

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Job opportunities

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has a number of work opportunities to help pharmacists, technicians and assistants elevate their careers. See more on the **back page**.

82nd FIP Congress

REGISTRATION is open for the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) 82nd World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 01-04 Sep.

The Congress is supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa.

The theme of the Congress is *Innovating for the future of health care*, encompassing topics such as precision medicines, artificial intelligence and the latest updates in drug discovery.

A preliminary program for the event, which will feature experts from around the world, is expected in Apr.

FIP has invited all pharmacists and others to contribute to the Congress by submitting an abstract for consideration and inclusion in the program, with the closing deadline of 15 Mar.

All abstracts received by the indicated deadline will be evaluated by the Congress Programme Development Committee; and acceptance, together with technical details for presentation (oral or poster presentation), will be notified to the submitting author by 15 Apr, explained FIP.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the Congress mobile app and in the *Pharmacy Education journal*. Learn more **HERE**.

Biome launches overseas

BIOME Australia is launching its range of activated probiotics products in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The company has begun delivering the first allocation of its products into both pharmacy and health retail stores across both countries, which will be stocked at multiple distribution centres for nationwide consumption, *Pharmacy Business* has reported.

BIO Managing Director and founder, Blair Norfolk told media that the launch of activated probiotics into the UK and Ireland's health and retail markets demonstrated its "ability to both execute and scale into new international markets".

"We are confident that we have the right elements in place for these markets to add material value to the Biome business over coming years and will also strengthen our ability to support new patients, improve their health outcomes, and quality of life and make our products accessible to all - that remains our core mission," commented Norfolk.

Biome stated it conducted a



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successful test market phase in both countries with a focus on independent health practitioners, helping it to acquire a strong foundational customer and revenue base.

Activated probiotics are Biome's flagship range of live biotherapeutic products which have been clinically proven to help prevent and support the management of various health concerns, including low mood and sleep, bone health, iron malabsorption, mild eczema and irritable bowel syndrome.

The company added that the Biome team would be managing all aspects of training, support and customer service to ensure the sales model is consistent with the Australian market. *JG*

Dept's report shows vaping costs to rise

A NEW Dept of Health impact analysis report has revealed that 450,000 people will seek out a prescription with sale of vapes being restricted under the Govt's new regime (*PD* 04 Jan).

Currently, only about 70,000 of the country's 1.3 million vapers use a GP prescription.

Consumers could be paying a lot more for vapes under the new rules, with the report estimating people will fork out up to \$150 for a refillable vaping device from their pharmacy.

The costings assume people will go to the GP for a script twice a year, and visit the chemist every month, with consumers spending \$52.1 million a year in GP and pharmacy visits, and up to \$67.5 million on vaping products.

The Health Dept stated a total regulatory burden of about \$60 million would be justified if just



200 individuals avoided taking up tobacco as a result.

"In balancing economic impact against public health outcomes, public health must be given more weight," the analysis explained.

But it also warned of risks. "Fears that extra regulation may incentivise growth in the black market for nicotine vapes must also be acknowledged... this is a legitimate risk as tighter regulation will often raise the risk of black-market sales," it added.

See the full report **HERE**.

New look card

SERVICES Australia has announced that newly issued Medicare cards will look different this year.

To celebrate Medicare turning 40, the government is issuing commemorative Medicare cards which will be distributed until 31 Dec 2024.

The new look card will also be updated in the customer's online account and Express Plus Medicare and myGov apps, the government stated.



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Dispensary Corner

THE DNA of ancient teeth and bones of humans has revealed that the very genes which protected our ancestors from animal diseases now raise the risk of multiple sclerosis (MS). There are about twice as many cases of MS per 100,000 people in north-western Europe, including the UK and Scandinavia, compared with southern Europe, reported *BBC*. Researchers from the universities of Cambridge, Copenhagen and Oxford spent more than 10 years delving into archaeology to investigate why. They discovered that genes which increase the risk of MS entered north-western Europe about 5,000 years ago via a massive migration of cattle herders called Yamnaya. The Yamnaya came from western Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and moved west into Europe, stated one of four *Nature* journal papers published on the topic. And while northern Europeans carry more genetic risk for MS, southern Europeans are more likely to develop bipolar disorder, and eastern Europeans more likely to have Alzheimer's disease and type 2 diabetes. The research also discovered that humans' ability to digest dairy products and a vegetable-heavy diet only emerged about 6,000 years ago; before that, they were meat-eaters. The research compared DNA from thousands of ancient skeletons found in Eurasia to genetic samples from current-day Europeans.

Bastas buys beauty brands

BILLIONAIRE Dennis Bastas (pictured) has bought two beauty brands Nude By Nature and Makeup Cartel for \$60 million, reported *AFR*.

Bastas, who made his wealth in generic drugs supply with Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, has created a new consumer health and beauty enterprise, VidaCorp, which will hold his investment in Nude by Nature and Makeup Cartel along with MCo, MyAura, Brutal Truth, and SkinB5.

He plans to create a sizeable beauty business using his experience building Arrotex. "Nude by Nature needs what we already have, and that is a sizeable marketing engine room that we can deploy to rebuild its presence.



"It gives us a new segment that, we believe, is a great fit, as we move from MCo products to the more masstige," Bastas added.

"We see it becoming part of that global growth strategy."

The transactions build on a booming beauty sector.

Last year, Melbourne-born Aesop made global headlines after giant L'Oréal paid \$3.7 billion to buy the company (*PD* 05 Apr 2023).

Bondi Sands landed a \$450 million deal with a Japanese conglomerate (*PD* 03 Aug 2023). *JG*

New recreational substances identified

THREE new recreational drugs that have never been reported in Australia were identified by pharmacists at Australia's only fixed-site drug-checking service, CanTEST, located in Canberra.

According to scientists and clinicians from The Australian National University (ANU),

the drugs could have effects similar to other stimulant-like substances such as MDMA, also known as ecstasy, and ketamine, a drug used as an anaesthetic for medical purposes in Australia.

The discoveries were made by Professor Malcolm McLeod and a team of ANU pharmacists.

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