



Biotech Daily

Friday February 8, 2013

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: ANTISENSE UP 8%, PATRYS DOWN 14%**
- * **BIODIEM, QIMR: BDM-I KILLS SCHISTOSOMA JAPONICUM IN-VITRO**
- * **EMBL AUSTRALIA, SAHMRI CALL FOR 3 LEADERS FOR RESEARCH GROUP**
- * **ELLERSTON (PACKER FAMILY) TAKES 10% OF ACRUX**
- * **RESONANCE APPOINTS DR JASON LOVERIDGE DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.72 percent on Friday February 8, 2013 with the S&P ASX 200 up 35.6 points to 4,971.3 points.

Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, nine traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Antisense was the best, up 0.1 cents or 7.7 percent to 1.4 cents with 2.4 million shares traded.

Living Cell climbed 6.5 percent; Prana was up five percent; Anteo, Avita and Impedimed were up four percent or more; GI Dynamics and Sirtex climbed more than three percent; Acrux, CSL, Ellex and Reva rose two percent or more; Cochlear, Genetic Technologies, Medical Developments and Tissue Therapies were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel and Nanosonics up by less than one percent.

Patryst led the falls, down 0.5 cents or 13.9 percent to 3.1 cents with 292,000 shares traded.

Sunshine Heart lost 7.7 percent; Circadian was down 6.35 percent; Mesoblast was down 5.6 percent; Cellmid, QRX and Starpharma fell four percent or more; Allied Health and Phylogica were down more than three percent; Universal Biosensors shed 2.2 percent; Alchemia was down 1.5 percent; with Heartware down 0.4 percent.

[BODIEM, QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH](#)

Biodiem says that in-vitro research by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) has shown that BDM-I can kill the parasitic worm *Schistosoma japonicum*.

Biodiem said the QIMR study research led by Professor Don McManus examined the effect of the anti-microbial BDM-I against the Philippines-based strain of the parasite that causes schistosomiasis, or bilharzia, a major disease of the developing world.

The company today said Prof McManus and QIMR would proceed with a broader proof-of-concept investigation looking at multiple parasite strains and at different lifecycle stages.

Biodiem said that if successful, the company would continue into an efficacy study in schistosoma-infected mice.

Biodiem chief executive officer Julie Phillips said that schistosomiasis was a major cause of liver, bladder and kidney disease and death across the developing world and was recognized as a neglected tropical disease.

“This next phase of research, while early days, may point us to a new way to treat the many tens of millions of people now living with this disease,” Ms Phillips said. “It may also guide us as to how to prevent the disease progressing to this stage.”

Biodiem said that people contracted schistosomiasis, which had a health burden second only to malaria among parasitic diseases, through contact with unsanitary water.

The company said that the larval form of parasitic worms found in fresh-water snails could penetrate human skin and live within the body, resulting in progressive organ damage.

“It is our hope BDM-I could underpin a new treatment option for world health agencies as they grapple with this parasite in the many countries where sanitary water, for drinking and bathing, cannot be taken for granted,” Ms Phillips said.

Biodiem said that the research would assist the commercial development of BDM-I for the treatment of infectious diseases.

Biodiem was untraded at four cents.

[EMBL AUSTRALIA, STH AUSTRALIA HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE](#)

EMBL Australia and the South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute will provide up to nine years funding for three group leaders to create an independent research group.

In an emailed job advertisement the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Australia (EMBL Australia) and the South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) said that applications for group leaders in biomedical informatics would close on February 28 for interviews to be held in May 2013 for commencement early in 2014.

The advertisement said the research positions were fully funded for five years, extendable to nine years.

The new independent research group would be modelled on the European Molecular Biology Laboratory to support independent, interdisciplinary, quality research and was “designed for high potential, early-career computational scientists who are dedicated to research excellence”.

The advertisement said that the positions included funding for a research team and a “generous annual research budget” for an institute to be based at “a new world-class health and medical research facility located in Adelaide, South Australia and associated with the three South Australian Universities”.

The applicants would be expected to develop novel computational approaches for challenging problems in human biology and medicine and the applicants’ research should be aligned with one of the research themes of SAHMRI and its associated Universities, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

For a position description and more information go to: www.sahmri.com/category/careers.

ACRUX

Ellerston Capital has increased its substantial shareholding in Acrux from 14,237,169 shares (8.65%) to 16,630,037 shares (9.99%).

Ellerston said that it bought and sold Acrux shares between October 15, 2012 and February 6, 2013, with the single largest transaction 1,091,484 shares for \$3,842,023 or \$3.52 a share on February 6, 2013.

Ellerston became a substantial shareholder in May, 2012, saying the shares were held by HSBC Custody Nominees, Cogent Nominees, JPM Nominees and National Nominees (BD: May 23, 2012).

In August, Ellerston provided a detailed list of “passive substantial holders” related body corporates of the principal person, including Arctic Asia, Australian Financial Times, Conpress (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Cayman, Christchurch, Finance, Holdings, International Finance) and Consolidated Press Property, a raft of Ellerston companies, as well as Hoyts Cinemas (America, Argentina, Chile, Germany, Polska), Park Street Partners Cayman and Perisher Village Developments, among others (BD: Aug 8, 2012).

Ellerston’s website said that it was a subsidiary of Consolidated Press Holdings, a private company of the Packer media and gambling family.

Acrux was up nine cents or 2.6 percent to \$3.55 with 290,497 shares traded.

RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says it has appointed Dr Jason Loveridge as a non-executive director, effective immediately.

Resonance said that Dr Loveridge was based in Europe and had worked with “young, growth-orientated businesses” in the biotechnology and medical technology industries for more than 20 years.

The company said that Dr Loveridge was “an active venture investor” and had participated in European, US and Israel-based healthcare companies.

Resonance said that Dr Loveridge had experience at board level and an interest in business development, mergers and acquisitions.

The company said that Dr Loveridge was the owner of advisory firm Warambi Sari and a director of Swiss cardiovascular device company Parvulus Swiss SA. Australian investment vehicle JDS Biopharma and French anti-viral drug discovery company Anaconda SAS.

According to LinkedIn, Dr Loveridge holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of New South Wales and a Doctorate of Philosophy in biochemistry from the University of Adelaide.

Resonance was untraded at 1.7 cents.