Biotech Daily

Wednesday March 26, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: ANTEO UP 4%, CIRCADIAN DOWN 11%**

*** REGENEUS REGISTER SHOWS HIQCELL JOINT BENEFIT**

*** INVION FOUNDER, EX-CEO DR WILLIAM GARNER REDUCES TO 11.63%**

*** IMPEDIMED REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**

*** PRIMA ADDS 3 EXPERTS TO BOARD FOR CVAC OVARIAN CANCER TRIAL**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.75 percent on Wednesday March 26, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 40.2 points to 5,376.8 points.

Seven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, nine traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Anteo was the best, up one cent or four percent to 26 cents with 6.4 million shares traded.

Mesoblast and Tissue Therapies climbed more than two percent; Acrux, Clinuvel and Genetic Technologies were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Prana and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Circadian led the falls, down 2.5 cents or 11.1 percent to 20 cents with 2,500 shares traded, followed by GI Dynamics down 10.6 percent to 55 cents with 700,015 shares traded and Patrys down 10 percent to 4.5 cents with 11.2 million shares traded.

Universal Biosensors lost 5.9 percent; Bionomics fell 4.3 percent; Admedus, Cellmid, Oncosil and Phosphagenics fell three percent or more; Alchemia, Reva and Sirtex shed more than two percent; Benitec, Compumedics, Ellex, Psivida and Viralytics were down more than one percent; with Nanosonics and QRX down by less than one percent.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says that 56 patients (72.7%) of 77 patients at 12 months post-treatment have responded to its Hiqcell fat stem cell treatment for osteoarthritis.

Regeneus said that data from its voluntary registry included 305 patients at January 23, 2014 with 77 patients assessed at 12 months and seven patients assessed at 24 months, with six of those seven deemed responders.

The company said a patient was a responder if their joint pain was reduced by 30 percent or more and the registry was being used to track the safety and effectiveness of its Hiqcell cell therapy for osteoarthritis.

Regeneus said that patients reported continued improvements at 12 months post-treatment, including significant improvements in pain, function, sleep quality and reduced usage of pain medications.

The company said that Hiqcell was safe and well tolerated.

Regeneus said that the registry would be followed for up to five years with analyses updated regularly.

Regeneus chief executive officer Prof Graham Vesey said the joint registry “is an important part of the company’s commitment to quality”.

“Recording patient outcomes over the long term is an example of our responsible approach towards furthering the medical community’s understanding of this new therapeutic field,” Prof Vesey said.

“We anticipate that it will also help us to build a case for permitting medical reimbursement to patients,” Prof Vesey said.

Regeneus said that the registry was a voluntary observational registry and all patients treated with Hiqcell were eligible for inclusion.

The company said that patients were tracked from a pre-treatment baseline, at two weeks, at six months and then annually.

Regeneus said that at January 23, 2014, a total of 305 patients had consented to be included in the registry, representing 77 percent of all patients treated.

The company said that the registry was developed by Regeneus and Flinders University Prof Jegan Krishnan in Adelaide.

Regeneus said it had treated the 1,000th joint with Hiqcell, comprising knees, hips, ankles, wrists, shoulders and digits across a cohort of more than 450 patients.

Regeneus said that Dr Donald Kuah was a sports and exercise doctor using Hiqcell, who said “this registry is extremely valuable as it allows me to track specific outcomes of my own patients as well as being able to observe the treatment effect across all other patients enrolled in the registry”.

Regeneus fell 1.5 cents or 3.1 percent to 46.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

INVION

Invion founder and former chief executive officer Dr William Garner says he has reduced his substantial holding from 62,930,193 shares (11.88%) to 61,585,000 shares (11.63%).

Dr Garner said that between March 20 and 25, 2014, he sold 1,345,193 shares for $103,785 or an average price of 7.715 cents a share.

Last year, Dr Garner was replaced as chief executive officer by Dr Greg Collier and was described at the time as Invion’s largest shareholder (BD: May 6, 2013).

Invion fell 0.4 cents or 5.2 percent to 7.3 cents with 3.0 million shares traded.

IMPEDIMED

Impedimed has requested a trading halt pending the release of an announcement “in relation to a proposed capital raising”.
Trading will resume on March 28, 2014 or on an earlier announcement.
Impedimed last traded at 22 cents.

PRIMA BIOMED

Prima says it has appointed Prof Eric Pujade-Lauraine, Prof Christian Marth and Prof Ignace Vergote to its clinical advisory board.
Prima said the three would join US board members Dr Jonathon Berek and Dr Bradley Monk, Germany’s Dr Walther Kuhn and Australia’s Dr Jeffrey Goh to advise on the development of CVac for epithelial ovarian cancer (BD: Sep 19, 2013).
Prima said that Prof Pujade-Lauraine was the founder of the French Gineco Group, devoted to clinical research in gynecologic cancer and head of the Women Cancers and Clinical Research Department at Hôpitaux Universitaires Paris Centre, at Hôtel-Dieu.
The company said that Prof Pujade-Lauraine was also a professor of medical oncology at University Paris Descartes.
Prima said that Prof Marth was Innsbruck Medical University’s head and professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, president and founder of the Austrian Association for Gynecologic Oncology and president-elect of the European Network of Gynecological Trials Group and author of more than 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals.
Prima said that Prof Ignace Vergote was Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium’s head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology and was chairman of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Gynecologic Cancer Group from 1997 to 2003.
Prima said it intended to re-start enrolment of 210 patients in the phase II CAN-004 trial of CVac for ovarian cancer by July 2014, comparing CVac to standard-of-care for epithelial ovarian cancer in remission after second-line platinum based chemotherapy.
Prima chief executive officer Matthew Lehman said that the appointments “have strengthened our clinical advisory board ... [and] with the imminent start of our CAN-004 trial and our focus on patient enrolment in Europe, I believe these are great additions to help steer our clinical trial efforts”.
Prima was unchanged at four cents.