

Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Elite Expertise

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$7.42 per hour, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see **p3**.

Explore options

LEADING online platform for overseas pharmacists, Elite Expertise, has recorded a free webinar exploring opportunities in Australian hospitals and pharmacies, including clinical specialisations. See details on **page four**.

Calls for naloxone, pill checks reignited

VICTORIAN Coroner David Ryan has published the findings from an inquest into the deaths of four people in Broadmeadows last year, with experts calling for more pill checking services and increased awareness around the use of naloxone to reverse nitazene overdose effects.

The people aged between 17 and 42 died after ingesting what they believed was cocaine, but subsequent toxicological analysis revealed it to be protonitazene, a highly potent synthetic opioid.

Coroner Ryan noted the Coroners Prevention Unit has reported 23 confirmed nitazene-involved overdose deaths in Victoria, with the first death occurring in 2021.

The Coroner emphasised the importance of drug checking services, and also recommended the Department of Health consider the effectiveness of nitazene test strips and whether they can be made available to the community as a measure to reduce

unintentional overdose.

Opioid expert Professor Suzanne Nielsen, Deputy Director of the Monash Addiction Research Centre, said, "This tragic case underscores the urgency of expanding drug checking services in Victoria."

"A fixed-site service with the capability of accurately detecting nitazenes offers a critical opportunity to detect substances before they cause harm.

"It's a proactive step toward reducing preventable deaths by giving people real-time information about what they're taking and connecting them with harm reduction support."

She said while nitazene test strips are a "promising tool", they are still being validated and cannot detect all types of nitazene drugs.

She called for increased access to, and public awareness of naloxone, noting there is "good evidence" it can reverse nitazene overdoses if administered in time.

NT Health, after finding nitazenes



for the first time in tablets last week, has urged people to carry naloxone nasal spray or pre-filled injection if they are using drugs such as cocaine, ketamine, methamphetamine, MDMA or opioids, or at a party where they will be consumed.

Pill checking services in Qld were recently defunded, despite the increased risk of nitazenes in illicit drugs and prescription medicines such as oxycodone and benzodiazepines (**PD 09 Apr**). *KB*

Cal-600®
Helps build strong bones

Available from API, Symbion, Sigma & CH2

Petrus PHARMACEUTICALS

Calcium 600mg
120 tablets

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.



Mag-Sup®

Australia's No. 1 magnesium product.*

Available in
50's, 100's and 250's.



Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

*Mag-Sup is the No.1 Magnesium product in the Vitamins category in Australian Pharmacy in terms of Retail unit sales. IQVIA™, Pharmacy, VMS category, Total Units, 52 weeks, WE_2024-02-12

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2. Pharmacy only.

Petrus PHARMACEUTICALS



Dispensary Corner

A PHARMACY worker in Ireland had a self-professed "moment of madness" that led him to steal more than €600 (A\$1,250) worth of perfume and cosmetics, a court has heard.

Paul O'Mahoney, aged 42, and another employee pocketed the goods after scanning them and cancelling the sales, in what has been described as two pre-meditated till frauds.

O'Mahoney, who had been working at a Boots perfume counter in Ireland, pleaded guilty to the theft at Blanchardstown District Court, with his defence saying, "to this day, [he] doesn't know what came over him".

He was captured on CCTV carrying out the thefts on 15 Nov last year with a female coworker, whose case is yet to be heard.

O'Mahoney had no prior convictions, and according to his defence solicitor, he "absolutely regrets the decision" and has "wholeheartedly" apologised.

The former Boots worker was fined €300 (A\$625).

Set up for internship success

HAVING a positive experience as an intern can make all the difference to setting up for a successful career in pharmacy.

Khanh Nguyen (pictured), National Intern Training Program & Vaccination Manager at the Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP), told **Pharmacy Daily** that the internship journey is a rewarding experience, but can also involve challenges such as balancing work, study and other enjoyable activities outside of the workplace.

Nguyen, who will be presenting on a panel, 'Setting yourself up for a successful intern year' at the 2025 Pharmacy Careers Summit, said that pharmacy practice environment, preceptor and pharmacy team are important considerations for a successful internship year.

"The Australasian College of Pharmacy congratulates all pharmacy interns and students who have selected a career in pharmacy," said Nguyen.

"It's an exciting time for the profession as pharmacists continue to expand their roles and responsibilities by practicing to their full scope around the country," she added.

People attending the panel



will learn how to plan the intern year to ensure assessments and revision periods are scheduled in accordance with work rosters.

"Key exam dates, conferences and annual leave should be calendarised and communicated with your employer," suggested Nguyen.

The session will also share advice about how to grow your network and create a supportive learning environment to maximise your intern experience.

"Interns should connect with fellow interns, ITP clinical tutors and pharmacy industry experts who can listen, advise and offer guidance to ensure the intern year is a smooth and memorable one," Nguyen recommended.

Learn more about PCS25 **HERE**. KB

BMI good indicator of obesity for most

A US study of around 2,000 adults has found that almost all people identified as having obesity based on body mass index (BMI) were confirmed as having excess body fat.

The use of BMI to diagnose obesity has become increasingly controversial.

Recently, a group of experts argued that obesity may be overdiagnosed because BMI does not distinguish between body fat, muscle and bone mass, and recommended that health professionals should look at other measures alongside BMI (**PD** 15 Jan).

The authors of the current study compared BMI and direct body fat measurement using DEXA, and found a strong correlation between BMI and excess body fat, with 98.4% of persons with BMI-diagnosed obesity having it confirmed.

Results were consistent across age, sex, and race and ethnicity.

While certain types of people, such as athletes, may warrant further evaluation, these people make up a very small portion of the population, the authors noted.

Save time. Save Money.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation from Willach Pharmacy Solutions. No matter the size of your pharmacy, contact us for a confidential discussion to explore the options available.



Willach Pharmacy Solutions willach.com.au (03) 9429 8222 info@willach.com.au



www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Karina Bray
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
Editorial Director - Damian Francis

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing
Sean Harrigan
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au
Head of Operations - Anna Piper
General Manager & Publisher
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au
Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)
info@pharmacydaily.com.au





**STAFF SHORTAGES?
OVER-WORKED?
WAGES INCREASING?**



GIVE YOUR DISPENSARY THE HELP IT NEEDS

Dispense Assist is a revolutionary way of dispensing prescriptions in your pharmacy for a fraction of your normal cost.

Utilising the latest technology, software and security, Dispense Assist technicians work on your workstation to dispense prescriptions and perform any other task you require.



We are available 24/7/365 at a moment's notice whenever needed for sessions of 30mins to 24hrs.

Rates as low as \$7.42 per hour with the same rates for days, nights, weekends and public holidays.

PERFECT FOR DISPENSING AND OTHER TASKS FOR:



DAA



Compounding



Cannabis



Private
Hospitals



Online
Sales



eScripts

and much more

Curious to see if it's a fit for your pharmacy?

Sign up for a FREE Trial Now:



www.dispenseassist.com.au



Scan qr code

"AUSTRALIAN PHARMACIST SCOPE IN AUSTRALIA: NOW AND IN THE FUTURE"

Elite Expertise Hosts Groundbreaking Webinar

Exploring expanded practice, hospital roles, and the future of pharmacy with expert insights

MELBOURNE, APRIL 5, 2025



Website

www.eliteexpertise.com.au



Elite Expertise, a leading online platform for overseas pharmacists, hosted a free webinar titled "Australian Pharmacist Scope in Australia: Now and in the Future." The session featured esteemed speakers Emily Griffin, Arief Mohammad, and Harika Bheemavarpu—Directors and Educators at Elite Expertise and Clinical Pharmacists in Australia.

The event drew global participation of 300+ from pharmacy students, overseas-trained and intern pharmacists, all eager to explore the evolving pharmacy landscape in Australia.

Key Highlights

Hospital Pharmacy Roles Rural and Regional Opportunities Future Vision

- **Emily Griffin**, Senior Hospital Pharmacist and award-winning educator, discussed the expanding scope of pharmacists—touching on hospital roles (PPMC/PPMP models, stewardship, outreach services), rural opportunities, and a future vision for interprofessional collaboration and policy advancement.
- **Harika Bheemavarpu** elaborated on clinical specializations in hospital pharmacy—covering areas like cardiology, mental health, oncology, neonatology, and more.
- **Arief Mohammad** shared insights on digital transformation and AI in pharmacy, along with Elite Expertise's role in preparing pharmacists for licensure exams (KAPS/OPRA, PEBC, PSI).

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, underscoring Elite Expertise's mission to empower and educate future pharmacists.

Attendees gained first-hand insights into real-world pharmacy practice in Australia, including emerging roles and specialization options.

The session equipped them with clarity, direction, and practical strategies to pursue international pharmacy careers with confidence.

If you missed the session, please contact the Elite Expertise team to access the recorded version and catch up on all the valuable insights shared.



EMILY GRIFFIN

Principal Pharmacist & Director,
ENCAPSULED | BPharm (Hons) |
GradCertPharmPracInt | MClinPharm |
MPS-AACPA | FANZCAP



Elite Expertise

Harika Bheemavarpu

Director and Educator at Elite Expertise
Accredited Consultant Pharmacist,
Australia



Elite Expertise

Arief Mohammad

Director and Educator at Elite Expertise
Accredited Consultant Pharmacist,
Australia



+61 407 177 175



+91 83096 39410



contact@eliteexpertise.org



www.eliteexpertise.com.au
www.eliteexpertise.com