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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from:

- Willach
- Wizard Pharmacy

## Regulators join up

AHPRA and a number of national boards convened a forum in Melbourne last Fri to address the use of unregistered medicinal cannabis products, which has spiralled from around 18,000 patients using products in 2019 to more than one million patients using medicinal cannabis this year.

The forum included all the state and territory health departments, ACT Human Rights Commission, Pharmacy Board of Australia, the TGA, ACCC, among many others who all wanted a "clearer picture of the medicinal cannabis landscape and to strengthen a joined up regulatory approach".

## Commbank banks on APP

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy and CommBank Health will bring a new interactive pre-conference workshop for current and future pharmacy owners at the upcoming APP2024.

The session aims to upskill attendees to obtain the right support to identify and purchase a pharmacy including covering due diligence and financing.

It will explain how to create efficiency through technology in managing daily operations and implementing workflow solutions.

The workshop will also look at operational and financial data to set and manage KPIs and track trends for better decisions that improve a pharmacy's bottom line.

The session will review pharmacy strategy to ensure owners are unlocking the full potential of professional services and alternative revenue streams.

APP Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos (pictured) said that the workshop, which has been held at previous Guild events with "rave



reviews", is a must-attend for all pharmacy owners or those looking to buy a pharmacy in the future.

"Attendees will come away from this highly practical workshop with real-world solutions and strategies to implement in your pharmacy immediately," added Sclavos.

"The workshop will provide real-life examples, insights and analysis to assist with the purchasing and management of pharmacies, at all stages of the ownership life cycle, while ensuring the pharmacy strategy remains relevant to changing industry conditions."

The Wed 13 Mar session will be facilitated by Commbank Health's workshop partners RSM Australia and Script. JG

## Turf war continues

THE Pharmacy Guild's "push for the power to prescribe" COVID-19 anti-virals saying it will "save time and lives", has angered the doctor's lobby, which is not keen to see pharmacists "prescribing and dispensing these medications".

Guild National President Trent Twomey told *Channel Seven* yesterday, "this is us stepping up and providing the services that we are trained to do as the drug experts in the country".

However, Royal Australian College of GPs National President, Dr Nicole Higgins, questioned the motives of pharmacies, suggesting that the call to expand prescribing to COVID-19 antivirals is "financially motivated".

"This is not only insulting but sadly predictable," said Anthony Tassone, Guild's Victoria Branch President, adding changing the rules will bring Australia into line with other countries.



**NEW** Flavour

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## New CEO appointed for GPs peak body

GEORGINA van de Water was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) last Fri.

Van de Water will commence in the role on 05 Apr, and Adjunct Associate Prof David Hillis will continue to act in an interim capacity until then to allow for a transition period.

RACGP Board Chair Dr Lara Roeske said van de Water was

unanimously selected by the Board for her experience in leading "our GP training program, which has been invaluable".

"Georgina was essential to the success of our GP training program over the last year.

"In that time, the College effectively tripled its employees and added a diverse range of systems and sites across Australia while receiving positive feedback from our registrars," said Roeske.



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## Dispensary Corner

**MOVE** over pharmacists, a Spanish priest has been arrested on suspicion of illegally selling viagra from his home.

The cleric was held in the town of Don Benito in the western province of Badajoz, near Spain's border with Portugal.

Viagra is said to have been found inside the rectory as well as other drugs described as "powerful aphrodisiacs".

Police arrested the suspect in a rectory where he lived with a man described as his partner, who was also detained after police carried out a search of the church property.

The pair went to court last week, and were quizzed by an investigating magistrate for more than four hours.

The priest, named locally as Alfonso Raul Masa Soto (pictured), was released on bail and has been ordered to sign on at a local court every fortnight.

His lawyer, and possible saviour, Jesus Carretero, insisted there was no incriminating evidence against him.

He added, "what is being said about my client is totally false".

"Everything will be resolved as the investigation continues."

Meanwhile, his unidentified partner was jailed pending an ongoing criminal investigation.



## Vape retail reforms coming

**FROM** the fields Pharmaceutical (FTFP) is unveiling an information drive targeting community pharmacy, ahead of the 01 Mar commencement of new retail regulations for the sale and distribution of medically prescribed vaping products in pharmacies.

As the Australian standard therapeutic vape manufacturer, FTFP COO Wayne Jones (pictured), said TGA's estimate of 450,000 adult vapers and ex-smokers transitioning to buy therapeutic vape products under prescription requires heightened awareness among all pharmacies.

Jones explained financial estimates of the combined vaping black market, including a small existing therapeutic prescription component for vapes, is \$2 billion in annual sales via 1.6 million Australian users.

The TGA is predicting around a third of Aussie adult vapers could start the progressive switch to a therapeutic vape product under a prescription given by a doctor or a nurse practitioner.

"The TGA estimates the prescription vape market could generate up to \$800 million in future annual sales through pharmacy distribution channels," Jones added.



"This is a predictive switch and we argue it will become a major disruption to the current and dominant black market fuelled vaping market in Australia, which will come under future strain."

Jones mentioned change in retail market conditions for nicotine vaping products (NVPs) is inevitable under the suite of government-backed reforms which form part of a major public health policy approach to tackle nicotine.

"We recognise local pharmacies are well placed to provide advice and to retail quality NVPs dispensed under a prescription.

"This may constitute a new growing customer base for them along with an increasing role they can play around the use of therapeutic vaping products in smoking cessation," he added. *JG*

## PDL covers prescribing pilot in Tasmania

**PHARMACY** insurer, the Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), stated it will continue to support the profession as it considers its participation in the Tasmanian prescribing pilot.

The PDL Master Policy automatically includes professional indemnity cover for all members providing this service, in line with the approved

guidelines and protocols.

The organisation stated members don't need to inform PDL of their involvement in the 12-month prescribing pilot.

PDL representatives have also provided input to the Tasmanian Department of Health regarding risk management for this service.

To learn more about indemnity cover, see [HERE](#).

## Cel targets ageing

**SRW** Laboratories founder, and pharmacologist Greg Macpherson, in collaboration with other scientists, launched a new range of nutraceuticals called Cel last week.

Macpherson, a futurist, author, and biotechnologist, said he identified nine hallmarks of ageing across the 12 systems of the body through his research.

"While humans across the globe are living longer than ever before, we're not doing it in the best health.

"Although our lifespans are collectively increasing, our healthspans aren't," he said.

The new range of nutraceuticals includes three key products.

Cell Stability 1, containing 2-HOBA (a compound derived from Himalayan Tartary Buckwheat), astragaloside (found in astragalus), and rutin (a flavoured antioxidant), targets telomere attrition, genomic instability, and epigenetic alterations.

Cel Nourishment 2 contains nicotinamide mononucleotide (an NAD+ precursor in cow's milk and other foods), astaxanthin (a carotenoid antioxidant from red algae), and pterostilbene (a molecule similar to resveratrol but with higher bioavailability).

This helps with mitochondrial dysfunction, stem cell exhaustion, and altered intercellular communication.

Cel Renewal 3 contains flavonoids such as apigenin, fisetin, and oleuropein, to target cellular senescence, loss of proteostasis, and deregulated nutrient sensing.

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