



Biotech Daily

Monday June 24, 2013

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: NEUREN UP 14%, ALLIED DOWN 9%**
- * **INDEPENDENT STUDY BACKS GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES BREVAGEN**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES, BIOSCIENTIA SETTLE NON-CODING DNA CASE**
- * **SIRTEX TO DISTRIBUTE SUREFIRE INFUSION SYSTEMS, CATHETERS**
- * **EU GRANTS ANTEO 'USE OF METAL COMPLEXES' MIX&GO PATENT**
- * **RESONANCE EARNS \$188k R&D TAX REFUND; \$60k GRANT**
- * **HYPERION REDUCES TO 6% OF COCHLEAR**
- * **PRIMA REQUESTS TRIAL EXTENSION TRADING HALT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market continued to fall, down a further 1.47 percent on Monday June 24, 2013 with the S&P ASX 200 down 69.7 points to 4,669.1 points.

Six of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, eight traded unchanged and nine were untraded.

Neuren was the best, up 0.9 cents or 14.1 percent to 7.3 cents with 18.3 million shares traded, followed by Prima up 11.4 percent to 7.8 cents with 4.3 million shares traded.

Circadian climbed eight percent; Universal Biosensors was up 7.7 percent; Clinuvel, CSL and QRX rose more than two percent; with Resmed up 0.4 percent.

Allied Health led the falls, down 0.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 4.8 cents with 5.4 million shares traded.

Cellmid, Tissue Therapies and Viralytics lost eight percent or more; Avita and Phosphagenics fell more than seven percent; Pharmaxis was down 6.7 percent; Bionomics and GI Dynamics fell more than four percent; Acrux, Nanosonics, Sirtex and Starpharma shed more than two percent; Alchemia and Heartware were down more than one percent; with Medical Developments, Mesoblast and Cochlear down by less than one percent.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

An independent University of Melbourne, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre study supports the technology underpinning the Brevagen test for breast cancer.

The research, entitled 'Using SNP genotypes to improve the discrimination of a simple breast cancer risk prediction model' was published in the journal 'Breast Cancer Research and Treatment' and found that "including information on seven [single nucleotide polymorphisms] associated with breast cancer risk improves the discriminatory accuracy of [the Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool] for women aged 35–39 years and 40–49 years".

"Given the low absolute risks for women in these age groups only a small proportion are reclassified into a higher category for predicted five-year risk of breast cancer," the study concluded.

"The results of this study may aid decisions on the clinical usefulness of combining SNP data with BCRAT, decisions that will also depend on local circumstances and resources," the study concluded.

Genetic Technologies said the independent study was conducted under the supervision of Prof John Hopper and first authored by Dr Gillian Dite from the Centre for Molecular Epidemiology at the University of Melbourne and investigated the impact of seven single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) on the predictive accuracy of the Gail Model, Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool (BCRAT).

Genetic Technologies said the authors used the Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry to study a population-based sample of 962 cases aged 35 to 59 years and 463 controls frequency matched for age and for whom genotyping data was available.

The company said that the seven SNPs examined in the study were used in its Brevagen breast cancer risk assessment test and had previously been studied for an older cohort of cases and controls from the Women's Health Initiative clinical trial in the US.

Genetic Technologies chief executive officer Alison Mew told Biotech Daily that the 2010 study, entitled 'Assessment of Clinical Validity of a Breast Cancer Risk Model Combining Genetic and Clinical Information' and published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, focused on post-menopausal women, whereas the new study "provided further independent scientific data on pre-menopausal women" (BD: Oct 28, 2010).

Ms Mew said the University of Melbourne and Peter MacCallum study supported the 2010 observation that including information on seven SNPs associated with breast cancer risk improved the discriminatory accuracy of BCRAT and extended that observation in pre-menopausal women aged 35 to 49 years.

Genetic Technologies said it was "actively progressing a research program with leading international academic collaborators to confirm these observations in other ethnic populations and to incorporate the full portfolio of currently known common breast cancer susceptibility variants into the Brevagen test".

Genetic Technologies was untraded at 9.8 cents.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says it has settled its dispute with the Ingelheim, Germany-based Bioscientia Institute for Medical Diagnostics relating to its non-coding DNA patents.

Genetic Technologies said that the law suit filed earlier this year would be withdrawn (BD: Mar 19, 2013).

The company said that the commercial terms of the settlement agreement with Bioscientia was covered by confidentiality provisions and could not be disclosed.

SIRTEX MEDICAL

Sirtex says it will distribute Surefire Medical's infusion systems and specialty catheters for the interventional radiology and oncology markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

Sirtex said that the Westminster, Colorado-based Surefire had regulatory approval in the US, Europe, Canada and New Zealand and its first-in-class infusion systems were used by cancer centers and hospitals in these markets.

The company said that the Surefire Infusion System has been designed to enhance the accuracy and delivery of drugs directly to tumors.

Sirtex SIR-Spheres for liver cancer are delivered by infusion systems.

Sirtex said that Surefire products use a patented micro-catheter with an expandable tip that responded to flow conditions to enable more of the embolic agent to reach the intended destination while reducing non-target delivery compared to traditional infusion systems.

The company said that the ability to more safely and efficiently deliver embolic agents directly to target tumors was "a significant advance in radiation oncology procedures and in the treatment of liver cancer".

Sirtex Asia Pacific chief executive officer Dr Burwood Chew said the distribution partnership would "allow us to provide interventional radiologists and oncologists with a wider range of options that may potentially lead to improved patient outcomes, which is our shared goal".

Sirtex fell 35 cents or 2.87 percent to \$11.85 with 230,310 shares traded.

ANTEO DIAGNOSTICS

Anteo says the European Patent Office has granted its 'Use of Metal Complexes' patent, joining the US, Japan and Australia in protecting its Mix&Go 'molecular glue'.

Anteo said that Europe was the final jurisdiction required to protect the intellectual property at the core of Mix&Go.

The company said that a further patent, entitled 'Binding Systems', was filed in May 2011 in the US, Europe, Australia, Japan, Brazil, India and China, which, when granted, would provide protection over broader applications than those covered by the 'Use of Metal Complexes' patent and ensuring rights over these expanded fields for 20 years from the date of filing.

Anteo said that recent work led to the development of additional intellectual property that would cover the use of Mix&Go in a range of commercially valuable fields that had not previously been considered and the patents were expected to be filed in the next few months.

Anteo chief executive officer Dr Geoff Cumming said the European patent was the "final, economically important, geographic region for our Mix&Go product patent protected".

"Our patent strategy is being successfully and effectively implemented," Dr Cumming said.

Dr Cumming said that chief scientific officer Dr Joe Maeji had assisted in the process that would "afford us the opportunity to extract value from Mix&Go long into the future".

"The initial base position provided by the Use of Metal Complexes patent will be strengthened through the grant of the Binding Systems patent," Dr Cumming said.

"Given the ubiquitous requirement for 'glues' in a broad array of industries, we would expect that further [intellectual property] filings relevant to Mix&Go will be made by the company into the future," Dr Cumming said.

Anteo was unchanged at 6.2 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says it has received \$188,000 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Resonance said the rebate related to research and development expenditure in 2011-'12. The company said it also received the first cash payment of \$60,000 under the Federal Government's Export Market Development Grant for 2011-'12.

Resonance said the Export Market Development Grant provided a reimbursement of a proportion of eligible expenditure associated with export promotion activities including overseas representatives.

The company said that more than 90 percent of its revenue was from export markets.

Resonance said an additional cash receipt was expected in late June depending on funds available within the program.

Resonance was unchanged at 1.1 cents.

COCHLEAR

Hyperion Asset Management has reduced its holding in Cochlear from 4,235,536 shares (7.44%) to 3,534,289 shares (6.20%).

Hyperion said it bought and sold shares between April 16, 2012 and June 20, 2013 with a net reduction of 701,247 shares earning a net amount of \$47,298,897 or an average price of \$67.45 a share.

Last year, the Brisbane-based Hyperion increased its holding in Cochlear by one percent to 4,235,536 shares (7.44%), buying and selling shares between December 22, 2011 and April 16, 2012 on behalf of a large number of holders including superannuation funds and the University of Queensland, including four major purchases of a total of 482,769 shares for \$29,524,896 or an average price of \$61.16 share (BD: April 19, 2012).

Cochlear fell 14 cents or 0.2 percent to \$60.31 with 206,466 shares traded.

PRIMA BIOMED

Prima has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement in relation to the company's decision to extend clinical trials of ... CVac in additional cancer indications.

Trading will resume on June 26, 2013 or on an earlier announcement.

Prima last traded up 0.8 cents or 11.4 percent to 7.8 cents with 4.3 million shares traded.