



Biotech Daily

Thursday July 2, 2009

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH EVEN: CLINUVEL UP 14%, CATHRX DOWN 11%**
- * **BIONOMICS US PHASE II TRIAL OF BNC105 FOR RENAL CELL CANCER**
- * **'JILTED' POLARTECHNICS TAKES 22% OF FERMISCAN**
- * **CORRECTION: PROGEN**
- * **LIVING CELL OPENS CLINICAL TRIAL PIG BREEDING FACILITY**
- * **ACORN QUILTS NEUREN**
- * **ACORN REDUCES IN CYTOPIA**
- * **GREG LEWIS REPLACES SHARON WINSALE AS ITL CO SEC**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.09 percent on Thursday July 2, 2009 with the S&P ASX 200 up 3.3 points to 3,877.3 points.

Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 11 traded unchanged and five were untraded.

Clinuvel was best, up four cents or 14.3 percent to 32 cents with 323,734 shares traded, followed by Novogen up 11.5 percent to 58 cents.

Sunshine Heart climbed six percent; Biota was up 5.1 percent; Starpharma was up 3.1 percent; Cochlear and Viralytics were up more than two percent; Alchemia, Impedimed, Nanosonics and Pharmaxis were up more than one percent; with Circadian and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Cathrx led the falls, down five cents or 11.1 percent to 40 cents with 70,912 shares traded, followed by Benitec down 10.7 percent to 2.5 cents.

Genera lost 5.7 percent; Optiscan fell 4.65 percent; Compumedics and Phosphagenics were down more than three percent; Living Cell shed 2.9 percent; Mesoblast and Progen were down more than one percent; with Acrux, Cellestis, CSL, Heartware and Resmed down by less than one percent.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics has selected a trial dose for its vascular disrupting agent BNC105 for solid tumors and will conduct a US-based phase II trial in renal cell carcinoma.

Bionomics said the dose of 12.6 mg/m² had been selected for the renal cell carcinoma trial which will be conducted by the Indianapolis-based Hoosier Oncology Group.

The company said a phase I clinical trial of BNC105 was conducted in patients with advanced cancers at four Melbourne hospitals to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of BNC105 in cancer patients and identify a dose level for clinical trials. Bionomics chief executive officer Dr Deborah Rathjen said the 12.6 mg/m² dose level was “well-tolerated by patients and rapidly achieved plasma drug levels required for [vascular disrupting agent] activity after a single intravenous dose”.

“In the phase I trial, it was very encouraging to see a patient suffering from renal cell cancer who was treated at the 12.6 mg/m² dose level had stable disease for nine weeks and we hope to further demonstrate efficacy in the phase II trial,” Dr Rathjen said.

Bionomics said the Hoosier Oncology Group was a working association of more than 400 dedicated community and research centre physicians and clinical research practitioners across the US which has conducted clinical cancer trials since its creation in 1984.

Hoosier executive director Quake Pletcher said the Group had “consulted with a number of leading genitourinary oncologists within its extensive network and there is a sense of excitement about the use of this agent for treating renal cancer”.

Bionomics said renal cancer accounted for two to three percent of human malignancies and 85 percent of kidney cancers.

Every year, about 200,000 cases are diagnosed worldwide, with 55,000 people diagnosed in the US.

The five year survival rate for patients with metastatic disease was less than two percent and kidney cancer was asymptomatic, with 40 percent of cases diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Dr Rathjen said the Hoosier Oncology group provided the clinical reach “to recruit suitable patients within a reasonable timeframe and the expertise to manage the type of multicentre trial that will be required”.

The company said additional phase II studies of BNC105 in other cancers were under consideration.

Bionomics was unchanged at 22 cents with 2,788,518 shares traded.

FERMISCAN, POLARTECHNICS

Despite Fermiscan directors rejecting the takeover, Polartechnics has increased its substantial holding from 30,222,510 shares (21.06%) to 32,232,221 shares (22.46%).

About half of the increase in acceptances of Polartechnics offer came after Fermiscan directors released their target statement including the Lonergan Edwards independent report critical of both companies' finances (BD: Jun 29, 2009).

The once-friendly merger was conditional on Polartechnics acquiring 90 percent of Fermiscan.

The offer remains open.

Fermiscan was up 0.2 cents or 2.04 percent to 10 cents.

Polartechnics was unchanged at 7.1 cents.

CORRECTION: PROGEN

In relation to the appointment of Dr John Chiplin as a director of Progen, last night's edition incorrectly cited Arana's previous name as Peplin when it should have said Peptech.

The sub-editor admitted confusion and was summarily dismissed. An undisclosed but appropriate level of corporal punishment was administered.

Progen fell one cent or 1.18 percent to 84 cents.

LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Living Cell says the Mayor of Invercargill Tim Shadbolt has opened its designated pathogen-free pig breeding facility in Invercargill, Southland, New Zealand.

Living Cell said the facility was designed to meet health regulations for pig herds used as a source of medical grade tissues.

The company said the state-of-the-art unit was expected to be commissioned and the pigs transferred in the next few weeks.

Living Cell's founder and medical director Prof Bob Elliott said the pigs originated from the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands and were disease free.

"The new unit ensures that they remain free of viruses, bacteria and parasites," Prof Elliott said.

New Zealand has approved Living Cell's xenotransplant clinical trial of encapsulated porcine islets of Langerhans for type 1 diabetes (BD: Jun 24, 2009).

Living Cell fell 0.5 cents or 2.86 percent to 17 cents.

NEUREN

Acorn Capital has ceased its substantial shareholding in Neuren, selling 12,800,000 shares for \$736,000 or 5.75 cents a share.

Neuren fell 1.6 cents or 30.2 percent to 3.7 cents with 21.7 million shares traded.

CYTOPIA

Acorn Capital has reduced its substantial shareholding in Cytopia from 10,753,120 shares (12.71%) to 5,489,212 shares (6.48%)

The 5,263,908 shares were sold for \$396,825.58 or 7.538 cents a share.

Cytopia was unchanged at 7.3 cents.

ITL LTD

Medical device and equipment company ITL Limited says Sharon Winsale has resigned as company secretary and will be replaced by Greg Lewis.

ITL was up 0.2 cents or 2.5 percent to 8.1 cents.