



# Biotech Daily

Tuesday December 6, 2011

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PRANA UP 7%, ALLIED HEALTH DOWN 12.5%**
- \* **COMMERCIALISATION AUSTRALIA EASES FUNDING RULES**
- \* **CYCLOPHARM RIGHTS ISSUE RAISES \$2.1m**
- \* **WILSON HTM REDUCES 1.6% IN AVITA**
- \* **BIOGRID: PICCHI \$80k FELLOWSHIP FOR RARE CANCERS**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.48 percent on Tuesday December 6, 2011 with the S&P ASX 200 down 64.1 points to 4,257.2 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, six traded unchanged and seven were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Prana was the best, up one cent or 7.1 percent to 15 cents with 317,000 shares traded.

Avita and QRX climbed five percent or more; Impedimed was up 4.9 percent; Living Cell and Phosphagenics were up more than three percent; Alchemia was up 1.75 percent; with Mesoblast, Nanosonics and Sirtex up more than one percent.

Allied Health led the falls, down 0.6 cents or 12.5 percent to 4.2 cents, with three million shares traded, followed by Cellmid down 0.2 cents or 11.8 percent to 1.5 cents with 1.8 million shares traded.

Neuren lost 8.3 percent; Benitec, Circadian and Prima were down more than five percent; Bionomics, Heartware and Universal Biosensors fell more than four percent; Acrux, Anteo, Tissue Therapies and Viralytics were down more than three percent; Biota, Clinuvel, Cochlear and Psivida shed more than two percent; Resmed and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with CSL down by 0.9 percent.

## COMMERCIALISATION AUSTRALIA

Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr says that from tomorrow, December 7, 2011, early stage commercialization grants will not have to be repaid.

In a media release Senator Carr said the Commercialisation Australia grants for businesses developing new products, processes, or services would be available to more businesses, with the annual turnover limit for applicants raised from \$20 million to \$50 million.

Commercialisation Australia chief executive officer Doron Ben-Meir told Biotech Daily that the minimum for an early stage commercialization grant had been reduced from \$250,000 to \$50,000 "introducing more flexibility to adapt for businesses wanting smaller amounts that may not fit proof-of-concept or experienced executive criteria".

Mr Ben-Meir said the other Commercialization Australia grants for skills and knowledge, experienced executive and proof of concept were not repayable.

Senator Carr said the maximum grant available for an experienced executive grant would be raised from \$200,000 over two years to \$350,000 over two years, matched by the applicant company.

Senator Carr said the changes would give Australian inventions a better chance of flourishing in the market place.

"Australia is a creative and vibrant nation, but too many of our inventions never see the light of day. We want to turn that around," Senator Carr said.

"Commercialisation Australia has a strong track record in supporting Australian businesses to bring innovative products to market," Senator Carr said.

"These important changes will ensure it continues to address a growing need and deliver crucial practical assistance in these tough economic times."

"I am also pleased to announce that from early 2012 we will introduce more improvements to support innovation in the manufacturing sector," Senator Carr said.

Senator Carr's media release said the eligible expenditure guidelines for early stage commercialization grants would be amended to provide broader support for the development of pilot manufacturing plants and innovative manufacturing facilities.

## CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says it has completed its fully-underwritten \$2.1 million rights issue.

Cyclopharm said that at the closing date, it had received subscriptions for 31,724,692 shares and the shortfall of 20,842,110 shares will be taken up by the underwriter CVC Managers.

Cyclopharm was untraded at 3.8 cents.

## AVITA MEDICAL

Wilson HTM Investment Group has reduced its substantial holding in Avita from 16,959,950 shares (7.12%) to 13,241,000 shares (5.56%).

Wilson HTM said that between October 5, 2011 and December 2, 2011, "individually managed accounts" sold the 3,718,950 shares for \$388,711 or an average price of 10.45 cents a share.

Avita was up half a cent or five percent to 10.5 cents

## [BIOGRID AUSTRALIA](#)

Biogrid says the Picchi Brothers Foundation has provided an \$80,000 fellowship to support work into rare and uncommon cancers.

Biogrid said it had appointed Dr Susie Bae as the inaugural research fellow to work with the Centre of Analysis of Rare Tumours, the world's first online rare tumor database launched in 2010 and available at [www.cart-wheel.org](http://www.cart-wheel.org).

Biogrid's website [www.biogrid.org.au](http://www.biogrid.org.au) says that it is "a secure research platform and infrastructure that provides access to real-time clinical, imaging and biospecimen data across jurisdictions, institutions and diseases".

Biogrid said Dr Bae was a medical oncology fellow, who would work on promoting Cart-Wheel to consumers across the world who were "all too often ignored when it comes to research funding and attention".

Picchi Brothers executive Joseph Lukaitis said the philanthropic foundation was delighted to support the ongoing development of Cart-Wheel over the next two years.

"People with rare tumors receive less than five per cent of research funding despite the fact that over 500 different forms of rare tumors exist," Mr Lukaitis said.

"The establishment of Cart-Wheel is already addressing this major oversight in cancer research by putting consumers in touch with researchers and by collaborating with active cancer consumer groups such as Cancer Voices Australia," Mr Lukaitis said.

Biogrid principal investigator Prof Clare Scott said that providing Cart-Wheel for people with rare tumors who make up 20 percent of all cancers diagnosed and 30 percent of cancer deaths would begin to be realized with sponsorships such as this.

"At the moment there is limited basic research into rare tumors compounded by infrequent and often uninformative clinical trials of tailored pharmaceuticals to treat patients," Prof Scott said.

Biogrid said the Cart-Wheel website provided a new way of linking patients into the system of research and clinical trials, increasing the number of patients available for specialized research.

The organization said Cart-Wheel was also for patients with common tumors, such as bowel, lung, prostate and breast cancer, who may have some information about the genes underlying their cancer.

"The ultimate goal for Cart-Wheel is to gather enough entries over time to make clinical trials for different types of rare tumors a possibility," Prof Scott said.

"This would be only possible through international collaboration," she said.

Biogrid said it had developed the Cart-Wheel web portal using sophisticated infrastructure and Biogrid used a web of computers to anonymously combine patient information, enabling researchers to share information while protecting the privacy of patients and maintaining security with its proven track record of generating data for researchers.

Biogrid said Cart-Wheel had been funded through consumer grants from the Victorian Cancer Agency.