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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a full page from Direct Chemist Outlet.

A different script

THE Direct Chemist Outlet brand offers clout, support and buying power, with 127 pharmacies and growing. Learn more on [page four](#).

Last day for PATY self-nominations

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) Award recognises outstanding skills, knowledge, leadership and customer service over the last year. Self-nominations close today. For more information and to nominate, click [HERE](#).

NSW flu vax expansion to kids from 2

PHARMACISTS in NSW can now administer the flu vaccine to children as young as two, with the NSW Government amending the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards to allow for this expansion of eligibility.

There are no age restrictions for Queensland and SA pharmacists, while in other states and territories, the minimum age is five.

Prior to this, vaccinating NSW children younger than five for flu usually meant going to a GP.

"We want to make it as accessible and as convenient as possible for young children to receive their influenza vaccine ahead of a severe winter season," said NSW Minister for Health, Ryan Park.

"We know it can be difficult to find a GP, and we are taking pressure off of our GPs with this rule change," he said.

However, while broadly supportive of the role of pharmacists, the NSW branch of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has decried the

move as a lost opportunity for GPs to address vaccine hesitancy.

"At AMA (NSW), we recognise the valuable role pharmacists play and we are fully supportive of measures to address declining vaccination rates, which have now become a national and international crisis," said board member and GP, Dr Michael Bonning.

"However, there is an avalanche of misinformation in the community on vaccinations and, as GPs, we have real opportunities every day to address the concerns of young families and allay their fears," Dr Bonning continued.

"This age group is one where the input of a trusted GP can make the difference between a child getting vaccinated or not."

Peter Guthrey, Senior Pharmacist, Strategic Policy & Advocacy with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), believes the concerns are not warranted.

"Pharmacists have now become a really crucial part of the vaccinator

workforce," he told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"In terms of training, like all health professionals, you need to be competent and skilled in the areas of practice that you work in.

"One of the things that I've been really proud to be part of is the vaccine workshops at PSA state conferences, where we have helped further extend the skills and competence of pharmacists in working through communication strategies around vaccination hesitancy and some of the challenges it can present," he said.

NSW PSA President Luke Kelly concurred, saying "All immunisers, no matter where they practise, have an important role to play in championing vaccination.

"We must all work together to combat vaccine misinformation and hesitancy, whether in General Practice or in an appropriate pharmacy setting.

"Reducing barriers to vaccination uptake should be a priority," Kelly added. *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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Qld pharmacy pilot milestone

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland President Chris Owen announced yesterday that 100 community pharmacists across Queensland are now fully trained and authorised to participate in the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

"This means there are now 100 communities across the state that have another option when it comes to receiving treatment for everyday conditions like ear infections, hormonal contraception, nausea and vomiting, and mild skin conditions," Owen said.

With treatment for the conditions currently permitted under the pilot to be made permanent from 01 Jul, Owen said he expects even more pharmacists to come forward for training.

PSA leads on pall care meds

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) continues to lead on the quality use of medicines as part of a new consortium led by Palliative Care Australia (PCA).

The Quality Use of Community Palliative Care Medicines Project is set to deliver targeted education to prescribers, pharmacists and aged care nurses on critical palliative care medicines.

Supported by the Australian Government's Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program, the consortium combines the expertise of Palliative Care Australia, PSA, Metro South Hospital and Health Service, and Ageing Australia to improve medicine safety and the safer use of the first nationally agreed National Core Community Palliative Care Medicines List.

PSA National President Assoc Prof Fei Sim said the project ensures that pharmacists are equipped to support and meet the complex needs of palliative care patients.

"Our role in supporting appropriate and safe use of medicines is even more important for palliative patients, where timely access to core medicines, particularly those that provide urgent symptom relief, can significantly impact patient comfort and quality of life.

"With 90 percent of Australians wanting to be cared for at home, this project will further develop important education and resources for pharmacists supporting palliative patients and carers with the medicines they need to manage pain and symptoms," Assoc Prof Sim concluded.

Camilla Rowland, CEO of PCA, highlighted the importance of education on critical palliative care medicines, noting that timely access to these medicines is essential to reduce suffering, avoid unnecessary hospital transfers, and respect the wishes of those who would prefer to die at home or in a community setting. *KB*

Brauer teething gel recall

BRAUER Natural Medicine is recalling certain batches of Baby & Child Teething Gel due to a small plastic fragment from the tube rim, which may be present in the gel.

If applied to the infant's gums, the fragment could cause discomfort or minor injury if not noticed by the parent/caregiver, and in the worst-case scenario this may also pose a choking hazard.

Affected batches are 27266, 27268, 27272, 26846, 26848, 26850, 26852, 27185, 27187, 27189 and 27264.

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Dispensary Corner

THE world's first sperm race took place in LA recently, all in the name of raising awareness around male infertility.

"Male fertility is declining. Like a lot," stated the Sperm Race site.

"It's happening quietly, steadily, and nobody's really talking about it."

Sperm racing was the brainchild of 17-year-old high schooler Eric Zhu, and while it may be weird, you've got to be impressed by his business savvy: Zhu managed to raise over \$US1 million dollars to run the event, offering the winner a \$10,000 cash prize.

The event took place two weeks ago at LA Center Studios, where uni students Asher and Tristan battled it out, with their fresh sperm samples competing on a two-millimetre race track with a microfluidic channel that was designed to look like a female reproductive system.

The sperm were given a mild electronic current to 'inspire' them to swim upstream.

The tracks were magnified 100 times under a microscope and filmed on video camera, which then relayed the footage to 3D animation software.

The final video was broadcast to the 500 people, who watched it on giant screens with weigh-ins, play-by-play commentary, a half-time show and plenty more.

Ultimately, Tristan's swimmers won the sperm race, while Asher, as the loser, was sprayed with a liquid that resembled semen for his efforts.

AD in over 60s overlooked

A **GLOBAL** study of atopic dermatitis (AD) has suggested that the condition has been underestimated as a public health concern among adults over the age of 60.

AD, or eczema, typically appears during childhood but is often accompanied by long-term complications into adulthood.

Moderate-to-severe AD conditions are more prominent in older adults, who are also more susceptible to comorbidities prone to worsening from AD treatment.

"Although children represent a key population for AD prevention and treatment, the condition in the older adult cannot be overlooked," wrote the authors.

"Compared with young AD patients, decreased barrier functionalities due to aging may elevate the vulnerability to environmental stimuli, potentially resulting in systemic sensitisation and predisposing older adult individuals with AD to type 2 immune reactions," they added.

The researchers found that while AD burden decreased in general from 1990 to 2021, cases in over 60s increased, with a sharp rise at age 75.

Older people in high-income countries were more likely to be affected, as were women.

"Consequently, targeted strategies for the effective prevention and management of AD in the older adult are needed to address the impending challenge," concluded the authors.

Read the paper **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, researchers have found that roflumilast foam (Zoryve) can be successfully used to treat psoriasis on both the scalp and the body.

People who have the condition



on both their scalp and body often need multiple prescription products, with many treatments not suitable for use under hair.

After eight weeks of treatment, 66.4% and 45.5% of the roflumilast group were clear or almost clear of psoriasis on their scalp and body respectively, compared to 27.8% and 20.1% in a placebo group who used a similar foam without the active ingredient.

The once-daily steroid-free topical treatment is also available as a cream, and is indicated for atopic dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, and plaque psoriasis.

Read the paper **HERE**. KB

Opella healthcare goes it alone

CONSUMER healthcare business Opella - the name behind Australian-made brands Nature's Own, Ostelin and Cenovis - has officially exited Sanofi Group and is now a fully standalone company.

Now majority-owned by CD&R, with Sanofi retaining a 48.2% stake, the transition marks a new chapter as Opella focuses on leading a self-care revolution in Australia.

Headquartered in France, Opella ANZ is located in Brisbane, where its factory produces over two billion vitamin tablets and soft-gel capsules per year.

The company is also behind over-the-counter brands Telfast, Buscopan, Dulcolax, Phenergen, Mersynofen and Selsun, and recently achieved B Corp status, demonstrating its "commitment to a greener future for all Australians".

Opella ANZ's GM Lee Coomber stated: "It's great to be leading the Opella ANZ team through this new chapter as a stand-alone business."



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