



Biotech Daily

Tuesday April 10, 2012

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: AVITA UP 7%, ELLEX DOWN 10%**
- * **DR REDDY'S APPLIES FOR ALCHEMIA FONDAPARINUX EU APPROVAL**
- * **MONASH, WEIZMANN TALK OBESITY**
- * **CBIO REVIEW: FILL THE XTOLL SCIENTIFIC, DEVELOPMENT GAPS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.64 percent on Tuesday April 10, 2012 with the S&P ASX 200 down 27.5 points to 4,292.3 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, six traded unchanged and six were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Avita was the best for the second trading day in a row, up 1.5 cents or 6.7 percent to 24 cents with 784,551 shares traded.

Genera, Phylogica and QRX rose two percent or more; Anteo, Genetic Technologies, Reva and Sirtex were up more than one percent; with Biota up 0.5 percent.

Ellex led the falls, down two cents or 10 percent to 18 cents, with 166,600 shares traded.

Alchemia and Cellmid lost more than six percent; Benitec and Prana were down more than five percent; Bionomics, Impedimed, Living Cell and Neuren fell more than four percent; Allied Health, CSL, Optiscan and Tissue Therapies were down more than three percent; Phosphagenics and Viralytics shed more than two percent; Cochlear, Mesoblast, Nanosonics and Resmed were down one percent or more; with Acrux, Pharmaxis and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

ALCHEMIA

Alchemia says its fondaparinux distribution partner Dr Reddy's Laboratories has made a regulatory submission for European marketing approval for generic fondaparinux.

Alchemia chief executive officer Dr Peter Smith said the filing "comes as expected, after the expiry of data exclusivity in Europe and is consistent with Dr Reddy's strategy for the commercialization of fondaparinux outside of the US".

Dr Smith told Biotech Daily that approval "should take about 12 months" but the launch date would vary from country to country.

Alchemia fell 3.5 cents or 6.54 percent to 50 cents with one million shares traded.

MONASH UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL'S WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Australian office of Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science and Monash University will hold a joint symposium on obesity on May 14 and 15, 2012.

In a media release, the Weizmann said that obesity had more than doubled in the last 30 years and the symposium would hear from leading researchers on progress in understanding and combating the morbidity.

The Weizmann said that joint symposium entitled 'Obesity and the Metabolic Syndrome' would be held at the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, with researchers from both institutions as well as the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute. The Weizmann said that a team of 10 of its scientists working on obesity were visiting Australia and were researching "a variety of angles including looking at cellular mechanisms in the brain and other organs".

The media release said that Monash University's Prof Iain Clarke and the Weizmann's Prof Alon Chen of the Weizmann Institute were early supporters of the symposium.

Prof Clarke said that obesity was caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

"To tackle complex problems like obesity will require team approaches involving many different skill sets," Prof Clarke said.

"This symposium will explore linkages between Israel and Australia, which elevates our ability to combat the rapid emergence of obesity throughout the world," Prof Clarke said. The media release said that Prof Chen was collaborating with Australian scientists to prove that a family of proteins in the brain of mice was responsible for turning off the "stress response" which could lead to a new drug for anxiety disorders such as anorexia and overeating.

"How you cope with stress is a key player in determining your risk of obesity," Prof Chen said.

Monash University professor, Baker IDI director emeritus and Weizmann Australia advisor Prof Paul Zimmet said that obesity was "proving to be a highly complex disease and nearly every drug so far developed for obesity hasn't proved safe enough".

"We have to find the magic bullet, and only continued scientific research will get us there," Prof Zimmet said.

Speakers at the symposium include Monash's Prof Michael Cowley, Prof Mark Sleeman, the University of Melbourne's Prof Joe Proietto, and the Weizmann's Prof Michael Walker, Dr Gad Asher and Prof Eldad Tzahor.

For more information and to register go to <http://weizmann.org.au> or <http://ecommerce.med.monash.edu.au/product.asp?plD=276&c=102350>.

CBIO

CBio says its strategic review has resulted in its scientific activities being directed to fill gaps in the scientific and clinical development package of XToll for rheumatoid arthritis. CBio listed on the ASX to complete a long-running phase II trial of XToll but the drug did not meet its endpoints (BD: Oct 9, 2009; Feb 8, 11, 2010; Aug 1, 2011).

The company then faced a shareholder-led board spill with all previous directors eventually being replaced (BD: Jun 24, 2010, Jun 29, Jul 13, Sep 5, Nov 1, 4, 2011).

Today, CBio said the review of its science and development plan by the board was conducted earlier this year and included independent analyses of the chaperonin 10 or XToll technology and intellectual property.

The company said it had “adopted a revised operational plan in which the scientific activities of CBio are directed towards filling gaps in the scientific and clinical development package of XToll and further evaluating scientific and clinical data already accumulated”. CBio said it was committed to conducting its operations “in the most cost effective manner and is working to maximize shareholder value through an ongoing corporate strategic review”.

The company said that RBS Morgans had been appointed to assist the company as part of this review.

CBio fell 0.7 cents or 8.4 percent to 7.6 cents.