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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news.

Montu drafts in Tambassis

FORMER Pharmacy Guild President George Tambassis has been appointed yesterday as a special adviser to the Australian medicinal cannabis company Montu.

MD Christopher Strauch said Tambassis, who has managed pharmacies around Victoria for over 25 years, would help raise awareness of medical cannabis treatment options in Australia.

"His deep understanding and insights into the pharmacy landscape in Australia as we continue to grow and expand our business will be invaluable," said Strauch.

Tambassis added the appointment was a chance to "improve patient outcomes".

\$50m to tackle dementia

VENTURE capital-backed Brandon BioCatalyst's CUREator is set to deliver a BioMedTech Incubator (BMTI) to address dementia after receiving a \$50 million grant from the Federal Government.

The company, in partnership with ANDHealth, will focus on developing research discoveries and medical innovations with commercial potential to improve the lives of Australians suffering from cognitive decline.

The program will be delivered over the next five years in collaboration with Dementia Australia, which will lead a community advisory board comprising people impacted by dementia to guide the development of new technologies and treatments.

"Dementia Australia is pleased to be actively involved with the program's delivery along with Brandon BioCatalyst and ANDHealth," said Dr Kaele Stokes, the peak body's Executive Director of Services, Advocacy and Research.

"We are committed to supporting the delivery of this important program by ensuring the voice of the consumers - both those living with dementia and their families and carers - are prioritised throughout this program and providing dementia-specific expertise for the incubator."

According to Dementia Australia, there will be 812,500 people living with dementia by 2054, which highlights the necessity of programs like BMTI to proactively address the rising health issue.

The program will prepare participants to be 'investor-ready' on completion. JG

\$100m SA plant

WORK has begun on pharmacy company Noumed's \$100 million Adelaide pharmaceutical manufacturing plant, which will close a national supply gap and generate 180 future local jobs.

The \$100 million project, which will receive up to \$20 million in Australian Government funding, will enhance Australia's sovereign supply into the pharmacy and health network by bringing the manufacture of millions of units of much-needed everyday medicines onshore, stated the company.

RSV vaccine AREXVY available nationally

AUSTRALIA'S first RSV vaccine is now available nationwide in all GP clinics and pharmacists for people aged 60 years and over.

The TGA-approved AREXVY vaccine from GSK protects people against RSV-related lower respiratory tract disease, which can lead to serious health complications.

According to a statement from GSK, while RSV is often thought to impact mostly children, the reality is that in older adults, it can cause serious illnesses and even death, particularly for those who are suffering from chronic medical conditions like diabetes, asthma, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"As clinicians, we've been waiting a long time to help protect our older patients against



RSV-related lower respiratory tract disease, especially since there is no specific treatment for RSV," said Professor Paul Van Buynder, Public Health Physician and past Chairman of the Australian Immunisation Coalition.

"Today represents an important milestone in beginning to address an unmet need in Australia's public health efforts."

New data on the 82.6% overall efficacy of AREXVY in older people over 60 was just released in peer-reviewed publication, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. JHM



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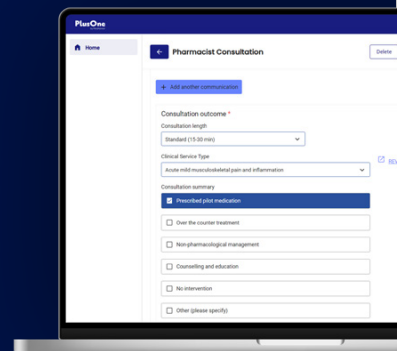
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Dispensary Corner

A TECH entrepreneur called Bryan Johnson is on a quest for immortality and has recently revealed that he is spending US\$2 million a year for the privilege of reversing his age and no longer balding.

Johnson's journey has been detailed in several media outlets, from his 1,977-calorie diet and his three-way plasma swap with his son and 70-year-old father, to even the "the penis rejuvenation therapy" he is currently undergoing, which involves shocking his appendage three times a week.

The US-based entrepreneur, who claims to be the creator of "the world's first non-invasive neuroimaging system", revealed how he has stopped going bald in a recent YouTube video.

His method consists of wearing a red light therapy cap, which apparently "increases blood flow and also stimulates hair follicle activity", followed by a topical treatment like Rogaine and Minoxidil 5% and, lastly, microneedling.

ATAGI advice on booster

THE Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advised the Government yesterday that adults 65 years and over, or those aged 18-64 who are severely immunocompromised, are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster dose every six months.

All other adults are eligible to get a booster dose every 12 months.

Children aged five to 17 years who are severely immunocompromised can receive a single dose this year.

Federal Minister Mark Butler agreed that vaccination remains the most important measure to protect against the risk of severe disease from COVID-19.

"The vaccines are available every six months for older people and adults who are severely immunocompromised, and an annual vaccine dose for other adults," said Butler.

"People aged 75 years and over are the most vulnerable to severe disease and are strongly encouraged to take a booster dose if it has been more than six months from their last one."

The boosters can be "co-administered" with other vaccines, like the annual influenza vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines continue



to be available free of charge and are widely available through pharmacies and general practices.

Teenagers and children who are in good health do not need a booster dose in 2024, due to the low incidence of severe illness and high level of hybrid immunity among this group. JG

DNA technique

SCIENTISTS from Australia and the United States have found a new way to alter the DNA of bacterial cells through a process used to make many vital medicines including insulin, which is proving to be much more efficient than standard industry techniques.

Instead of opening bacteria cell walls with harsh chemicals or high temperatures to insert DNA, the team used high-frequency radio waves - a much gentler approach that led to many more of the cells taking on the DNA and surviving.

The study published in *Nano Letters* shows how the new method makes bacterial cells more permeable.

To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Diabetes inquiry

A PUBLIC hearing is being held today at Parliament House in Canberra as part of the House Health Committee's inquiry into diabetes.

The Health Department will give evidence about the govt's work on addressing diabetes and obesity.

Jess Hart, who lives with Type 1 diabetes, will talk about her experiences with diabetes devices - see more [HERE](#).



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