



# Biotech Daily

Tuesday December 18, 2012

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: SIRTEX UP 5%, GENETIC TECHNO DOWN 12%**
- \* **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$128m NHMRC GRANTS**
- \* **SIRTEX JOINS S&P ASX200**
- \* **NUSEP EARNS \$1.5m FEDERAL R&D TAX REFUND**
- \* **ATCOR EXPECTS \$697k FEDERAL R&D TAX PAYMENT**
- \* **UQ, EMORY COLLABORATE FOR QUE ONCOLOGY**
- \* **GENERA RAISES \$800k; MELANIE LEYDIN REPLACES CFO TONY PANTHER**
- \* **BANK OF EAST ASIA, DAVID LI TAKE 28% OF BIODIEM**
- \* **MEDIVAC LOSES DIRECTOR PAUL MCPHERSON**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.48 percent on Tuesday December 18, 2012 with the S&P ASX 200 up 21.8 points to 4,595.2 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, nine traded unchanged and seven were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Sirtex was the best, up 59 cents or 4.9 percent to \$12.74 with 828,813 shares traded.

Allied Health and Prima Psivida climbed more than four percent; Nanosonics, Starpharma and Tissue Therapies were up more than three percent; Pharmaxis and QRX rose more than two percent; Reva was up 1.9 percent; with Cochlear, CSL and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Genetic Technologies led the falls, down 1.1 cents or 12.2 percent to 7.9 cents with 127,000 shares traded.

Benitec lost 7.1 percent; Patrys and Prana were both down 4.65 percent; Living Cell and Sunshine Heart were down more than three percent; Circadian, Heartware, Neuren and Optiscan shed more than two percent; Acrux, Anteo, Impedimed and Mesoblast were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel down 0.8 percent.

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Federal Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek says \$127.9 million has been awarded to 151 applications to the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Ms Plibersek said as a result of the investment, medicines were Australia's "biggest research-intense goods exports, helping to build a stronger, more competitive and more productive economy".

Ms Plibersek made the announcement at the University of New South Wales Lowy Cancer Research Centre laboratory with Prof David Cooper who received \$12.6 million for research into HIV.

"Cures, vaccines and better treatments for HIV are an urgent and global health priority," Ms Plibersek said.

"In Australia, HIV is a serious disease with infections increasing by eight percent in 2011," Ms Plibersek said. "This research will study how HIV can lie dormant in some parts of the body, evading eradication by HIV therapy, as well as how the immune system responds to the virus."

An NHMRC media release said the Council administered the grants.

The NHMRC said New South Wales would receive the highest amount of funding, with \$73.9 million for 52 grants and the University of New South Wales would receive the greatest amount of funding, with \$52.4 million for 15 grants.

The NHMRC said that Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute was the independent medical research institute receiving the greatest amount of funding, with \$16.7 million for seven grants.

The NHMRC said that cardiovascular research would receive grants worth \$40.6 million, cancer research would receive \$38.8 million and HIV research \$12.8 million.

#### SIRTEX MEDICAL

S&P Dow Jones Indices says Sirtex will replace Integra Mining in the S&P ASX 200 index, pending shareholder and court approval of the merger with Silver Lake Resources.

S&P Indices said that Sirtex would replace Integra after the close of trading on December 24, 2012.

Sirtex was up 59 cents or 4.9 percent to \$12.74 with 828,813 shares traded.

#### NUSEP

Nusep says it has received a \$1,543,479 Federal Government research and development tax payment for the year ended June 30, 2012.

Nusep said that it had incurred \$3,429,954 of qualifying research and development expenditure in the 12 months to June 30, 2012, including expenditure relating to its Singapore Prime Biologics project.

The company said the funds would be used to reduce its current commitments and advance product development programs.

Nusep was untraded at 6.6 cents.

#### ATCOR MEDICAL

Atcor says it expects to receive a \$696,786 refund from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Atcor said it expected these funds to be paid by early January 2013.

Atcor was up half a cent or 7.7 percent to seven cents.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland and Emory University have created Que Oncology to develop small molecule drug candidates and biological targets for cancer.

University of Queensland commercialization arm Uniquest said that it and the Atlanta, Georgia-based Emory would facilitate capital raising activities with seed funding support. Uniquest said that Que would bring together research from the University of Queensland and Emory University as well as other Australian universities with which Uniquest had research relationships to commercialize cancer projects.

Uniquest said that intellectual property originating from the University of Queensland's Faculties of Science and Health Sciences, from the research groups of Prof Maree Smith, Prof Greg Monteith, Prof Sarah Roberts-Thomson, Prof Steve Taylor and Dr Trent Woodruff would be licensed to Que Oncology, along with research discoveries from the medicinal chemistry group of Prof Dennis Liotta at the Emory Institute for Drug Development.

Uniquest managing director David Henderson said Que Oncology was established in response to market opportunities in the field of cancer therapy.

"The multi-million dollar investment required to develop a new drug from discovery through to commercial launch and an increasingly conservative global regulatory environment, have prompted Australian research teams to seek collaborators overseas for translating their ideas into clinical outcomes," Mr Henderson said.

"Bringing together the expertise and discoveries of these leading innovation hubs creates an attractive prospect for global biotech investors and also for pharmaceutical companies, which are looking for potential new drugs more so than ever before," Mr Henderson said.

"Through Que Oncology, Australian university scientists will have the opportunity to develop meaningful and active collaborations with research teams at a top tier US university while accessing a larger network of international investors and pooling resources to pass common commercialization hurdles and milestones," Mr Henderson said

Emory Institute for Drug Development executive director Prof Dennis Liotta said Que supported Emory University's focus on shared opportunities with international colleagues.

"The research and development capabilities of all Que Oncology's contributors will be significantly enhanced through our collaborative approach to discovery and technology transfer," Prof Liotta said.

Uniquest said that cancer projects identified to start the Que pipeline related to hot flushes, pain, prostate cancer, breast cancer, multiple myeloma, and melanoma.

Uniquest said that the start-up would operate with a small core team and leverage the resources and infrastructure of the partnering universities and contract research organizations, manufacturers and advisors.

Uniquest said that John Richard would manage the asset development program and business development activities.

## GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera says it has raised \$800,000 through the placement of 7,619,000 shares at 10.5 cents a share to sophisticated and professional investors.

Genera said it was in preliminary discussions with a number of new potential investors for an investment sufficient to fund the business plan over the next 18 months.

The company said that chief financial officer and company secretary Tony Panther would resign at the end of 2012 and Melanie Leydin would be the company secretary.

Genera was untraded at 11.5 cents.

### BIODIEM

The Bank of East Asia for David Li Kwok Po has increased its substantial shareholding in Biodiem from 26,228,457 shares (25.85%) to 39,342,686 shares (27.69%).

The Bank of East Asia did not disclose the cost of the 13,114,229 shares but the company recently completed a rights issue at five cents a share (BD: Nov 29, 2012).

Biodiem fell 0.6 cents or 11.8 percent to 4.5 cents.

### MEDIVAC

Medivac says that director Paul McPherson has resigned effective from December 17, 2012.

The company said it would “investigate the possibility of appointing another suitably qualified director”.

Medivac was untraded at 1.6 cents.