

Today's issue of PD

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

- **Dermal Therapy**
- **Maxofen**

New look skin care

DERMAL Therapy skin care products have a brand new look, with the same trusted formula.

Learn more about Dermal Therapy's extended range, including moisturisers, lip balm, cleansers and shampoo, on **page three**.

Maximise your day

NEW Maxofen from Nova Pharmaceuticals combines paracetamol and ibuprofen for double-action relief from acute pain and fever.

Available in packs of 12 and 30 tablets - details on **page four**.

Calls grow for diabetes support scheme

PHARMACISTS are increasingly being recognised as essential partners in diabetes care beyond simply dispensing medications, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

As National Diabetes Week concludes for 2025, the Guild is highlighting the role of pharmacists in helping Aussies manage diabetes, which affects more than 1.5 million people. This year, National Diabetes Week focused on the prevention of Type 2 diabetes and the prevention of complications from all types of the condition.

"Pharmacies are embedded in communities and trusted by patients," said Pharmacy Guild Australia National President, Professor Trent Twomey.

The Guild has called for the national expansion of a pilot program operating in Qld, under which expanded scope allows community pharmacists to help manage type 2 diabetes.

THE Australian Pharmacy Leaders Forum (APLF), which was hosted by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) and took place in Canberra this week, has affirmed its commitment to "attracting, engaging, and retaining a pharmacy workforce that is equipped to meet Australia's evolving health needs".

One of the key themes to emerge from the event was the increasing number of health professionals contemplating leaving the field due to burnout, with heavy workloads and inadequate rest affecting many pharmacists (**PD** 15 May).

This highlighted the need to equip the workforce to handle psychosocial challenges and ensure access to both individual and organisational resources to manage pressures, mitigate burnout, and create safe, supportive workplaces.

Presenters, including keynote speaker Professor Zubin Austin (**pictured**) from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, stressed the importance of

Services being provided include initiating and adjusting medication, ordering pathology and collaborating with GPs and specialists in providing care.

Professor Twomey described the program as a "game changer".

"They mean faster access to care, especially in areas where wait times for doctors are long.


"They help ensure people with diabetes don't fall through the cracks," he said.

To facilitate the expansion, funding and appropriate training would be required along with digital integration.

"Pharmacists have shown they want to do more and, in many places, they're ready to do more.

"Australians living with diabetes deserve nothing less," he said.

Diabetes Australia Group Chief Executive Justine Cain said Australia is in the midst of a Type 2 diabetes epidemic, with one person diagnosed with the condition every eight minutes. **ML**




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Burnout emerges as key workforce issue

looking beyond the individual to build resilient workplaces.

"What we discovered was that resilience had almost nothing to do with individual or personal psychology, and almost everything to do with management decisions," Professor Austin told attendees.

"Well-intentioned ideas around personal responsibility for being resilient is far less impactful than practical management decisions around creating safe and resilient workplaces," he explained.

Expanded scope of practice to increase the sense of personal accomplishment and job satisfaction, as well as providing more primary care opportunities to students, were also put forward as ways to attract and retain pharmacists.

Another key theme was the importance of collaboration, with speakers citing research showing that "siloed approaches and professional hierarchies were counterproductive".

"We all left this event enthused about the strong level of engagement and we reaffirm our commitment to collaborate with the APLF and the broader sector to address these challenges, support our frontline pharmacists, and drive meaningful progress," said APLF Chair Professor Joe Tucci.

"I trust this marks the beginning of many more valuable discussions in this space, and we look forward to further leading this important conversation", he concluded. **KB**



ADHD meds shortage update


THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised pharmacists that shortages of Concerta modified-release tablets will continue until the end of 2026.

The sponsor has said that they will continue to receive supply of Concerta, but it will be variable and there will continue to be periods when supply is limited or when some strengths are unavailable.

Supplies of Teva-XR modified-release tablets are expected to be in shortage until the end of Dec 2025, while Ritalin LA and Rubifen LA capsules will experience interrupted supply until the end of the year.

Additionally, Ritalin 10 mg immediate-release tablets are expected to be in shortage from Aug to Oct.

Substitute overseas-registered products have been approved - see more **HERE**.



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Dispensary Corner

EGGS have finally scrambled free from their bad cholesterol reputation, thanks to new research from the University of South Australia (UniSA).

In a world-first study, researchers separated the effects of cholesterol and saturated fat and found that high dietary cholesterol from eggs, when eaten as part of a low saturated fat diet, does not raise LDL levels (the 'bad' type of cholesterol).

In fact, the study found that eating two eggs a day can actually reduce LDL levels and lower the risk of heart disease.

"Eggs have long been unfairly cracked by outdated dietary advice," said lead researcher, UniSA's Professor Jon Buckley.

"You could say we've delivered hard-boiled evidence in defence of the humble egg."

According to the researchers, it is saturated fat that you really need to watch out for.

"So, when it comes to a cooked breakfast, it's not the eggs you need to worry about - it's the extra serve of bacon or the side of sausage that's more likely to impact your heart health," Buckley concluded.

Your favourite brekky staple is eggs-onerated at last - just make sure you don't butter them up too much.



New, safer sunscreen tests soon?

TWO new methods for measuring sunscreen SPF have recently been approved by the International Organization for Standardization and are now accepted for SPF labelling in Europe and the UK.

One is fully in vitro, and the other is a combination of human testing - but with much lower doses of UV radiation - and in vitro measurement.

The current test method required for use in Australia involves exposing people to higher levels of UV radiation; can only be used on certain skin tones; and produces variable results both between and within labs.

The reliability of the tests came under fire after recent sunscreen tests commissioned by Choice found that only four of 20 products had an SPF higher than 50 (*PD* 17 Jun), with manufacturers arguing that their own commissioned testing showed otherwise.

The international updated methods offer better consistency and reproducibility across different labs; do not rely on burning human skin; and work effectively on all skin types.

Their main disadvantage is that they do not measure the performance of sunscreen after swimming, which is required for sunscreens to make claims about water resistance, Adjunct Associate Professor Craig Sinclair, Head of Prevention at the Cancer Council Victoria, told *Pharmacy Daily*.

For this testing, human testing will still be needed, he explained.

Regardless, Associate Professor



Sinclair added that at this stage, there are no imminent plans for the new standards to be adopted in Australia until the peer-reviewed data regarding the efficacy of the testing is made available.

In Europe and the UK, where sunscreens are considered cosmetics, the adoption process is less complex than in Australia, NZ and the US where they are regulated as therapeutic products.

However, Associate Professor Sinclair said the new tests will be useful for testing secondary sunscreens - products such as moisturisers and lip balms with sun protection - that do not make water-resistance claims.

They will also be useful for manufacturers developing new products, providing an indication of SPF quickly and cheaply.

"With so much debate and concern about how we measure SPF in sunscreens, it is reassuring to learn that future sunscreen testing methods will deliver far more consistent results without requiring human testing," said Associate Professor Sinclair.

"This will ultimately boost consumer confidence in sunscreens, which is needed now more than ever." *KB*

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Health community backs local COP31

OVER 75 health professionals and organisations have signed an open letter led by the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), calling on the Australian Government to bid for a COP31 co-hosted with the Pacific as the region continues to face increasing health impacts from climate change.

With signatories including Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and Guild Super, the letter comes as the United Nations has warned that the world is likely to breach the 1.5°C limit within the next five years.

"Ambitious action on climate has never been more critical," said CAHA CEO Michelle Isles.

"Australia has the opportunity to demonstrate global leadership, and safeguard the health of current and future generations by hosting a healthy COP31 in partnership with the Pacific."

The letter calls on the Government to:

- centre health in climate action, with climate change posing the biggest threat to health of our generation;
- step up as a regional partner to ensure Pacific and First Nations peoples leadership, knowledges and experiences are integral to COP31;
- accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels;
- aligning the nation's climate policy with its international commitments and the lived realities faced by all people living in Australia and the Pacific.

Learn more and sign the letter [HERE](#).



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