

# Biotech Daily

Thursday March 13, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- \* ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: GENETIC TECH UP 10%, PHARMAXIS DOWN 8%
- \* VIRALYTICS COMPLETES \$27m FUND-RAISING
- \* RA CAPITAL TAKES 7% OF BENITEC; TRIAL DELAY
- \* GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES FOUNDER MERVYN JACOBSON SHARES EGM
- \* CALZADA APPOINTS DAVID WILLIAMS CHAIRMAN
- \* BIONOMICS, CEO DR DEBORAH RATHJEN WIN SINGAPORE GONGS

#### MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.53 percent on Thursday March 13, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 28.4 points to 5,412.6 points.

Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, five were unchanged and three were untraded.

Genetic Technologies was the best, up 0.6 cents or 10.2 percent to 6.5 cents with 146,851 shares traded.

Tissue Therapies climbed 5.6 percent; Avita and Impedimed were up more than four percent; Admedus and Nanosonics were up more than three percent; Viralytics rose 2.9 percent; Bionomics, Neuren, QRX and Sirtex were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear and Mesoblast up by less than one percent.

Pharmaxis led the falls, down one cent or 8.3 percent to 11 cents with 156,897 shares traded.

Reva fell 7.3 percent; Anteo lost six percent; GI Dynamics and Prana fell more than five percent; Atcor, Patrys, Phosphagenics and Universal Biosensors fell four percent or more; Cellmid and Oncosil were down more than three percent; Benitec and Ellex shed more than two percent; Compumedics, Living Cell, Optiscan and Resmed were down one percent or more; with Acrux, CSL, Medical Developments and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

### **VIRALYTICS**

Viralytics says it has completed its \$27.1 million capital raising at 28 cents a share, to fund its clinical programs through 2016 (BD: Jan 30, 2014).

Viralytics said that it had raised \$4.1 million in a rights issue to existing shareholders followed by a \$23 million two-tranche placement (BD: Feb 28, 2014)

The company said the placement included "12 new specialist healthcare institutional investors".

Viralytics said it had two trials underway, a phase II intra-tumoral trial in melanoma patients (the Calm trial) and a phase I/II intravenous trial in solid cancer types (the Storm trial), with a randomized melanoma clinical trial in development.

The company said that Bell Potter Securities acted as the lead manager of the equity offering with Roth Capital Partners acting as the sole US placement agent.

Viralytics chief executive officer Dr Malcolm McColl said the company was "delighted with the strong support from existing shareholders, both in regards to this transaction and the company's clinical development plans".

Viralytics was up one cent or 2.9 percent to 35 cents.

## **BENITEC**

RA Capital Management has become a substantial shareholder in Benitec with 7,009,345 shares or 7.0 percent of the company.

The Sydney-based RA Capital said the shares were held by RA Capital Healthcare Fund and Blackwell Partners and gave Citigroup as its address.

In a covering note to the substantial shareholder notice, Benitec said that RA Capital participated in the recent \$31.5 million placement at \$1.07 a share (BD: Feb 24, 2014). Separately, Benitec said that prospective patients were being screened for its phase I/IIa trial of TT-034 for hepatitis C and would be dosed "within weeks", but previously hoped to start dosing by the end of 2013 or early 2014 (BD: Oct 8, Dec 9, 2013). Benitec fell five cents or 2.6 percent to \$1.85.

#### **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES**

Genetic Technologies will hold an extraordinary general meeting to approve the reduction of founder Dr Mervyn Jacobson's substantial shareholding.

The resolution asks shareholders to approve the transfer by the Jacobson Entities of 75,937,500 ordinary shares to the company followed by their immediate cancellation, in exchange for the transfer to the Jacobson Entities of 4,500,000 shares in Immunaid as per the agreement (BD: Dec 18, 20, 2013).

The meeting will be held on April 17, 2014 at 60-66 Hanover Street, Fitzroy, Victoria at 10am (AEST).

Genetic Technologies was up 0.6 cents or 10.2 percent to 6.5 cents.

## **CALZADA**

Calzada says David Williams has been appointed chairman of the company, effective immediately, with Dr Roger Aston remaining a non-executive director.

Mr Williams was appointed as a director last month (BD: Feb 28, 2014).

Calzada said that Mr Williams was currently the chairman of Medical Developments International, a director of IDT Australia and was previously chairman of Tassal Group. Calzada was up half a cent or 4.35 percent to 12 cents.

#### **BIONOMICS**

Bionomics says it has won the 2014 Innovative Asian Biotech award and chief executive officer Dr Deborah Rathjen was named Life Science Woman Executive of the Year Bionomics said the awards were part of the Bio-Pharma Asia Convention at the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre in Singapore.

The company said that the Convention was "Asia's largest biopharmaceutical event drawing almost 3,000 attendees from across the world with interests in biotech and pharmaceutical company partnering, industry trends and investment opportunities". Bionomics said the citation for the Asian Biotech of the Year award made reference to its ability to adopt innovative technologies to develop novel drugs and acknowledged its approach to drug development, while Dr Rathjen's award cited her contribution to both the biopharma industry and society and the "achievement of excellent results while demonstrating high levels of professionalism".

Bionomics was up one cent or 1.3 percent to 75.5 cents.