

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### Black salve ads, supply conviction

**BELINDA** Gae Harris, trading under the name Tickety-Boo Herbal, has been sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, a community corrections order, and fines of \$20,000 for unlawfully advertising and supplying black salve and bloodroot capsules, and for advertising other unapproved therapeutic goods to treat serious conditions.

Harris was released on a good behaviour bond and is banned from making restricted and prohibited representations about therapeutic goods by any means, including on social media.

The conviction followed a TGA investigation, where Harris was charged with 12 offences and found guilty of 10.

In delivering the sentence, Her Honour Magistrate Humphreys said "the offending was deliberate and planned".

"The Court has an obligation to deter similar offending as it is of a kind that could cause great harm," continued Humphreys.

"The existence of a community of persons interested in the use of potentially dangerous alternative treatments for serious illnesses such as cancer adds weight to the need for general deterrence.

"Others involved in such communities must be dissuaded from engaging in similar conduct."

Black salve and bloodroot capsules contain sanguinarine, a substance included in Schedule 10 to the Poisons Standard - substances considered to be of such danger to public health that they are prohibited from sale, supply or use in Australia.

## Adrenaline nasal spray TGA approved

CSL Seqirus has announced the listing of Neffy adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), approved for the treatment of anaphylaxis in adults and children weighing 15kg or more, and aged four years and over.

The only adrenaline nasal spray approved for use in Australia, its introduction represents the first significant innovation in anaphylaxis treatment in more than 25 years.

Neffy delivers adrenaline via a nasal spray delivery device, as used in opioid reversal medicine, with adrenaline entering the bloodstream through the nasal mucosa.

The Schedule 4 prescription-only medicine is expected to be available from Feb via private prescription.

CSL Seqirus has submitted an application for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing, which will be considered at the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) Mar 2026 meeting (**PD** 24 Nov).



**Vita-D Mini Tablets**  
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Australia has one of the highest documented rates of anaphylaxis hospital admissions in the developed world, and leading voices in the allergy and anaphylaxis community have welcomed Neffy's approval.

"Allergic diseases impact about 30% of Australians and place significant financial, social and emotional strains on patients, carers and the broader community," said allergist Professor Connie Katelaris.

"Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and access to more treatment options is welcomed," she said.

Sarah Emery, chief executive officer at Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia, said that the availability of Neffy could help address unmet patient needs.

"Without prompt treatment anaphylaxis can be fatal," she said.

"Despite this we know that many patients delay or do not administer treatment for a number of reasons, including a lack of confidence in



administration, issues with devices, and, in some cases, because they do not carry an adrenaline device," she explained.

"For patients, there is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to treatment administration.

"The availability of a differentiated option may help remove barriers to timely self-administered treatment for anaphylaxis, and will be welcome news for healthcare professionals, patients and carers," she said. **KB**

### WA student named Wildcard PSOTY

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that Grace Nicolson from the University of Western Australia is the 2026 National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Wildcard Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY).

Nicolson will compete against the other state and territory PSOTY winners later this year at PSA26 for the chance to be crowned the National PSOTY.

The PSOTY Wildcard Final was held on the last day of the NAPSA Congress, which took place last week at the University of Sydney, with third- and fourth-year pharmacy students demonstrating their counselling skills to the panel of pharmacist judges.

The winner was selected by a judging panel comprising community pharmacist and PSA vice-president Caroline Diamantis, community pharmacist and academic Lily Pham, and Ian

Currie, product manager at Viatrix, sponsor of the PSOTY.

Speaking from the Congress, Diamantis congratulated Grace on being named this year's NAPSA Wildcard PSOTY Winner.

"The PSOTY Wildcard competition is rigorous - not only do the finalists need to solve complex, clinical case studies, but they also need to explain them clearly and effectively, while providing clinical information on stage before a panel of pharmacists and over 300 of their peers," she said.

"It is by no means easy, so I want to congratulate Grace and every student who put their hand up to compete.

"The PSOTY competition is a wonderful experience that ensures current students, our future pharmacists, have the confidence and leadership skills necessary to succeed in the profession," she concluded.

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### Dispensary Corner

**RESEARCHERS** have discovered that gut microbes play an important part in brain function, and if you transplant gut microbes from primates into mice, their tiny little brains start working like those of ours and our close cousins.

The team from Northwestern University implanted gut microbes from two large-brain primate species (human and squirrel monkey) and one small-brain primate species (macaque) into microbe-free mice.

In the mice with large-brain primate microbes, the researchers found increased expression of genes associated with energy production and synaptic plasticity, the physical process of learning in the brain.

Another surprising discovery was a pattern of gene expression associated with ADHD, schizophrenia, bipolar and autism in mice with the microbes from smaller-brained primates.

"This study provides more evidence that microbes may causally contribute to these disorders - specifically, the gut microbiome is shaping brain function during development," said study lead Katie Amato.

She said this suggests that if the human brain is exposed to the actions of the 'wrong' microbes, its development will change and we will see symptoms of these disorders.

Whether or not the mice developed a penchant for eating bananas, climbing trees or sitting on the sofa for hours binge-watching Netflix unfortunately wasn't mentioned.

## Scaling lessons from lychee farming

### OPINION

*Queensland-based pharmacist owner and entrepreneur Roy Packer (pictured) shares his thoughts on the parallels between agricultural practices and pharmacy.*

*Got an opinion or experience to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).*

A FEW weeks ago, our family finished netting our lychee trees, getting ready for a new season starting this week.

As I looked over the orchard, something about scaling really stood out.

Last year, we made a bold decision: we halved the number of trees in our orchard.

These were trees we had harvested from for over 30 years of my life.

By keeping only the most productive trees and newer varieties, something unexpected happened - with fewer trees, we now have more fruit.

Yes, part of that is seasonal and weather-related, but a big factor is the extra care we can now give each tree.

With a reduced workload across the orchard, 98% of our remaining trees are now laden with fruit.

Less volume, more focus, better outcomes.

It made me reflect on how often, in business, we assume that "bigger is better" when it comes to productivity and profit.

This week I was also challenged by Faith Driven Entrepreneurs in Uganda and Kenya, who are approaching Africa's food supply differently.

With cold storage solutions not feasible, the organisation developed KaFresh - a plant-based

spray that creates an edible coating around fruit and vegetables to make them last longer.

Instead of just increasing supply, it is reducing wastage by extending shelf life and improving preservation.

That shift in thinking reduces exploitation in the supply chain, supports market vendors with sustainable produce, and cuts food wastage for customers.

It is a powerful reframing of the problem.

So what does this mean for my own industry?

Maybe scale in pharmacy is not about how many stores we own, but how many lives we intentionally invest in.

Healthy productivity and healthy profit should not come at the expense of healthy people - they should exist because healthy people are the goal.

I don't have all the answers, but I'm increasingly drawn to proactive, preventative and personalised health.



I want to build pharmacy experiences that drive patient loyalty and profitability through increased health literacy, personalised solutions, and tailored profiles for those ready to take their preventative health seriously.

Pharmacy is changing, and I'm privileged to work alongside cohorts of pharmacists who are committed to making that new future a reality.

This future will take the collaboration and integration from many stakeholders.

My question to you is: What do you see as the opportunities to change people's experiences within pharmacy?

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