

Today's issue of PD

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

- **Pharmacium**
- **Direct Chemist Outlet**

Design your space

PHARMACIUM will create work spaces that reflect your working style and improve efficiencies throughout your pharmacy, with a focus on dispensary operations.

See **page four** for details.

A different script

THE Direct Chemist Outlet brand offers clout, support and buying power, with 127 pharmacies and growing.

Learn more on **page five**.

Endo treatment

TWO local studies to be shared at an upcoming health summit suggest medicinal cannabis could play a role in the potential treatment of endometriosis.

The 16th World Congress on Endometriosis is underway this week in Sydney, featuring global experts on the chronic inflammatory condition.

Cann I Help Head of Medical Dr Laurence Kemp said the treatment could be a valuable method of managing "this awfully painful condition".

The studies are assessing how effective medicinal cannabis is on reducing pain for sufferers, while a second study will focus on how it can be used to treat symptoms.

Call for med cannabis action

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called for "robust regulation" of the medicinal cannabis industry, saying it is needed to tackle the "highly concerning" and rapid increase in medicinal cannabis prescribing.

The call comes after revelations about egregious practices around prescribing and dispensing medicinal cannabis products on Monday's *ABC 7:30 Report*.

This included data from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), which found that eight medical practitioners had issued more than 10,000 scripts for the highest-strength THC products in six months, with one doctor apparently issuing more than one script every four minutes in a working day.

There was also a pharmacist who dispensed 959,000 cannabis products in one year, and a nurse practitioner who appeared to have issued 31,000 scripts over a year.

In a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the AMA noted its members had been appalled by the behaviour of some medicinal cannabis entities, most notably in the dispensing of medicinal cannabis.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said the AMA supported proposed changes that would make it easier for regulators to address the industry's exploitation of the Special Access Scheme (SAS) and Authorised Prescriber Scheme (APS).

"These schemes are very necessary and allow doctors to provide access to certain specialised unapproved therapeutic goods to patients who are very ill, but they have been exploited by the medicinal cannabis industry," Dr McMullen said.

After alluding to examples of apparently excessive prescribing



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\$5m for dementia

AS PHARMACISTS both develop and embrace emerging technologies to support patients with dementia, a new funding round is now open to back innovations that could further transform care.

The second round of the CUREator+ Dementia and Cognitive Decline Incubator Program is inviting applications from biotech, medical device and digital health startups and companies focused on expanding treatment and wellbeing options for the thousands of Australians living with dementia.

The Federal Government-funded program, which is a partnership between Brandon BioCatalyst, ANDHealth, and Dementia Australia, offers up to \$5 million per project - delivered in tranches upon reaching agreed milestones - and also provides access to digital health expertise.

Companies and startups interested in applying can tune into a webinar on 29 May to learn more (register [HERE](#)), while program applications close on 10 Jul (submit [HERE](#)).



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Getting the most from an intern year

A **POSITIVE** experience during a pharmacist's intern year can make all the difference in getting set up for a successful career.

Executive Officer of the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS), Kay Dunkley (**pictured**), is hosting a session 'Setting yourself up for a successful intern year' at the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 (PCS25) on 04 Jul.

"Our expert panel of registered pharmacists have many years of experience working with interns and will share their valuable insights into how you can have a successful year as an intern pharmacist and set yourself up to thrive in your career as a pharmacist," Dunkley said.

The session will cover topics such as the culture of your ideal workplace and ensuring it is a good fit for you; workplace entitlements (pay, leave and breaks) and responsibilities; making the most of learning opportunities and feedback;



and maximising professional networking opportunities.

"We will also discuss balancing work and studying and looking after yourself, and how to access support and guidance if difficulties arise," Dunkley said.

There will also be an opportunity to chat online with members of the expert panel during the session.

For more about PCS25, including the program, click [HERE](#).

Greater role for laLGPs

LONG-ACTING lipoglycopeptides (laLGPs), a type of semi-synthetic antibiotic, could be an alternative treatment to standard antibiotics for people with serious bacterial infections, according to research published in *JAMA Network*.

The drugs, which include dalbavancin and oritavancin, can be given in a single dose that lasts up to eight weeks, but are currently only approved for the treatment of acute bacterial skin infections.

In this study, researchers set out to investigate laLGPs' off-label use for serious bacterial infection, noting they could be useful for certain groups, such as drug users and people with mental health disorders, who may struggle with adherence to long-term daily therapies.

They may also be useful for those living in remote and rural areas, where use of regular antibiotics requires frequent laboratory monitoring and close nurse, pharmacist and physician follow-up, which may be challenging.

The study included around 42,000 people discharged from hospital after a serious bacterial infection, and around 800 (2%) of them were prescribed one of the long-acting drugs instead of normal antibiotics.

The researchers found no statistically significant difference in outcomes between patients given the long-acting medications and those given antibiotics.

"Our study highlighted utilisation patterns and supported the clinical effectiveness of laLGPs in serious bacterial infections among a diverse patient population," wrote the authors.

"Future research should compare patient and clinician preferences among intravenous treatments, laLGPs, and oral antibiotics, as well as the cost-effectiveness of each option.

"Clinically, laLGPs can be an effective alternative to standard antibiotic courses for serious bacterial infections," they concluded.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

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Dispensary Corner

A JOURNALIST in the US city of Albany gave new meaning to the term "breaking news" when she went into labour in the middle of a TV news bulletin.

But showing the professional she is, WRGB anchor Olivia Jaquith continued to deliver the entire bulletin without an issue.

"We do have some breaking news this morning, literally," her co-anchor Julia Dunn said to begin the broadcast.

"Olivia's water has broken, and she is anchoring the news now in active labor," she said.

According to Albany's *Daily Voice*, meteorologist Craig Adams quipped during the bulletin that he may need to carry Jaquith to hospital himself if she didn't go soon.

Perhaps in a veiled swipe at the US health system (or possibly the poor wages of US TV anchors), Jaquith joked she would rather be at work than at the hospital.

Throughout the broadcast, Dunn was reassuring viewers that Jaquith was making the decision herself to remain on-air.

Clearly, the whole saga became a bit of a running gag, with the on-screen graphics team getting in on the game with a graphic that said "Days past due date: 2".

WRGB News Director Stone Grissom issued a statement later praising Jaquith's professionalism and grit.

Once the bulletin concluded, Jaquith received medical attention and was promptly taken to hospital where she delivered a healthy baby boy.

Eating disorders volunteers needed

QIMR Berghofer and InsideOut Institute researchers are recruiting more than 4,000 Australian adults with lived experience of an eating disorder for the world's largest genetics study, to identify genetic variants and calculate an individual's risk of developing an eating disorder.

The project team has appealed to pharmacists, often the first health professional that a person with an eating disorder will come in contact with, to alert potential volunteers to the study.

The Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative 2 (EDGI2) aims to pinpoint genetic and environmental risk, and protective factors that influence the development of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder and avoidant restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID), to predict who is at risk, improve personalised treatment, and ultimately save lives.

Research shows that genes account for 40-60% of the variability in eating disorders, but there are limited reliable genetic and environmental predictors for disease course and outcome.

Identifying genetic risk variants can help estimate an individual's genetic susceptibility to diseases and inform earlier, more personalised treatments, predict disease progression, and assess future disease risk in unaffected individuals.

"Advancing our understanding of the genetic variants associated with eating disorders requires a concerted international effort to survey and collect saliva samples from more people with lived experience," study lead Professor Nick Martin said.

"Replicating and expanding past studies is crucial.

"I'm confident that with the



Aussie spirit of volunteering, we'll hit our goal of more than 4,000 EDGI2 participants," he concluded.

The National Eating Disorders Collaboration points out that pharmacists can play a vital role in detecting eating disorders by monitoring the use of prescription medicines, such as anti-depressants and anxiolytics, and non-prescription medications

and products, including diet pills and laxatives.

People participating in the study will be asked to complete a survey and provide a saliva sample for DNA analysis.

Patients wishing to learn more about, or volunteer for EDGI2 can be directed to the website www.edgi2.org.au or asked to email edgi2@qimrb.edu.au. KB

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