

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, and full pages from:

- **OSTEO CAPS**
- **Glucogel**

## Osteo control

**NEW** MediChoice OSTEO-CAPS from Nova Pharmaceuticals provides up to eight hours of relief from osteoarthritis pain.

The pharmacist-only medicine contains 665mg of paracetamol and comes in a pack of 96.

See details on **page five**.

## Back the bid

**GLUCOJEL** has teamed up with Netball Australia in its bid for the game's inclusion at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics.

By pledging their support, your customers could win a year's supply of beans, some Diamonds gear and more.

See **page six** for details.

## Call for T1D screening

Medical experts and advocates are calling for nationwide screening for type 1 diabetes (T1D), with new screening methods capable of identifying the condition years before symptoms appear.

An estimated 25,000 Australians are unknowingly in the early stages of the condition, according to a report from Breakthrough T1D presented to Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday at Parliament House in Canberra.

The report, *Cost of not knowing*, claims new screening methods capable of identifying T1D years before symptoms appear could help prevent the impact of a shock diagnosis.

Early detection could also identify those who may benefit from therapies that may slow, delay, or halt the progression of the disease.

Approximately 90% of people diagnosed with T1D have no known family history, meaning most diagnoses arrive suddenly and without warning.

"Decades of research has made it possible to detect and diagnose type 1 diabetes at an early stage," said Dr Dorota Pawlak, Chief Scientific Officer at Breakthrough T1D Australia (formerly known

as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or JDRF).

"With the tools and evidence at our disposal, we have the opportunity to move from emergency diagnoses to early detection," she said.

The *Cost of Not Knowing* report highlights projects funded by Breakthrough T1D that use simple blood tests to detect T1D before symptoms such as frequent urination, excessive thirst, weight loss and fatigue present.

One project tested for T1D autoantibodies in people with a family history of T1D, while another identified children with an increased genetic risk of the disease.

"With nationwide screening, we can ensure that no Australian faces type 1 diabetes without warning," Dr Pawlak said.

"The impact of widespread screening and early detection would be profound for Australians who would otherwise face the trauma of a sudden, life-threatening diagnosis.

"Instead, they would have time to prepare, connect with support services, and access care long before complications develop."

Read the report **HERE**.

## B6 class action

**LAWYER** and founder of Polaris Lawyers, Nick Mann, is encouraging people to come forward and share their experiences with vitamin B6 toxicity as its class action against Blackmores continues.

As the firm started investigating a potential class action earlier this year (**PD** 05 Jun), the TGA had proposed scheduling supplements containing between 50mg and 200mg of vitamin B6 as S3 Pharmacist-only medicines - a decision finalised this week (**PD** 26 Nov).

"The decision made by the TGA shows that concerns from affected consumers and practitioners about the dangers of B6 are starting to be heard and understood," Mann said.

"It is a step in the right direction, and what we hope will be one of many steps to better protect unsuspecting consumers," he added.

The firm has now heard from over 2,000 people who have suffered the effects of vitamin B6 toxicity, as well as clinicians with affected patients.

See **HERE** for class action info.

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## Sanofi first tenant for ENTRi facility

**THE** Translational Research Institute's (TRI) new Brisbane facility, ENTRi, has secured its first tenant in the global healthcare company Sanofi.

As the biomedical manufacturing complex nears completion, the signing marks an important milestone for Qld, with Sanofi's presence at ENTRi part of an expansion for the Translational Science Hub connecting researchers with the company's scientists in France and the US.

Sanofi's presence will help stimulate the local biomedical sector through their expertise in product development, clinical research and commercialisation.

Jointly funded by the Queensland Government and TRI, ENTRi is due to open in early 2026, providing dedicated access to cGMP cleanrooms, wet labs, plus office and collaboration space for clinical trial product manufacture.

TRI CEO Professor Mahar Gandhi said he hopes to see in-house clinical trials being conducted from therapeutics that have been discovered and developed at ENTRi.

## New asthma guide can save lives

**AUSTRALIAN** Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data released by the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has revealed that 478 people lost their lives in 2024 due to asthma.

NAC Director and respiratory physician, Professor Peter Wark, said failure to properly diagnose asthma is a serious problem, and results in undertreatment and complacency that asthma is not dangerous.

"Underutilisation of inhaled corticosteroids is related to this perception and directly results in a heightened risk of severe acute asthma," Professor Wark said.

"These tragic deaths reinforce the importance that all people with asthma receive a correct diagnosis and receive treatment with an anti-inflammatory inhaled corticosteroid-based regimen."

The recently updated national guidelines for asthma management now recommend adults and adolescents use an anti-inflammatory reliever, and that no-one should rely on salbutamol alone (**PD 17 Sep**).

"We encourage health professionals to take every opportunity to reinforce that no adult or adolescent should manage their asthma solely with a blue puffer," Professor Wark said.



**MEANWHILE**, a monthly injection of the drug tezepelumab (Tezpire, AstraZeneca) may help patients with asthma reduce or even discontinue their daily steroid medications, according to a new study published today.

The researchers administered the drug to 300 patients once every four weeks.

After a year on the medicine, around 90% of the patients were able to reduce their steroids down to a low dose, with over half of them completely stopping without any issues with controlling their asthma.

The researchers also noted that the medicine significantly improved asthma symptoms and lung function, and patients reported better overall quality of life, which was seen as early as two weeks into the treatment.

Read the study **HERE**. **KB**

## Addressing care needs of the future

**THE** national Care Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) launched yesterday, with a mission to transform Australia's \$327 billion care economy over the next decade.

The CRC comprises 56 partners, including universities, health agencies, tech companies, and care providers, and is headquartered at La Trobe University in Bundoora.

Armed with a \$129 million budget - including \$35 million from the Australian Govt - the CRC is looking to deliver \$1.4 billion in benefits over 15 years while positioning Australia as a global leader in care services and technology.

The CRC aims to address growing demand, workforce shortages, and low productivity in care services such as aged care, disability support, mental health, and early childhood education.

Key initiatives include:

- Technology Solutions - fast-track assistive technologies, robotics, apps, and AI tools to improve care quality and reduce manual tasks.

- Data solutions - develop connected systems for secure data exchange, AI-enabled decision support, and care navigation tools.

- Workforce innovation - upskill workers, create flexible career pathways, and improve digital literacy to support technology-enabled care.

"We will improve how care is delivered in Australia by enabling sector-wide transformation, boosting productivity, and delivering fit-for-purpose, people-centred solutions that meet the evolving needs of Australians," said Deena Shiff, CRC Chair.

"Australian research has led to global transformation in many fields, supported by Cooperative Research Centres since 1990 - we plan to do the same," she added.

Find out more **HERE**.

## Be in the room where it happens, says Kirsas

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) hosted the 2025 Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture on Mon, featuring Associate Professor Sue Kirsas, a leading voice in pharmacy practice and education.

Under the theme 'Influencing and supporting workforce development and wellbeing - the importance of being in the room where it happens', Assoc Prof Kirsas shared strategies to strengthen workforce readiness and resilience through workplace-based assessments (WBAs).

Drawing on Monash Health's clinical educator program, Associate Professor Kirsas highlighted how structured

support, training and assessment can accelerate pharmacists' transition to independent practice, taking days instead of months, while improving confidence and capability.

She emphasised the importance of investing in clinical educators, with experienced mentors providing essential guidance and feedback to ensure pharmacists meet competency standards.

Associate Professor Kirsas also urged pharmacists to actively participate in shaping change through joining committees, groups and organisations that develop standards and support the profession.

"Being in the room where it

happens is such an important thing," she said.

"Don't sit back to be invited - put your hand up, volunteer, start small, be involved, and keep an open mind.

"There are always good people around you that can help - that at-elbow support."

As the former APC Chair and current Director of Pharmacy at Monash Health, Assoc Prof Kirsas has contributed to numerous standards, frameworks, and tools, including SHPA's ClinCAT and the APC Intern Year Blueprint.

Her leadership continues to influence the integration of WBAs across pharmacy education and practice.



## Editor's Choice: Natural New Zealand skincare brand launches in Oz

**NEW** Zealand brand MN8 Skincare has launched in Australia, featuring small-batch products with manuka oil as the hero ingredient in its range.

The family business is run by Jaxon Dobson, who took over his mother's dairy farm in Waipu on the North Island and grew rows of native East Cape manuka, known for its healing properties.

"The dream for MN8 is to continue purchasing marginal dairy farms and turning them into regenerative manuka plantations," Dobson said.

"We want to set a new global standard for positive impact in skincare, proving that what's good for the earth is good for your skin," he added.



Each of the products is formulated with Manuka gold extract and a collection of bioactive molecules that help to calm and soothe the skin, as well as support its natural renewal process and reduce the appearance of pigmentation.

The Full-Spectrum Manuka

range includes a dual-use exfoliating cleanser and purifying mask (RRP \$78), a regenerating serum (RRP \$118), daily moisturiser (RRP \$98), as well as a bundle that includes the complete three-step system (RRP \$268).

For stockist inquiries, email: [contact@mn8skincare.com](mailto:contact@mn8skincare.com).

## New Hada Labo cleanser



**POPULAR** Japanese skincare brand Hada Labo Tokyo has released a new addition to its White Range, the Make-Up Removing Micellar Water (RRP \$22.95 for 400ml).

The gentle, dual-action cleanser effortlessly removes make-up while deeply hydrating the skin and maintaining its natural moisture balance and barrier.

Formulated with effective ingredients such as squalane, glycerin and the brand's signature super hyaluronic acid, the micellar water deeply penetrates the skin and locks in moisture.

Fragrance- and colourant-free, it is ideal for sensitive, dry and dehydrated skin and can be used as either a single or double cleanse.

Available now at Priceline stores around the country.

## Bedtime beauty kit

**WELEDA** Skin Food has released the limited edition Weleda Skin Food Bedtime Beauty Gift Set for the festive season (RRP \$64.95)

Hydrate and comfort the skin with this three-step routine, including a nourishing cleansing balm, nourishing night cream and lip balm in a complimentary organic cotton toiletry bag.



## Haircare brand Provoke undergoes a glow-up



**HAIRCARE** brand Provoke has undergone a refresh, with its two top ranges now known as Provoke Brighten & Repair and Provoke Keep it Bright, with the same formulas, but updated packaging.

Developed to keep blondes bright and fresh with its dual pigment toning technology and purple and blue pigments, the products help to extend time between salon appointments.

The Keep it Bright shampoo and conditioner (previously known as Colour Care) is an everyday solution enriched with vitamin B5 to help maintain colour and hydration.

Meanwhile, the Brighten and Repair shampoo and conditioner (previously known as Touch of Silver) removes brassy tones in one wash, while repairing damaged hair bonds - the range is ideal for toning natural, coloured, highlighted or platinum blonde, white and grey hair

RRP \$12.95 each, available at Priceline and Chemist Warehouse.

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### Dispensary Corner

**OZEMPIC** is killing Thanksgiving.

Such is the population penetration of this and other weight loss injectables in the US, guests turning up to the family feast today may find some of the perennial favourites - such as candied yams, pecan pie, sweet potato pie, caramel apple pie and chocolate peanut butter pie - no longer grace the table.

Gone are butter, cream, marshmallows, brown sugar and coconut from traditional fare.

Instead, it will be baked chicken or turkey sans stuffing, roasted turnip, steamed brussels sprouts, and fruit salad.

As for drinks, it's water and water all the way.

Some injectable users may be tempted to skip their shots for a week so they can partake in the overeating orgy....and with Christmas coming up, maybe another few weeks as well.

However, experts advise against it.

US medical weight loss physician Dr Sue Decotiis warned that patients may pack on as much as six to eight kilograms if they do this - and that means starting again from square one in the new year by reintroducing the expensive drug and scaling up.

"We don't want to have to do that - it's not that hard a holiday to navigate," Dr Decotiis said.



## Distributive justice failing

A **NEW** study has found that medicines tested internationally for approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are not available in many of the countries where the testing was conducted, raising ethical concerns about exploitation and who benefits from drug testing.

The team from Yale School of Medicine analysed 172 FDA-approved medicines tested between 2015 and 2018 in nearly 90 countries.

They found that five years after testing, only 24% of the medicines had received market authorisation, or approval for distribution and patient access in the countries where the clinical trials took place.

High-income countries had greater physical access to the medicines than upper-middle- and lower-middle-income countries.

"This gap raises concerns," said study lead Dr Jennifer Miller.

"According to ethical guidance, if you enrol a population in clinical research, they must stand to benefit from it."

This principle, known as distributive justice, is reflected in major internationally recognised ethical frameworks for medical testing on humans.

But according to Dr Miller, these guidelines are vague.

"There's enough ambiguity that, if someone wanted to get around it, they could," she said.

Study co-author Professor Cary Gross explained that people enrol in clinical trials for many reasons, including the opportunity to "contribute to scientific progress".

"But there is also a frequently-unstated part of this 'bargain': that if the new treatment works, then presumably people in your community - or country - will be



able to access it," he said.

The study's findings confirm that many countries still host trials without ever gaining timely access to the medicines they help test.

The team identified countries that were able to secure access to the medicines they helped test, including Ethiopia and Uganda, and they are engaging with health ministers and clinical trial leaders from those countries to share lessons with peer nations.

Dr Miller said that addressing the "test it (but) don't sell it" issue will require collective effort involving pharma companies, the media, NGOs and patient groups.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

## CWH fights MND

**CHEMIST** Warehouse has raised \$492,328.25 for motor neurone disease (MND) research through this year's FightMND campaign, reinforcing the retailer's commitment to the search for treatments, and ultimately a cure for the condition.

FightMND was founded in 2014 by former AFL player Neale Daniher, and provides significant investment in clinical trials, research programs and support initiatives.

More than 500 stores across the country took part in a store fundraising initiative throughout October.

CWH also supported Daniher's Drive, a four-day convoy through regional Victoria that raises awareness and funds.

"We are incredibly proud of everything that has been achieved throughout our eight-year partnership," said CWH Director Mario Tascone.

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