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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- **Pharmacium**
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To learn more about Pharmacium, see **page three**.

Reasons to smile

GLUCOJEL is offering your customers the chance to win \$10,000 with purchases across the Glucogel jellybean range, so make sure your shelves are fully stocked - more on the giveaway on the **back page**.

Guild to collaborate

PHARMACY Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, congratulated the Crisafulli Government and Health Minister Tim Nicholls on their appointments, noting that pharmacists are eager to collaborate in tackling healthcare challenges statewide.

With GP shortages affecting emergency departments, Owen highlighted that 97% of metropolitan residents and 83% of regional Australians live close to a pharmacy, making pharmacies an essential, accessible healthcare resource nationwide.

"Allowing pharmacists to offer more frontline services could reduce emergency department pressure by providing care for non-urgent needs," Owen said.

Pegasys supply issues reduces choice

EXCLUSIVE

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has raised concerns over Echo Therapeutics' decision to limit distribution of Pegasys (Peginterferon Alfa-2A) injections exclusively through Echo's home delivery partner, JustMeds, citing the approach as a disruption to patient choice and *National Medicines Policy* principles.

The Guild expressed that patients should have the option to access their prescribed medications at their chosen pharmacy.

"Restricting access to a single delivery method poses risks, particularly for complex treatment regimens requiring professional support," stated a Guild alert.

The organisation has escalated the issue to the Department of Health and Aged Care, seeking guidance on whether the arrangement aligns with patient rights and policy.

However, Echo Therapeutics's



Managing Director Jude D'Silva defended the move as a necessary measure to safeguard limited Pegasys stock amid global supply shortage constraints.

D'Silva told *Pharmacy Daily* that the company had noted that "unusual, large orders suspected to be bound for export had compounded shortages, leading them to pull the medication from pharmacy wholesalers".

The TGA had been informed of suspected unauthorised exports and potential local supply impacts prior to the shift to JustMeds.

"This is a temporary solution, aimed solely at ensuring patients with legitimate prescriptions continue receiving treatment," D'Silva said, adding that the

company anticipates resuming normal distribution by the second half of next year.

He added patient responses to the JustMeds home delivery program after "teething problems" has been largely positive.

Echo clarified that the move does not violate any legislative laws and was intended to protect patient access, not restrict choice, with the supply of Pegasys continuing in hospitals for inpatients. *JG*

CW team runs the New York Marathon

SEVEN Chemist Warehouse Run Club members, led by Executive Director Mario Tascone, ran the New York Marathon yesterday to support the Save Our Sons charity in the fight against Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy.

As part of the event, Chemist Warehouse's executive team ran through New York's five boroughs.

The pharmacy giant has been a major charity partner of Save Our Sons since 2016.

Key supporters included Voltaren, L'Oreal Paris, Swisse, and others, all helping to raise funds for this cause.

"We're honoured to hit the streets of New York, running



for those who no longer can," Tascone commented.

Save Our Sons was founded in 2008 by Elie and Nancy Eid after their son Emilio was diagnosed with the disease.

It is Australia's leading organisation supporting those with Duchenne, a severe muscle-wasting disease that impacts one in 3,500 boys, with life expectancy to early adulthood, while Becker muscular dystrophy is less severe than Duchenne.



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Dispensary Corner

IN A 21-year study involving families across Detroit, Toledo, and Chicago, researchers explored how parenting styles shape kids' brains and moods.

Turns out, "harsh" parenting - think psychological and physical aggression - left its mark early, lighting up kids' brains like they were preparing for a battle.

By late childhood, these kids had less connectivity between the prefrontal cortex and amygdala, almost as if their brains were learning to keep emotions at arm's length.

Meanwhile, "warm" parenting (good ol' encouragement and responsiveness) added some strategic benefits: by age 15, these kids had stronger amygdala connections, which seemed to act as an anti-anxiety shield.

By adulthood - when COVID added a twist of stress - those with warmer parenting had lower levels of anxiety and depression.

In short, a little warmth goes a long way - good vibes early on seem to build brains that are better equipped to handle life's many curveballs.

Top Indigenous educator

DR JARED Miles, a Yuwi man and lecturer in the University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Pharmacy, is addressing the significant underrepresentation of Indigenous people in Australia's pharmacy workforce.

Indigenous Australians make up only 0.3% of this sector, and Dr Miles, UQ's first Indigenous Educator Award for Teaching Excellence Award winner since 2010, is committed to reversing this trend.

Dr Miles understands the challenges First Nations' students face, drawing from his own experience as an undergraduate pharmacy student.

"When I was a student, I found it overwhelming, especially finding other Indigenous students," Dr Miles shared.

Through his work, he has built a network of support that has helped grow Indigenous pharmacy student numbers from four to nine.

In his role, Dr Miles reaches out to First Nations students, connecting them to scholarships and travel funding while providing guidance through their studies.

He also restructured the Bachelor of Pharmacy program to a blended learning model, incorporating



videos, quizzes, and interactive activities, giving students greater control over their learning and preparing them for real-world applications in healthcare.

Dr Miles research is also focused on Indigenous health outcomes.

Through Australian Research Council Discovery funding, Dr Miles is examining how nicotine metabolises in pregnant Indigenous women to improve maternal health literacy and reduce exposure risks.

His community-based project in Maryborough, Queensland, could serve as a model for nationwide First Nations health studies, aiming to inform broader policy for maternal and child health in Indigenous communities. *JG*

Pictured: Dr Jared Miles (centre) with Chancellor Peter Varghese (left) and Vice Chancellor Deborah Terry (right).

Marketing to HCPs

FIREBRICK Pharma has signed a one-year Marketing Representation Agreement with Singapore-based Innorini Life Sciences to promote Nasodine Nasal Spray among healthcare professionals (HCPs) in Singapore.

Innorini will market Nasodine to general practitioners, hospital doctors, and pharmacists, aiming to drive awareness and facilitate on-site sales to patients.

"In Singapore, it is common practice for GPs and hospitals to dispense and sell products to patients," Firebrick Executive Chairman, Peter Molloy, explained.

"In this way, HCPs represent an important distribution channel for sales, as well as advocacy and recommendation."

Innorini's Managing Director, Rishi Nandiraju, expressed his excitement for the collaboration, saying, "we're thrilled to partner with Firebrick Pharma and to be able to introduce Nasodine, the world's first PVP-I nasal spray, to healthcare professionals in Singapore".



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