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Systems focus for WOD

WORLD Obesity Day (WOD) takes place today, with this year's theme shining a spotlight on the systems that shape our health: 'Changing systems. Healthier lives'.

"For too long, responses to the obesity crisis have been focused on individuals," said the World Obesity Day Global Advisory Group.

"It's time we turn our attention to the systems that are failing us - health systems, government systems, food systems, the media, and the environments we work and live in," they said, pointing out that all these systems are contributing to the increasing rates of obesity around the world.

"We must also recognise obesity as a complex, and chronic disease, and one that is also a driver of other diseases."

According to the group, "taking action on obesity is a critical step in reducing the global burden of other



chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease and cancer".

Community pharmacies are increasingly becoming centres for weight management, with pharmacists and pharmacy staff undergoing specialised training and introducing tailored programs to address overweight and obesity.

Management of overweight and obesity has been flagged for inclusion in pharmacist full scope of practice: it is currently part of the scope of practice pilot in Queensland, and planned for ACT, NSW, NT and Tasmania.

Meanwhile, the RACGP has called for greater access to affordable general practice, saying more government funding for longer GP appointments and mental healthcare consults are essential to support people who are overweight or living with obesity. KB

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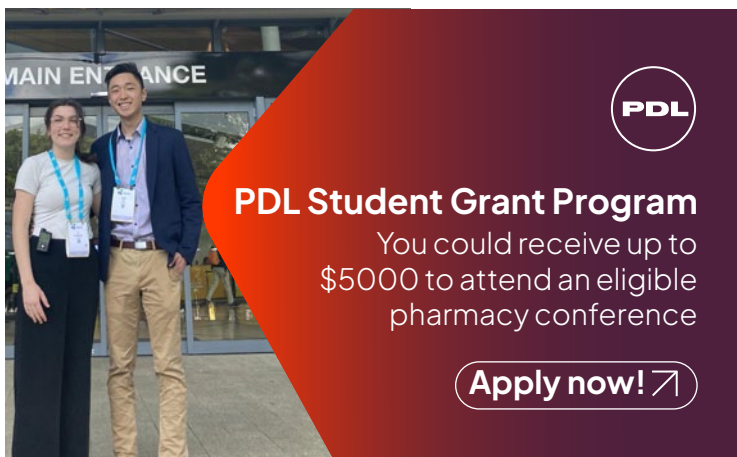


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including a special feature from **Blooms the Chemist**, and a full page from **Chemsave**.



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Time to Bloom

BLOOMS the Chemist provides guidance and mentorship for pharmacists looking to own their own pharmacy, helping maintain a localised, community-first approach without compromising on national brand support.

To learn more about opportunities on offer, including the chance to win a personalised financial consultation or a 10-week leadership program, see **page three**.

Consider savings

WHETHER it is catalogue pre-order rebates, dispensary assistance subscriptions or bonus stock, aligning with Chemsave delivers bottom-line benefits for your pharmacy.

Learn more about a special offer on **page five**.

Yindyamarra: AdPha's vision for 2030

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has released its six-year strategic plan, with the patient at the heart of everything they do.

The forward vision for pharmacy is based in and around hospitals that sees pharmacists and technicians fully integrated into interdisciplinary care teams.

Supporting practitioners at every career stage, Yindyamarra 2030 evolves through three two-year horizons - called Equity, Sustainability and Adaptability - toward a more inclusive and collaborative pharmacy community in 2030.

AdPha's President Tom Simpson said the new strategy supports the convergence of pharmacists and technicians in care teams, ensuring the best possible pharmacy care for every Australian.

"The six-year plan envisions all Australian pharmacy practitioners as recognised and respected for their complementary skills and collegiate partnerships, connected

professionals improving health outcomes for all Australians," Simpson said.

"What this means in practice is programs, peer networks, education, events, resources and development opportunities wrap around each member from their days as a student, through their early career into leadership, generalist and specialty positions."

The strategic plan document details goals under five pillars: Workforce, Patient Care, Learn and Grow, Govern and Sustain, which evolve through each horizon to achieve the overall goals.

Underpinning all activity is progression through Reconciliation Action Plans to ensure AdPha supports First Nations sovereignty in parallel to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities - yindyamarra is a Wiradjuri term that encompasses respect, honour and responsibility.

Vice President Dr Kate O'Hara said



AdPha's new strategy was informed by conversations with members over a "transformative 12 months".

"The plan ensures top member priorities - including supporting workforce development, remuneration and staffing ratios, strengthening scope of practice, and improving transitions of care and care equity - are addressed through a strategic frame," Dr O'Hara said.

Read Yindyamarra 2030 **HERE**. KB

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References: 1. CELEBRES 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. Ralha 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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Blooms The Chemist

#PharmacistLife at Blooms the Chemist



"WHEN I first started in pharmacy, I never thought I'd own my own," said Eman Khaled, Pharmacist-Owner at Blooms The Chemist Penrith High Street.

Eman interned at Blooms 11 years ago, where she met her mentor and now best friend and business partner, Zena.

"She's my go-to person, and helped really push me to become the Pharmacist I am today."

After her internship, Eman attended a potential owners workshop to better understand the pathways into ownership offered by Blooms The Chemist.

She found the ownership options more accessible than anticipated, and said Zena gave her the confidence she needed to take the leap into pharmacy ownership.

"Being a young Pharmacist coming into ownership, you're

not left alone; you're given the guidance and mentorship to help you along the way.

"I know I can pick up the phone and call anyone in our network for real guidance and support."

If you're ready to grow in 2025,

scan the QR code below to discover how Blooms The Chemist can support your business and career goals, or discuss your ownership options with Narelle Duncan, Head of Network Development, by clicking **HERE**.

Click **HERE** to watch Eman's story, along with other success stories of Blooms The Chemist Pharmacist-Owners to see what a positive and rewarding partnership feels like.

Your chance to WIN!

WIN the opportunity to level up your career or business! Sign up to Blooms The Chemist's newsletter, and you could win your choice of:

1. A personalised financial consultation with Barry Thatcher of Thatcher Finance:

Gain expert, tailored financial advice from a pharmacy lending specialist. Whether you're thinking of buying your first pharmacy, growing your existing business, or refinancing your pharmacy, Barry's insights will give you the advantage you need.

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2. Leadership training with Penny Ferguson's The Living Leader:

Develop the skills to lead with confidence. This 10-week virtual program empowers individuals with practical leadership skills, enhanced self-awareness, and a mindset for success. Over 85,000 leaders worldwide have benefited from Penny Ferguson's proven leadership methodology, equipping participants with the tools to drive personal and professional growth.

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Dispensary Corner

APPARENTLY, something as simple as a cup of coffee could help asthma sufferers in a pinch, if they don't have immediate access to an inhaler.

"You might want to consider a cup of strong coffee," was the advice given by Joe and Teresa Graedon in the *People's Pharmacy* newsletter column this week, in response to a reader who said he woke up unable to catch his breath, and asked what he could do if it happens again.

The caffeine in coffee is chemically related to the drug theophylline, which was once a mainstay of asthma treatment because it opens airways.

Joe and Teresa cited another reader, who works as a nurse and has observed that patients occasionally get a flare-up of asthma post-procedure.

"If they were coffee drinkers, we'd give them a cup, and that worked," the nurse said, adding "the coffee relieves chest tightness and eases breathing".

Nominate now for PATY 2025

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in partnership with AFT Pharmaceuticals, has announced that nominations are now open for the 2025 Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY2025) Award.

Now in its 19th year, PATY recognises dedication to customer service, professional development and leadership in community pharmacy.

Pharmacy assistants are encouraged to participate by either self-nominating or being nominated by employers, colleagues, customers or industry reps.

The national winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, a custom glass trophy, and opportunities for further professional development, including attendance at APP2026 on the Gold Coast.

State winners also get career development opportunities.

Third-party nominations close 18 Apr and self-nominations close 09 May.

For more information and to submit nominations, see [HERE](#).

AD drug knocked back



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed its initial decision from Oct 2024 not to register lecanemab in Australia for use as an amyloid-lowering therapy for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease and mild Alzheimer's dementia (early Alzheimer's disease).

Eisai, the sponsor, pointed out that Australia's regulatory agency is the only one to date that has decided not to register lecanemab, with many other countries including the UK, USA, Japan and China having approved it and the European Medicines Agency giving it a positive recommendation.

The TGA was not satisfied with evidence provided for the safety and efficacy of the drug in people with the APOE4 gene, which increases the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and is linked with a worse form of the disease.

The TGA proposed limiting the use of the drug to people without the gene, but the company was unwilling to restrict the drug, as "it would unfairly disadvantage those who have been shown to benefit from lecanemab treatment, compared to potential risks".

Eisai proposed that people with APOE4 could be treated in specialist centres and supervised by physicians with expertise in monitoring for amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA).

However, the TGA was not satisfied that associated wording proposed for the indication would be specific enough to support clinicians and address the outstanding safety concerns for patients.

"Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible neurodegenerative disease that poses significant challenges to those living with the condition, their carers and the community," a spokesperson for Eisai said.

While disappointed with the decision, Eisai and its collaborator Biogen are "optimistic that the results from lecanemab's clinical program, which used validated endpoints agreed upon with health authorities during the trial design and ongoing clinical development, will lead to its registration in Australia in the near future".

"There is a significant unmet need for treatment options that target the underlying cause of disease progression," they said. *KB*

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