

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus two full pages from TerryWhite Chemmart.

HEART Awards

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is proud to announce the winners of its 2024 HEART Awards.

You will find the National Pharmacy of the Year and winners of leadership and engagement awards on **page three**, and state Pharmacy of the Year winners on **page four**.

Ruston at APP2025

SENATOR Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, will speak at the opening plenary on 20 Mar, sharing insights into the evolving healthcare landscape and the future of community pharmacy in Australia.

Thanks for stepping up

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the theme for 2025 Thank Your Pharmacist Day on 13 Mar.

'Pharmacists stepping up', acknowledges the increasing role of pharmacists in supporting patient care and strengthening Australia's healthcare system, with the PSA calling on Australians to show their appreciation for pharmacists and the care they provide.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said the theme reflects the dedication of pharmacists as they take on expanded roles and responsibilities in response to community needs.

"Every day, pharmacists across Australia are stepping up to meet growing healthcare demands across a diverse range of practice areas," Assoc Prof Sim said.

"Thank Your Pharmacist Day is an opportunity to recognise their contributions and the vital role they play in ensuring the health and wellbeing of Australians."

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The PSA is also inviting elected officials to connect with local pharmacists in the lead-up to Thank Your Pharmacist Day, to witness first-hand how pharmacists are stepping up to meet patient needs in their communities.

"With the federal election approaching, this is an important moment for decision-makers to see the critical role pharmacists play and to understand how supporting pharmacists means better healthcare access and medicine safety for all Australians," Assoc Prof Sim said.

Share your stories and messages of thanks using #ThankYourPharmacist. KB

ACT UTI and OCP trial goes permanent

PHARMACIST treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and re-supply of the oral contraceptive pill (OCP) will continue in the ACT, after its government announced that the services are now becoming a permanent part of Canberra's health network.

During the trial, there were more than 780 consultations for Canberra women aged 18-64 presenting with symptoms of uncomplicated UTIs, and 176 consultations for women seeking re-supply of OCPs.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the move, and is encouraging pharmacists who are not already providing these services to undertake the training it provides.

Also on the cards is a change to vaccination rules to align the ACT with neighbouring states.

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References: 1. CELEBREX RELIEF® (celecoxib) Product Information. 2. Ekman EF et al. Am J Orthop 2002; 31(8):445-451. 3. Petri M et al. J Rheumatol 2004; 31(8):1614-1620. 4. Raiha LV et al. Revista Brasileira de Medicina 2008; 65(11):378-387. 5. Bertin P et al. J Int Med Res 2003; 31(2):102-112. 6. Cheung R et al. Clin Ther 2007; 29:2498-2510.

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VIATRIS



Dispensary Corner

LIVING in a super clean environment has been linked with conditions such as asthma, allergies and autoimmune diseases, highlighting the importance of exposure to microbes for good health.

So with astronauts on the overly sterile International Space Station (ISS) susceptible to immune dysfunction, skin rashes and other inflammatory conditions, attention has turned to microbes there - or not there - for the ride.

University of California researchers collaborated with astronauts, who collected over 800 surface swabs on the ISS.

When they compared the ISS samples to different human-built environments on Earth, the researchers found that the ISS microbial communities were less diverse than most samples from Earth, and were lacking in free-living environmental microbes that are usually found in soil and water.

The researchers said that intentionally incorporating these microbes and the substrates they live in, such as soil, into the ISS could improve astronaut health without sacrificing hygiene.

As co-author Rob Knight bluntly explained, "There's a big difference between exposure to healthy soil from gardening versus stewing in our own filth, which is kind of what happens if we're in a strictly enclosed environment with no ongoing input of those healthy sources of microbes from the outside."

Call to raise migraine target

NEW migraine treatment recommendations suggest raising the target reduction of migraine days from the current standard of 50% reduction to 90-100%.

If adopted, the new four-level framework for assessing migraine control proposed by the International Headache Society (IHS) has the potential to improve the lives of millions of Australians affected by migraine.

"It was time for new recommendations that will bring us closer to managing migraine as a disease that can be controlled in a similar way to epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and other chronic conditions," commented Dr Faraidoon Haghdoo from the George Institute for Global Health, who was one of the contributors to the IHS Position Statement.

"The consistency of new agents in multiple clinical trials and real-world studies to achieve effective and sustained migraine prevention, means we can offer more hope for eliminating disability from migraine and for sufferers to be able to live free from constant worry about the next attack, the debilitating pain, and the frustration of not being taken seriously," said Dr Haghdoo.

Traditionally, a 50% reduction in migraine days per month - or a 30% reduction for those with chronic or harder-to-treat symptoms - was the benchmark for a successful response to therapies.

But this translates to many days still impacted by migraine.

"We can now strive for much better results through personalised treatment, whether that's combination therapy or using the new agents," said Dr Haghdoo.

"The recommendations from the IHS encourage clinicians to make ongoing efforts to further reduce



headache frequency and improve quality of life, rather than settling for a predefined reduction target."

In Australia, patients need to record at least 15 headache days per month to qualify for PBS reimbursement of eptinezumab (Vyapti), one of the newer agents for the prevention of migraines.

"Expanding the criteria to capture those with fewer than 15 headache days would lead to better results in line with new recommended international practice, and reduce the burden on patients and the healthcare system," suggested Dr Haghdoo.

Pharmacists play an important role in managing patients with migraines and headaches and the PSA has several resources to help pharmacists stay informed about treatment options - see [HERE](#). KB

New rural HCP allergy resource

THE National Allergy Council, in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), has launched Allergy Assist, a free online platform designed to provide timely, specialist advice to general practitioners and rural generalists.

The initiative offers a lifeline to those in rural and remote areas who are unable to access specialist care due to distance, allowing them to be managed effectively by their local doctor.

The platform provides healthcare professionals with access to an education and advice hub, featuring online learning modules, diagnostic support, and links to National Allergy Council resources.

Funded by the Federal Department of Health, it is expected to assist thousands of doctors and their patients, and aims to bridge the gap in healthcare access for rural, remote and First Nations communities, while alleviating healthcare costs by reducing unnecessary referrals visits.



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 TerryWhite Chemmart

HEART AWARDS 2024

TerryWhite Chemmart is proud to announce
the winners of our 2024 HEART Awards



National Pharmacy of the Year

Noraville



Rhonda White Leadership Award

Karen Brown
Arana Hills



Pharmacy
Engagement
Award

Seacliff Park



Retail Leadership Award

Lucy Ramm
Bunbury Plaza

Congratulations to all of the finalists and winners for
these awards. Your work across Australia is a testament
to your Dedication to Care for your communities.



Dedicated to Care



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National Pharmacy of the Year
NSW Pharmacy of the Year

Noraville



QLD Pharmacy of the Year

Manly



ACT Pharmacy of the Year

Ainslie Compounding



VIC Pharmacy of the Year

Drouin



TAS Pharmacy of the Year

Sorell



SA/NT Pharmacy of the Year

Playford



WA Pharmacy of the Year

Eaton

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Dedicated to Care