

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Advanced Pharmacy Australia

Low-cost solution

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

Learn more on **page five**.

SHPA rebrands

'A NEW name for a new era', is the catchphrase for the peak body for hospital pharmacists.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has rebranded to better align with today's medicine needs.

See more on the **back page**.

Tanvex's new CEO

TANVEX BioPharma, the biosimilar-focused company, today announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Stephen Lam as the company's CEO.

Lam succeeds Henry Chen, who remains Chairman until the closing of Tanvex's strategic alliance with Bora Pharmaceuticals Co Ltd.

Inhaler warning from NAC

THE National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has issued a warning regarding the 01 Sep inclusion of asthma medications on the PBS 60-day prescription list.

Coinciding with National Asthma Week, more than 70 asthma inhalers may now be dispensed in larger quantities, allowing patients to receive multiple inhalers per dispensed script.

A/Prof Debbie Rigby (**pictured**), Clinical Executive Lead at NAC, acknowledged that while the change could reduce costs, it raises concerns about medication expiry, wastage, and missed opportunities for asthma management reviews.

"Sixty-day dispensing can benefit stable patients, but many in Australia do not have well-controlled asthma," said Rigby.

"A 12-month supply removes the need for a GP visit at six months, missing a key opportunity to



assess asthma management and potentially adjust treatment."

In addition, some inhaler devices are packaged in a foil or plastic pouch and once these inhalers are opened, they must be used within a specified timeframe to avoid reduced stability and efficacy, explained Rigby.

"This includes most multi-dose reservoir dry powder inhalers, as they are particularly susceptible to high humidity, and some powder formulations that are moisture sensitive," she added. *JG*

Student journal evolves as sector changes

THE sixth edition of the *Australian Pharmacy Students' Journal* (APSJ), titled 'Connecting Students to the Profession', highlights the evolving role of pharmacy students in the field.

The new edition features original research on student readiness, a reflection on placements, and a key article on the impact of new technologies.

Supported by Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association (NAPSA), the APSJ offers pharmacy students a platform to publish

research, with guidance from its editorial team.

The issue marks the first release since the SHPA rebranding, which was celebrated by NAPSA President Sebastian Harper, and AdPha President Tom Simpson.

"Pharmacy is rapidly changing, and students, interns and pharmacists are now well-placed to explore what 'advanced pharmacy' means to them," commented Harper.

Both leaders emphasised the theme of connection, aligning with AdPha's mission of fostering a community with shared goals.

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Africa's report card

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has published a new report highlighting the state of pharmacy practice and healthcare needs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Titled *Pharmacy in Sub-Saharan Africa: A FIP Situational Report*, the publication is part of FIP's Multinational Needs Assessment Programme.

It examines the challenges facing a region with the world's highest disease burden and lowest density of healthcare workers per patient.

The report includes 12 case studies from FIP member organisations in Cameroon, Dr Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, spotlighting the crucial role pharmacists play in health outcomes.

However, it also notes that 85% of pharmacists are concentrated in urban areas, and with a projected deficit of 6.1 million healthcare professionals by 2030, access to care remains limited.

"Addressing healthcare disparities requires strategic interventions, including promoting universal health coverage, equitable access to vaccines, and enhanced health literacy," said FIP Vice President Dr Prosper Hiag.

To read the report's executive summary, **CLICK HERE**.

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IBD global initiative



THE charity Crohn's Colitis Cure (CCCure) is leading a global coalition of consumer and clinician groups to develop a solution for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

The Australian initiative aims to provide personalised care, enhancing patient control over their health data and improving the quality of clinician consultations.

CCCure's new cloud-based consumer app integrates patient-reported data with clinical records, offering tailored information on nutrition, medications, side effects, and access to trials.

The approach empowers patients, and helps clinicians access reliable data, addressing the need for more personalised IBD care.

The app's de-identified clinical data will also be available to third parties for research, treatment development, and regulatory submissions, potentially advancing the search for a cure for the disease.

Crohn's & Colitis organisations in Australia, USA, UK and New Zealand, and the Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia are backing the innovative solution, supporting its development and adoption globally.

Healthscope controversy



AUSTRALIANS with health insurance will not lose access to private hospitals, reassured the peak body for private health insurance, Private Healthcare Australia (PHA), yesterday.

This is despite a campaign launched by Healthscope and its private equity owner, Brookfield, aimed at "misleading" patients, stated PHA.

According to PHA CEO Dr Rachel David, the campaign pressures health insurers and the Federal Government for a bailout that could drive up health insurance costs for millions of Australians.

She has assured the 12 million Australians with hospital cover that health funds will protect access to essential private hospital services without increasing insurance premiums.

"Health funds are supporting private hospitals through recovery, but we will not let Healthscope's threats lead to higher costs for consumers," said Dr David.

Healthscope has threatened to terminate contracts with some health funds and impose extra charges on patients.

"It's Healthscope, not health

insurers, that's threatening increased costs for pregnant women and cancer patients," Dr David emphasised, adding that health funds are committed to protecting members from rising premiums and unnecessary out-of-pocket expenses.

Brookfield, which acquired Healthscope in 2019, is allegedly accused of prioritising profits over healthcare, "having off-loaded assets and failed to manage debt effectively amid inflation and high interest rates", she said.

Dr David criticised Brookfield's tactics, saying, "the company's focus on short-term financial gains undermines our healthcare system in Australia".

As a government review into the sector continues, Dr David underscored that Healthscope's financial troubles are self-inflicted and unrelated to insurer payments.

"Health insurers are working to maintain a sustainable healthcare environment, not to bail out a foreign private equity firm," commented Dr David, reaffirming insurers' commitment to protecting members and keeping premiums low. JG

Women's summit

THE Australian Women's Weekly Health Summit, sponsored by Priceline Pharmacy, took place last week at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia in Sydney, attracting more than 150 attendees.

The sold-out event, focused on women's health topics such as menopause, mental health, and wellness, featuring expert panel discussions, cooking demonstrations, and interactive sessions.

Priceline Pharmacist Melissa Gannon joined a Q&A with event host and Editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly*, Sophie Tedmanson, to address women's health concerns.

Wesfarmers Health Head of Marketing Corrina Brazel praised the partnership, highlighting Priceline Pharmacy's commitment to women's health.

Guests included celebrities such as Jessica Rowe, Julie Goodwin, Michelle Bridges, Jodi Gordon, Myf Warhurst, Alison Daddo, Dr Ginni Mansberg, Effie Zahos, emotional wellbeing counsellor Dr Liz Dale and CEO of Jean Hailes Dr Sarah White.

Attendees received free SiSU Health checks and various pharmacy products.

The summit continues with the 'Walk With The Weekly' initiative, encouraging women throughout Sep to walk 30 minutes daily to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

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Editor's Choice: Stay moisturised and protected with Jurlique

JUST in time for the warmer seasons, Jurlique has unveiled its new sunscreen, which also doubles as a moisturiser.

Designed to shield skin from harmful UVA and UVB rays, Jurlique's UV Defence Daily Lotion SPF 50+ (RRP: \$59 for 50ml) also keeps complexions hydrated and supple.

The new sunscreen is formulated with aloe vera to hydrate, smooth and rebalance dry skin, and hyaluronic acid to help retain moisture.

It also has vitamin E to provide antioxidant benefits and protect against free radical damage.

Jurlique stated its product can aid in the prevention



of premature ageing, solar keratoses (sun spots), and may assist in the prevention of some skin cancers.

Invisible, non-greasy, and light enough to wear under makeup, the sunscreen is set to be the

new go-to product for glowing, protected skin all summer long.

According to the manufacturer, the easily spreadable formula is suitable for all skin types.

Jurlique products are stocked by National Pharmacies.

Mitchell for Maybelline



MAYBELLINE New York has tapped Shay Mitchell, widely known for her role in the hit series *Pretty Little Liars*, to be its newest global ambassador.

With an audience of 36 million followers on Instagram, the actress is expected to help boost Maybelline's brand communication strategy, and will feature in her first campaign for the L'Oréal-owned beauty brand this season, for two new launches.

"We believe in the power of expressing your authentic self," said Maybelline New York Global Brand President, Trisha Ayyagari.

"Shay Mitchell embodies this value with a unique balance of strength and fun."

Mitchell is no stranger to representing beauty brands, having also been the face of Biore Skincare, Buxom, and Cacharel Parfums.

"As a brand that has always valued self-expression and individuality, it is an honour to be a part of their story," the 37-year-old actress said.

Kid-friendly cleanser

DEVELOPED for babies and kids, Euky Bear's Hair & Body Wash (RRP: \$12.95) is now available at Chemist Warehouse.

The cleanser is enriched with organic Kakadu plum, rosehip, jojoba oil and vitamin E to nourish and cleanse, while being gentle on eyes and suitable for dry and sensitive skin.

Australian-made and owned, the product contains no nasties, and has been dermatologist approved.



Clean Swim is here to chlorine-proof hair



WITH summer fast approaching, Clean Swim has launched new and improved formulations of its signature daily shampoo and

conditioner to help protect hair from the effects of chlorine.

The Australian brand, formulated by local cosmetic chemist Rita Sellars, uses advanced anti-green technology to prevent the dreaded green tinge that can plague swimmers with lighter hair.

Free from harsh chemicals, the Daily Swim Shampoo and Conditioner are made with natural ingredients that cleanse, nourish and protect the hair, working to restore its pH balance and neutralise chlorine.

The products, available for RRP: \$24.50 per bottle, are also designed to reduce the effects of copper, magnesium, calcium, and other pollutants found in pool chemicals and hard water, which can cause greenish or brassy hair.

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Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

FACED with the battle of snacks versus sit-ups, dragging yourself off the couch to hit the gym can feel like a Herculean task.

But there's hope for couch potatoes: scientists have identified the brain chemical oxerin, which nudges us toward exercise over indulgence, according to the UK's *Daily Mail*.

Researchers at ETH Zurich found that when oxerin was blocked in mice, they ditched their exercise wheel in favour of chugging a tasty milkshake.

The medical discovery hints at the potential for a future pill that makes us actually want to work out - no motivational quotes required.

The problem is real: about 80% of teens and 27% of adults worldwide don't get enough exercise, according to the World Health Organisation, thanks to the lure of highly processed, calorie-packed snacks.

Prof Denis Burdakov explained, "we wanted to know what helps some people resist temptations and stay active".

Blocking oxerin in mice showed the chemical is key to choosing between exercise and the allure of treats.

With hopes of applying these findings to humans, researchers are looking to create treatments that make skipping the gym a thing of the past, one oxerin tweak at a time.



Taking a 'moonshot' for RA remission

THE Federal Government is investing \$11.54 million in a University of Queensland project that aims to put rheumatoid arthritis into remission, potentially eliminating the need for lifelong immunotherapy.

The chronic condition affects 450,000 Australians, causing pain, disability, and early death as the body mistakenly attacks its own joint proteins.

The Reset Rheumatoid Arthritis project brings together experts in immunotherapy, clinical trials, and patient care to develop antigen-specific tolerising immunotherapy, which retrains the immune system to tolerate joint proteins.

At the launch of the project, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler



commented that "the chronic pain associated with this condition can take a very heavy toll on a person's mental health and affect their ability to function and take part in normal day to day activities".

"I'm proud the government is supporting Australian researchers to take this 'moonshot' and hopefully reset the immune system of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers.

"This would be transformative and a world-first for people with rheumatoid arthritis."

Off the back of promising early trials, and the team is now focused on developing a second-generation treatment for future clinical testing.

Lead researcher, Prof Ranjeny

Thomas, explained that his team can now accelerate work to ready clinical trials of ASITI-RA.

"This is an antigen-specific immunotherapy we developed to reprogram the immune system to sustain long-term remission in rheumatoid arthritis," said Thomas.

"Within two years, we expect to be able to start phase one clinical trials of the immunotherapy, which aims to reduce the need for lifelong immunosuppression," he added.

The funding is part of the Medical Research Future Fund's Frontiers program, which supports ambitious research with the potential to transform the treatment of serious and incurable conditions. *JG*

Diabetes studies

A NEW research initiative aimed at ultimately improving quality of life for diabetes sufferers has been announced today in Brisbane.

Diabetes Australia has joined forces with the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovation to launch the Australian Diabetes Clinical Trial Network, which aims to increase the number of clinical trials taking place in Australia.

Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain said clinical trials are a cornerstone of research.

"Clinical trials ensure that new treatments deliver real benefits to people, while also identifying any potential risks or side effects," Cain said.

The network will also expand to expert reviews, feedback of clinical trial protocols, and expedite funding applications.

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