



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday June 20, 2012

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: COMPUMEDICS UP 7%, CIRCADIAN DOWN 9%**
- \* **IMMUNEXPRESS, DEBIOPHARM, BIOCARTIS PARTNER ON SEPTICYTE**
- \* **UNIQUEST, Q-SERA RAISE \$900k FOR SNAKE BLOOD COLLECTION**
- \* **GENERA SHARE PLAN RAISES \$1m**
- \* **PATRY'S REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- \* **MEDIVAC REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING, RESTRUCTURE TRADING HALT**
- \* **AUSTRALIAN COUGH DETECTING, COUNTING PATENT FOR ISONEA**
- \* **ITL'S TREVOR DOOLAN REPLACES COMPANY SEC JENNINE MCCLURE**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.22 percent on Wednesday June 20, 2012 with the S&P ASX 200 up 9.1 points to 4,132.4 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, 11 traded unchanged and four were untraded.

Compumedics was the best, up 0.5 cents or 7.25 percent to 7.4 cents with 20,000 shares traded.

Living Cell and Optiscan climbed more than five percent; Anteo was up 4.35 percent; Mesoblast was up 3.35 percent; Alchemia, Acrux and Avita rose more than two percent; Resmed was up 1.3 percent; with Sirtex and Universal Biosensors up by less than one percent.

Circadian led the falls, down four cents or 8.7 percent to 42 cents, with 29,000 shares traded, followed by Prima down eight percent to 11.5 cents with 2.5 million shares traded.

Genetic Technologies lost 7.1 percent; both Phosphagenics and Phylogica fell 6.25 percent; Uscom lost 5.3 percent; Neuren fell four percent; Clinuvel was down three percent; Heartware, Reva and Tissue Therapies shed more than two percent; Bionomics, Cochlear, CSL, Nanosonics and QRX were down more than one percent; with Starpharma down 0.4 percent.

## IMMUNEXPRESS (FORMERLY ATHLOMICS)

Immunexpress says Debiopharm and Biocartis will develop and commercialize its Septicyte Triage assay to diagnose sepsis.

Immunexpress said the Swiss-based Debiopharm and Biocartis had agreed to a royalty-bearing licence for the late-stage development and commercialization of Septicyte for use in emergency and intensive care units or upon hospital admission to diagnose sepsis early, differentiate sepsis from other forms of inflammation and determine sepsis severity. Immunexpress said that Debiopharm would invest \$2 million in it.

Immunexpress said that Debiopharm would fund the validation and US Food and Drug Administration clearance of Septicyte Triage and Biocartis would subsequently fund the development and commercialization of the validated Septicyte Triage assay on its molecular diagnostics platform.

The company said that the Biocartis platform which included an instrument, communication console, and single use, disposable cartridges to detect and quantify multiple DNA or RNA-based biomarkers in a variety of patient sample types with minimal user intervention in less than 90 minutes.

Immunexpress chief executive officer Dr Roslyn Brandon said the “synergy created by this partnership is not only important for the continued development and future availability of Septicyte Triage but it also exemplifies Immunexpress’ commitment to innovative science and partnerships that improve outcomes for clinicians and patients”.

“With accuracy significantly better than procalcitonin, bringing Septicyte Triage onto Biocartis’ revolutionary point-of-need multiplex QRT-PCR platform will enable clinicians to more quickly and accurately identify and triage patients suspected of sepsis,” Dr Brandon said.

Biocartis chief executive officer Greg Parekh said that sepsis was a major cause of death “where timely accurate diagnostic information can make a significant difference in medical outcomes”.

Debiopharm director Dr Thierry Mauvernay said his company was “enthusiastic to join forces with Immunexpress and Biocartis and to take an additional step in our strong commitment to personalized medicine”.

“The collaboration opens the door to exploit synergies between the three companies by addressing this life-threatening condition from different perspectives, particularly from a health economics one,” Dr Mauvernay said.

“Supporting better management of sepsis may ultimately lead to a reduction in mortality, better outcomes and possibly the discovery of new therapies,” Dr Mauvernay said.

In 2010, and then known as Athlomics, the company launched Septicyte with Brisbane’s Mater Pathology as “the world’s first immune system gene expression test for the diagnosis of severe infections” or sepsis (BD: Jul 20, 2010).

In the same month Commercialisation Australia awarded Athlomics \$250,000 for Septicyte which was described as “a molecular biomarker-based sepsis diagnostic test ... faster [less than three hours] and more accurate (85 to 95% performance) than all competitors” (BD: Jul 14, 2010).

Athlomics said at that time that sepsis was the leading cause of death in non-coronary intensive care unit patients and caused more than 25,000 deaths a year in Australia.

Athlomics said that babies, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems such as post-surgical, chemotherapy and diabetic patients were most likely to get sepsis, but healthy people could also become seriously ill and die from sepsis.

The company said sepsis cost the Australian health care system about \$21,000 per patient episode.

Immunexpress is a private company.

### UNIQUEST, Q-SERA PTY LTD

Uniquet says Q-Sera Pty Ltd has raised \$900,000 to develop an improved blood collection tube.

The University of Queensland's commercialization company Uniquet says it raised the funds from the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund and the Uniseed Commercialisation Fund for Q-Sera, formed to commercialize intellectual property from the University and to develop technology for producing high quality serum in a clinical setting, based on the blood clotting properties of specific snake venom.

Uniquet said the serum production technology was licenced to Q-Sera and was based on the research of Dr Martin Lavin, Dr Paul Masci and Prof John de Jersey.

Uniquet managing director David Henderson said the investment was the University's first transaction with the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund and the eighteenth with Uniseed.

"The Q-Sera deal also highlights the value that collaborations, between multi-disciplinary research teams and commercial funding bodies, can add to the efforts of Australian researchers working on innovative solutions to common clinical needs," Mr Henderson said.

Uniseed said that the Q-Sera technology aimed to reduce the time required to produce high quality serum in blood clotting tubes, used in biochemical and other pathology assays and involved coating blood collection tubes with a naturally occurring coagulation agent, isolated from the venom of Australian snakes to accelerate the clotting of blood.

Uniseed said that serum was produced by allowing the blood to clot then applying centrifugation to separate the serum.

The organization said that tubes currently used contain a clot activator, but they were unable to clot blood from some patients, such as cardiac patients taking anticoagulants such as warfarin or heparin and that limitation risked inaccurate clinical results and diagnosis.

Uniquet said that the Q-Sera research demonstrated successful clotting of blood samples, providing a higher degree of confidence around diagnosis and care.

Uniseed chief executive officer Dr Peter Devine said the Q-Sera research had "isolated an important class of proteins from certain Australian snakes that have the ability to rapidly clot blood in a blood collection tube".

Medical Research Commercialisation Fund investment manager Dr Bev Thomas said the Fund "immediately recognized the global application of the technology and its potential to improve diagnosis and ultimately patient outcomes".

### GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera says its underwritten share purchase plan to raise \$1 million has been completed with shares to be issued at 19 cents a share.

Genera was unchanged at 19 cents.

### PATRYS

Patrys has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement ... in respect of a capital raising".

Trading will resume on June 22, 2012 or on an earlier announcement.

Patrys last traded at 2.5 cents.

### MEDIVAC

Medivac has requested a trading halt pending an announcement “regarding a significant capital raising and restructuring”.

Trading will resume on June 22, 2012 or on an earlier announcement.

Medivac last traded at 0.5 cents.

### ISONEA (FORMERLY KARMELSONIX)

Isona says IP Australia has granted a patent covering its cough count technology in the field of acoustic monitoring of respiratory diseases.

Isona said that IP Australia, formerly the Australian Patent Office, granted the patent entitled ‘Cough Detector’ relating to its acoustic respiratory monitoring technology.

The company said the patent covered the ultrasound-based cough detector which fitted against a patient’s neck and detected coughs and counted coughing events.

Isona said that sensors detected high and low frequency mechanical vibrations in the tracheal area and was able to sense coughing events, track severity and duration and store data or transfer it wirelessly to a computer or other log.

Isona was unchanged at 0.3 cents with 25.2 million shares traded.

### ITL

ITL says it has appointed Trevor Doolan as company secretary replacing Jennine McClure effective from June 19, 2012.

ITL said the Mr Doolan would maintain his role as group financial controller.

ITL was untraded at 17.5 cents.