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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of pharmacy news including the **Beauty & Wellness** page, plus full pages from:

- Fred IT
- Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group
- Direct Chemist Outlet

Enhance workflow

FRED IT's MedView aims to streamline pharmacy workflow and protects sensitive information about patients and your business.

See more on **page five**.

Evolve with IPA

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Group of Australia (IPA) is highlighting how it can support you when it comes to managing your pharmacy.

See more on **page six**.

Life Pharmacy awards its top talent



STANDOUT members of Life Pharmacy Group's (LPG) team have been recognised for their contributions this year at the group's annual regional conference in Forbes, NSW, this week.

The awards highlighted the group's dedication to innovation and community engagement within the pharmacy industry.

Lisa Gibson (**pictured** top right) from Dubbo was distinguished as the LPG Pharmacist in Charge of the Year for 2024, acknowledged for her pivotal role in managing vaccination programs for aged care

residents in rural and remote New South Wales, mentoring young pharmacists and interns, and her commitment to her community.

"We have such great talent and amazing thinkers in our management team and right across the whole of the LPG team," remarked LPG CEO, Michael Flannery, emphasising the collective effort and expertise within the group.

Orana Mall Pharmacy (**pictured** above) in Dubbo received the LPG Pharmacy of the Year award for its outstanding engagement with the



local community and innovative approaches to healthcare, while Taylah Walker (**pictured** above below) of Mountview Pharmacy in Armidale was named the 2024 Retail Manager of the Year, recognised for her leadership in transforming the community pharmacy's retail service and driving significant growth. *JG*



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Sigma's results

SIGMA Healthcare announced its annual financial results this morning with total net revenue of \$3.3bn, down 9.2% from last year, largely reflecting the sale of its hospital distribution business in Mar last year, and elevated sales of RATs in FY2023 not repeated.

Sigma CEO and Managing Director Vikesh Ramsundar commented that today's results show "the strategy implemented over the past two years is now producing the outcomes that will help improve shareholder value".

"With our operating performance strong, we have been able to drive efficiencies, reducing total operating costs by 10.7% after absorbing CW merger proposal costs, providing a catalyst for our financial performance."

He said the divestment of non-core assets has delivered a leaner operating model.

GBMA Board's new faces

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) Board announced substantial changes today, coinciding with a crucial juncture in Australia's medicine policy landscape and the upcoming third Budget.

The board anticipates key concerns such as the cost of living, equitable access to medicines, and affordable healthcare to dominate the public discourse.

Expressing gratitude to the departing board members, GBMA's Independent Chair, Prof Jane Halton, acknowledged the invaluable contributions of Dennis Bastas, Chair and CEO of Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, and Juan Villar, Executive General Manager, North-East Asia-Pacific, Fresenius Kabi.

Highlighting their pivotal roles during critical industry negotiations, Halton commended their dedication.

Welcoming the incoming board members, both Halton and GBMA CEO, Marnie Peterson,

conveyed confidence in the group's preparedness for the tough challenges ahead.

Among the newly appointed board members, Steve Graham, General Manager, Marketing at Arrotex, expressed his determination to uphold policies supporting the accelerated adoption of generics and biosimilars.

Similarly, Jim Margaritis, Teva Pharma's Vice President APAC and General Manager for Australia and New Zealand, and Selva Niroshan Selvaraja, General Manager ANZ at Accord Healthcare, shared their enthusiasm for contributing to enhancing healthcare accessibility and affordability.

Additionally, GBMA which represents 80% of the total generic volume on the PBS, strengthened its team with the appointment of Renee Richardson as Marketing and Policy Manager, signalling a strategic move to bolster the association's voice and support its growing membership base. *JG*

Switch to compete

DIRECT Chemist Outlet is looking to expand and is calling on all interested pharmacy owners to "switch brands" and "compete against market leaders" - see the **back page**.

SHPA on gap issues

ON NATIONAL Close the Gap Day 2024 today, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) continues to voice its support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, calling for improvement in equity of access to medicines and clinical pharmacy services, and medication adherence.

As highlighted in its recent Federal Pre-Budget submission, SHPA lists the need for public hospitals to be eligible to supply medicines under the Closing The Gap PBS Co-Payment Program, among other recommendations.



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Editor's choice: Lonvitalite launches three innovative products

AUSTRALIAN skincare brand Lonvitalite has announced the addition of three new products to its range to help customers elevate their skincare routine.

Renowned for its at-home dermal rollers, the brand is now offering a Glow Sculpt Beauty roller, described as a "luxurious face and body tool designed to enhance your natural radiance".

Priced at \$99.95, the device features 30 massaging stones made with germanium stone and a unique hexagon shape, which is designed to tighten, energise and uplift your skin.

Skincare aficionados can also indulge with Lonvitalite's Elixir Black and Gold Radiance Eye



Mask (RRP: \$49.95), which is crafted with black and gold particles and infused with vitamin E, niacinamide, and peptides.

According to the manufacturer, the mask is suitable for nourishing and revitalising the delicate

under-eye area, leaving the skin refreshed and radiant.

Finally, eco-conscious customers will love the reusable Lonvitalite Forever Eye Mask (RRP: \$29.95), which claims to help reduce puffiness and soothe tired eyes.

It's all smiles at Direct



DIRECT Chemist Outlet has partnered with HiSmile to bring the popular dental brand's range of products to its stores, which will be available to customers for a fraction of the usual prices.

Consumers visiting the more than 100 Direct Chemist Outlet stores across Australia can expect to see a wide variety of HiSmile's trusted teeth whitening solutions in an expansive range of flavoured toothpaste, including blue raspberry and cotton candy.

The brand's mission is to revolutionise the oral care industry by providing effective and efficient teeth whitening solutions, which it does by using an in-house facility for formulation and product testing.

HiSmile also works with leading dentists and product experts, and has been endorsed by celebrities like Kim Kardashian.

"We are thrilled to partner with HiSmile to bring their fun and innovative teeth whitening products to our customers," said Direct Chemist Outlet's Head of Buying, Hannah Jackson.

"By offering the HiSmile range in our stores, we are providing our customers with access to premium oral care products that are both effective and affordable."

Priceline on OnePass

PRICELINE Pharmacy is providing its Sister Club members with even more value, after joining the OnePass program.

From today, Sister Club members who link their OnePass account with their Sister Club account will enjoy free delivery on thousands of items with no minimum spend and 365-day change-of-mind returns on eligible items.

Sister Club tier members will also earn 2x points for every \$1 spent in store on eligible purchases at Priceline - learn more [HERE](#).



Real Techniques becomes bolder and brighter



BEAUTY brush brand Real Techniques has unveiled its latest collection, Hyperbrights, which is designed to appeal to those who favour bigger, bolder and brighter makeup looks.

The limited-edition collection features six new products, including the Real Techniques Hyperbrights

Miracle Complexion Sponge (RRP: \$18.99), which claims to "flawlessly blend liquid and cream products for a streak-free, dewy glow".

Beauty enthusiasts will also appreciate the Real Techniques Hyperbrights Colour Drop Cheek Brush, which applies colour across the cheeks for a natural-looking glow (RRP \$24.99), and the Real Techniques Hyperbrights Sculpt Lock Contour Brush, which helps achieve a matte finish, and is available for \$29.99.

Other products included in the colourful collection are a multi-use face brush for blending brushes, bronzes and powders; a set of four eyeshadow brushes and a compact mirror; and a set featuring one XL Miracle Complexion sponge and three mini-sized sponges.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

IN AN unusual medical saga, a 52-year-old US man's affinity for undercooked bacon led to an unexpected diagnosis: his brain had become a breeding ground for tapeworm larvae, resulting in worsening migraines.

This peculiar case unfolded over four months, as the man's headaches became more intense and unresponsive to all the usual treatments, prompting a visit to the hospital for further investigation.

The plot thickened when CT scans revealed his brain had several cystic lesions caused by the larvae of a pork tapeworm.

The diagnosis was neurocysticercosis, a term that might sound exotic but essentially translates to "unwanted brain guests courtesy of pork tapeworm".

Remarkably, the man hadn't ventured into areas known for such infections; his only misstep was a lifelong habit of enjoying his bacon on the rare side.

The doctors theorised that his less-than-crispy bacon habit, combined with some lapses in hand hygiene, set the stage for this parasitic invasion.

Fortunately, the story has a silver lining - after treatment with anti-parasitic and anti-inflammatory medications, the man's brain cleared up, and his migraines began to subside.



Thank Your Pharmacist Day today

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has highlighted the theme for today's Thank Your Pharmacist Day as 'More than ever', a nod to the expanding role of pharmacists within Australia's healthcare system.

The theme reflects the continuous dedication of pharmacists across various practice areas and specialisations towards providing quality, accessible care to their local communities.

Celebrated annually in Mar, Thank Your Pharmacist Day aims to bring together patients, community leaders, and health sector stakeholders to recognise the crucial contributions of pharmacists.

This year's theme underscores the significance of pharmacists' work in an evolving healthcare landscape, where their services have become increasingly integral to public health.

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim emphasised the growing responsibilities and impact of pharmacists on the health and wellbeing of Australians.

"Our profession is doing more to support the health and wellbeing of Australia than ever before," Sim remarked, highlighting



to achieve better health for these communities, as underscored by Chastina Heck (pictured), Nywaigi Mamu woman and Chair of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Practice - Community of Specialty Interest.

Despite progress in some socio-economic outcomes, the latest Closing the Gap Report reveals that many targets are yet to be met.

Heck calls for the "permanent integration and funding of pharmacists" within primary healthcare teams in Aboriginal Health Services, emphasising the role they play in navigating complex healthcare systems and improving chronic disease management.

The IPAC Project, supported by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Medical Services Advisory Committee, exemplifies this approach, highlighting the critical role of medicine safety and the quality use of medicines.

"I encourage every pharmacist to review their CPD plan and consider closing any of their own gaps in delivering culturally responsive care," said Hecks, such as the PSA's free Deadly Pharmacists Foundation Training Course. JG

the extensive range of services provided by pharmacists.

These include vaccinations, medication management reviews, and support for multidisciplinary care in various settings such as general practices, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, and varied aged care facilities.

Pharmacists are also playing a pivotal role in making critical medicines more accessible across the country, improving access to oral contraceptives and treatments for uncomplicated urinary tract infections, and minor skin conditions in some regions.

This year's event coincides with National Close the Gap Day, focusing on health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The PSA used this occasion to advocate for system-wide changes

CDU Med School

CHARLES Darwin University (CDU) is a step closer to establishing a home-grown medical school through a new curriculum partnership with Western Sydney University, signed on Tue.

The partnership also includes curriculum support, guidance, and mentoring.

The CDU team will tailor the content for the Northern Territory's population.

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