



Biotech Daily

Tuesday March 4, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: CIRCADIAN UP 10%, VIRALYTICS DOWN 8%**
- * **LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$13m FOR RESEARCH GRANTS**
- * **US, CANADA PATENTS FOR FIBROTECH**
- * **SMALL TECHNOLOGIES CLUSTER TAPPING-IN GRANTS**
- * **CALZADA PLEADS FDA, DAVID WILLIAMSON TO ASX 37.5% QUERY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.3 percent on Tuesday March 4, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 15.9 points to 5,400.2 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, eight were unchanged and four were untraded.

Circadian was the best, up two cents or 10.3 percent to 21.5 cents with 980 shares traded, followed by Anteo up 8.3 percent to 19.5 cents with 8.5 million shares traded.

Tissue Therapies climbed 7.5 percent; Patrys was up 4.9 percent; Living Cell rose 2.4 percent; Acrux and Universal Biosensors were up more than one percent; with Alchemia, CSL, Mesoblast and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Viralytics led the falls, down 2.5 cents or 7.9 percent to 29 cents with 365,465 shares traded.

Admedus and Impedimed lost more than six percent; Ellex fell 5.3 percent; Benitec, Neuren and Pharmaxis fell more than four percent; Cellmid, Optiscan and Phosphagenics were down more than three percent; Clinuvel, Genetic Technologies, GI Dynamics, Prana and QRX were down more than one percent; with Bionomics, Cochlear and Nanosonics down by less than one percent.

LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION

The Leukaemia Foundation says it has provided a further \$12.89 million in research over the next five years, including \$3.6 million for 21 additional projects.

The Leukaemia Foundation said it was Australia's peak body for blood cancer, funding research and providing free services.

The Foundation said that the 2014 tranche built on its research program of 50 research projects in progress, worth \$9.14 million, plus a \$150,000 contribution to the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Tissue Bank at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital .

The Foundation said the 2014 allocation meant it was funding 71 research projects and during the next five years it would provide further investment, with the addition of each year's new round of grants and other research funding.

The Leukaemia Foundation said blood cancer was the third biggest cause of cancer death in Australia and in 2011 almost 4,000 Australians died of blood cancer.

The Foundation said that an estimated 50,000 Australians lived with a blood cancer diagnosis and this year a further 12,000 people would be diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative neoplasms or a related blood disorder.

Leukaemia Foundation chief executive officer Adrian Collins said the 2014 round of research awards comprised nine grants-in-aid, two post doctoral fellowships, four clinical Doctorates of Philosophy for qualified physicians, five non-clinical Doctorates of Philosophy and an inaugural supportive care grant.

"These latest awards cover the spectrum of blood cancers, investigating their causes, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial impact and management, and searching for cures," Mr Collins said.

"Blood cancer can affect anyone, of any age, at any time and its causes remain largely unknown," Mr Collins said.

"It can't be predicted or prevented, so a vital part of our research program is basic research that studies the roles and effects of different genes and pathways in the development of blood cancers," Mr Collins said.

"Understanding this better provides opportunities to manipulate the defect or pathway to slow down or prevent the development of blood cancer," Mr Collins said.

"The Foundation's aim is to invest in the best research projects by Australia's best researchers who have the best ideas, reflecting our ongoing vision-to-cure," Mr Collins said.

The Leukaemia Foundation's head of research and advocacy Dr Anna Williamson said grant recipients were selected through a rigorous process.

Dr Williamson said that independent expert peer review committees rank the applications and make selection recommendations to the Foundation's medical and scientific advisory committee, an independent panel of leading Australian blood cancer researchers, clinicians and consumer representatives.

"Building on previous research, one of the new 2014 awards is related to the clinical trial on [the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Genentech and Abbott collaboration] ABT-199 which shows such promise as a new therapy for people with the most common type of leukaemia - chronic lymphocytic leukaemia," Dr Williamson said.

"Early laboratory development of this therapy was funded through the Leukaemia Foundation's National Research Program in 2010 and 2012," Dr Williamson said.

Dr Williamson said that the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute doctoral student Robyn Schenk was adding to this work by looking at pro-survival proteins produced by leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma cells.

[FIBROTECH THERAPEUTICS](#)

The Melbourne-based Fibrotech says it has been granted US and Canadian patents for its novel anti-fibrotic class of drugs.

Fibrotech said the US patent was entitled 'Halogenated Analogues of Anti-Fibrotic Agents' giving coverage until August 13, 2030 and the Canadian patent was entitled 'Therapeutic Compounds' giving coverage until July 5, 2027.

The company said that both patents had been granted composition of matter claims.

Fibrotech chief executive officer and University of Melbourne director of biomedical research Prof Darren Kelly said the company was about to post phase I results for lead product FT011 "so the granting of these patents .. will help us greatly in ongoing partnering discussions".

Fibrotech said that diabetic kidney failure was a result of kidney fibrosis or scarring, due to the long term damage from excessive sugar levels in the blood.

Fibrotech is a private company, funded by the Medical Research Commercialization Fund which is managed by Brandon Capital.

[SMALL TECHNOLOGIES CLUSTER](#)

The Small Technologies Cluster says its Tapping-In grants for students and recent graduates provide access to its dedicated advanced technology co-working space.

The Small Technologies Cluster (STC) said that it supported entrepreneurship and the grants were up to three team members with three months free access to its advanced technology co-working space, The Tap, in Scoresby, Victoria.

The Cluster said that the grants provided use of The Tap's business intelligence portal, advanced computers assisted design and photo-realistic rendering workstation as well as a 3D printer, as well as providing connections to experts for mentorship and support, participation in STC events and a focused opportunity to turn an idea into a start-up.

The Cluster said that interested applicants should email a one-page proposal to:

info@stcaustralia.org.

Small Technologies Cluster chief executive officer Dr Buzz Palmer said that student entrepreneurship in Australia "falls well behind other leading innovation economies ... [and] getting your idea into a professional setting not only allows accelerated business development, but creates valuable connections through serendipitous interactions with others that work, network and collaborate in STC".

[CALZADA](#)

Calzada has told the ASX that it is not aware of any information it has not announced which, if known, could explain recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said the company's share price climbed 37.5 percent from 8.0 cents on February 18 to 11 cents, today March 4, 2014 and noted an increase in trading volumes.

Calzada said that in its February 25 half yearly report it expected its first US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) market clearance in March and on February 28 appointed David Williamson as a director (BD: Feb 28, 2014).

Calzada climbed as much as 2.6 cents or 27.7 percent to 12 cents before closing up 1.6 cents or 17.0 percent at 11 cents with 4.8 million shares traded.