



Biotech Daily

Wednesday March 27, 2013

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PSIVIDA UP 10%, COMPUMEDICS DOWN 16%**
- * **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$100m FOR INNOVATION INVESTMENT FUND**
- * **AGENIX TELLS AUSBIOTECH SUMMIT: 'PAVING THE WAY IN CHINA'**
- * **BENITEC RAISES A FURTHER \$180k, TOTAL \$980k**
- * **IMMURON 3-FOR-2 RIGHTS ISSUE FOR \$1.9m**
- * **PRANA REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.91 percent on Wednesday March 27, 2013 with the S&P ASX 200 up 44.8 points to 4,995.0 points.

Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell, seven traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Psivida was the best, up 20 cents or 10 percent to \$2.20, with 1,200 shares traded.

Reva climbed 7.1 percent; Cochlear was up 4.1 percent; Patrys, Resmed and Tissue Therapies were up more than three percent; Ellex, Living Cell, Neuren and Sirtex rose more than two percent; Alchemia, Bionomics and Heartware were up more than one percent; with Acrux and CSL up by less than one percent.

Compumedics led the falls, down 1.1 cents or 16.4 percent to 5.6 cents with 44,600 shares traded, followed by Optiscan down 13.6 percent to 9.5 cents with 155,000 shares traded and Pharmaxis down 11 percent to 32.5 cents with 4.9 million shares traded.

Antisense lost 9.1 percent; Benitec, Cellmid and Universal Biosensors were down more than seven percent; Avita fell 4.35 percent; Allied Health and Viralytics were down more than three percent; Prima shed two percent; Anteo, GI Dynamics, Mesoblast and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with QRX down 0.9 percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government will provide \$100 million through the Innovation Investment Fund to Carnegie Venture Capital, GBS Venture Partners and Innovation Capital Associates.

The Federal Minister for Climate Change, Industry and Innovation Greg Combet said the Funds provided small and medium sized enterprises with access to venture capital.

Mr Combet said \$100 million of Government funding would be matched dollar-for-dollar, with \$40 million to Carnegie Venture Capital and \$30 million each to GBS Venture Partners and Innovation Capital Associates.

GBS Venture Partners has invested in many biotechnology companies from Chemgenex, Peplin, Sunshine Heart and Pharmaxis to Hatchtech and Spinifex.

Innovation Capital's managing partner is Resmed director Michael Quinn and the company's website said that it had invested in QRX Pharma, Enterix and Neuromonics.

MH Carnegie investment manager Mark De Ambrosis told Biotech Daily that his company invested in life sciences, clean technology and information technology, with its first biotechnology investment Minomic, a private company developing a biomarker diagnostic for prostate cancer.

"These funds will invest at least \$200 million of new capital in start-up businesses," Mr Combet said. "The IIF continues to commercialize leading Australian research to produce new technologies, products and services that will be sold around the globe."

"These new fund managers will provide crucial equity capital and essential management expertise to a whole range of promising companies across the economy," Mr Combet said.

AUSBIOTECH AUSTRALIA CHINA LIFE SCIENCE SUMMIT, AGENIX

Agenix executive chairman Nick Weston says his company's hepatitis B trial application to the State Food and Drug Administration will be a milestone for biotechnology in China.

Mr Weston told the second day of the Ausbiotech Australia China Life Science Summit in Melbourne that Agenix was "on-track" to submit a new drug clinical trial application by July 2013, with China's State Food and Drug Administration to conduct clinical trials of its hepatitis B drug candidate AGX-1009 for patients with chronic hepatitis B who developed resistance to current approved therapies.

"Filing with SFDA will represent an important milestone for us and all other Australian companies active in China," Mr Weston said.

"As a clinical-stage drug and diagnostic development company, competition in patient recruitment, time and costs can be challenging when advancing clinical programs," Mr Weston said.

"Agenix is successfully addressing these issues by working closely with our strategic partners in China via a unique joint Australian-China drug development model that will enable us to do the trials with much lower study costs and faster patient recruitment than is possible in developed markets," Mr Weston said.

"The data we obtain may be used to support drug development in China and possibly other Asian markets as appropriate," Mr Weston said.

Mr Weston said that Agenix and its partner, the Institute of Medicinal Biotechnology of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, were confident the application would meet SFDA requirements.

Mr Weston said that China would spend \$US1 trillion on healthcare in 2020 driven by a continuation of the nation's economic and demographic trends, healthcare reforms and policies laid out in the Government's 12th Five-Year Development Plan (2011-2015).

Agenix was up 0.1 cents or 4.8 percent to 2.2 cents.

BENITEC BIOPHARMA

Benitec says it has raised a further \$180,000 through the issue of shares at 1.3 cents each.

Earlier this month, Benitec said it raised \$800,000 through a placement to institutional and sophisticated investors at 1.3 cents a share and would conduct a 25-to-one share consolidation (BD: Mar 5, 2013).

Benitec said that participants in the placement would receive two free unlisted options for every five shares subscribed, exercisable at 1.3 cents by February 18, 2015.

The placement was managed by Lodge Corporate.

Benitec fell 0.1 cents or 7.7 percent to 1.2 cents.

IMMURON

Immuron says it will raise \$1,863,810 through a fully-underwritten, renounceable three-for-two rights issue at 0.3 cents a share.

Immuron said that Patersons Securities had underwritten the issue.

The company said the funds would be used to continue commercialization efforts, including that of the over-the-counter travelers' diarrhoea treatment Travelan in the US.

Immuron said that the activities "inherently require business development, sales and raw material production and product manufacture" and the funds would also be used for working capital.

The company said the record date was April 2, the offer would open on April 12 and close on April 29, 2013.

Immuron fell 0.2 cents or 25 percent to 0.6 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY

Prana has requested a trading halt pending "an announcement to the market in relation to a proposed capital raising".

Trading will resume on April 2, 2013 or on an earlier announcement.

Prana last traded at 22.5 cents.