patients undergo a heart transplant each year for advanced heart disease, but many more don't get the chance.

Unlike previous devices, the Total Artificial Heart uses state-of-the-art magnetic levitation technology that promises to be durable for more than 10 years, is small enough to implant in a child, and powerful enough for an adult.

Climate risk on kids



INCREASED numbers of pre-term births, higher incidences of respiratory disease and death, and more children in hospitals are some of the stark health outcomes the world is facing from the impacts of extreme climate change, according to new research.

Scientists have spent decades warning the world about the risks of extreme temperatures, floods, and bushfires, but the study published in Feb in the journal *Science of the Total Environment* is the first to collect all the available scientific evidence for the effects of climate change on children's health.

The data identified which particular climate-driven extremes are linked to certain detrimental health impacts for future generations.

The risk of a pre-term birth will increase by 60% on average from exposure to extreme temperatures the study found, led by Dr Lewis Weeda, a researcher with The University of Western Australia and the Wal-yan Respiratory Research Centre at Telethon Kids Institute, along with Matthew Flinders, Professor of Global Ecology, and Corey Bradshaw from Flinders University.

See more [HERE](#).

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