



Biotech Daily

Friday July 6, 2012

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: ANTISENSE, QRX UP 20%, PATRYS DOWN 9%**
- * **FOUNDATION \$600k FOR NEUREN RETT SYNDROME PHASE II TRIAL**
- * **SINGAPORE PATENT FOR HEALTHLINX OVPLEX**
- * **ATCOR EGM FOR PLACEMENT, DIRECTORS' SHARES**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.27 percent on Friday July 6, 2012 with the S&P ASX 200 down 11.4 points to 4,157.8 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, nine fell, seven traded unchanged and six were untraded.

Antisense and QRX were the best, both up 20 percent, to 2.4 cents and 87 cents, respectively, with 84.8 million shares and 381,024 shares traded, respectively, followed by Allied Health up 15 percent to 2.3 cents with 2.2 million shares traded and Neuren up 14.3 percent to 2.4 cents with three million shares traded.

Genetic Technologies climbed 9.1 percent; Bionomics was up 7.1 percent; Alchemia and Cellmid were up more than six percent; Benitec and Phylogica were up more than five percent; Prima and Sunshine Heart climbed more than four percent; Circadian, Phosphagenics and Psivida were up more than three percent; Nanosonics and Pharmaxis rose more than two percent; Resmed was up 1.3 percent; with Clinuvel up 0.9 percent.

Patrys led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 9.1 percent to two cents with 590,000 shares traded.

Universal Biosensors lost 6.7 percent; Prana and Viralytics were down more than three percent; Heartware and Reva shed more than two percent; Cochlear and Mesoblast were down more than one percent; with Acrux, CSL and Sirtex down by less than one percent.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says the International Rett Syndrome Foundation has provided \$US600,000 for its phase II clinical trial of NNZ-2566 in patients with Rett syndrome.

Neuren said the grant was awarded to Dr Daniel Glaze and Dr Jeffrey Neul from the Blue Bird Circle Rett Center at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine who would be the lead investigators on the trial.

The company said the award was announced by the International Rett Syndrome Foundation following a board of trustees meeting at the World Rett Syndrome Congress in New Orleans.

Neuren first detailed its NNZ-2566 program for Rett syndrome in investor briefings last year and said that it had begun development of the oral form of NNZ-2566 for Rett syndrome, a severe, physically disabling disease part of the autism spectrum disorders, with no approved drug treatment (BD: Oct 20, Nov 21, 2011).

The company said in November 2011 that it expected to file an investigational new drug application for the Rett syndrome study in the second half of 2012 and to initiate the trial in late 2012.

In December 2011 Neuren said the US Food and Drug Administration had approved human clinical trials under an investigational new drug application for the oral formulation of NNZ-2566, allowing it to proceed with a phase I trial in healthy volunteers in January 2012, in preparation for phase II clinical trials in patients with concussion and Rett syndrome by October 2012, pending reviews of protocols by the FDA and institutional review boards (BD: Jan 22, 2012).

In May, Neuren said its pre-investigational new drug application meeting with the FDA for NNZ-2566 for Rett syndrome was "very productive" and it expected to submit the application by mid-July, with a trial starting later this year (BD: May 16, 2012).

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

Neuren said that, typically, between six to 18 months of age, patients experienced a period of rapid decline with loss of purposeful hand use and spoken communication and many patients had recurrent seizures.

The company said the syndrome included a variety of motor problems and patients were never able to provide for their own needs.

Neuren said that Rett syndrome was rare, believed to be second only to Down syndrome as a cause of chronic neurological problems that included severe communication, motor disabilities and epilepsy.

The company said that Rett syndrome is caused by mutations on the X-chromosome of a gene called MECP2 and there were more than 200 different mutations found on the MECP2 gene.

Neuren said that Rett syndrome affected all racial and ethnic groups and occurred worldwide in up to one of every 10,000 female births and affected some 15,000 girls and women in the US alone.

The company said that the International Rett Syndrome Foundation was a US registered non-profit corporation established in July 2007 through the merger of the Rett Syndrome Research Foundation and the International Rett Syndrome Association.

Neuren said that the core mission of the Foundation was to fund research for treatments and a cure for Rett syndrome while enhancing the overall quality of life for those living with Rett syndrome by providing information, programs and services and was the largest private source of funds for biomedical and clinical research on Rett syndrome.

Neuren climbed 0.3 cents or 14.3 percent to 2.4 cents with three million shares traded.

HEALTHLINX

Healthlinx says that Singapore is the fourth jurisdiction to grant a patent protecting its Ovplex ovarian cancer diagnostic.

Healthlinx said patents had been granted in Australia, the UK and Hong Kong.

The company said the Singapore patent entitled 'An Assay to detect a Gynecological condition' was "a significant milestone"; with Singapore one of the first international territories to market Ovplex.

Healthlinx said Ovplex was launched in Singapore by Inex Innovations Exchange in October 2010 and had expected sales targets exceeded by about 30 percent.

Healthlinx's incoming general manager Vanessa Waddell said the Singapore patent "provides Inex with the mechanism to protect market exclusivity for Ovplex, an important outcome for the ongoing growth in Ovplex sales in this territory".

"Furthermore, this achievement strengthens our relationship with Inex as they lead the expansion of Ovplex sales across other Asian territories, including Malaysia and India," Ms Waddell said.

Healthlinx said the Singapore patent drew priority from Australian applications filed on April 23, 2008 and October 1, 2008 and said the inventors were Dr Dominic Autelitano, Dr Tracey Edgell, Nick Gatsios and Dr Leodevico Ilag.

Healthlinx fell 0.1 cents or 25 percent to 0.3 cents with 11.8 million shares traded.

ATCOR MEDICAL

Atcor shareholders will vote to approve a prior \$1 million placement at six cents a share and the right of directors to buy shares in the placement (BD: Jun 15, 2012).

Atcor said it wanted shareholder approval for the prior issue of 13,716,668 shares; 2,265,000 options; 2,000,000 options to Taylor Collison exercisable at eight cents within four years of issue; and a total of 2,950,000 shares to directors Duncan Ross (833,333 shares), Donal O'Dwyer (1,666,667 shares), Peter Jenkins (166,667 shares), Dr David Brookes (250,000 shares) and Dr Michael O'Rourke (33,333 shares).

The company said the funds were for the roll-out of its clinical market strategy in response to a favorable US coding decision; support the co-development program with Suntech Medical; and provide additional working capital.

The meeting will be held at the offices of Dibbs Barker, Level 8, Angel Place, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney on August 8, 2012 at 11am (AEST).

Atcor was untraded at six cents.