



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday July 10, 2013

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: GENETIC TECHNO UP 14%, CLINUVEL DOWN 8%**
- \* **BENITEC ddRNAi LICENCEE CALIMMUNE HIV CLINICAL TRIAL**
- \* **PATRY'S MACQUARIE \$428k ARC GRANT FOR CANCER DIAGNOSTIC**
- \* **US PATENT FOR GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES' IMMUNAID**
- \* **ITL BUYS MALAYSIAN DEVICE FACTORY**
- \* **GENERA TAKES CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT TO SUSPENSION**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.4 percent on Wednesday July 10, 2013 with the S&P ASX 200 up 19.7 points to 4,901.4 points.

Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, eight traded unchanged and four were untraded.

Genetic Technologies was the best, up 1.5 cents or 17.65 percent to 10 cents with 130,623 shares traded, followed by Prima up 12.5 percent to 9.9 cents with 8.8 million shares traded.

Living Cell climbed 7.3 percent; Compumedics was up 5.45 percent; QRX and Tissue Therapies were up more than three percent; Bionomics, Cochlear, CSL, Ellex, Nanosonics and Neuren rose more than two percent; Acrux and Alchemia were up more than one percent; with Mesoblast and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Clinuvel led the falls, down 15.5 cents or 7.8 percent to \$1.825 with 2,824 shares traded, followed by Impedimed down 7.2 percent to nine cents with 33,410 shares traded.

Antisense and Benitec lost more than six percent; Universal Biosensors fell 5.1 percent; Heartware and Phosphagenics fell more than four percent; Cellmid and GI Dynamics were down more than three percent; with Allied Health, Medical Developments, Prana, Psivida, Starpharma and Resmed down more than one percent.

## BENITEC BIOPHARMA

Benitec Biopharma says US licensee Calimmune has treated the first patient in a 12-patient phase I/II trial of its HIV/AIDS gene candidate, Cal-1.

Benitec said that Cal-1 therapy used DAN-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi) based gene silencing technology along with additional proprietary technology to reduce the ability of HIV to enter cells.

The company said that the trial entitled 'Safety Study of a Dual Anti-HIV Gene Transfer Construct to Treat HIV-1 Infection' would assess the feasibility and the safety of Calimmune's gene medicine approach developed with core technology from the California Institute of Technology laboratory of Dr David Baltimore.

Benitec said the primary outcomes were the feasibility and safety of the introduction of Cal-1 into blood stem cells and T-cell populations and the associated delivery procedures. Calimmune chief executive officer Louis Breton said that the trial was "the culmination of years of development and we are very excited to see the outcome of this trial".

Benitec chief executive officer Dr Peter French said that Calimmune was the first Benitec licensee to enter the clinic and his company "will be following closely behind with our ddRNAi-based therapy for hepatitis C, and so in 2013 we will have two clinical trials underway using Benitec Biopharma's potent gene silencing technology".

Benitec fell 0.1 cents or 6.25 percent to 1.5 cents with 8.6 million shares.

## PATRYS

Patrys says that Macquarie University collaborators have been awarded a \$427,510 Australian Research Council grant to develop a cancer diagnostic using its PAT-SM6.

Patrys said that PAT-SM6 was an immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody that had completed a phase I trial in melanoma and was in a phase I/IIa trial for patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma.

The company said that the grant would bring support work by Macquarie University's Dr Dayong Jin, Prof Nicolle Packer, Prof James Piper, Prof Robert Willows and Prof Simon Foote with industry partners Minomic International and Patrys to combine Macquarie's Super Dot nanocrystal technology with Minomic's and Patrys' antibodies directed against prostate and multiple myeloma cancer biomarkers, respectively.

Patrys said that a previous collaboration with Prof Packer showed that PAT-SM6 detected specific changes in the proteins present on the surface of multiple myeloma cells, but not on normal cells.

The company said that the cancer-modified cells in the patients' blood and urine were "very rare in early stages of disease and their detection poses a needle-in-a-haystack challenge at both the research and clinical levels".

Patrys said that current diagnostic tests were not sensitive enough to detect these rare-event cells, resulting in an inefficient early detection and diagnosis of cancer and consequently poor prognosis.

The company said that Dr Jin and colleagues from Macquarie University had developed highly sensitive technologies using super-bright nano-crystals that would enable the detection of single abnormal cells in body fluids and would provide the basis for sensitive and non-invasive early-stage screening of multiple myeloma, prostate cancer and other malignancies.

Patrys chief executive officer Dr Marie Roskrow said that "the possibility to use Patrys' antibodies as cancer diagnostics as well as therapeutics is very exciting and potentially brings additional opportunities and value to the Patrys' pipeline".

Patrys was unchanged at 2.7 cents.

## GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says that the US Patent and Trademark Office has allowed 45 percent subsidiary Immunaid its first US patent.

Genetic Technologies said that Immunaid had been working since 2001 “to research, develop and refine an entirely new and potentially revolutionary treatment strategy for patients with life-threatening diseases such as cancer and auto-immune disease” based on individual immune cycles.

The company said that through monitoring patients, the precise optimal time to deliver treatment including chemotherapy, radiotherapy or immunotherapy could be determined to be more effective.

Genetic Technologies said that Immunaid could identify “a unique window of opportunity ... for each individual patient”.

The company said that the treatment strategy had been tested on cancer patients in Australia and the US “with extremely encouraging results and is now steadily building a momentum of supporting articles and commentaries in relevant medical journals, medical conferences and the general media”.

Genetic Technologies said that in 2011, the grant of a first European patent justified a first round of funding for Immunaid and the first US patent could justify a second round of funding and investor support (BD: Nov 2, 2011; Apr 13, 2012).

Genetic Technologies was up 1.5 cents or 17.65 percent to 10 cents.

## ITL

ITL says that it will acquire long-term leasehold land and an existing medical device factory building with clean rooms in Perak, Malaysia.

ITL said the contract worth about \$1.5 million was through its wholly-owned subsidiary ITL Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd and its innovative products group already had a manufacturing facility at Ipoh in Perak, producing a range of biological safety sampling devices for human healthcare, and in particular blood banking.

The company said the new property was close to the existing facilities which would be relocated to the new site after proposed modifications and enhancements were completed and it proposed to sell the existing leasehold land and buildings.

ITL said the existing premises were small with limited growth and expansion opportunities and the board considered many options and was pleased to buy a well-located high quality factory, with space for expansion providing for long-term needs.

The company said the purchase consideration was about \$1.5 million in a combination of about \$1.0 million in cash and 1.4 million shares.

ITL said it specialized in medical devices and procedure packs.

ITL was unchanged at 31 cents.

## GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera has requested a voluntary suspension to follow the trading halt requested on July 8, “in relation to a capital raising” (BD: Jul 8, 2013).

Genera last traded at 10.5 cents.