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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from PharmaPrograms Pro.

### Make the swap

PHARMAPROGRAMS Pro has just landed in pharmacy. Learn more about upgrading your pharmacy and patient engagement platform on p4.

### CSL responds to US tariff increase

CSL has released an ASX statement confirming that it does not expect to be affected by the trade tariffs of 100% to be imposed on pharmaceutical imports to the US, announced at the end of last week.

The pharma giant noted that plasma products - its main export - are exempted from the tariff rules, and plans for manufacturing capability in the US are well advanced.

CSL Seqirus' Fluvad influenza vaccine - the main product it sells in the US - is made in the UK, where the tariff rate is currently 10% and expected to reduce to zero.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Mark Butler has reiterated that the PBS is not up for negotiation amid speculation the tariffs may increase pressure on the government to change the scheme.

## Needle-free vaccines kick off

NEEDLE-FREE influenza vaccination for children is now available ahead of the coming flu season, with the nasal spray providing a simpler, less stressful experience for kids and parents alike.

The FluMist nasal spray is available free of charge for children aged two to four years (inclusive) in NSW and SA, two to five years (inclusive) in Qld, and two to 11 years (inclusive) in WA.

For children and adolescents outside these age ranges, as well as those in other states, the vaccine is also available privately for those aged 24 months to 17 years inclusive.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW branch president Mario Barone said the program removes one of the biggest barriers to childhood vaccination and is "fantastic news" for families.

"For many children, the fear of needles can be overwhelming - being able to receive flu protection through a simple nasal spray makes the experience much easier and far less stressful," Barone said.

"Complications from influenza can be particularly high among young children, which is why it's so important to get vaccinated before flu season really takes hold.

"Early vaccination helps protect children, their families, and the broader community."

MEANWHILE, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has released new findings from the National Vaccination Insights



project, showing concerning shifts in parents' willingness to prioritise flu vaccination for their kids and their perceptions of its importance.

The most commonly reported barrier was distress about vaccination, nominated by 44% of the 2,000 survey respondents, with lack of belief around the efficacy of vaccination for both protecting children and the wider community also featuring prominently.

However, 72% of parents with unvaccinated children said they would be more likely to vaccinate with the introduction of the nasal spray vaccine.

Almost one-third of parents (32.3%) said they were not prioritising flu vaccination, up from 16% the previous year.

Senior author Professor Margie Danchin from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute said the findings highlight an urgent need to refocus influenza communication strategies.

"Influenza vaccination coverage in young children remains well below that of routine childhood vaccines," Professor Danchin said.

"We need to communicate more clearly that influenza can cause severe illness in young children, and in rare cases death, and that vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk."

Professor Danchin also highlighted the importance of vaccination providers.

"We need to support them to integrate influenza vaccination into routine care so it becomes something they recommend and offer opportunistically - just as they already do with age-based vaccines," she said.

The report is **HERE**. *KB*

### Arrotex, Besins partner on MHT

BESINS Healthcare Australia and Arrotex Pharmaceuticals have announced a new strategic partnership that sees Arrotex representing the menopausal hormone therapy Prometrium (micronised progesterone) to pharmacies.

The partnership aligns Besins' global expertise in hormone therapies with Arrotex's local capability in patient access, pharmacy engagement and supply confidence.

Under the agreement, Arrotex has also been granted an exclusive license for an authorised generic, expected to be available in quarter two 2026, and says it hopes to get PBS listing shortly after.

# NOT JUST FLU. THERE'S WHOOPING COUGH TOO

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1. Australian Government. Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Australian Immunisation Handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed March 2026. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. [www.sanofi.com.au](http://www.sanofi.com.au). MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.

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## Keynote speaker announced

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that Dr Kristen Riddle, US pharmacist and national president of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), will be a keynote speaker at this year's Pharmacy Connect, to be held from 09 Sep to 11 Sep in Sydney.



With a focus on delivering innovative patient-centred care, Dr Riddle's career reflects a strong commitment to advancing community pharmacy through programs in wellness screening, women's health and personalised compounding.

Dr Riddle (pictured) will provide delegates with first-hand insights and highlight the key learnings Australia can take to protect and strengthen the pharmacy sector here, said convenor Kos Slavos.

"The US is at the centre of world-wide pharmaceutical policy - developments there have direct implications for Australia," Slavos said.

"Securing Dr Riddle, who is a passionate speaker and a great leader of the pharmacy profession,

is particularly valuable given the US market's influence across global pharmacy policy.

"The rapid expansion of direct-to-consumer models is placing enormous pressure on the US pharmacy sector, with 2025 seeing the closure of hundreds of pharmacies across all formats.

"These major policy shifts and emerging commercial models - including proposed 'Most-Favoured-Nation' pricing requirements and platforms such as TrumpRx - offer important lessons for the future of Australian pharmacy," he concluded.

Register at earlybird rates [HERE](#).

## Antidepressant provides long COVID hope

THE commonly prescribed antidepressant fluvoxamine significantly reduces fatigue associated with long COVID - one of the condition's most persistent and debilitating symptoms - according to recent research.

The team from Brazil assessed the efficacy of fluvoxamine and type 2 diabetes drug metformin for long COVID fatigue among around 400 people between Oct 2023 and Feb 2025.

Participants had been experiencing fatigue for at least 90 days after infection and were randomly assigned to receive fluvoxamine, metformin or a placebo for 60 days.

Fluvoxamine produced a meaningful reduction in fatigue by day 60, with continued improvement at day 90, and also boosted overall quality-of-life scores, while metformin did not

show any significant effect.

While all treatments were generally safe, fluvoxamine had fewer reported side effects.

An important limitation of the study was that history of depression was not assessed, so it is unclear whether the treatment effect was due to a direct effect on long COVID or to an effect on baseline depression.

The authors concluded that fluvoxamine may offer a viable treatment option for long COVID fatigue, and larger studies are warranted.

"Future trials should incorporate standardised assessments of depression and anxiety, at baseline and follow-up, alongside inflammatory and metabolic biomarkers, to clarify mechanisms and identify subgroups most likely to benefit," they wrote.

Read the study [HERE](#).

## Scope in focus

Professor Trent Twomey

### Setting the record straight

WITH every expansion of scope, there will always be voices who misunderstand, underestimate or misrepresent what pharmacists are trained to do.

It is fair to say that there may also be a little confusion within the pharmacy sector.

Pharmacists are highly trained medicine experts.

Every registered pharmacist needs a university degree, supervised practical placement, national exams, and ongoing CPD requirements.

Prescribing pharmacists undertake additional university training, which includes theory and practical sessions that teach a new way to engage with patients - clinical assessment, differential diagnosis, mandatory protocols and treatment and referral pathways.

To pass, pharmacists must successfully complete an OSCE (Objective Structures Clinical Evaluation), which assesses clinical skills, communication and decision-making.

It is not an easy process - nor can it be an easy process.

For pharmacists to be able to deliver these additional services, to assess, diagnose and treat a range of everyday and long-term health conditions, it is right that the training is comprehensive and challenging.

But it is so worth it - being able to do more to support patients to stay healthy is incredibly rewarding.

When someone presents with earache, I listen carefully, take a comprehensive history, examine the ear and consider appropriate treatment options.

Through this training, I have strengthened my ability to recognise red-flag conditions such as mastoiditis, neuralgia and other presentations that require urgent referral rather than pharmacy management.

Where it is clinically appropriate, prescribing pharmacists can prescribe medication.

This change is about complementing, not competing with GPs.

Pharmacists and GPs share patients, share clinical responsibility, and share the goal of improving health outcomes.

When misinformation circulates, it confuses patients and destabilises trust in the whole healthcare system.

Pharmacists have earned their place as trusted primary care providers - it is time the conversation reflected that.

Professor Trent Twomey is the national president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

This column is part of a series on expanded scope of practice - send questions to [scope@guild.org.au](mailto:scope@guild.org.au).

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## Dispensary Corner

AS ANYONE experiencing unwanted hair loss can attest, the sight of hairs in the shower after shampooing can be quite devastating.

But a no-wash hair care regime that claims to prevent hair loss is not the answer, according to hair experts from the American Hair Loss Association (AHLA) - and may even increase hair loss.

The organisation has weighed in against social media trends that discourage shampooing, saying science shows that poor scalp hygiene may worsen androgenetic alopecia - the most common form of hair loss - by compounding the effects of dihydrotestosterone (DHT) and inflammation on hair follicles.

Accumulation of sebum - the oily substance that shampoos wash away - traps DHT and inflammatory cytokines near the hair follicle opening, which can lead to follicle shrinkage and ultimately hair loss in susceptible people.

Sebum also feeds a proliferation of yeasts and other microbes, disturbing the balance of the scalp's microbiome.

The experts at AHLA - who are actual doctors, by the way, not Big Shampoo wearing a cheesy disguise - also debunk the contention that shampoo ingredients sodium lauryl sulphate or sodium laureth sulphate are the bad guys, and should be avoided at all costs.

However, they can be quite drying or irritating to some people, and gentler, sulphate-free shampoos may be a better choice, said the AHLA.

# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## New product launch: APOHEALTH Cetirizine Hayfever & Allergy Relief 100 tablets

APOHEALTH Cetirizine Hayfever & Allergy Relief 100 tablets offers a value-pack solution for customers managing allergic rhinitis and hives.

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