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Today's issue of PD

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

- MediChoice
- Oexa Light
- MedAdvisor

The right choice

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' MediChoice range of analgesics and cough and cold remedies are a cost-effective solution for winter ills.

For a special deal, see **page six**.

See the Light

OEXA, the creators behind Scripty and Managed Intermediary, are leading a brighter future for pharmacy care at APP2026.

See **page seven** for more.

Flu season partner

MEDADVISOR will be at APP2026 to support pharmacists through the 2026 flu season and beyond.

More on **page eight**.

Seven days to APP

APP2026 kicks off on Thu next week - check out the program **HERE** and download the app now.

Wesfarmers opens new FNQ fulfilment centre

WESFARMERS Health has opened a new fulfilment centre in Cairns, providing pharmacies across far north and regional Queensland with faster, more efficient access to medicine and health products.

The facility was officially opened by Wesfarmers Health managing director Emily Amos and chief customer officer Richard Pearson, along with president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Professor Trent Twomey, who owns several pharmacies in the region serviced by API.

Nearly three times larger than the previous facility, the new fulfilment centre will service more than 120 pharmacies from Cairns, south to Mackay, inland to Mount Isa, west to Weipa and to the tip of Australia.

Built with an eye to the future, the site features a solar array that will supply around 20% of

the facility's electricity needs, supporting Wesfarmers Health's ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

Professor Twomey said he was excited to have the larger, brand-new facility in the FNQ region.

"Pharmacies play a critical role in Australia's healthcare system and rely on wholesalers like API to deliver medicines quickly and efficiently," he said.

Amos said the new facility will play an integral role supporting Wesfarmers Health's mission of making health, wellness and beauty experiences simpler, more affordable and easier to access.

"The API wholesale business plays an extremely important role in servicing Australia's health needs by providing vital medicines to people across the country," Amos said.

"Whether a customer is in Cairns,



Canberra or Cabramatta, they will receive the same level of service at the same price.

"We're proud to open this new facility that will ensure community pharmacies in the region can provide their patients with essential medicines within 24 hours of ordering them," she concluded.

Pictured: Sean Adams, MD of CFS Industries, Emily Amos, Prof Trent Twomey and Richard Pearson.

IPA appoints new head of merchandise and consumer strategy

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia (IPA) has announced the appointment of Paul Church (pictured) as general manager - merchandise and consumer marketing, replacing Darragh O Se, who has taken a senior role with Woolworths.

Church brings more than 30 years of senior retail leadership experience across some of Australia's most recognised retail organisations, including 7-Eleven, Coles, Kmart and Officeworks.

IPA founder and MD Steven Kastrinakis said Church's appointment "reflects IPA's continued investment in

building commercial strength for independent pharmacies".

"Paul understands how to grow retail brands at scale while working side by side with franchisees and store teams," Kastrinakis said.

"He brings the commercial discipline of a major retailer combined with genuine empathy for business owners on the ground," he continued.

"That balance is critical as we strengthen IPA Community and continue to support Advantage Pharmacy, Alliance Pharmacy, Pharmacy Catalyst and Chemist Discount Centre members."



Church said he was excited to join IPA at a pivotal time for community pharmacy.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with members and supplier partners to strengthen ranges, sharpen value propositions and build brands that resonate nationally while staying true to local communities."

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From practice to advocacy

SEASON 12 of the *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast has launched, with award-winning consultant practitioner and rural health advocate Deb Hawthorne the first guest.

The conversation ([CLICK HERE](#)), hosted by Krysti-Lee Patterson, explored how Hawthorne's unconventional career journey evolved into national advocacy now reflected in the Pharmaceutical Society's budget submission.

Hawthorne, who is based in North East Victoria, explained that remuneration for home medication reviews has remained unchanged since 2019, despite rising travel demands, clinical complexity, and operating costs.

Monthly caps under the pharmacy programs agreement restrict the number of patients consultant pharmacists can see, often forcing difficult decisions about access, particularly in rural and regional communities.

"When you live in a rural community, you see the gaps firsthand...you either accept them or you do something about them," Hawthorne said.

The episode highlights how advocacy often grows organically from clinical experience, Patterson said.

"This conversation [is] about how a pharmacist builds a career by saying 'yes' to opportunity, responding to community need," she said.

TWC awards recognise strength and capability

TERRYWHITE Chemmart celebrated exceptional performance across its pharmacy network at its 2026 HEART Awards last night, with the highest honour, the National Pharmacy of the Year, presented to TerryWhite Chemmart Clare, in South Australia.

The pharmacy was recognised for its innovation in service excellence, strong uptake of professional services, digital integration and a clear strategic focus on future-ready healthcare delivery.

Owner Tim Siv said the award reflects the team's long-term commitment to innovation and regional healthcare leadership.

"We've made a significant investment in our pharmacy over the past 12 months, completing a state-of-the-art renovation designed to better serve our community today and into the future," Siv said.

"As a regional pharmacy, we understand the critical role we play in delivering accessible healthcare.

"Our team is deeply committed to rural and regional health outcomes, and we're continually evolving our services to meet community need."

Siv explained that several members of the team are completing pharmacist prescribing studies, ensuring they are ready to practise at the top of scope as legislation expands.

"This award belongs to our entire team and the Clare community we are proud to serve," Siv concluded.

The awards took place last night at the gala evening concluding the annual TerryWhite Chemmart Conference (PD 04 Mar).



Michael Beaumont, general manager of TerryWhite Chemmart, said the awards highlight the strength and capability of the national network.

"Our HEART Awards recognise pharmacies and leaders demonstrating consistent performance across health services, retail execution and business operations," Beaumont said.

"The calibre of this year's winners reflects the capability of the TerryWhite Chemmart network to deliver accessible, high-quality community pharmacy services while achieving strong commercial fundamentals."

State Pharmacy of the Year winners were:

- Qld - TerryWhite Chemmart Caboolture North
- NSW - TerryWhite Chemmart Stanhope Gardens
- Vic - TerryWhite Chemmart Drouin

- SA/NT - TerryWhite Chemmart Clare

- ACT - TerryWhite Chemmart Belconnen
- Tas - TerryWhite Chemmart Sorell
- WA - TerryWhite Chemmart Doubleview

Awards also recognised leadership and engagement across health services, retail execution and business operations.

The Rhonda White Leadership Award was presented to Michael Burdelof of TerryWhite Chemmart Angle Vale and Playford (SA), who was recognised for his sustained contribution to the brand, leadership and mentoring.

Kylie Chapman, of TerryWhite Chemmart Caboolture North (Qld), received the Retail Leadership Award, while the Pharmacy Engagement Award went to TerryWhite Chemmart Floreat Forum (WA). KB

Symbion is excited to welcome AFL legend and Trademark SKIN ambassador Dustin Martin to APP.

Visit us at Stand #20-25 to meet Dusty and snap a photo.

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Leafio hosts med cannabis tour

LEADING medicinal cannabis distributor Leafio hosted more than 50 pharmacists for a behind-the-scenes tour of a GMP-licensed pharmaceutical grade medicinal cannabis production facility in Queensland.



Attendees gained practical insight into the cultivation, production and processing operations behind prescribed cannabis medicines. Pharmacists were able to observe and engage with techniques such as plant cutting and cloning from mother plants, flower trimming and rosin extraction, gaining a clearer understanding of the quality controls, compliance requirements and operational processes that support Australia's regulated medicinal cannabis market. "As a distributor to a network

of more than 4,000 pharmacies nationwide, we recognise our responsibility to ensure pharmacists feel informed and confident in their role within the evolving medicinal cannabis landscape," said Nicole Le Maistre, general manager of Leafio. "We look forward to future site visits that will continue to elevate industry standards and foster stronger collaboration across the supply chain," she added.

More work needed on GLP-1 weight regain

WHILE many people have successfully lost weight using glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs), it is becoming increasingly clear that many will also regain weight after stopping them.

However, according to a new study published in *eClinicalMedicine* today, they may not regain all the weight that was lost.

The team reviewed studies involving more than 3,200 participants who were taking the medicines, and found that one year after stopping them, people had regained an average of 60% of the weight they lost.

After that, people's regained weight tended to plateau at around 75% of what they had lost - so they were still down around 25% from their starting weight.

"GLP-1RA cessation is associated with a predictable and decelerating pattern of weight

regain, which appears to plateau below pre-treatment levels, suggesting that partial weight-loss benefit may persist long-term but is substantially attenuated," the researchers said.

"Current evidence suggests that adopting an individualised dose-tapering approach can limit weight regain, but more research is needed to develop strategies for reliable long-term weight management after GLP-1RA cessation," they concluded.

Read the research [HERE](#). KB



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Editor's Choice: Amelia Bio's new products to support vaginal health

AUSTRALIAN brand Amelia Bio offers a range of products to support vaginal healthcare, developed with support from the University of New South Wales, and The George Institute for Global Health and Medical Health.

Launched by Catherine Slowgrove in 2024 after years of painful, recurring vaginal infections, the range includes products designed specifically for the vaginal microbiome.

The brand launched with V-Spot (RRP \$69.95), claimed to be Australia's first and only TGA-approved pessary probiotic, and sold out within months of release.

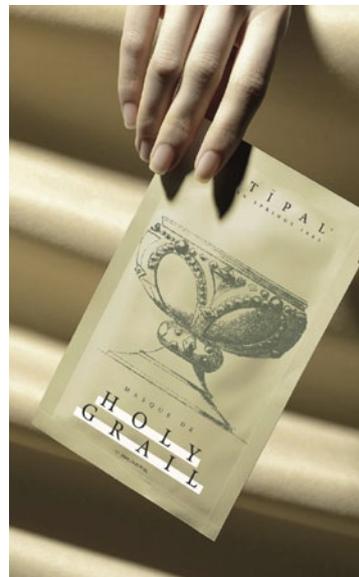
Now Amelia Biome has launched an intimate moisturiser, V-soothe cream (RRP \$29.95), designed



to soothe dry intimate skin and formulated with resveratrol, allantoin and sea buckthorn oil. Also new to the range is B-clear

Boric Acid Cream (RRP \$29.95), used to gently clarify the skin with ingredients such as 3% boric acid and lactic acid.

Skincare to the stars



AUSTRALIAN luxury skincare brand Cotipal offers a range of face masks designed to rejuvenate and restore the skin.

Formulated with brown algae from Tasmania and patented red algae from the Baltic Sea, known for their regenerative properties, Cotipal aims to restore the skin's elasticity and stability.

Meanwhile, the brand's patented Cotithys technology boosts ingredient penetration, and each mask uses SyncWrap film cloth, an ultra-light breathable fabric that acts like a second skin and enhances absorption.

The brand is also used by several Hollywood celebrities and skincare aficionados, including Dr Joseph Hkeik, skincare specialist for Miranda Kerr and Kate Moss, and facialist Lacey Lopez, with clients including Nicky Hilton and Olivia Palermo.

Eyes on new cream

ELIZABETH Arden Retinol + HPR Ceramide Rapid Skin Renewing Eye Cream (RRP \$125) aims to target the appearance of crow's feet, dark circles and puffiness.

The product features high performance retinol, a powerful yet gentle ingredient ideal for the delicate eye area, and niacinamide, which brightens the skin.



Klorane hair serum creates instant gloss & shine

KLORANE has released this week a new serum developed as the final step of a haircare routine, adding gloss and shine.

The new Klorane Shine & Hydration Quenching Hair Serum with Prickly Pear & Hyaluronic Acid (RRP \$22) provides both shine and hydration, and is ideal for hair styling or touch-ups.

The product also provides optimal protection for hair against heat styling tools up to 200°C, and is ideal for dehydrated hair and all scalp types.

To use, apply one to two pumps to the lengths and ends of dry or damp hair - no need to rinse.

Use as often as needed as a touch-up or finishing treatment.

Available in pharmacies nationwide this week.



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Dispensary Corner

APPARENTLY the proliferation of drive-through pharmacies in the US is proving to be less than convenient for both customers and pharmacists.

Reddit users have complained about the bizarre encounters they have had while using the service, with one recently posting about how a woman approached the drive-through lane on foot and wedged herself between their car and the pharmacy wall.

"She didn't even acknowledge me or my vehicle or the fact that I could have hit her if I kept pulling up a few inches," the poster recounted.

"I hadn't even rolled down my window yet and was just aghast and confused.

"The tech working the window was just as confused as I was."

The oblivious woman then demanded the technician "get her some milk", to which he informed her that the drive-through service was a pharmacy.

"It was either her first day as a human or her first day using a drive-through, so she scowled and literally stomped away like a toddler," the poster wrote.

Another Reddit user weighed in and commented: "This right here is why when I was a pharmacy technician, I was SOOOOOOOO happy the pharmacy I worked at didn't have a drive-through."

A pharmacy worker in the comments recalled how one day after their pharmacy opened a drive-through, a pair of young women strolled up to the window to order a beverage.

UN rises to the challenge of ageism

THE first ever historic Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) meeting to protect the rights of older persons was held in Geneva in Feb, as global life expectancy increases with its challenges for health systems, economics and social structures.

The IGWG was created by the UN Human Rights Council in Apr 2025, and given the mandate to draft a legally binding UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

"It has taken older persons, with support from the not-so-old ones, over two decades of advocacy and efforts to reach this point where governments are convening to draft a legally binding possible treaty to age with rights," said Shobha Shukla, representing the Development Justice for Older Persons campaign.

"The process follows the recognition that existing international human rights treaties do not specifically address the human rights of older people, leaving them vulnerable to violations, particularly regarding access to care, social protection, and in humanitarian crises," Shukla explained.

The Convention is expected to protect the rights of older persons, recognise the valuable economic and social contributions older persons make and provide a comprehensive and coherent framework for a world free from ageism and age discrimination.

We are living in an age of ageing with a fast-growing number of older people.

Life expectancy has increased significantly in most settings over recent years, and by 2050, the population of persons above 60 years of age is projected to grow to 2.1 billion (nearly one fifth of the

total global population).

Longevity is one of humanity's greatest achievements, yet the promise of longer life is too often accompanied by persistent gaps in the protection of human rights.

Instead of celebrating older age, we fear it and ageism fuels this fear.

Ageism includes harmful norms, stereotypes, narratives and tropes against older persons.

It affects women more than men; less educated more than better educated.

Ageism directly impacts health-seeking behaviour of older people.

Research suggests that people with more negative views on ageing experience poorer health.

Attributing many diseases and disabilities to old age is largely ageism.

Features of our homes and outside environment (like safe and user-friendly access to utilities) are important contributory factors in maintaining health and independence as we age.

Health promotion must include disease prevention (both non-communicable diseases and communicable or infectious diseases) in every age group, and not just the elderly.

Many age-related diseases and disabilities are often preventable, or their severity can be reduced, if healthy living and active ageing is promoted for every age.

For many older people, these challenges are compounded by intersecting forms of stigma as well as intersectional discrimination, including on the basis of gender, disability, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Older people want to lead a meaningful life and require support mechanisms, including social and financial security, to continue to



function positively.

They need affordable and comfortable public transport, safe spaces for physical activities and easily accessible healthcare, Shukla pointed out.

"We need strong laws to stop all forms of harassment faced by the elderly and make commuting, workspaces, working hours, nature of work, health services, social security support systems, friendly for them if governments truly walk the talk on active ageing and against ageism," she added.

The establishment of the IGWG by the UN Human Rights Council represents a decisive step forward.

Its first session has opened a new chapter in a collective effort to address the conceptual and normative gaps in the international human rights framework as it relates to older people.

However, as the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, has rightly remarked, "A legally binding instrument will not, by itself, resolve all the challenges older persons face.

"Its effectiveness will depend on political will, adequate resources, strong institutions, and sustained societal transformation."

This article was contributed by Bobby Ramakant, editor at Citizen News Service.



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