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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

APP Chair's top tip

THE State of the Industry panel is always one of Kos Sclavos' favourite sessions at the APP Conference.

On Fri 21 Mar, representatives from all over pharmacy discuss the current state of pharmacy and the political landscape.

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US pharma Cosette to buy Mayne Pharma

AUSTRALIAN company Mayne Pharmaceuticals has agreed to be bought by US pharma Cosette for around A\$672 million (**PD** breaking news).

Mayne announced today that it has entered into a scheme implementation deed with Cosette Pharmaceuticals, under which Cosette has agreed to acquire 100% of the shares in Mayne Pharma for A\$7.40 per share.

The scheme is fully funded and subject to limited customary conditions, including various regulatory approvals, approval by Mayne Pharma shareholders at the scheme meeting, and court approval.

The implementation date, pending regulatory and shareholder approval, will be late May to early Jun 2025.

A scheme booklet and an independent expert's report will be provided to Mayne Pharma shareholders.

The Mayne Pharma board unanimously recommends that shareholders vote in favour of the scheme, in the absence of a superior proposal and subject to the independent expert, saying the scheme is in the best interests of

Mayne Pharma shareholders.

"We are pleased that Cosette has recognised significant value in Mayne Pharma, particularly in our women's health and dermatology businesses, and the offer provides shareholders with the opportunity to receive cash value at a significant premium," said Mayne Pharma Chair, Frank Condella.

"The Board believes that the proposed transaction is in line with the Board's priority to deliver value to our shareholders, and also provides significant benefits for our broader stakeholders."

Mayne Pharma CEO, Shawn Patrick O'Brien, added: "Attracting an offer from a strategic buyer who is active in the US dermatology and women's health markets, such as Cosette, reflects the excellent work our teams have been doing to strengthen our company over the last year and more."

Mayne Pharma's two largest shareholders have indicated they will vote in favour of the proposed transaction in the absence of a superior proposal.

Mayne Pharma is a leader in dermatology and women's health, provides contract development and manufacturing services to clients

worldwide, and has a 40-year track record of innovation and success in developing new oral drug delivery systems.

Cosette itself has a portfolio of products in women's health and dermatology, and a history in the manufacturing of complex dosage forms including topical creams, ointments, oral liquids/solutions and suppositories.

Shareholders will vote on the proposal in late Apr or early May. KB

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Dispensary Corner

KETO enthusiasts beware!

Medical journal *JAMA Cardiology* has published a case study of a man who presented to a Florida hospital with a three-week history of painless yellow nodules on his hands, elbows and the soles of his feet.

He told doctors that he had adopted a "carnivore diet" eight months prior, eating three to four kilos of cheese, sticks of butter, and hamburgers that had additional fat incorporated into them every day.

Despite this rather radical departure from evidence-based healthy eating guidelines, he claimed that since adopting the diet, his weight had dropped, his energy levels increased and his mental clarity improved.

Be that as it may, his total cholesterol, at around 30mmol/L, had most definitely not improved, and far exceeded the normal level of 5.5mmol/L.

He was duly diagnosed with xanthelasma, a condition in which excess blood lipids leak from blood vessels and form localised lipid deposits - the yellow bumps under his skin.

In other words, he was oozing cholesterol.

Well, that puts "keto breath" into perspective.

Paxlovid not helping vaccinated

RESEARCHERS have reported that despite a doubling of prescriptions for COVID antiviral Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) in Canada in 2022, there was no corresponding decrease in hospitalisations or death rates among highly vaccinated older adults.

Paxlovid has been shown in trials to reduce COVID-related hospitalisations among middle-aged unvaccinated patients, but not vaccinated middle-aged adults.

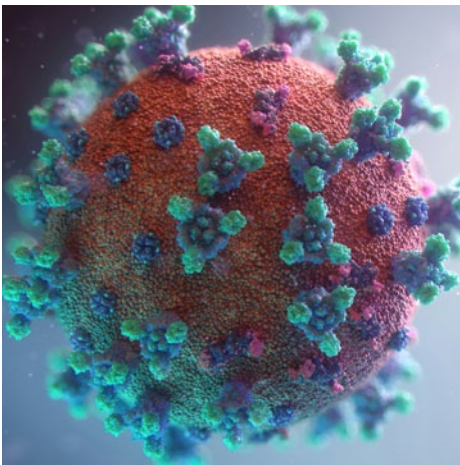
The study authors said the effects on older and highly vaccinated populations were not known.

The UCLA-led research team exploited a natural experiment in Ontario, Canada, where an age-restrictive policy on access to Paxlovid was implemented.

They compared outcomes of patients who were just below vs just above 70 years old (the age at which Paxlovid could be prescribed) and who were plausibly similar except for their exposure to Paxlovid.

They found no significant drop in hospitalisations, even though the rate of prescriptions of Paxlovid more than doubled.

The researchers calculated that the drug may reduce COVID-related hospitalisations by 1.3 percentage



points, which is four times smaller than the benefit reported in the original trial in unvaccinated adults (5.5 percentage points absolute risk reduction).

It was an observational study, and limitations included a lack of individual patient-level data, such as symptoms, medication adherence and timing of receipt of COVID vaccinations and Paxlovid.

"Since the study found no significant effect on COVID hospitalisations and deaths among vaccinated older adults, our findings underscore the urgent need for further randomised-clinical trials investigating Paxlovid's effects in higher-risk populations, such as older subgroups who are frail or immunosuppressed," said senior author Dr Katherine Kahn.

The full paper is [HERE](#). KB

TGA approves new thyroid drug

THE TGA has approved Yorvipath (palopegteriparatide) for the treatment of chronic hypoparathyroidism in adults, the first and only medicine to be listed on the ARTG for this indication.

Hypoparathyroidism is a rare endocrine disease, where the production of parathyroid hormone is abnormally low or absent, causing low levels of calcium (hypocalcaemia) and high levels of phosphorous (hyperphosphataemia) in the blood.

"The lack of effective therapeutic options has been an urgent medical need in this area, and the local approval of Yorvipath represents an important advance in the treatment of chronic hypoparathyroidism in Australia," said endocrinology Professor Peter Ebeling.

Until now, the only treatment option has been conventional therapy with calcium and active vitamin D supplementation to keep blood calcium levels normal.

Yorvipath is distributed in Australia by Specialised Therapeutics, and the company's application for PBS listing of the drug will be considered at the upcoming PBAC meeting.

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