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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news, plus a full page from Dispense Assist.

## 24/7 assistance

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution that can help with dispensing for dose administration aids, compounding, medicinal cannabis, e-scripts, and more.

Dispensary technicians are also available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.14 per hour.

The company is offering a free trial to all those people interested in seeing if Dispense Assist is a good fit for their pharmacy business.

Learn more on the [back page](#).

## Strategic venture

SIGNATURE Orthopaedics, an Australian medical device company, has formed a strategic partnership with the University of Melbourne and RMIT University.

The collaboration links Signature Orthopaedics' Medtech expertise with the universities' research strengths in biomedical engineering, health, and technology.

The partnership focuses on collaborative R&D in clinical and technological areas to create a test bed for new orthopaedic implants and devices.

Signature Orthopaedics CEO Declan Brazil said its goal is to develop personalised medical implant technologies that improve patient outcomes.

The first projects under this strategic partnership will be announced soon.

## Brooke Shelly wins big



THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) awarded Brooke Shelly the prestigious 2024 PSA MIMS Credentialed Pharmacist of the Year award last Fri at the Credentialed Pharmacist Conference (CPC24) (PD breaking news).

The award, which recognises exceptional practice in credentialed pharmacy, honours those who advance patient care, implement innovative services, and uphold the profession's reputation.

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim, who presented the award, praised Shelly as a "trailblazer" in credentialed pharmacy, whose strong leadership has made a significant impact.

Shelly's advocacy for interdisciplinary collaboration showcases the critical role pharmacists play in multidisciplinary care, she added.

"A passionate advocate for consultant pharmacy, particularly in rural general practice, Shelly has garnered a reputation as a dynamic speaker at conferences and events" Sim commented.

Her dedication to lifelong professional learning earned her a finalist spot in the 2023 Victorian Rural Health Awards.

The PSA stated Shelly excels in conducting Home Medicines Reviews and is a GP pharmacist at Ontario Medical Clinic while also

serving in a clinical capacity at Beyond Pain.

Sim stated Shelly's pioneering work has led to innovative care models for aged care facilities and chronic disease management.

"Known for her unwavering dedication to rural health, Shelly stands as a leader and role model for general practice pharmacists." JG

**Pictured (L-R):** Sim, Shelly and MIMS Australia CEO Robert Best.

## Sigma steps up

SIGMA Healthcare Limited emerged as a focal point in last Fri's ASX announcement by S&P Dow Jones Indices, regarding changes coming to the S&P/ASX 200 index.

With Boral Limited preparing to exit due to an off-market takeover offer from Seven Group Holdings Limited, Sigma Healthcare Limited has stepped up into the spotlight.

Effective before the market opens on Fri 10 May, Boral Limited will relinquish its position in the index, paving the way for Sigma Healthcare Limited to assume its role.

The ASX statement regarding the inclusion of Sigma Healthcare Limited in the S&P/ASX 200 index underscores its growing significance in the Australian market.

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## PSA's credentialed members package

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has unveiled a comprehensive membership package designed to provide robust support for credentialed pharmacists throughout their professional journey.

The announcement was made last Fri by PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim (pictured) at the Credentialed Pharmacist Conference (CPC) in Cairns.

The membership package includes dedicated resources and support tailored for Australian credentialed pharmacists, along with educational opportunities aimed at their continuous professional development.

One significant component of the package is the Medication Management Review (MMR) recognition of prior learning (RPL) pathway, pending accreditation by the Australian Pharmacy Council.

The pathway allows qualified community pharmacists to transition to the new program



by completing a short bridging assessment or presenting evidence of prior learning.

PSA confirmed its Professional Plus members will have complimentary access to MMR RPL, and will receive an exclusive discount on RPL for the aged care credential, which is a prerequisite for practice in the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist program.

Sim added, "we established in-house accreditation services, a public directory, and are currently undergoing accreditation of our credentialing process for MMRs

and Aged Care, which is set to recognise the experience of practising consultant pharmacists".

"I am happy to again confirm that this process will be free-of-charge for PSA Professional Plus members, making the transition more affordable and accessible."

Sim mentioned that PSA's support for credentialed pharmacists is also growing, including access to PSA's regular Clinical Update, which can help keep them on top of emerging clinical evidence from around the world, and discounts to all PSA conferences, including CPC25. JG

## PTSD care funding

**RESEARCHERS** at Southern Cross University have been awarded more than \$3.8 million to help Northern Rivers locals affected by the devastating 2022 floods.

In a unique approach, the researchers will implement a stepped care model to support over 200 people left with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after the disaster.

To date, researchers stated there have been very few clinical trials focused on recovery from disaster-related PTSD, and none have focused on a stepped care model.

Stepped care is an evidence-based system for treating mental health, involving a hierarchy of treatments, from least to most intensive.

People can register their interest in participating in the clinical trial by emailing [compassiontrial@scu.edu.au](mailto:compassiontrial@scu.edu.au).

## Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

### The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

The CONSIS C uses state-of-the-art technology in all areas of operations, from the user and control software to the mechanical and electronic components. The sophisticated design maximises storage capacity, the dual lane feeder system speeds up loading, whilst inbuilt sensors and cameras offer peace of mind with advanced diagnostic support.

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### Dispensary Corner

**IN A** spirited exploration at the molecular level, scientists have unearthed fascinating insights into how our choice of beverage temperature impacts our taste buds, with implications for health and pharmacy.

Lead researcher Lei Jiang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences reminisces about the eureka moment shared over a cold beer, pondering the unique alcohol concentrations found in baijiu, a popular Chinese spirit.

Their journey led them to the lab, where they uncovered a molecular dance between ethanol and water molecules.

At lower concentrations, ethanol forms cozy pyramid-shaped clusters around water molecules, while at higher concentrations, it prefers to march in orderly chains.

Temperature, it turns out, plays a important role in this molecular ballet.

Chilling a beverage encourages more chain-like structures, resulting in a stronger "ethanol-like" taste perception.

This finding sheds light on why a cold beer may pack a punch, even with the same alcohol content as its warmer counterpart.

But beyond the realm of taste, these discoveries hold promise for health and pharmacy.

By understanding the molecular intricacies behind taste perception, pharmaceutical companies may leverage this knowledge to develop more palatable medications or enhance drug delivery systems.

## Putting patients at the centre

**MEDICAL** research produces better outcomes when people with lived experience are involved in the process, according to Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA).

The consumer organisation has welcomed the Australian Government's \$1.89 billion 'Health Research for a Future Made in Australia' funding package, and highlighted the importance of involving consumers in research.

Announced last week by Health Minister Mark Butler, the package includes \$1.4 billion for new research projects via the Medical Research Future Fund, including in priority areas such as women's health and chronic pain.

"Despite progress in treating significant diseases such as breast cancer, which affects over 20,000 people in Australia each year, there are still huge disparities in outcomes," said BCNA Director



of Policy, Advocacy & Support Services, Vicki Durston.

"Investing in Australian medical research is vital in improving outcomes but is most effective when people with lived experience are central and the research is designed to find solutions to meet their needs."

More clinical trials are needed, particularly in rural and regional areas where distance can act as a barrier to consumer participation, Durston emphasised.

She also advocated for research agendas to be influenced by consumer needs as opposed to just commercial interests. *JM*

## AMA calls for road trauma data sharing

**FOLLOWING** Queensland's commitment to provide road trauma data to the Federal Government, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) is now urging all jurisdictions to follow suit.

AMA President Prof Steve Robson praised Federal Transport Minister Catherine King's announcement to mandate data sharing on road accidents in the upcoming five-year road funding agreement.

"Put simply, a nationally consistent data set to provide better understanding of the causes of road crashes would save countless lives," Robson said.

"By having these crucial insights and data, investments can be directed to where they

are needed most - contributing to effective road safety and transport infrastructure policy."

Recent statistics reveal a concerning 8.2% rise in road fatalities, with 1,286 lives lost in Australia over the past 12 months up to Mar.

The AMA has long advocated for uniform data sharing, stressing its crucial role in addressing the grim consequences of road trauma faced by health professionals daily.

"It's highly disappointing that state and territory governments have been gatekeeping important data on road accidents," Robson said, emphasising its necessity to achieve the National Road Safety Strategy's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050.

## PATY nomination

**LESS** than a week remains for nominations to be submitted for The Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award, with the deadline COB 10 May.

Now in its 18th year, PATY has developed into the premier industry accolade for pharmacy assistants and recognises the best in community pharmacy.

"As a pharmacy owner, I understand the significance of acknowledging and appreciating the efforts of our staff," said Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey.

"Through PATY, pharmacy owners, managers, and pharmacists can nominate a deserving pharmacy assistant or colleague for their valuable contributions."

Winners will be selected for each state and territory, each receiving a \$5,000 cash prize, along with access to exclusive training and workshops and free registration to the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference from 05-07 Sep, which includes return flights and accommodation.

An invitation to be a judge in their respective PATY2025 state workshops, a ticket to the APP2025 and PA205 conference, and recognition in industry trade media such as *Pharmacy Daily* is also bestowed upon each winner.

"With third-party nominations closing next week, I would hate for anyone to miss out," Twomey said.

The nomination process is quick and easy and involves completing an online form, which can be accessed **HERE**.



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