

**4 ways to help build strong bones**



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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### EMA highlights new drug recs

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has released its 2025 annual report, outlining its progress in bringing innovative, safe and effective medicines to patients.

Among its achievements were recommending 104 medicines for marketing authorisation, of which 38 had new active substances.

Three were singled out for accelerated assessment, a mechanism reserved for medicines that address unmet medical needs:

- Brinsupri (brensocaticib), the first treatment for non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, a serious, chronic, progressive lung disease resulting in damaged airways and severe pulmonary dysfunction

- Yeytuo (lenacapavir), a twice-yearly pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) injection to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in adults and adolescents.

- Vimkunya, a vaccine to protect young people from 12 years of age and adults against disease caused by the chikungunya virus.

Of these, only Yeytuo is approved in Australia.

The full report is [HERE](#).

## Vic pharmacists awarded

THE Victorian branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has recognised five pharmacists at its 2026 awards, held on Fri night.

Pharmacist of the Year was presented to Professor Suzanne Nielsen, who was recognised for her "internationally leading work in addiction medicine research, advancing pharmacists' role in harm reduction and opioid dependence treatment, and shaping policy and practice to improve patient safety and outcomes".

Professor Nielsen's gong came just days after being named the winner of the Health category at the *Financial Review* Women in Leadership Awards, where she was recognised for her work in addiction medicine.

John Jackson was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to medication safety, national policy, and pharmacy education over a career spanning more than five decades.

The Early Career Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Pooja Sharma for her outstanding clinical leadership and innovation, delivering measurable improvements in medicines safety, and access to care for high-risk and underserved populations.

Namira Tasnia Ahmed was presented with the award for Intern of the Year, in recognition of her "exceptional patient-centred care and initiative" during her intern year, which included driving quality improvement in medication



safety and developing processes to support safer transitions of care.

Finally, Alexander Look was awarded the Victorian Pharmacist Medal in recognition of his dedication to rural healthcare, expanding pharmacy services and building innovative, community-focused models of care that have significantly improved access and health outcomes in the Victorian Mallee region.

PSA Victorian president, Tinu Abraham, congratulated the recipients, acknowledging them as "wonderful representatives who capture the breadth and impact of modern pharmacy practice".

"These awards are a powerful reminder of the contributions pharmacists make to our patients and communities every single day," she said.

"Each of these recipients is incredibly deserving, and I am proud to present these awards to the pharmacists continuing to shape the future of healthcare and drive the health and wellbeing of Victorians." KB

## Sigma quits Boots talks

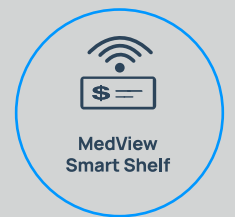
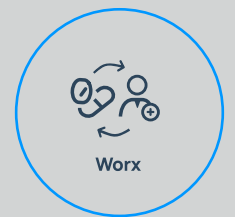
SIGMA Healthcare has informed investors it has withdrawn its interest in the purchase of UK pharmacy giant Boots, with discussions to cease immediately.

The potential move came to light last week after reports in UK media, with Sigma confirming that preliminary talks had taken place (PD 10 Jun).

In today's update, Sigma said, "The Company has concluded that such an acquisition would not currently meet its strategic and capital investment objectives" but confirmed it "will continue to assess opportunities, including potential acquisitions".

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## MenACWY update

THE Department of Health has advised that the meningococcal disease chapter in the Australian Immunisation Handbook has been updated to reflect the availability of MenQuadfi MenACWY vaccine in the six weeks to less than 12 months age group.

Information on the safety and effectiveness of MenQuadfi vaccine was also updated - learn more [HERE](#).

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## Dispensary Corner



WE ALL know the five-and-two rule for fruits and veggies, but now scientists are shifting the focus from the amount of produce to its quality, highlighting some offer more benefits than others.

According to health professionals, even people who meet the correct number of portions per day are not getting enough flavanols - a plant-derived nutrient known for its potent antioxidant properties, found in fresh fruit such as plums, blackberries, cranberries, apples, and strawberries.

The nutritional shortcoming was highlighted recently by researchers including Professor Gunter Kuhnle from the University of Reading in the UK.

"[Five-and-two] is the right message, but we may need to think more carefully about which [ones]," Prof Kuhnle said.

"Different fruits and vegetables offer very different nutritional benefits beyond vitamins and minerals, and as our understanding of these compounds grows, there is a real opportunity to make dietary guidance more specific and more effective."

Flavanols are particularly important, as they are thought to reduce inflammation in the body and lower the risk of heart issues by improving the function of blood vessels.



## New faces for APC Board

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is welcoming two new Board directors: Michael Soriano, director of Pharmacy at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, and Paul Shinkfield, executive director of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities.

In addition, pharmacist and Yugambeh woman Aleena Williams has been reappointed to the board and will continue to contribute to the organisation's commitment to creating a culturally safe workforce for First Nations people.

"A strong and effective Board draws on both fresh perspectives and deep organisational knowledge," Board chair Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson said.

"These appointments ensure APC remains well placed to deliver for our stakeholders and to respond to the ever-changing healthcare landscape," she added.

The Board also thanked outgoing Board director Helen Spiteri for working across committees and the Board for the last 10 years.

Soriano (pictured) has extensive experience in specialist oncology pharmacy practice, medication safety, education, research and



healthcare leadership.

According to a statement from APC, "[Soriano] also brings valuable lived experience of the overseas-trained pharmacist pathway into Australia, having successfully completed the APC assessment process several years ago".

Meanwhile, Shinkfield is a registered physiotherapist and lawyer, bringing strong regulatory and governance expertise to his new role.

He was also national director, strategy at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

As per the APC's governance framework and director term cycles, two other directors' board terms will conclude at the end of the year. *JHM*

## LTR secures US supply partnership

AUSTRALIAN biopharma company LTR Pharma has struck a deal with Strive Specialities to bring its nasal-delivery erectile dysfunction treatment Roxus onto the US market.

The partnership will see Strive Pharmacy become the exclusive US pharmacy fulfilment partner for Roxus, handling its production and distribution to patients across the nation.

Roxus (vardenafil, a PDE5 inhibitor) is supplied in the US

through the US Section 503A personalised medicine pathway, allowing it to bypass the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process.

LTR Pharma's Australian brand of the drug, Spontan, is currently available through the Special Access Scheme from pharmacies including TerryWhite Chemmart, Pharmacy Choice and healthSAVE, but is not yet listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. *JB*



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha**, head of technical & innovation at **LaCorium Health**.



### Supporting improved scar management

SCARS are a natural part of the skin's healing process following injury, yet for many patients they can become a lasting cosmetic or emotional concern.

Caused by surgery, burns, acne or trauma, scars may appear raised, discoloured, itchy or uneven.

Pharmacists play a key role in guiding patients toward evidence-based scar management solutions.

Early intervention is key. Once the wound has fully closed, topical silicone therapy is widely regarded as a first-line approach to improve appearance and texture.

Silicone-based treatments help maintain hydration within the scar tissue, soften and flatten raised scars, and reduce redness and itchiness associated with healing.

Silicone products are available in two formats: gels and patches.

Selection depends on the location and size of the scar, as well as lifestyle and patient preference.

Patches offer prolonged contact time and are typically worn for 12-20 hours daily on fully healed skin.

Their reusable design also provides a cost-effective option for long-term scar management.

With strong evidence supporting silicone-based therapies, products such as Dermal Therapy Scar Treatment Silicone+ Gel and Scar Patch provide practical options.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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