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Today's issue of PD

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

Stay ahead of all

TERRYWHITE Chemmart offers "wrap-around support and an innovation pipeline" that can help your business stay ahead of the competition. See more on the [back page](#).

Prenatal exposure

AUSTRALIAN researchers say they have found an association between mums taking opioids while pregnant and their kids having immune issues throughout their lives. The team looked at data from over 400,000 kids and found them to be more likely to have eczema, asthma and dermatitis after they were born. See more [HERE](#).

RSV vax access critical

THE PSA is calling on all Govts to allow pharmacists to administer the recently approved first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, as it would "significantly improve its uptake" and reduce hospitalisations from severe infections.

"Having a vaccine on the market is not enough, we need to ensure that it's as accessible as possible to those who need it most," said PSA President Fei Sim (pictured).

"Pharmacist immunisers are limited by red tape and regulation imposed by states and territories, preventing them from fulfilling their potential to administer all vaccines to all at-risk Australians."

Millions of Australians attend pharmacies for their vaccinations, with more than 15 million COVID-19 and influenza vaccines administered by pharmacists over the last few years, PSA stated.

"By making vaccinations more accessible to vulnerable groups, we can limit the serious health complications RSV can cause and in



turn reduce hospitalisations."

Sim added that allowing pharmacists to practice to the top of their scope makes efficient use of health resources, benefitting the broader health system.

"I urge all state and territory govts to authorise pharmacists to provide the RSV vaccine, supporting access to preventive care and keeping older Australians healthy and well," she urged.

"This access should extend to all vaccines, for all eligible people, in all locations in Australia where pharmacists work.

"Reducing barriers to vaccination, reducing barriers to care, should always be our priority," Sim said. *JG*

Disqualified in Vic

A VICTORIAN pharmacist had his registration cancelled and has been disqualified from reapplying for registration for 12 months for inappropriate behaviour with three female clients and inappropriate dispensing of medicines.

In 2019, the Pharmacy Board of Australia received two separate notifications in Nov and Dec about Mina Tawadros, leading it to take action in Feb 2020 and accept an undertaking from Tawadros not to practise while they investigated.

One month later, the Board referred Tawadros to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal alleging professional misconduct involving failure to supply a prescription med, transgression of professional boundaries with three female clients, and supply of an S4 med exceeding what was prescribed.

The 7CPA ELS Program in action

"The Emergency Locum Service has been a great service in helping my pharmacy stay open during unforeseen circumstances when I was unable to work. The online system provided by the Emergency Locum Service was not only easy to access but also user-friendly, allowing us to apply quickly anytime of the day.

The quick turnaround time in finding a pharmacist through this service was very helpful and minimised disruptions to our pharmacy services. I must commend Mel, from the Emergency Locum Service, for her exceptional service. Mel was a pleasure to work with. Her dedication and positive attitude made a significant impact during challenging times.

The Emergency Locum Service has proven to be a helpful resource for our pharmacy. The combination of a user-friendly online system, swift response time, and staff members like Mel makes it a go-to solution in emergency situations."

- Helen Feng, Pharmacist & Proprietor

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 Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

 Pharmacy Programs
Administrator



Dispensary Corner

THOSE retail pharmacies looking to increase their foot traffic could learn from France's postal service, which is experimenting with opening changing rooms in some branches to cater to online shoppers who want to quickly return purchases that don't fit.

In a Paris post office participating in the test, a stand-alone changing room in the shape and canary yellow colour of a French mailbox has been installed.

The room has a chair, mirror, and shelf to place your package for on-the-spot returns.

France's La Poste said the idea came about after seeing many customers pick up their packages only to return shortly thereafter as their purchases didn't fit.

"The idea is to simplify the lives of our clients," said the company, letting them receive the merchandise, check it out on the spot and, in the event of a poor fit or a change of mind, send it back.

"It helps people avoid making pointless trips back and forth and save time, it's practical," said client Michele Limouzy, adding she nevertheless prefers to buy clothes in shops.

La Poste also hopes the experiment will boost traffic.



NAPSA Wildcard winner



THE Pharmacy Student of the Year Wildcard entry has been awarded to McKinlay Nolan from the University of Tasmania last Fri at the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association Congress in Hobart.

Nolan will join state and territory finalists to compete in the national Pharmacy Student of the Year competition at PSA24 this Aug, where they will be tested with a real-life clinical situation and will respond using their clinical knowledge and communication.

Announcing the wildcard winner, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) CEO Adj/Prof Steve Morris congratulated students on their outstanding performance in the national competition.

"On behalf of the judging panel and PSA, congratulations to

McKinlay on taking out this year's wildcard competition.

"We look forward to seeing you at PSA24 for the national finals."

Morris commented that all the pharmacy students who competed this week should be very proud of their knowledge and skills as soon-to-be pharmacists.

"Getting up in front of all your peers and demonstrating your skills in a simulated pharmacy environment takes a lot of courage, and each of the competitors showed outstanding professionalism in their presentations," he explained.

"It is heartening to see the future of our profession on show, demonstrating a high level of clinical knowledge, capability and passion; it's clear that the future of pharmacy is incredibly bright." JG

Impacts driving

CANNABIS can impact driving ability among older, long-term users of the drug, according to a small Canadian study published in *JAMA*.

The researchers recruited 31 participants aged 65-79-years-old and monitored them on a driving simulator, finding signs of impairment, such as weaving, speed changes, and delayed reaction time, after 30 minutes of driving.

PBS listing 01 Feb

THE Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced the PBS listing of Australia's first combined anti-programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1)/anti-lymphocyte-activation gene 3 (LAG-3) treatment for adult and paediatric patients aged 12 years or older with unresectable or metastatic melanoma, effective 01 Feb, at a morning press conference held at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, yesterday.

Bristol Myers Squibb's Opdivalag (nivolumab/relatlimab) is a fixed-dose combination of nivolumab, a PD-1 inhibitor, and relatlimab, a novel first-in-class lymphocyte-activation gene LAG-3-blocking antibody, which restores the effector function of exhausted T-cells and promotes antitumour activity.

Co-Medical Director of Melanoma Institute Australia, and 2024 NSW Australian of the Year, Prof Georgina Long, said, "inhibiting LAG-3 with relatlimab, in combination with nivolumab, gives us a new treatment to add to our toolkit against melanoma".

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- Carolyn Wynen, Pharmacist and Proprietor
TerryWhite Chemmart Clyde



Scan the QR code to hear about Carolyn's experience with TerryWhite Chemmart



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