



Biotech Daily

Wednesday May 16, 2012

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PRANA UP 17%, ANTISENSE DOWN 12%**
- * **BLUECHIIP, SYNCHROTRON TRACKING PROJECT**
- * **PALADIN SUBMITS IMMURON'S TRAVELAN CANADA APPLICATION**
- * **NEUREN SAYS FDA PRE-IND RETT SYNDROME MEETING 'PRODUCTIVE'**
- * **BIOTA 9-MONTH REVENUE UP 25%, LOSS DOWN 45%**
- * **GEOFF MCDONALD REPLACES GSK'S DEBORAH WATERHOUSE**
- * **CONSEGNA SIGNS STEVE REDGRAVE BREATHEASSIST AMBASSADOR**
- * **ACTINOGEN RIGHTS ISSUE RAISES \$212k OF HOPED FOR \$1.2m**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 2.36 percent on Wednesday May 16, 2012 with the S&P ASX 200 down 100.8 points to 4,165.5 points.

Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 21 fell, seven traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Prana was the best, up 2.5 cents or 17.2 percent to 17 cents with 655,449 shares traded, following a mention, with Pharmaxis, as a 'speculative stock to buy' in a share tipping newsletter.

Psivida climbed 7.9 percent; Bionomics and Neuren were up more than four percent; Alchemia was up 3.45 percent; with Anteo, Impedimed and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's best, Antisense, led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 11.8 percent to 1.5 cents with 12.9 million shares traded.

Allied Health and Viralytics lost eight percent or more; Living Cell, Nanosonics, Tissue Therapies and Universal Biosensors were down six percent or more; Avita, Benitec and Ellex fell more than five percent; Acrux, Phylogica and Reva fell more than four percent; Phosphagenics was down three percent; CSL, Genetic Technologies, Optiscan and Resmed shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Pharmaxis and QRX were down more than one percent; with Biota, Cochlear and Heartware down by less than one percent.

BLUECHIIP

Bluechiip says the Australian Synchrotron will use its data tracking technology for protein crystallography tracking and automation.

Bluechiip said that the Synchrotron staff would integrate Bluechiip tags onto mounting pins used in protein and chemical crystallography to demonstrate the wireless tracking of a mounting pin's identification and temperature history.

A Synchrotron spokesman told Biotech Daily that the partnership was enabled through a \$50,000 Victoria Government grant.

The spokesman said the Synchrotron had extensive need for storage of samples.

Bluechiip said it expected that the technology would allow both rapid mounting and automated tracking of samples which in turn would increase the efficiency of crystal screening and data collection.

Bluechiip said that its technology overcame the limitations of current tracking technologies, primarily two-dimensional barcodes, with frosting, becoming dislodged or becoming damaged.

The company said that existing tracking technologies could not meet all the demands of "the harsh environment experienced at a Synchrotron beam-line due to the varied nature of sample storage (+30oC to -196oC), frosting, radiation (ionizing and non-ionizing) and mechanical wear and tear".

Bluechiip said that the Australian Synchrotron was "one of the world's leading science and research facilities", providing researchers with access to cutting edge x-ray and infra-red techniques with a wide range of applications in fundamental science and industrial research.

The company said that the Synchrotron technology was an essential component in the development of many knowledge-intensive industries, including biotechnology and nanotechnology, as well as more traditional industries such as pharmaceuticals, mining and telecommunications.

Bluechiip managing director Brett Schwarz said that opportunities existed "to create a world-first tracking solution specific for macromolecular crystallography".

"Importantly, this shows that our technology is truly a platform technology, with multiple market applications," Mr Schwarz said.

Australian Synchrotron macromolecular and micro crystallography (MX) beamlines scientist Dr Alan Riboldi-Tunnicliffe said that introduction of the Bluechiip tracking technology would lead to vastly improved research processes "allowing a much higher degree of automation and therefore better outcomes for our researchers".

Bluechiip was untraded at 19 cents.

IMMURON

Immuron says that Canadian licence partner Paladin Labs has submitted its Travelan product for travelers diarrhoea to Health Canada for regulatory approval.

Immuron said Paladin Labs' submission was undergoing screening for completeness and quality of the dossier and on confirmation of screening acceptance, Health Canada would begin its regulatory review.

The company said that Travelan was clinically-proven with efficacy in more than 90 percent of consumers who use it to prevent the main cause of travelers' diarrhoea.

Immuron said that Canadians were well-known travelers and Travelan was expected to be a successful addition to the Canadian market.

Immuron was untraded at 1.7 cents.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says its pre-investigational new drug application meeting with the US Food and Drug Administration for NNZ-2566 for Rett syndrome was "very productive".

Neuren said it requested the meeting with the FDA's Division of Neurology Products discussed clinical development plans "to seek input and guidance from the FDA for the first clinical trial in patients with Rett syndrome".

Neuren said the meeting was attended by the Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine's Dr Daniel Glaze and Dr Jeffrey Neul; Autism Therapeutics chief scientific officer Dr Mike Snape; International Rett Syndrome Foundation chief scientific officer Dr Steven Kaminsky; Autism Speaks head of medical research Dr Joseph Horrigan; and Neuren chief executive officer Larry Glass.

Mr Glass said the meeting "was very productive in that we were able to explore with the FDA key, substantive issues affecting our regulatory and clinical development strategy".

"This will provide clarity as we move forward to finalize the protocols, submit the IND and prepare for the first trials in patients," Mr Glass said.

Mr Glass said that the scientific and medical insight provided by Dr Glaze and Dr Neul, who would lead the initial clinical studies, "contributed immeasurably to what we feel was a very positive meeting".

"We are particularly appreciative of the willingness of the International Rett Syndrome Foundation and Autism Speaks to attend the meeting as advocates for patients and families affected by Rett syndrome," Mr Glass said.

Neuren said it would refine the clinical protocol and submit the investigational new drug application (IND) within the next 60 days.

The company said that pending the FDA review of the IND and completion of the ongoing phase I trial of the NNZ-2566 oral formulation, the first Rett syndrome trial would be initiated later this year to assess the safety and tolerability of NNZ-2566 in adolescent and adult Rett syndrome patients and to obtain preliminary evidence of efficacy.

Neuren said that Rett syndrome was a post-natal neurological disorder, almost exclusively in females, following apparently normal development for the first six months of life.

Typically, between six to 18 months of age, patients experience a period of rapid decline with loss of purposeful hand use and spoken communication and many patients had recurrent seizures, with patients experiencing a variety of motor problems including increased muscle tone or spasticity and abnormal movements and were never able to provide for their own needs.

Neuren was up 0.1 cents or 4.2 percent to 2.5 cents with six million shares traded.

BIOTA

Biota has released an unaudited financial update for the nine months to March 31, 2012 showing an increase in revenues and decrease in cash burn.

Biota said that revenue for the nine months March 31, 2012 was \$15,288,000 up 25.1 percent over the previous corresponding period.

The company said that the net loss after tax for the nine months to March 31, 2012 fell 44.6 percent from \$23,083,000 to \$12,784,000.

Biota's diluted loss per share fell 44.9 percent from 12.7 cents to 7.0 cents

The company said that cash and cash equivalents fell from \$69,642,000 at March 31, 2011 to \$51,361,000 at March 31, 2012.

Biota said the information would be included in documents associated with its takeover of Nabi Biopharmaceuticals and backdoor listing on the Nasdaq (BD: Apr 23, 2012).

Biota fell half a cent or 0.6 percent to 81 cents.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE

Glaxosmithkline says Geoff McDonald has been appointed Australia general manager, replacing Deborah Waterhouse.

Glaxosmithkline said Ms Waterhouse had been appointed senior vice-president of GSK Central Europe, Pharmaceuticals.

Ms Waterhouse was appointed head of Glaxosmithkline's Australia and New Zealand operation in August 2008 (BD: Mar 30, 2010).

Today, Glaxosmithkline Asia Pacific senior vice-president and area director Fabio Landazabal said that Mr McDonald's "multi-market experience and broad-based commercial knowledge makes him well-equipped to take the business and organization forward in Australia".

"I am looking forward to leading GSK in Australia," Mr McDonald said.

"It is a fantastic team of dedicated people committed to providing Australians access to new medicines, growing the business and leading the industry towards greater transparency," Mr McDonald said.

Glaxosmithkline said that Mr McDonald had risen through a range of local and Asia Pacific roles since joining Smithkline Beecham in 1999 and was Glaxosmithkline Australia sales director for three years.

The company said that Mr McDonald had roles as marketing director for China and as commercial head of oncology for Asia Pacific in Singapore, before relocating to New Zealand as general manager.

CONSEGNA GROUP

Consegna says that five-times British Olympic rowing gold medalist Steve Redgrave will be a 'brand ambassador' for its Breatheassist sport technology platform.

Consegna said that Mr Redgrave was acknowledged as "one of the greatest Olympians of all time having won five gold medals in rowing in five consecutive Olympic Games with his career culminating with gold in Sydney in 2000".

The company said that Breatheassist was an Australian-developed technology that gently and independently dilated each of the nasal passages and clinical trials indicated that the device increased airflow by up to 38 percent, "exciting sports performance experts about its applications in elite sports".

Consegna said that the technology was nearing commercialization and would be launched as a sports-performance product before different versions were developed and launched in the snoring, allergy management and drug delivery markets.

"Breatheassist is a revolutionary product that I am pleased to endorse," Mr Redgrave said.

"Its ability to increase airflow through the nose will, I believe, provide athletes of all types with the edge they need to perform to the best of their ability," Mr Redgrave said.

Consegna chief executive officer Fabio Pannuti said the company was "thrilled to have Sir Steve Redgrave as a face and a brand ambassador for Breatheassist".

"Having someone of Sir Steve's stature and reputation will assist us in bringing to the attention of the sporting world the benefits of using a Breatheassist unit," Mr Pannuti said.

"Sir Steve's support I have no doubt will accelerate elite athletes from around the world accessing the enhancement a Breatheassist can provide to their performance," Mr Pannuti said.

Consegna was up 0.1 cents or four percent to 2.6 cents.

ACTINOGEN

Actinogen says its one-for-two rights issue at three cents a share has raised \$212,201 from entitlements and shortfall applications.

In its March 22, 2012 statement to the ASX, the company said it had hoped to raise up to \$1,206,966 for research and development for a bio-ethanol project and other programs. Actinogen said that 2,546,399 entitlements had been taken-up, there were applications for 4,526,954 shortfall shares and 33,158,861 shortfall shares remained available. The company said the shortfall offer would remain open until August 14, 2012. Actinogen was untraded at 2.6 cents.