

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news, and a full page from **Maxofen**.

### UQ vaccine tech in billion-dollar deal

**SANOFI** has entered into an agreement to acquire Vicebio, a company formed in 2018 to develop the University of Queensland's proprietary Molecular Clamp technology to make vaccines against life-threatening respiratory viral infections.

The US\$1.6 billion (A\$2.4 billion) deal is the largest involving a company that is commercialising intellectual property from an Australian university, and represents an opportunity for the technology to be accelerated through the final stages of translation into a vaccine to address global health challenges.

## PSA names national vaccination champion

**MELBOURNE** community pharmacist Anna Theophilos (pictured) has been chosen by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) as its inaugural 'Vaccination Ambassador' following a month-long nationwide search (**PD** 16 Jun).

Tasked with championing the role of pharmacist vaccinations, Theophilos will now work alongside the PSA to elevate this community message, promoting vaccination and pushing public confidence.

The PSA said Theophilos was selected for her passion, dedication and advocacy in the vaccination space, as well as her work ensuring aged care residents receive timely access to all National Immunisation Program and private vaccines.

"I'm incredibly honoured to be serving as the inaugural PSA National Vaccination Ambassador, a role that reflects my deep commitment to improving access to healthcare through immunisation delivery," she said.

Key to Theophilos' successful



application is her work introducing digital tools to help aged care facilities identify gaps in vaccination coverage, data that is also provided to governing bodies.

Theophilos said pharmacists are well placed to lead this work, as trusted and accessible health professionals embedded in the communities they serve.

"I'm excited to work with PSA to champion our profession and help ensure every Australian has the opportunity to stay protected."

The PSA Vaccination Ambassador initiative has brought together

leading vaccination manufacturers GSK, Pfizer, CSL Seqirus and Sanofi to champion the life-saving impact of pharmacist immunisation.

"Vaccination is one of the most important public health interventions and pharmacists are playing an increasingly essential role in enabling access, improving uptake and preventing disease," said CSL Seqirus Medical Director, Vaccines & Biosecurity, Dr Jules Bayliss.

"As an Australian company, CSL is proud to be supporting the PSA Vaccination Ambassador Program," she added. *ML*

### 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 - more on **page five**.

## Looking for strategic property loan structuring guidance? From experts who understand your pharmacy business?

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## New asthma spacer resources

**NATIONAL** Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has developed a new suite of resources to encourage the use of spacers with pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDIs), which are now available for health professionals to download.

The *Spacers for Pressurised Metered-Dose Inhalers Chart* is a poster designed to go on pharmacy walls to help identify and explain the range of spacers available to patients.

There is also an information sheet and how-to video specifically related to using an AeroChamber spacer with a pMDI and also with a mask.

Meanwhile, an updated spacer use and care factsheet helps explain to patients and carers why using a spacer is important, the types of spacers available, and tips for using and cleaning a spacer and puffer.

Clinical Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, pharmacist and Clinical Executive Lead, NAC, said the clinical effectiveness of pMDIs can be significantly improved by using a spacer.

"Only about one in 10 patients can correctly perform all the steps in using a pMDI and three-quarters of patients using a pMDI make at least one error when using their inhaler.

"The new suite of resources from the NAC will help health professionals to ensure that every patient prescribed a pMDI knows how to use a spacer and use it when needed or as directed," Rigby stated.

Resources can be download directly from the NAC website, [HERE](#), where you can also order hard copies of the wall chart.

## Scripty marks one year of ASL

**OEXA**, the company behind the Scripty app, is celebrating one year of Active Script List (ASL), a boon for patients managing multiple medications (see [page three](#)).

Scripty was among the first apps to introduce this functionality directly to consumers, paving the way for pharmacy-based apps, Scripts by Honahlee, and the government's My Health app.

Together with pharmacies, these platforms have already helped over three million Australians embrace ASL, according to data presented at APP2025.

Next on the cards is a move towards patient self-registration for ASL, removing the need for pharmacy involvement - a change that could significantly boost adoption rates.

"Since introducing ASL functionality for consumers in July 2024, Scripty has been at the forefront of this government-approved system, staying ahead of even the largest industry players," said a spokesperson for Oexa.

"But there's still more to do, and with only 18% of scripts currently



dispensed directly from ASL, plenty of growth opportunities remain."

Oexa has also announced that Scripty is now integrated into Minfos eQueue.

This allows pharmacies using Minfos eQueue to see Scripty app orders pop up directly in their queue, ready for review, dispensing and pickup by customers.

"This integration gives pharmacies an easy way to help customers order ahead and pick up their scripts in-store with less waiting," said the spokesperson.

"Listing your pharmacy on Scripty brings in new customers and makes life simpler for your regulars by offering another way to order ahead," they added.

Learn more [HERE](#). *KB*

## CWH hits half a million shots for 2024-25

**CHEMIST** Warehouse has reported administering over 500,000 vaccinations in the 2024-25 financial year, marking a record-breaking year in pharmacist-led immunisation services.

This represents a 23% increase in overall vaccinations compared to the previous year, with influenza vaccinations leading the charge.

Over 350 Chemist Warehouse stores offer pharmacist-delivered vaccination services.

A significant contributor to this year's vaccination growth has been the expansion of immunisation services outside the stores, which allow pharmacists to deliver vaccinations directly in schools, workplaces, and residential aged care facilities, making vaccinations more accessible.

Looking ahead, CWH plans to further innovate its vaccination services by expanding digital booking tools and increasing public education campaigns.

## The "accidental pharmacist"

**PROFESSOR** Lisa Nissen has been a health practitioner, leader, educator, researcher and implementation scientist for more than 25 years.

Her research has led to major health system changes, including the introduction of immunisation services by pharmacists throughout Australia and implementation of prescribing competencies and frameworks for health professionals nationally.

More recently, she led a Queensland team who implemented pharmacists' treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

Yet people who know her may be surprised to learn that her original career choices included scientist, occupational therapist - and pro golfer.

In the latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast, Prof Nissen shared her career journey with host Krysti-Lee Patterson, starting with how she fell into pharmacy.

"I became an accidental pharmacist because I didn't get into OT, but I got an offer to do pharmacy and so I said, 'okay, I'll go do that,'" Prof Nissen recalled.

"And I guess the rest is history."

Nissen reflects on her early career in rural practice; navigating her identity as a queer pharmacist; her passion for social justice; and her relentless pursuit of meaningful reform, including pharmacist-led immunisations and UTI treatment.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

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## Patients' perspective on eScripts and tracking apps

### OPINION

Pharmacy Daily invited Senior Editor and Advocacy Manager Rosemary Ainley, from patient-support group GHLF Australia, to discuss a topic from the perspective of patients.

Got an opinion or experience to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**PRESCRIPTION** tracking apps and eScripts are game-changers for people juggling multiple medications, particularly those with chronic conditions.

However, there is room for improvement, say members of Global Healthy Living Foundation (GHLF) Australia - and pharmacists can help.

GHLF Australia supports and empowers people with a variety of chronic conditions through its health advocacy and online information and resources.

The foundation canvassed its

patient communities for feedback on electronic prescriptions and tracking apps, including pharmacy apps and the Australian Government's MyHealth app.

Some said they prefer to manage their own paper scripts, while some only use medication reminder apps.

However, most said they love the convenience of managing their scripts digitally, especially when they are unwell or can't get to a pharmacy easily.

These patients also said they could lose track of paper scripts when they had multiple medications to manage.

"The app is handy if I need to check what meds and doses I'm on, as it's all listed - much better than relying on my dodgy memory," Simone B said.

"I love using eScripts, and I struggled a lot before them," Frances S said.

"I use the pharmacy's app to manage my scripts and I'm happy with that," she continued.

"I can add other items to the cart and collect them all at once - it has saved me from running out of meds many times."

The apps aren't perfect, though, with some members saying they had issues with glitchy apps, missing or cancelled eScripts, or incorrect remaining supply details.

"One downside for me, living in a remote area, is that our pharmacy is not linked with any tracking app to see how many repeats I have left," Naomi C said.

"I am hoping this may change in the future, but for now I still must rely on keeping track of that myself," she added.

Kerrie G noted, "The only issue I've ever had is occasionally a pharmacist isn't familiar with the app and that might delay collection for a day until the usual pharmacist returns."

Meanwhile, Vanessa M said, "I wish there was a way to organise my eScript text messages."

Members also shared some



suggestions for pharmacy staff and app developers:

"Make sure apps are up to date," Andrea M said.

"Check that patients have enough repeat scripts for their Webster packs," she continued.

"And have a place on apps that lists current eScripts and paper scripts on file - I have so many scripts, it's a tracking nightmare!"

Vanessa M noted, "Until recently, I didn't know pharmacists could look up any eScript for you, so educating customers on that would be brilliant."

• For more on GHLF Australia, visit its website at [ghlf.org.au](http://ghlf.org.au).

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Prof. Lisa Nissen**, a pharmacist, educator, researcher, and fierce advocate - "From 'accidental pharmacist' to policy change-maker; A Trailblazing Pharmacy Journey".

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### Dispensary Corner

**APART** from being delicious and nutritious, mangos may also help support the heart health of postmenopausal women.

According to a new study published in the *Journal of the American Nutrition Association*, postmenopausal women who ate mango every day for two weeks experienced health benefits, including significantly lower blood pressure.

The study involved 28 women aged 50-70 who consumed one pack of mango pulp per day.

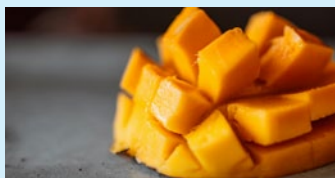
While some vascular measures didn't change, researchers saw improvements in systolic blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as a slight drop in blood glucose.

The mango diet also boosted intake of beneficial nutrients like fibre, vitamin C, and potassium.

"Post-menopausal women face distinct metabolic changes that can impact their risk of developing cardiovascular disease," said Roberta Holt, associate researcher at UC Davis and a co-author on the study.

"These findings help to identify targeted dietary strategies, like eating fresh mangos daily, to aid this at-risk population and support cardiovascular wellness and potential reductions in chronic disease risk."

The researchers say more long-term studies are needed to confirm the results.



## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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References: 1. Grattan TJ, et al. *J Clin Pharmacol* 2004;44(10):1188 (GSK sponsored).

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