



Biotech Daily

Tuesday March 8, 2011

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: COMPUMEDICS UP 8%; ANTISENSE DOWN 11%**
- * **IMMURON RESEARCH SHOWS EFFICACY AGAINST MANY HIV STRAINS**
- * **EASTLAND SHARE PLAN TO RAISE UP TO \$1.5m**
- * **COMPUMEDICS' \$500k CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL EEG CONTRACT**
- * **ATCOR SIGNS \$600k SUPPLY CONTRACT**
- * **NHMRC ANNOUNCES FOUR MORE \$4m AUSTRALIA FELLOWSHIPS**
- * **AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL TAKES 7.4% OF ATCOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.21 percent on Tuesday March 8, 2011 with the S&P ASX 200 up 10.3 points to 4808.2 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, 11 traded unchanged and five were untraded.

Compumedics was best, up one cent or eight percent to 13.5 cents, with 13,000 shares traded.

Prima climbed 6.7 percent; QRX was up five percent; Genetic Technologies and Phosphagenics were up more than four percent; Chemgenex, Living Cell and Viralytics rose more than two percent; with Biota and Mesoblast up more than one percent.

Antisense led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 11.1 percent to 0.8 cents, with 22.3 million shares traded, followed by Prana down 6.45 percent to 14.5 cents with 76,400 shares traded.

Optiscan lost 5.2 percent; Benitec and Virax were down more than three percent; Sirtex shed 2.7 percent; with Bionomics, Circadian, CSL, Nanosonics, Starpharma and Tissue Therapies down more than one percent.

IMMURON

Immuron says its bovine colostrum polyclonal antibody prepared against the HIV-1 glycoprotein 140 has powerful and broad neutralizing efficacy against many strains of HIV. Immuron said the laboratory data, presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections held in Boston last week, were "important new findings that partly explain the remarkably broad neutralization efficacy of Immuron's antibodies".

The poster entitled 'HIV-1 Hyperimmune Bovine Colostrum Antibodies Have Broad Binding and Neutralization Activity Against Envelopes of Different Clades of HIV-1' and was presented on March 1, 2011 and concluded the "vaccination with native structured HIV-1 [envelope glycoprotein] 140 oligomers yields high concentrations of colostrum-derived polyclonal bovine antibodies with broad cross-clade binding and neutralizing activity against HIV-1".

"HIV-1 hyperimmune colostrum purified antibodies are being further evaluated for their safe and effective use in microbicides," the abstract concluded.

An abstract is at <http://www.retroconference.org/2011/Abstracts/41538.htm>.

The company said the research showed the antibodies bound and neutralized a significant number of strains of HIV infections tested.

Immuron said a large proportion of the antibodies specifically bind to the CD4 binding site of the outer envelope spike used by all HIV viruses to bind and enter target lymphocytes. The company said the HIV virus CD4 binding site was the portion of the HIV virus that attaches to a host's white blood cells, thereby enabling the HIV virus to enter a host's white blood cells.

By specifically binding to that site, Immuron's antibodies prevent the HIV virus from binding to the host's white blood cells, the company said.

Immuron said the site, unlike most HIV antigens, was preserved across all HIV strains and therefore was an important target for protection against HIV infection.

The company said the work was performed in collaboration with Dr Damian Purcell's team at University of Melbourne.

Immuron said its antibodies were made for the first time with the Purcell novel vaccine antigen against the HIV glycoprotein 140.

Dr Purcell said the ability "to economically produce large quantities of bovine antibody that potentially neutralize the HIV swarm opens the possibility of preventing HIV infection in high risk individuals".

Immuron said the concept of this early stage research was to develop a safe and effective microbicide for prevention of transmission of HIV during intercourse and the Melbourne laboratory tests "showed excellent activity from these antibodies".

The company said its next phase of development was likely to include animal models of prevention of HIV transmission.

Immuron fell 0.1 cents or 1.4 percent to seven cents.

EASTLAND MEDICAL SYSTEMS

Eastland hopes to raise up to \$1,500,000 through the issue of up to 50,000,000 shares at three cents each.

Eastland said shareholders eligible at the record date of March 14, 2011 would be able to apply for parcels of shares up to \$15,000.

Eastland said the share plan would open on March 14 and close on March 28, 2011.

Eastland fell 0.6 cents or 17.1 percent to 2.9 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

COMPUMEDICS

Compumedics says it will supply \$500,000 in electro-encephalograph equipment for the Neuroscience Centre at Melbourne's new Royal Children's Hospital.

Compumedics said that when it opened late in 2011 the Hospital's pediatric epilepsy and electro-encephalograph (EEG) facility would be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The company said the contract included its Neuvo LTM (long-term monitoring) EEG, GraeL-HD and Siesta-802 wireless systems, with the EEG systems used for routine clinical and surgical monitoring.

Compumedics said the purchase was "another major milestone" in its entry into the global \$250 million long-term monitoring and neurophysiology market.

The company said the Neuvo-LTM EEG systems could record 64 individual channels of high-density EEG data on a single patient for days or weeks at a time.

Compumedics said the GraeL-HD system provided high-definition EEG signals and the Siesta-802 was "the industry's most compact wireless EEG recording device".

Compumedics said its digital amplifier technology and breadth of EEG diagnostic products were "superior to all other competitors" providing higher quality brain recordings and more precise brain analysis, improving patient outcomes.

The company said the Royal Children's Hospital was one of the world's great children's hospitals, internationally recognized as a leading centre of paediatric treatment, teaching and research.

Compumedics said it had made significant investments in product development, targeting the neuro-diagnostics market, to leverage its expertise in high-end amplifier design and physiologic signal processing.

Chairman Dr David Burton said the contract "further underpins our strategy to grow our business across this important but relatively new market sector for Compumedics".

Compumedics was up one cent or eight percent to 13.5 cents.

ATCOR MEDICAL

Atcor says it has signed a \$US600,000 agreement to supply SphygmoCor systems and clinical trial support services to an unnamed pharmaceutical company.

Atcor chief executive officer Duncan Ross said the company had "converted another contract due to the strength of both Sphygmocor [non-invasive central blood pressure measure] technology and the clinical trial applications and data management services in pharmaceutical trials".

"We are especially pleased that the assessment of central pressures and arterial stiffness continues to grow beyond hypertension therapies, such as this study, and across disease states as drug companies endeavor to fully characterize the clinical benefits of new and existing drug therapies," Mr Ross said.

"Over the past five years there has been mounting evidence of both positive and detrimental effects on central pressures and arterial stiffness in a number of drug classes which has captured the attention of both regulators and the pharmaceutical industry," Mr Ross said.

Atcor said additional pharmaceutical contracts were being negotiated and were expected to close during the current fiscal year.

Atcor was unchanged at 10 cents.

[NATIONAL HEALTH MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL](#)

Researchers from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have been awarded \$4 million Australia Fellowships by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Fellowships were announced on March 4, 2011 by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

A media release from the National Health and Medical Research Council said the Australia Fellowships were awarded to “outstanding health and medical researchers, who have leading international status in their field”.

Biotech Daily previously announced the awards of \$4 million each to Victoria's Mental Health and Research Institute's Prof Ashley Bush and the University of Queensland's Prof John Quackenbush (BD: Mar 4, 2011).

The NHMRC said today that four more \$4 million awards went to Queensland Institute of Medical Research's Professor Geoffrey Hill for leukaemia research; the University of Sydney's Prof Edward Holmes for work on emerging infectious diseases; Monash University's Prof Jamie Rossjohn for research into immunology and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute's Prof Jane Visvader for work on cancer

[ATCOR MEDICAL](#)

Australian Ethical Smaller Companies Trust has increased its substantial shareholding in Atcor from 8,595,902 shares (6.41%) to 9,955,193 shares (7.42%).

Australian Ethical said the 1,359,291 shares were bought for \$135,608 or 10 cents a share.