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## Today's issue of PD

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

- Chemsave
- Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group
- Glucojel

## A special offer

PHARMACY owners can save big by taking advantage of Chemsave's limited-time special offer - see **page three**.

## PBAC at capacity

PHARMACEUTICAL companies are planning to bring forward more than 50 major submissions for consideration at the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's (PBAC) meeting in Mar 2025.

The Department of Health and Aged Care said this is an unprecedented number, and exceeds both the current capacity of the contracted Health Technology Assessment workforce for evaluation, and the number the PBAC can consider in one meeting.

As a result, the Department has carefully selected which submissions will be addressed by the PBA in Mar, and which will be held over until the Jul 2025 meeting.

The affected pharmaceutical companies, and Medicines Australia, have been contacted by the Department.

## PSA unveils CSI for consultant pharmacists

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched the Consultant Pharmacist Community of Specialty Interest (CSI), taking over from the interdisciplinary team-based care CSI that was established in 2021.

Working with PSA, the CSI aims to encourage engagement and professional growth among consultant pharmacists through collaborative learning, and foster discussions and idea-sharing.

It will also deliver workshops on essential topics for the industry, gather insights from members to shape the Consultant Pharmacists Conference, and boost professional recognition within the field.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim (pictured) said the time has come to establish a dedicated community for consultant pharmacists, and thanked the outgoing members of the CSI for their leadership.



"On behalf of PSA, I sincerely thank this experienced group of leaders for providing insights into the consultant pharmacist space and informing our work in this area over the last three years.

"Now is the right time for PSA to refresh the CSI to reflect our growing community of consultant pharmacists specialising in general practice, aged care and medication management," Sim explained.

She described the CSI as a forum for PSA members to connect with their colleagues, exchange ideas

opportunities and resources, and grow their practice in a safe, professional environment.

Incoming CSI Chair, Deborah Hawthorne, expressed a special thanks to outgoing Chair Debbie Rigby, who will continue to offer her guidance as a member of the CSI Leadership group.

"Under Debbie's leadership, this CSI has established itself as an important advisory group for PSA and we thank her for her input and guidance," Hawthorne shared.

"The consultant pharmacist community in Australia is going through a time of great change, but also a time where new opportunities are presenting themselves.

"I'm excited to be leading this CSI and hope to be able to use this role to guide PSA in providing tailored support and resources to consultant pharmacist members," she concluded.

The forum, which is exclusive to members of the PSA, can be accessed **HERE**. JM

## Streamline today

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies of Australia Group can help pharmacy owners streamline their operations.

To find out more, head to **page four**.

## Gluco-joy ahead

GLUCOJEL, the original pharmacy jellybean, is giving customers the chance to win \$10,000 - for more information on the major giveaway, see **p5**.

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### Dispensary Corner

**SO-CALLED** rare diseases are not really that rare in terms of overall numbers - they're just classified as such due to a lower percentage of a population that may suffer from them.

But there are some that really are rare in the truest sense of the word, afflicting only a small handful of people worldwide.

Take congenital hypertrichosis lanuginosa - also known as human werewolf syndrome - which causes hair to grow all over a person's body, even on their face.

Or cotard's syndrome, which has been given the more affable term 'walking corpse syndrome' as it can cause sufferers to think parts of their body are missing or that they are dead, dying or never existed at all.

Among the more whimsical is Alice in Wonderland syndrome, which was coined in the 1950s by a British psychiatrist who had a patient believing he was shrinking to a miniature size.

Then there's the more creepy Alien Hand Syndrome, also known as Dr Strangelove Syndrome, as it makes sufferers feel like their hand or leg is not under their own control.

Among the more serious is Stoneman Syndrome, which is a genetic mutation causing bone to grow into areas it shouldn't, effectively turning people into human statues.

Ditto for trimethylaminuria, which is a hereditary condition that causes a build-up of the chemical that gives rotten fish and sea creatures that unique pulsatingly offputting stench.

## AAHMS tips hat to Bell



**PROFESSOR** Scott Bell, the chief of Australia's Translational Research Institute (TRI), has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS), which aims to drive change and provide mentorship to upcoming health and medical researchers.

The election reflects his valuable contributions as a respiratory physician and research leader, particularly his role in developing a new global blueprint to help care for the more than 100,000 people who suffer with cystic fibrosis globally, including 3500 Australians.

In addition to directing the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre from 1998 to 2016, Bell (**pictured**) has been at the helm of TRI, which has been dedicated to translating scientific discoveries into applications for medical practice, since early 2020.

As well as being an honour, Bell said the AAHMS Fellowship is an opportunity to provide expert advice and advocacy in conversations with the community, industry and government about urgent health needs.

"Fellows come from across the health and medical sciences to ensure we have an elected body

with representation from different disciplines and areas of expertise," he shared.

"Ultimately, we have been selected to work together to ensure the most pressing health issues facing society can be addressed for everyone's benefit."

Becoming an AAHMS Fellow will see Bell join the likes of Nobel Laureate Prof. Peter Doherty, burns specialist Professor Fiona Wood, and University of Queensland immunologist Prof. Ian Frazer.

He is also accompanied by several other TRI colleagues, and was one of four Queenslanders to be admitted to the academy in 2024.

### Pharmacist killed

**KUM** Chuan 'KC' Leong, a former TerryWhite Chemmart and Priceline pharmacist, was murdered in his home in the Melbourne suburb of Bellfield on Tue.

Leong was commemorated as a talented leader and mentor for many emerging pharmacists, said Eastern Health CEO David Plunkett.

"He will be remembered for his passion, kindness and dedication to his team and the community," he added.

Leong was most recently an advanced training resident at Eastern Health, a role he had held since 2021, and was previously a clinical pharmacist at Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton and occupied retail roles with Priceline and TerryWhite Chemmart stores in Canberra.

A 54-year-old man with no fixed address and not believed to be known to the victim was arrested and taken into custody on Wed.

He has since been charged with murder and appeared at Melbourne Magistrates' Court late yesterday.

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