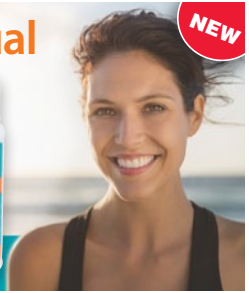


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a full page from Chemsave.

Chem-savings

DISCOVER how you can save big with Chemsave, which is highlighting its limited-time offer - see the back page to find out more.

Mpox spreading

VICTORIA is in the midst of its biggest mpox outbreak since the first case was reported into May 2022, according to a health alert issued by the state govt. Cases are continuing to rise across Victoria and other parts of Australia, with all sexually active people with compatible symptoms encouraged to undergo testing with a GP or sexual health clinic.

Chemist Warehouse lands in Dubai

CHEMIST Warehouse has this week expanded into the United Arab Emirates (UAE), opening the doors to its first store in Dubai.

The latest addition has joined the Australian pharmacy retail giant's portfolio of close to 600 stores worldwide, including more than 530 national stores, as well as 53 in New Zealand, 12 in China, and 11 in Ireland.

As well as offering pharmacy dispensary services, the Chemist Warehouse Dubai store stocks many leading Australian brands alongside local product offerings across the health, wellness, beauty, baby, cosmetics and fragrance categories.

Located in the Al Ghurair Centre, the 1,000m² superstore also boasts a luxury shopping selection featuring high-end fragrances and cosmetics, and is open seven days a week from 8am to midnight.

"We are proud to have officially landed in Dubai this week and celebrate our first store opening



within the United Arab Emirates," shared Chemist Warehouse Director, Mario Tascone.

"At Chemist Warehouse, we are committed to providing our UAE customers with an immersive and informative, hands-on shopping experience delivering a wide range of high-quality product at an

affordable price point. "With a one-stop-shop model and larger retail format, we are excited to welcome customers into our first store in the country." Tascone also revealed that a second Chemist Warehouse outlet in the UAE is "only weeks away" from opening. JM

PDL Director elections announced

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) has announced Paula Kwan and Bruce Elliot as the new Directors of its Board. Bringing more than two decades' experience as a pharmacist, Kwan has been elected as the Director for SA/NT. She is currently the site manager for HPS Pharmacies at the Calvary North Adelaide Hospital, and has chaired the PDL SA/NT Local Advisory Committee

for the last six years. Meanwhile, Elliot will take over from Gilbert Yeates as the Director for Queensland, with his credentials including a stint as President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Qld Branch. PDL Chair, Paul Naismith, congratulated the new Directors and welcomed them to the PDL Board, saying, "we value their expertise and look forward to their contributions".

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PSA, Guild welcome new Tas Health MP

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed Jacque Petrusma (pictured) as the new Minister for Health for Tasmania, following a Cabinet reshuffle.

President of the Tasmanian Branch, Joe O'Malley, said the Guild was looking forward to working with her.

"Ms Petrusma's health sector background will be a great asset in the role, and she has been a strong supporter of community pharmacy for a long time now.

"We look forward to working with the new Minister on the Government's Scope of Practice Review, which has set out a pathway to significantly improve access to health services in the community," he added.

"The Government has been working towards full implementation of the review's recommendations in 2026, and we welcome the opportunity to engage with the new Minister on these matters."

Additionally, O'Malley welcomed Roger Jaensch as the newly appointed Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and thanked Deputy Premier Guy Barnett for his service during his time as Minister for Health.

"Minister Jaensch has a keen interest in mental health, and we know that community pharmacy is playing an increasingly important role in supporting health consumers to manage their mental wellbeing.

"We also thank the Deputy Premier for his work as Minister for Health, and look forward to



continuing to engage with him on opportunities to improve access to local health services through Tasmania's community pharmacies," O'Malley added.

"The Deputy Premier has laid strong foundations to progress expanded scope of practice in community pharmacy during his time in the role."

MEANWHILE, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has congratulated Petrusma on her appointment, with Tasmania President Mark Kirschbaum hailing her as "an experienced, strong leader for Tasmania's health portfolio".

"Minister Petrusma's energy and experience as a Registered Nurse will no doubt benefit the sector as we face the nationwide challenges of an ageing population," he shared.

"As we look forward to the next steps of the government's scope of practice review, PSA looks forward to continuing to work with the Rockliff Government and Minister Petrusma to advocate for the role of pharmacists in our state's healthcare system."

Qld pharmacists awarded



THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) presented its 2024 Queensland Excellence Awards in Brisbane over the weekend, recognising five pharmacists for their dedication.

Earning the title of Queensland Pharmacist of the Year was Associate Professor Esther Lau, who played a key role in leading research for the state's vaccination and UTI pilot program as the course coordinator for the Qld University of Technology's (QUT) pharmacy program.

James Buckley, who was among the first to complete the North Queensland Pharmacist Full Scope of Practice Pilot, was awarded Queensland Early Career Pharmacist of the Year, while Queensland Intern Pharmacist of the Year went to Antonia Hurd.

Also honoured on the night was Professor Beverley Glass, who was bestowed the PSA Queensland Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the development of pharmacy education, practice

and research, particularly her role in establishing the James Cook University Pharmacy program.

Additionally, the annual Professor James Dare Pharmacy Graduate of the Year was awarded to James Cook University student Shylee-Jade Hadar-Pagliari.

PSA Queensland President Shane MacDonald acknowledged the achievements of the award winners, as well as the continued dedication of pharmacists practising throughout the state.

"It's an inspiration to see the amazing work pharmacists are doing in communities across Queensland, and a great privilege to recognise them for their dedication in advancing the profession," he said.

"On behalf of the PSA, I congratulate the outstanding pharmacists presented with awards and thank them for their commitment to bettering the health of Queenslanders." JM

Pictured: Glass, Buckley, Lau, Hadar-Pagliari, and Hurd.



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Dispensary Corner

OF ALL the things that could cure cancer, I bet you weren't expecting it to be sharks.

And yet, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have been studying how the misunderstood creatures can help fight different types of cancer.

As part of their research, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and the Dept. of Radiology at UW-Madison, Dr. Aaron LeBeau, says the team immunises the sharks against different types of human cancer.

"A simple injection beneath the skin of the shark and then over time, the shark's immune system amounts an immune response towards that protein and develops antibodies against the protein," he explained.

They then draw blood from the shark and analyse it in the lab, leading to research findings that are now being used for advancements at the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

UW-Madison graduate student Jayden West has been working with the sharks since they were brought to campus three years ago.

"It's definitely one of the coolest animals you could use in this field and not one you expect when you're not a wildlife biologist by trade at all," he said.

"We can use these shark antibodies to help traffic these drugs to the tumour and less of it into the body so that a lot of the negative effects of chemotherapy can kind of be reduced," West explained.

Locumate.ai a top innovator



LOCUMATE.AI, which automates access to talent across the pharmacy industry, has been identified as one of the top innovations in the medicine and healthcare category in *The Australian's* Top 100 Innovators list for 2024.

Co-founders Surge Singh and Kavita Nadan (**pictured**) were recently recognised for their innovative SaaS platform, which has already saved Australian pharmacies \$2 million in agency fees and filled more than 9,000 shifts since launching in 2022.

Locumate.ai is continuing to gain traction across the country, with Douglas Chemist Group, Prime Pharmacy and Allied Health Locums already signed as clients, and plans to launch an AI-enabled interactive jobs board to help organisations source talent.

"Apart from the push into pharmacy, we have started looking at how we can help other verticals including all of allied health," Singh revealed.

"Recently we signed up with Allied Health Locums, launching a new white labelled app across

podiatry and physiotherapy.

"Our platform doesn't aim to compete with the popular job seeker sites," Singh added.

"We cater for niche professional services organisations such as pharmacies, allied health services, all of which have jobs boards which need to be interactive, quick and simple to use as professionals are strapped for time."

Locumate was also invited to participate in the Australian Government's Austrade program based in the US called 'The Landing Pads', which helps tech scale-ups expand internationally by providing tailored advice and in-market experiences.

"The opportunities that this programme derived by Austrade provides to startups out of Australia is fantastic," Singh said.

Earlier this year, Locumate.ai partnered with the Californian and American Pharmacist Associations to launch HealthShifts, a joint venture aimed at changing the on-demand workforce for pharmacists in North America (**PD** 23 Apr). *JM*



Guild Update

NPSS '24 opens

PHARMACY students across Australia have the chance to make their voices heard by participating in the National Pharmacy Students' Survey (NPSS) 2024.

This annual survey provides an important opportunity to share thoughts, feedback, and ideas on key issues like the pharmacy curriculum, placements, and future employment opportunities.

Each year, the NPSS gathers valuable data that helps the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) develop policies and implement positive changes that reflect student concerns.

By taking part, students can directly influence decisions that shape the future of pharmacy, ensuring their perspective is considered at the highest levels of the profession.

This year's survey comes with exciting incentives - participants have the chance to a ticket to the NAPSA Congress 2025, Apple AirPods Max, vouchers, and more.

Your participation not only helps create a stronger future for the profession but could also land you a great reward!

The survey closes 30 Nov and it only takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Your feedback is essential in shaping a better future for pharmacy - **CLICK HERE** to fill out the survey.

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