

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from APP2024.

Early bird closing

THE Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2024) will feature over 120 clinical specialists, business experts, industry leaders and motivational speakers delivering a mix of topics from cutting-edge industry issues and clinical updates, to business management and personal development topics.

There is still time to get savings to pharmacy's largest event as the early bird registration closes tomorrow. See more on the [back page](#).

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in Pharmacy Daily



Do you have a beauty or wellness product? Send it HERE for consideration.

Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily

Canberra rally off, sights set on Dunkley

THE Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS) has cancelled its planned rally in Canberra, scheduled for 06 Feb (PD 10 Jan), and instead is focusing its efforts on upcoming electoral events.

The rally was called off as it would have concurrently run with a heavily attended Palestinian protest at Parliament House, along with an anti-wind farm protest, that would have diluted the intended message.

In response to the setback, CAPS will be redirecting its efforts towards the upcoming by-election in Victoria's Dunkley electorate, scheduled for 02 Mar.

Following allegations made by a member of Parliament during a previous rally, where CAPS was accused of using its white coats as a "weapon", the group intends to "harness the symbolism of their



white coats" in future electoral events in Australia.

CAPS also encouraged its supporters, especially those residing in the Dunkley localities of Carrum Downs, Frankston, Karingal, Langwarrin, Mount Eliza, Sandhurst, Seaford, and Skye, to "actively engage" in the area's upcoming by-election.

The group aims to have white-coated representatives at every polling booth, emphasising the importance of preserving community pharmacies and advocating against potential cuts to pharmacy services.

After successfully organising "peaceful" rallies in Sydney (PD 18 Aug 2023) and Canberra last year (PD 04 Sep 2023), CAPS acknowledged the evolving landscape of protests addressing various issues faced by Australians.

The decision to cancel the Canberra rally was reached after "careful consideration of the

potential impact on conveying the key messages amid competing demonstrations on critical matters".

In a message to its members, CAPS spokesperson Christine Kelly extended her gratitude on behalf of the group to all individuals who had committed to attending the Canberra rally.

"CAPS want to thank and recognise everyone that had already organised themselves to come to Canberra, as we all know that it isn't easy to make the time and commitment," Kelly said.

"We hope you can still have these bookings credited back to you, and appreciate every single one of you, and we can only apologise for this inconvenient change to our plans, for reasons beyond our control."

CAPS stated it remains committed to ensuring the viability and accessibility of community pharmacies and pledged to continue advocating for the best healthcare services for all.

The group spokesperson added it looks forward to supporters joining them at the polling booths to express their concerns and make a meaningful impact on the country's political landscape.

CAPS last year wrote to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (PD 12 Sep 2023), advising that the material change to the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement without regard to the pharmacy industry is a "catastrophic move" by the govt, "destroying confidence" in the sector, leading to "either a community pharmacy winding up or increasing prices". JG

Cannatrek MoU

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding (MoU) for medicinal cannabis research between an Australian and Japanese organisation was signed this week.

Medicinal cannabis company Cannatrek signed an MoU with Mie University in Tsu, Japan, with the aim of forging an open collaboration focused on accelerating medical research into the use of cannabis.

The MoU followed the Japanese Govt's recent change towards the use of cannabis with the Lower House passing the bill to legalise the use of medical products made from cannabis in mid-Nov last year.

Under the MoU, the framework for cooperation encompasses areas including agronomic research, training resources for clinicians, pharmaceutical supply chain, e-healthcare, navigating regulation and compliance, and connecting experts in the field.

Cannatrek CEO Tommy Huppert said with quality products manufactured in its Shepparton facility, export opportunities were enhanced.



keep dreaming...

Travel inspiration for your next dream holiday!

Click to read

Travel & Cruise Weekly



Dispensary Corner

A HEALTH warning from South Korea's food ministry urged people not to eat fried toothpicks made of starch in a shape resembling curly fries, after the practice went viral online, reported *CNN*.

Video clips showing people consuming the deep-fried starch toothpicks with seasoning such as powdered cheese have racked up thousands of likes and shares on TikTok and Instagram.

"Their safety as food has not been verified," the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety said in a posting last week on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Please do not eat (them)."

Videos of the toothpicks, a sanitary product, being fried in oil and eaten were going viral, it added.

Food colouring is used to impart a green hue to the toothpicks, made from sweet potato or cornstarch, which are seen as being environmentally friendly and biodegradable.

Often used in restaurants in South Korea, they can also be used to pick up finger foods.

Videos called "Mukbang", which often show people eating an excessive amount of food or unusual dishes, are popular in South Korea.

"It's very crispy," one TikTok user remarked in a video while crunching up green fried toothpicks (pictured).



Spray for COVID promising

STARPHARMA has announced its Viraleze post-market clinical study showed its SARS-CoV-2 nasal spray reduced viral load in the nose and increased the clearance of key symptoms including loss of smell.

The results announced on the ASX showed that the nasal spray was well-tolerated by patients.

The post-market, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical study enrolled a total of 222 participants eligible for safety analyses, with 197 of these participants having laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and eligible for efficacy testing, stated the company.

Participants were randomised in a 1:1 ratio and self-administered Viraleze or a placebo nasal spray four times daily for seven days.

Starpharma stated the results from this study provided significant clinical evidence of the performance of Viraleze in humans that will support regulatory processes for the transition to the new European Medical Device Regulations, which will come into full effect in 2029.

The positive data will also support ongoing marketing and commercial activities for the product.



Dr Stephen Winchester, Consultant Medical Virologist at Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust and Principal Investigator of the Viraleze clinical study at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the UK, said, "the positive SARS-CoV-2 RNA clearance outcomes and evidence of clinical benefit in cohorts of older participants indicate that Viraleze could potentially be of significant benefit in people over 45 years of age to support their vaccine responses".

"Viraleze was well tolerated and demonstrated no increase in side effects compared with the placebo.

"Based on the data, Viraleze, which is a broad-spectrum nasal spray, could have clinical benefit for protection against infection and treatment of individuals, as well as infection control of populations." *WJG*

Call to update salt-intake guidelines

A CALL for recommendations to be included on low-sodium potassium-enriched salt in hypertension treatment guidelines was made by an international group of experts today in the American Heart Association's journal *Hypertension*.

A global collaboration of researchers from the US, Australia, Japan, South Africa and India reviewed 32 separate hypertension treatment guidelines - two from global

organisations, five from regional organisations and 25 from country organisations, published from 01 Jan 2013 to 21 Jun 2023.

They found all guidelines referred to sodium reduction, with most recommending reducing salt intake.

Many also recommended increasing dietary potassium intake, but only two - the Chinese and European guidelines - made a specific recommendation for using potassium-enriched salt.

Guild Update

APP Early bird closing tomorrow



CONFERENCE goers wanting to attend this year's APP conference on the Gold Coast have until midnight tomorrow (Wed) to take advantage of the early bird savings for registration.

If participants register before the 31 Jan deadline, they can receive \$120 off their full conference registration which includes access to all conference sessions and recordings, the trade exhibition and welcome reception.

Last year's APP conference attracted more than 7,000 delegates from Australia and overseas and this year's event promises to be even bigger.

Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos AM said there was already an impressive line-up of keynote speakers attending.

"I'm very pleased to announce that we have secured two amazing keynote speakers: Thai cave rescue diver and anaesthetist Dr Richard "Harry" Harris; and Human Rights lawyer, retired British Army officer and hostage survivor Rabia Saddique," Sclavos said.

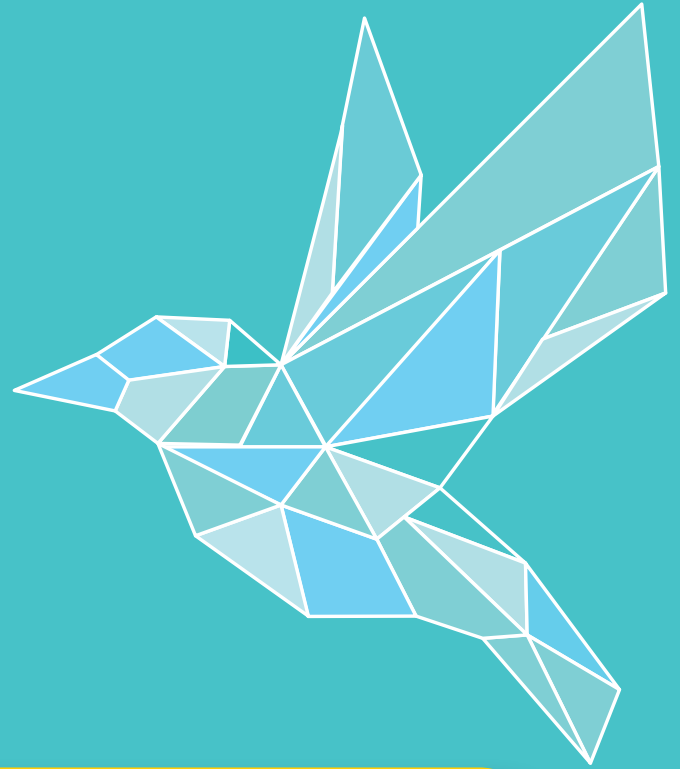
To secure your early bird registration, **CLICK HERE**.

APP 2024

14-17 MARCH
GOLD COAST

NAVIGATING THE
FUTURE TOGETHER

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES TOMORROW



REGISTER NOW AND SAVE OVER \$100



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



PROGRAM SPONSORS



CLINICAL PHARMACY/ PRODUCT UPDATE SESSION SPONSORS



BUSINESS SESSION SPONSORS



WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR



MEDIA SPONSOR



OFFICIAL EDUCATION PARTNER



NAME BADGE COLLECTION STATION SPONSOR



WIN A HOLIDAY COMPETITION SPONSOR



ONLINE SESSION PLATFORM SPONSOR



WORKSHOP SPONSORS



Commonwealth Bank



RSM



SmithNephew



MOBILE APP SPONSOR



MEDIA PARTNERS



OFFICIAL EVENT PARTNERS

