

Biotech Daily

Friday December 9, 2011

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

* ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ALLIED HEALTH UP 10%, OPTISCAN DOWN 24%

* HUNTSMAN JOINS VIRALYTICS' CAVATAK MELANOMA TRIAL

- * RESONANCE PROTECTS LIVER MRI, HEPAFAT SCAN MARK; SALES UP
- * M&G GROUP BUY 3m MORE MESOBLAST SHARES
- * NEUREN PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 48% QUERY
- * PATRYS EGM ON \$3.4m PLACEMENT, DIRECTORS' SHARES
- * SPINIFEX APPOINTS DR DECLAN DOOGAN CHAIRMAN
- * BRAIN RESOURCE APPOINTS DR GREGORY BAYER US CEO

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.82 percent on Friday December 9, 2011 with the S&P ASX 200 down 77.7 points to 4,203.0 points.

Six of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, 10 traded unchanged and seven were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Allied Health was the best, up 0.4 cents or 10.3 percent to 4.3 cents with 978,080 shares traded, followed by Avita up 10.0 percent to 11 cents with 124,893 shares traded.

Alchemia and Prima climbed more than three percent; with Bionomics and Starpharma up more than two percent.

Optiscan led the falls, down three cents or 24 percent to 9.5 cents, with 304,597 shares traded.

Patrys and QRX lost more than seven percent; Antisense fell 6.45 percent; Viralytics was down five percent; Circadian, Genetic Technologies and Reva fell more than four percent; Prana and Psivida were down more than three percent; Mesoblast shed 2.3 percent; with Acrux, Cochlear, Heartware. Impedimed and Living Cell down more than one percent.

VIRALYTICS

Viralytics says a further institutional review board approval for its US phase II Cavatak melanoma trial has led to the recruitment of patients at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Viralytics said the University of Utah-based Huntsman was "a significant US-based melanoma trial cancer center" and the team would be led by Dr Robert Andtbacka. The company said the Huntsman was a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer research facility and hospital.

Viralytics said the phase II trial will comprise up to 63 patients, with 54 evaluable and was a single arm intra-tumoral injection trial, injecting Cavatak or Coxsackievirus A21 into multiple tumors on up to 10 separate occasions over an 18-week period with a primary endpoint of immune-related progression-free survival at six months.

Viralytics fell two cents or five percent to 38 cents.

RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says it has lodged a provisional patent application for the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) measurement of fatty liver and registered the Hepafat Scan trademark. Resonance said it was preparing its submission to the US Food and Drug Administration for the Hepafat Scan and has begun discussions with interested parties on its potential use and licence.

The company said it had recorded substantial growth in the sales volumes of Ferriscan, for MRI-based measurement of liver iron overload in the current financial year. Resonance said that from July to November 2011 there has been a 30 percent month-on-month increase in the numbers of Ferriscans sold, over the same period in 2010. Resonance was up 0.2 cents or 15.4 percent to 1.5 cents with 1.85 million shares traded.

MESOBLAST

M&G Investment Funds have increased their substantial holding in Mesoblast from 28,156,967 shares (10.04%) to 30,984,977 shares (11.04%).

M&G said in its substantial shareholder notice that it bought and sold shares between September 14 and December 6, 2011 with a single sale of 250,000 shares for \$2,480,000 or \$9.92 a share and the most recent purchase of 300,000 shares for \$2,267,576 or \$7.56 a share.

Mesoblast fell 17 cents or 2.3 percent to \$7.34 with 479,215 shares traded .

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren has told the ASX that it is not aware of any information it has not announced which, if known, could explain recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said the company's share price rose from 2.3 cents on December 7, 2011 to 3.4 cents on December 9, 2011, a 47.8 percent increase and noted an increase in trading volume.

Neuren was unchanged at three cents with 87.3 million shares traded.

PATRYS

Patrys says shareholders will vote to approve resolutions relating to the recent \$3.4 million placement at three cents a share (BD: Dec 2, 2011).

Patrys said the resolutions were for the ratification of the prior placement of 37,000,000 shares; to issue 76,600,000 shares to sophisticated investors; the issue of 26,666,677 shares to director Michael Stork's Stork Capital; the issue of 1,666,667 shares to director John Read's Cannington Corp; the issue of 1,666,667 shares to chief executive officer Dr Marie Roskrow; and 325,000 shares to Dr Roskrow under the company's loan share plan. The meeting will be held at Arnold Bloch Leibler lawyers, Level 24, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney on January 11, 2012 at 11am (AEST).

Patrys fell 0.3 cents or 7.5 percent to 3.7 cents.

SPINIFEX PHARMACEUTICALS

Spinifex says it has appointed Dr Declan Doogan as its non-executive chairman. Spinifex said Dr Doogan had more than 30 years' experience in the pharmaceuticals industry including more than 20 years with Pfizer.

The company said Dr Doogan was the Chief Medical Officer of the Dublin, Ireland-based Amarin Corp and was the interim chief executive officer from 2009 to 2010.

Spinifex said that prior to joining Amarin in 2007 as head of research and development, Dr Doogan was Pfizer's head of research and development having held senior positions in Pfizer in the US, the UK and Japan, including leading the Zoloft clinical development program.

The company said that Dr Doogan held non-executive directorships including Japan's Sosei Corp.

Spinifex said Dr Doogan qualified as a his medical practitioner at Glasgow University in 1975 and was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Glasgow and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine in the UK.

Spinifex is a private company.

BRAIN RESOURCE

Brain Resource says it has appointed Dr Gregory Bayer as chief executive officer for its US operations, based in San Francisco.

Brain chairman and chief executive officer Dr Evian Gordon said Dr Bayer had implemented behavioral change programs in US healthcare for two decades.

The company said Dr Bayer previously served as chief executive officer of Optum Health Behavioural Solution, a subsidiary of United Health Group, leading a team responsible for managing behavioral health and employee assistance programs serving about 43 million members.

Dr Bayer holds a BA in psychology from Miami University in Ohio and a Ph D in counseling psychology from Ball State University in Indiana. Brain was untraded at 22.5 cents.