

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of the latest news plus a full page from Willach.

## US looking up for MedAdvisor

**MEDICATION** management company, MedAdvisor, has upgraded its revenue forecast for its US business following its acquisition of Adheris last month (*PD* 19 Nov).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, MedAdvisor CEO, Robert Read, said Adheris had already surpassed the company's initial forecast for the six months to 31 Dec, with one month to go.

The company now expects Adheris's half-year revenue to exceed US\$15.8 million, 15% higher than originally forecast.



## Expand Vic vaccination role: PSA

**TRAINED** pharmacist immunisers in Victoria should be empowered to administer the full range of vaccines they are training to provide, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Victorian Branch President, John Jackson, believes.

In the organisation's pre State Budget submission, Jackson said it was crucial for pharmacists who have undergone vaccination training to be able to administer all routine vaccines, including for pneumococcal, varicella zoster, influenza type B and COVID-19 vaccines.

The PSA said boosting the range of vaccines available through pharmacies would help increase uptake and slow the spread of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

"As trained pharmacist immunisers already have the skills and infrastructure to provide this service, this proposal could be implemented through simple amendments to the Victorian pharmacist administered vaccination guidelines," he said.

"Increased access to vaccinations by more Victorians will reduce disease burden associated with vaccine-preventable diseases,

reduce wait time for patients and increase access in rural and remote areas.

"Pharmacists have been immunising in Victoria since Jun 2016 and have demonstrated that they have the skills and competence necessary to do so."

Jackson called on the Victorian Government to invest in pharmacy services to reduce medicine-related harm, including \$2.7 million a year to employ pharmacists in state-run residential aged care facilities, and \$7 million to boost medicines safety in hospitals.

"Our recent Medicine Safety: Aged Care report showed 98 per cent of residents in aged-care facilities have at least one medicine related problem and 80% are prescribed potentially inappropriate medicines," he said.

"Having pharmacists embedded in RACF will see the reduction in hospitalisations from medicine-related adverse events and the reduction in the use of psychotropic medicines and chemical restraints improving the quality of life for residents.

"We also call on the government to allocate \$7 million to provide seven-day, extended hours



clinical pharmacist services in public hospitals which will reduce medicine misadventure associated with transitions of care.

"People with complex medical problems are admitted at all times of day and all days of the week and it is not acceptable that a patient admitted to hospital on a Sat evening for example will not receive timely pharmacist review as they would if admitted on a Tue morning."

Echoing the views of Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone (*PD* 01 Dec), Jackson also used the pre-budget submission to call on the Andrews Government to establish the role of a Victorian Chief Pharmacist.

## SR Pharmacy Business Sales

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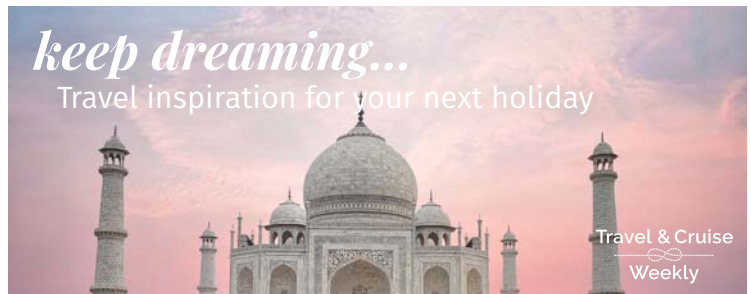
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## Pharmacist guilty of in-store rape

**SYDNEY-BASED** pharmacist, Hany Samir Ibrahim, is set to face a sentencing hearing in Mar 2021 after pleading guilty to a charge of sexual intercourse without consent with a patient in a Mascot pharmacy's consultation room.

Ibrahim had initially denied three charges relating to an incident involving a 19-year-old woman who had come into the pharmacy seeking emergency contraception on 01 Jul 2019.

However, Ibrahim pleaded guilty to the charge of sexual intercourse without consent at a NSW District Court hearing in Sep, the *Daily Telegraph* reported today.

The 47-year-old's registration was initially suspended by the Pharmacy Council of NSW, before a NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) granted him permission to resume his career last Dec (**PD** 16 Dec 2019) on a number of strict conditions, including that he not interact with patients, be employed as a



pharmacist-in-charge, or work alone in a pharmacy.

That decision was subsequently overturned by the NSW Supreme Court earlier this year (**PD** 10 Jun), on the grounds that the Tribunal had erred in its application of Section 150 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009, ordering that the decision to impose conditions rather than a suspension be set aside and "the proceedings

are remitted to NCAT, differently constituted, to be determined according to law".

Affidavits from four colleagues presented to the NCAT hearing all attested that the allegations made against him were "completely out of character", and they were all confident he could continue to be employed at the pharmacy in a restricted role which did not involve private consultations.

## Aussies on FIP subcommittee

**FOUR** Australians will sit on the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Young Pharmacists Group (YPG) Subcommittee in 2021.

University of South Australia School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Research Supervisor, Dr Renly Lim, will be President of the YPG Subcommittee.

SA Pharmacy Clinical Pharmacist, Deanna Mill, has been named on the group's Hospital Pharmacy Section liaison, while NSW pharmacist, Sarah Dineen-Griffin has been re-elected as YPG Community Pharmacy Section liaison.

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services Operations Information Officer, Benjamin Wong, has been appointed as the YPG's mentorship program coordinator.

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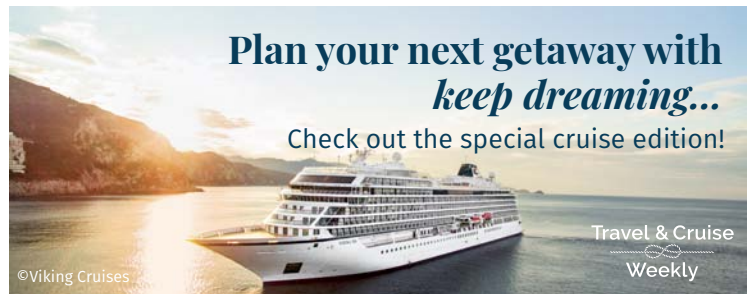
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References 1. In vitro temperature comparison of cryogenic wart treatment devices 2016. 2. AU Market Survey Home Cryogenic Wart Treatments IRI data MAT dollar sales 03 May 2020.  
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## Dispensary Corner

**CLOSING** borders has been a vital part of Australia's strategy to tackle the threat of COVID-19, but the move has created a level of unease amongst children wondering if Santa Claus would be forced to quarantine before delivering a healthy haul of presents.

Thankfully, Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and NSW Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, have confirmed that the North Pole native and "any elves required to assist with delivery of presents" have been granted an exemption to drop by on his night-long whistle-stop tour of the world.

"Santa gets to move wherever he likes, and certainly at Christmas," Morrison said.

"If there's one exemption I don't think there'd be any disagreement about (this is it)."

NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, said, "based on the best health advice, there is no risk of catching coronavirus from Santa".

However, officials have been unable to confirm whether Santa's reindeer will be exempted from mandatory animal quarantine requirements.



## Mo-grow success for PSS

A **CROSS-PUBLICATION** moustache growing campaign by *Pharmacy Daily* Editor, Nick O'Donoghue, and *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* Editor, Chris Brooker, has helped raise \$2,590 for the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) in Nov.

PSS Executive Officer, Kay Dunkley, thanked donors who got behind the #MoFoes, who provided regular updates on their facial follicle growth throughout the month.

"These donations make a big difference to PSS as during 2020 we have supported many more members of the pharmacy profession during the stressful times resulting from widespread bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

"We are pharmacists supporting pharmacists and these donations from the profession are a further example of pharmacists supporting each other."

PSS President, John Coppock, thanked the two editorial rivals for putting their "vanity aside" to

support the PSS.

"This takes great courage as they put up with facial itching, spousal complaints and a fair bit of ribbing from colleagues and friends as they shared photos of their moustaches in their respective publications and on social media during the month," he said.

Adding a level of friendly competition to the campaign, Brooker and O'Donoghue urged sponsors to show their support for their favourite (or preferred) mo by leaving a message #MoFoePD or #MoFoeAJP when making a donation, with O'Donoghue's effort taking the popular vote, while Brooker's received the lion's share of donations.

PSS is available to all pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students on 1300 244 910 every day of the year from 8am to 11pm AEDT, with phones manned by volunteers who are pharmacists or retired pharmacists who have been trained to provide support.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is



**Christine Timms, Network Partner at TerryWhite Chemmart Prospect Vale, TAS.**

### Tips to embracing eScripts

**THE** rapid launch into new technologies can be daunting. With eScripts now actively rolling out, here are a few tips to help embrace what is a very useful tool for both our health network and patients.

1. Use your resources. Information is available at the Australian Digital Health Agency, Primary Health Networks, the Guild and your pharmacy brand. At TWC, we have been at the forefront of this change with many online training programs and guidelines available in the lead up to launch.
2. Check your hardware and software. ePrescribing capability needs to be activated on your system and you should have a comprehensive user guide including minimum hardware specifications. You may also need to upgrade your scanners.
3. Consider your workflow. How are you going to manage eScripts with paper scripts? Look at prescription queuing in your dispensing software or print tokens to add to your physical script queue.
4. Work closely with prescribers. Let them know you're eScript ready! ATTWC we provide a wealth of marketing and communication resources to help better engage with our GP network and our broad customer base.
5. Guide your patients. Many will be bewildered so take the time to explain the process and encourage them to sign up to a prescription app if you have one. These apps makes it much easier for them to see what prescriptions they have available.

And finally, embrace the change! Change is inevitable in this digital world and not to be feared.

## Win with Plunkett's

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