

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Glucojel.

### Glucojel profits you

**ALL** the money raised by Glucojel assists the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in its advocacy work for community pharmacy - learn more on [page three](#).

### ANZCAP Student of the Year open

**THE** Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) is inviting students to submit their custom portfolio for its Pharmacy Student of the Year award.

The recipient will be awarded an all-inclusive trip to AdPha's Medicines Management 2025 conference - details are [HERE](#).

## Guild claims "farcical", GPs say

**THE** Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has refuted modelling commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia that suggests its new 10-year vision, *Towards 2035*, will free up 6.5 million GP consultations (*PD* 13 Aug).

Speaking to *newsGP*, RACGP President Dr Michael Wright told the publication he is "interested in seeing the Guild's modelling", and *newsGP* said it has requested it.

"It's a big number, 6.5 million consults, and I'd be concerned that it's coming at the expense of creating more complex work, which needs to be followed up later because people haven't presented in a timely manner," Dr Wright said.

RACGP Rural Chair Associate Professor Michael Clements concurred, expressing concerns that the modelling does not take risks into account.

"The Pharmacy Guild in no way shows any understanding of the risks of what they are suggesting, the harms that come from it, and



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the idea that somehow they're going to save 6.5 million GP consults is farcical," Associate Professor Clements said.

"It tries to assume that GPs deal with one thing at a time, that we only see people with a rash and that we don't actually check their blood pressure, their Pap smear status, their flu vaccines status.

"It's not in any way characterising general practice services in a fair or reasonable way," he concluded.

The GPs also reiterated their concerns about risks to patients from pharmacy prescribing, with GPs then having to treat problems arising from pharmacist error. *KB*

## Novartis simplifies non-PBS scripts

**NOVARTIS** Australia has launched a new private prescription solution - Novartis Connect - to simplify access to nominated, on-label, TGA-approved, Novartis medicines.

With around 15% of medicines dispensed outside of the PBS, Novartis Connect provides universal eligibility criteria and is easily accessible.

The platform encompasses Novartis Private Prescription Program, an e-script solution that provides access to Novartis medicines via one entry point for healthcare professionals and their patients.

It is currently delivered in partnership with TerryWhite Chemmart through its app.

Novartis Connect also has a Hospital Ordering Program, a B2B ordering solution that provides hospital pharmacies with direct access to Novartis products - learn more [HERE](#).

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## Dispensary Corner

**WASTEWATER** from the loos on planes could hold the key to the global spread of superbugs, described as "a silent pandemic" that threatens to kill more than 39 million people around the world by 2050.

Nine pathogens and superbugs were detected in the lavatory water from 44 international flights that arrived in Australia.

Five of the superbugs were found in all 44 flight samples, while a gene conferring resistance to last-resort antibiotics was detected on 17 flights.

Interestingly, that gene was not found in Australia's own urban wastewater during the same period, meaning it was likely introduced from overseas.

The research was conducted by the team at CSIRO, in partnership with Xiamen University, the University of South Australia and Michigan Technological University.

"Aircraft wastewater captures microbial signatures from passengers across different continents, offering a non-invasive, cost-effective way to monitor threats like AMR," said senior author Dr Warish Ahmed, a principal research scientist from CSIRO.

Tuberculosis, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 have all been known to spread via air travel.

International travel is one of the major drivers of AMR spread, so the need for innovative surveillance tools like monitoring aircraft wastewater is urgent, warned co-author Professor Nicholas Ashbolt.

## Rich countries pay less for meds

**RICHER** countries pay less for their medicines in real terms, once the purchasing power of different currencies is taken into account, according to an international study.

Researchers from the US and UK looked at the availability and prices of over 500 essential medicines across 87 countries, and found that their prices were highest, on average, in the Americas and lowest in the Western Pacific - including Australia and NZ - after accounting for the purchasing power of different currencies.

This list included both newer, patent-protected medicines and older medicines available as generics.

The research did not include medicines used to treat HIV, tuberculosis or malaria, as these were often obtained outside the normal commercial channels whose data was used for the comparison, nor did it include vaccines.

Overall, they found that the higher a country's gross domestic product per capita, the higher the cost of drugs when converted from the local currency to US dollars, indicating that richer countries generally had higher drug prices.

However, when adjusting for the purchasing power of different currencies, an inverse correlation was found, suggesting that richer countries had lower prices in real terms.

Bucking this trend was the US, which had prices around three times higher than the basis country Germany (after taking purchased power into account), while the relatively poor Lebanon had the lowest real costs at 18% of those in Germany.

The highest unadjusted prices were found in the US, where costs were 4.1 times higher than Germany, but after taking



purchasing power into account, Argentinians faced the highest costs at 5.8 times higher than Germany.

Other countries with high costs included Mexico (4.3 times higher than Germany), Dominican Republic (4.1), Thailand (4), and Indonesia (3.9).

Pakistan had the lowest prices in nominal terms, at 30% of those in Germany, but prices were closer to those in Germany after adjusting for purchasing power (97.6%).

Australia had the second lowest costs of all countries looked at, with adjusted costs 53% of those in Germany.

In a separate analysis, the researchers took a subset of eight essential medicines used to treat major causes of death and disability globally, and calculated how many days of minimum wage earnings would be required to pay for one month of treatment.

Again, they found that those in richer countries tended to require fewer working days to pay for them.

Nor did it consider varying levels of affordability within countries.

"Many low- and middle-income countries paid higher prices for the same essential medicines compared to wealthier countries, placing a disproportionate cost burden on patients in poorer nations," the authors concluded.

"There is a need for international strategies aimed at achieving more equitable outcomes," they suggested.

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

## McPherson's and API enter agreement

**MCPHERSON'S** Consumer Products - the health, beauty and wellness company behind pharmacy brands such as Manicare, Dr LeWinn's and Fusion Health - has announced that it has finalised a new pharmacy wholesaler agreement with API.

In an ASX statement, the company said its annual revenue of around \$15-20 million will shift from a direct-to-store model to a wholesale relationship with API, potentially enhancing operational efficiency and market reach.

## Leaders at China health expo

**CHINA'S** multi-billion dollar health products industry will target the latest Australian developments at the Australia China Health Products Expo in Melbourne on 26-27 Oct (**PD** 19 May).

Two of Australia's most highly respected leaders in the health products industry will be among the people and products to be highlighted at the expo: Dr Ian Dettman and Peter Woodward.

Dr Dettman, founder and managing director of Biological Therapies, pioneered the use of injectable nutrients, while Woodward established Berringa Honey, with its Manuka therapeutic range, more than 30 years ago.

The expo is supported by the Guild's Victoria branch - learn more [HERE](#).



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