



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of industry news including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

Must-see at APP

AS PART of his top 20 program recommendations for APP2025, Chairman Kos Sclavos is suggesting pharmacists tune into an internationally-focused session on 20 Mar.

US-based President of the World Pharmacy Council, Doug Hoey, will look at why some global giants are failing, and how independent community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to thrive.

Prescription medicines should not be seen as commoditised items, Sclavos said, and the markets that have gone down this track are seeing community pharmacy decimated.

Associations jostle for election funds

AN ELECTION pledge by the Western Australia Liberal Party to authorise community pharmacists to prescribe selected medicines has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch.

Based on the existing Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, the state opposition says it will allow 680 community pharmacists operating through the state network to prescribe medicine for 23 select conditions.

Like Queensland, the move is aimed at taking pressure off an already constrained GP network.

According to the Guild, community pharmacy is the state's most accessible primary healthcare destination and is used by more than one million Western Australians each week.

"To engage and utilise this existing network to expand healthcare services is not only a commonsense decision but also an economically responsible one," the Guild said. "Amidst Western Australia's



ongoing GP shortage and limited bulk-billing options, this approach would help mitigate rising healthcare costs for patients."

MEANWHILE, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has called on whichever side of politics is successful in the election to invest in the hospital pharmacy workforce.

Two key election priorities outlined by the group include a push for \$67.7 million in funding to ensure a strong pipeline of skilled pharmacists to meet the increasing

health need of Western Australians.

"The proposed investment will mean roughly 130 additional positions covering pharmacy interns, early-career pharmacists, pharmacist registrars and clinical educators are created to support patient care and ensure long-term sustainability of the WA pharmacy workforce," said AdPha President Tom Simpson (pictured).

"Hospital pharmacy departments are feeling the strain, high staff turnover and retention challenges."

Transform your Pharmacy

Dream It | Design It | Make It Happen

We design spaces which reflect the way you work, and create efficiencies throughout your pharmacy with particular emphasis on dispensary operations.

We have a unique combination of hands-on pharmacy operations experience paired with hundreds of pharmacy design projects.

find out how we can help



Make the switch to Symbion

At Symbion we provide the tools, experience and solutions to help you reach your goals.

Find out why we are the leading choice for pharmacies.



Sigma-CWH merger complete



SIGMA announced yesterday that its acquisition of 100% of the issued shares in CW Group Holdings Limited (Chemist Warehouse) by way of scheme of arrangement has now been implemented.

Sigma now holds all of the ordinary shares in Chemist Warehouse, and Chemist Warehouse is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sigma.

Chemist Warehouse shareholders who were entitled to receive the scheme consideration got around 45 cents cash per share and just over six new Sigma shares per Chemist Warehouse Share held as at the scheme record date (which was Thu 06 Feb 2025).

The new Sigma shares issued under the scheme will commence trading on a normal settlement basis from today.

Changes to senior management have also now taken effect.

Kate Spargo has resigned as director of Sigma, and the company

issued a statement thanking her for her substantial contribution to Sigma over many years.

Jack Gance, Mario Verrocchi, Damien Gance and Danielle Di Pilla took up their appointments as new directors of Sigma yesterday.

All eyes are now on the stockmarket, with Chemist Warehouse franchisees able to sell their shares.

Some financial commentators have suggested that with their wealth tied up in Chemist Warehouse, franchisees will be keen to liquidate sooner rather than later.

Early trading saw that come to bear, with the *Australian Financial Review* reporting that over 60 million shares changed hands last night, representing \$175 million worth of stock.

As we went to press, shares were trading at \$2.86, a slight rise from yesterday but down from a high of just over \$3 in late Jan. *KB*

Thousands miss out on drug treatment

UP TO half a million people in Australia are missing out on treatment for alcohol and other drug use disorders, Australian researchers have found.

Using results from various studies on drug use in Australia, the team from the University of NSW calculated how many people are likely have a substance use disorder.

They then subtracted the number of people they estimated would not need or seek treatment, which they calculated as around 40% of the cohort.

With around 200,000 people currently receiving treatment, which they suggest only makes up 30-48% of the people who need it, that means between 200,000 and 500,000 are missing out, the researchers said.

The findings are consistent with other research.

The team also pointed out that people who meet the diagnostic criteria but are not included in the treatment estimates are

likely to still benefit from some form of intervention.

They proposed that a less intensive intervention, possibly provided in a primary care setting, may be adequate.

The researchers also considered another population - those who don't meet diagnostic criteria but are consuming in risky quantities.

If they were to seek intervention, and resources allowed, they would benefit from early treatment.

"The findings from this analysis highlight the continued significant unmet treatment needs of people with substance use disorders," wrote the authors in *Drug and Alcohol Review*.

"Alcohol and other drug treatment is significantly underfunded and underresourced.

"Treatment resources need to be doubled in order to address this unmet treatment population," they concluded.

Read the paper [HERE](#).

Willach B5 Dispensing Robot FOR SALE

In excellent condition (5 years old), repacked by Willach, and ready for transport and re-installation.

Storage Capacity:
Up to 1,230 SKU's
up to 16,560 packages
Footprint: 6.2 m2

- Reliable, efficient, and compact design
- Fully functional with all components included

Perfect for any pharmacy looking to improve efficiency. Reach out for more info!

Price: \$80,000
Contact Gavin
gavin@pharmacyservices.com.au
Located Mid North Coast NSW

CONSIS B5



Restin[®]

Melatonin 2mg

Because sleep quality matters.

SPECIAL PHARMACY DEAL Available Now

CONTACT NOVA on 1300 904 541 TODAY

*Primary insomnia is insomnia without an underlying medical cause or any other clear cause.

R070125aS3v1.0 Ask your pharmacist about this product. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. For details on health warnings please see: <https://novapharm.com.au/disclaimer-detail/restin-melatonin-2mg-tablet-blister-pack/>



Editor's Choice: Harness the power of vitamin C for radiant skin

AUSSIE skincare brand Skin Physics has unveiled its latest product - the Oxygen-C Radiance Facial Oil, designed to significantly enhance skin radiance, and now available in Priceline pharmacies.

The lightweight oil contains oil-soluble vitamin C to provide protection against free radicals, boost hydration deep within the skin, reduce fine lines and wrinkles, and improve overall firmness and elasticity, resulting in smooth, bright and visibly rejuvenated skin.

The formula also contains the skin-loving ingredients of cacay oil, pracaxi oil, and jojoba oil, which work together to target dull skin, pigmentation, uneven tone



and texture, dry skin, and fine lines and wrinkles.

According to Skin Physics, the product reduces UVB-induced pigmentation and improves the appearance of fine lines and

wrinkles in just eight weeks.

Users are advised to massage two to three drops of Oxygen-C Radiance Facial Oil (RRP\$39.95 for 30ml) onto the face, neck and décolletage after cleansing.

MCoBeauty sells for \$1B



POPULAR pharmacy beauty brand MCoBeauty is now 100% owned by DBG Health's Dennis Bastas, after the Australian billionaire purchased the remaining 50% of the company from founder Shelley Sullivan.

Bastas, who made his fortune in generic drugs, took a 50% stake in MCoBeauty in 2022 and will now take full control of the company in a deal that values it at \$1 billion.

While the transaction amount has not been disclosed, people briefed on the deal say DBG paid at least \$500 million, according to *The Australian Financial Review*.

Sullivan, who launched the brand in 2020, stepped down as CEO of MCoBeauty this week.

"DBG let us run the business the way I wanted to run it - fast-paced, entrepreneurial," said Sullivan.

"Eighteen months later, I'm ready to leave...I'm very proud of the brand I've built."

MCoBeauty, which replicates big-name cosmetic products and sells them at affordable prices, has grown to become Australia's top-selling beauty brand.

It will now become part of VidaCorp, the beauty arm of DBG Health, joining brands like Nude by Nature and Makeup Cartel, which were purchased by Bastas last year for around \$60 million.

L'Oreal in fashion

FRENCH cosmetics giant L'Oreal has announced a beauty partnership with independent fashion label Jacquemus, of which it has taken a minority stake in.

Although the duo have not yet revealed what will come of their collaboration, industry experts suspect that scent will be at the top of the agenda.

The move comes as an increasing number of fashion houses dip their toes into beauty, many of which are carving a space under the L'Oreal Luxe umbrella.

Revlon's new primer promises a luminous base



REVLON'S latest innovation has hit Priceline shelves, and it is the perfect solution for those who are seeking a smooth, radiant base under their makeup.

The Revlon Illuminance Glow Primer 40ml (RRP\$34.95) uses a light-reflecting formula to blur skin imperfections, leaving skin glowing and creating a smooth canvas for makeup application.

The fast-absorbing formula includes hyaluronic acid and squalane to ensure the skin is hydrated and nourished.

The versatile product can be worn as a primer, used as a highlighter on the high points of the face, or used on its own for a subtle glow.

Revlon has also released the Illuminance Balm Primer 30ml (RRP\$35.95), a two-in-one skin-enhancing primer with the benefits of a moisturiser.

Shea butter and vitamin E work to soften, smooth and hydrate the skin for makeup application.



Want to feature on this page?

email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au to find out more

Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

PET tourism is taking off, and one advocate is keen to get pet owners on board.

"From dog-friendly hotels to airlines now welcoming four-legged friends, pet tourism makes road trips, staycations, and overseas excursions even more exciting for pet owners," enthuses Dr Jun Wen, pet lover and Assoc Professor in tourism and health at Macau University of Science and Technology.

When Dr Wen's beagle Ben was diagnosed with cancer, the family decided to travel with him as much as possible in their remaining time together.

And if it's good for Ben, why not others?

"If you've ever taken your dog to the park and seen their tail wag uncontrollably as they sniff every blade of grass, you'll understand the joy pet tourism can bring them," said Dr Wen.

"Imagine the excitement of a new beach, a fresh hiking trail, or a bustling cafe where friendly strangers offer pats and treats."

At this point it's clear he's mainly, if not exclusively, thinking about dogs - other pets, like cats or goldfish, probably wouldn't have the same reaction.

He also suggests there could be a whole new pet wellness industry in the offing.

"What if travel could be prescribed as a wellness solution for dogs with anxiety or chronic illnesses?" he proposes.

"What if rehabilitation centres partnered with pet-friendly resorts to offer holistic care?"

"The possibilities are endless."

Take a lead on pregnancy vaccination

AGAINST a worrying trend of decreasing rates of vaccination among pregnant women (**PD** 31 Jan), and with free RSV vaccines now available for pregnant women (**PD** 20 Jan), the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA) has highlighted the important role of pharmacists in vaccinating pregnant women - not only against RSV, but other vaccine-preventable diseases.

"Pharmacists are trusted and readily accessible healthcare professionals, making them perfectly placed to champion pregnancy vaccination," said IFA CEO Catherine Hughes (**pictured** with Health Minister Mark Butler).

"They offer convenient access to both the information expectant mums need and the jabs themselves," Hughes told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"This trusted access and convenient service helps pregnant women feel safe and empowered to protect themselves and their bubs, giving their little ones the best start in life."

Hughes' baby Riley passed away after contracting whooping cough when he was one month old, and she has since been a major advocate around vaccinating children and our most vulnerable.

Her advocacy has won awards, and in 2022 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to immunisation.

"The recent drop in pregnancy vaccination rates is deeply concerning, especially as we are in the midst of a whooping cough epidemic, where we have already seen one infant death in Queensland late last year," she said.

While fear of immunisation side effects is part of the story, and IFA has noticed an increase in concerns and questions about vaccine safety



since the rollout of COVID vaccines, there are other factors at play.

"It's tempting to blame this decline on vaccine hesitancy, but we have to think about complacency and access issues too.

"Are we motivating parents to vaccinate during pregnancy? Are we providing the right education about the risks of infectious diseases? And do parents have easy - and free - access to pregnancy vaccines, or is it difficult to obtain?"

"Pregnancy is a busy time, and it's easy to become complacent.

"Providers need to act as strong advocates for immunisation, providing clear recommendations while enabling easy access to immunisations," she said.

With the introduction of a new pregnancy vaccine for RSV, Hughes said it is imperative that both community and providers feel confident in the safety and benefits of this immunisation strategy.

IFA has collaborated with

TerryWhite Chemmart for several years, educating and promoting pregnancy vaccination, with a formal partnership announced last year (**PD** 07 Nov 2024).

In addition to the RSV vaccine, pertussis (whooping cough) which is given between 20-32 weeks and influenza (usually given during flu season) vaccines are recommended for pregnant women, as is a chat with their healthcare provider about whether they could benefit from a COVID vaccine during pregnancy.

"Pregnancy vaccination is the best gift you can give to your unborn baby," Hughes said.

"As parents, we all want to protect our kids, and if we vaccinate during pregnancy, we are providing protection to them right from their very first breath.

"I've spoken to many families like mine, who have lost infants to whooping cough, and we all wish for the same thing - that we'd had access to pregnancy vaccination." **KB**