

Biotech Daily

Friday April 29, 2011

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: CATHRX UP 11%; USCOM DOWN 18%
- * EASTLAND TREATS FIRST 50 PHASE III PAEDIATRIC MALARIA PATIENTS
- * RESMED'S 65th RECORD QUARTER REVENUE, PROFIT
- * TGA BROADENS CRYOSITE'S CORD BLOOD USE
- * CEPHALON TAKES 44% OF CHEMGENEX
- * MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTS 2011 PROFIT UP 53%
- * CYCLOPHARM APPOINTS CVC'S SANDY BEARD DIRECTOR
- * BIO-MELBOURNE BREAKFASTS ON SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell one percent on Friday April 29, 2011 with the S&P ASX 200 down 49.8 points to 4823.2 points.

Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, 13 traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps were down.

Cathrx was best, up two cents or 11.1 percent to 20 cents with 303,855 shares traded, followed by Patrys up one cent or 7.1 percent to 15 cents with 623,700 shares traded.

Viralytics climbed 5.8 percent; Genera was up four percent; Heartware was up 3.2 percent; with Clinuvel up 1.3 percent.

Uscom led the falls, down 5.5 cents or 18.0 percent to 25 cents with 7,000 shares traded, followed by LBT down 9.5 percent to 5.7 cents with 195,000 shares traded.

Antisense and Living Cell lost eight percent or more; Circadian and Sunshine Heart were down more than five percent; Starpharma fell 4.55 percent; Resmed and Virax were down more than three percent; Alchemia, CSL and Prana shed more than two percent; with Bionomics, Cochlear, Mesoblast, Pharmaxis, Prima, QRX and Tissue Therapies down one percent or more.

EASTLAND MEDICAL SYSTEMS

Eastland says it has treated 50 Rwandan patients in its phase III trial of sub-lingual Artimist against intravenous quinine and is recruiting in other countries Eastland said the trial was a randomized, open-label, active-controlled, multi-centre, superiority trial of Artimist against intravenous quinine in children with severe or complicated falciparum malaria or uncomplicated falciparum malaria with gastrointestinal complications.

The company said recruitment in Rwanda had been completed and the "Initial analysis of raw data is very encouraging".

Eastland said the clinical site in Burkina Faso had been initiated and recruitment begun, with approvals progressing in Tanzania and the site expected to be operational by July 2011.

The company said regulatory officials in Ghana had requested further information and there was political instability in Uganda.

Eastland said the malaria season was dependent on factors including rainfall, humidity and temperature, which could change on a year-to-year basis, but in all cases except Burkina Faso malaria was virtually a perennial problem.

Eastland fell 0.1 cents or 3.1 percent to 3.1 cents with 3.7 million shares traded.

RESMED

Resmed has posted record revenue of \$US313,258,000 up 12 percent and profit after tax up nine percent to \$US53,350,000 for the three months to March 31, 2010.

Resmed said it was the 65th consecutive quarter of record revenue and profit.

The company said diluted earnings per share was 34 US cents for the three months, a 10 percent increase over the three months to March 31, 2010.

Resmed said research and development expenditure for the quarter was \$US23,319,000 million, or 7.4 percent of revenue.

Resmed fell 11 cents or 3.6 percent to \$2.95 with 9.6 million shares traded.

CRYOSITE

Cryosite says the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration has expanded its licence to allow cord blood to potentially treat other family members.

Cryosite said the TGA addition to its existing licence of the processing, storage and release for supply of directed allogenic haematopoietic progenitor cord blood cells would allow "in certain circumstances, the cord blood collected and stored from one member of the family to be released to potentially treat approved uses of other compatible family members".

The company said it would update the market on the roll0out of the enhanced service. Cryosite was untraded at 8.5 cents.

MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL

Medical Developments says that further to its net profit after tax of \$804,000 for the six months to December 31, 2010, it expects full year profit to be up 59.3 percent.

The company said that it continued to have strong earnings growth in the second half of the 2010-'11 year and expected net profit after tax for the 12 months to June 30, 2011 to be "at least \$1.4 million compared with [the previous year's] \$879,000".

Medical Developments was untraded at 43 cents.

CHEMGENEX

Cephalon says its Chemgenex holding has increased from 133,438,850 shares (42.58%) to 138,025,831 shares (44.05%).

Cephalon has commitments from major shareholders for 62.61 percent of the company (BD: Apr 31, 2011) but at the time of publication, holders of at least 18 percent of Chemgenex had not filed their paperwork, despite efforts to expedite the process. According to the ASX, GBS Venture Partners held 7.74 percent of Chemgenex at September 13, 2010 and Orbis Investment Management held 13.99 percent. Chemgenex was up half a cent or 0.8 percent to 66.5 cents.

CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says it has appointed CVC chief executive officer Alexander (Sandy) Beard as a non-executive director, effective from today.

CVC's website said Mr Beard joined the Sydney-based venture capital firm in 1991 as group financial controller and had been the chief executive officer since 2000.

CVC said Mr Beard was a director of Amadeus, Cellnet, Mnet and GEO Property Group as well as private companies.

CVC said Mr Beard held a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of New South Wales.

Cyclopharm was unchanged at five cents.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network says its May 3, 2011 Bio-Breakfast will discuss "the next revolution in biotechnology, systems biology".

Bio-Melbourne Network chief executive officer Michelle Gallaher said convergence between scientific disciplines would "yield critical advances in biomedical research and life sciences".

"It involves capitalizing on a range of knowledge bases from molecular biology to computer science and engineering," Ms Gallaher said.

"Systems biology brings these elements together to improve decision making along the drug discovery and development paths," Ms Gallaher said.

The Network said that the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute's head of the division of personalized medicine and systems biology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Prof Liam O'Connor would why and how systems biology was important for drug discovery and development and its use in improving decision making.

The Network said Prof O'Connor would discuss how Systems Biology was being used by pharmaceutical companies to reduce the number of drug candidates and improve selection of patients for clinical trials.

The Network said Prof O'Connor would discuss the challenges for systems biology and what Australia should be doing to be competitive.

The May 3 Bio-Breakfast will be held at Cinema 1, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square, Melbourne.

Registration is from 7:15am with the presentation from 8am.

To register, go to http://www.biomelbourne.org/events/view/181.