



Biotech Daily

Friday March 15, 2013

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: CELLMID UP 7%, PATRYS DOWN 10%**
- * **BUCHAN CALLS FOR MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE RESEARCH FUNDING**
- * **USPTO BACKS GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES NON-CODING DNA PATENT**
- * **NUSEP SELLS PROTEOIQ TOOL TO CALIFORNIA'S PREMIER BIOSOFT**
- * **FDA NASAL CALCITONIN CONCERNS GOOD FOR BONE ORAL DELIVERY**
- * **CORRECTION: MONASH VISION GROUP**
- * **PERPETUAL TAKES 7% OF RESMED**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 1.75 percent on Friday March 15, 2013 with the S&P ASX 200 up 88.0 points to 5,120.2 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, 11 traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Cellmid was the best, up 0.3 cents or 7.1 percent to 4.5 cents, with 16.8 million shares traded.

Pharmaxis climbed five percent; Heartware was up 4.1 percent; Allied Health, CSL, Medical Developments and Mesoblast were up more than three percent; Alchemia rose 2.8 percent; Nanosonics was up one percent; with Acrux, Cochlear, Resmed and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Patrys led the falls, down 0.4 cents or 10.3 percent to 3.5 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

Benitec lost 7.7 percent; Ellex fell five percent; Circadian, Genetic Technologies and Phosphagenics were down more than three percent; Prana and Sirtex shed more than two percent; with Bionomics, Clinuvel, QRX, Reva and Universal Biosensors down more than one percent.

BUCHAN CONSULTING

Buchan Consulting is promoting research into motor neurone disease following the death of 56-year old Mark Price, father of team-member Haley Price on February 14, 2103.

The national peak organization MND Australia said that motor neurone disease was a progressive neurological disease also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and as Lou Gehrig's disease in the US, affecting about 1,500 people in Australia.

The public relations company, which specializes in life sciences, said it would work pro bono to advance research into motor neurone disease.

Buchan Consulting said that with signs of a genetic link identified in the family, Ms Price and her sisters, aged 26, 28 and 30 years, underwent genetic testing last year, with a view to using pre-implantation genetic diagnosis to screen and eliminate the gene when they had children of their own.

Buchan said that all three tested positive to a gene which made them predisposed to the disease.

Buchan principal Rebecca Wilson said the consultancy was "proud to be supporting efforts to drive more research, effective government policies and fundraising for motor neurone disease".

"We work closely with a number of truly inspirational biotechnology companies, each with a mission to change lives and we are proud to use our skills to profile and support the very noble work of researchers in Australia," Ms Wilson said.

"This is a very personally-motivated project for our team and one that we'll be resourcing for the long haul with experienced consultants right across our business," Ms Wilson said.

"There is currently no cure for motor neurone disease and it takes the lives of more than 10 Australians each week, so we are extremely motivated to inspire action," Ms Wilson said.

Buchan said it would help raise money to support new research to find a cure as well as resources for people living with the disease.

The company said it was working closely with MND Australia and researchers to ensure policy makers were not only aware of this disease, but directing public funding towards continued research, support for sufferers and efforts to stop familial cases of this disease from being passed on.

Buchan said that motor neurone disease was a collective term referring to a group of diseases in which the nerve cells that control muscle function begin to fail, causing the muscles to waste, or atrophy.

Buchan said that the disease affected walking, talking, breathing and swallowing, eventually leading to almost entire paralysis.

The company said that thought processes remained intact throughout the process, making the patient aware of the progress of the disease.

Buchan said that the cause was unknown and there was no cure, with very little in the way of effective treatment.

The company said that motor neurone disease could strike at any age and was typically fatal within two to three years of diagnosis.

Buchan said that people wanting to donate to an initial fundraiser run by the Price family, should visit: www.everydayhero.com.au/the_cure_seekers.

The company said that all money raised would go to support MND Australia.

Biotech Daily supports the campaign for funds for motor neurone disease research.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says the US Patent and Trademark Office has issued an action reaffirming the validity of certain claims in patent 5,612,179 on non-coding DNA.

Genetic Technologies said that last year it received notification from the USPTO that it had granted a request for ex parte re-examination of 24 claims of the patent based on a submission by the Duluth Georgia-based Merial LLC (BD: Jul 9, 2012).

Genetic Technologies said that Merial was a defendant in an action it had originally brought in Colorado for infringement of the patent and that action was pending in Delaware Federal District Court.

The company said that in its formal notification the USPTO stated that "claims 1-18 and 26-32 of the '179 patent are confirmed and claims 19-25 and 33-36 are not reexamined".

Genetic Technologies chief executive officer Alison Mew said the "successful resolution of the re-examination of one of our key patents will once again reinforce the strength of the company's non-coding patent portfolio".

"With the removal of what some potential licencees have apparently used as a reason to delay settlement discussions, we hope that such negotiations will now resume in earnest, with further licences to our technology then being granted," Ms Mew said.

Genetic Technologies fell 0.3 cents or 3.7 percent to 7.8 cents.

NUSEP

Nusep says that the Palo Alto, California-based Premier Biosoft has acquired its ProteoIQ software for an undisclosed price (BD: Jan 24, 2013).

Nusep said that the ProteoIQ mass spectrometry analytical software was non-core and had been fully written-off in a prior financial period.

The company said that in the six months to December 31, 2012 the software generated sales of \$105,591.

Nusep said the sale price was "not a material amount after expenses", but the sale underlined the company's focus on the Prime biological separation technology, currently used for sperm and blood.

Nusep was unchanged at six cents.

BONE MEDICAL

Bone says that a US Food and Drug Administration committee's concerns with nasal calcitonin enhances its phase II oral calcitonin program.

Bone said that a meeting of the FDA Reproductive Health Drugs and Drug Safety and Risk Management Committees recommended that approval for the nasal forms of calcitonin be withdrawn following a review of the limited historical fracture-prevention data supporting the products and recent data suggesting a possible cancer risk.

Bone said the recommendation reinforced its prioritizing the Capsitonin oral calcitonin program for osteoarthritis pain after a similar European Medicines Agency decision.

Bone chief executive officer Peter Young attended the FDA meeting as a public observer and said that "many of the expert clinicians at the FDA meeting spoke positively about the benefit of calcitonin in providing pain relief".

Mr Young said that while Capsitonin could become a safe and effective treatment for osteoporosis, "the compelling strategic opportunity for Capsitonin is now the treatment of osteoarthritis pain to capitalize on the recognized analgesic properties of calcitonin".

Bone was unchanged at 0.2 cents.

[MONASH UNIVERSITY, MONASH VISION GROUP](#)

Last night's edition incorrectly reported the indications suitable for the Monash University Vision Group bionic eye and the retinal devices currently available.

The comments from Monash University's head of the Department of Surgery and Clinical Sciences Prof Jeffrey Rosenfeld should have said that "glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, trauma and tumors were not suitable indications for the retinal device but these patients could benefit from the Monash device, while neither device was suitable for congenital blindness".

Prof Rosenfeld said haemorrhaging had been "minimal" rather than the reported "extremely minimal".

The mistake was made by a fault in transmission between the speaker, processor, recorder and relay systems.

The algorithm has been upgraded and only a few sub-editors were slightly harmed in making this correction.

[RESMED](#)

Perpetual and its subsidiaries have increased their substantial shareholding in Resmed from 99,130,394 shares (6.37%) to 115,288,759 shares (7.41%).

The substantial shareholder said that the shares were acquired in more than 400 separate trades between February 15 and March 12, 2013 at prices ranging from \$4.16 to \$4.39.

Resmed was up three cents or 0.7 percent to \$4.22 with 7.9 million shares traded.