



Biotech Daily

Friday April 4, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: ANTISENSE UP 6.5%, ATCOR DOWN 12%**
- * **BONE TO RESTART ORAL CAPTHYMONE FOR OSTEOPOROSIS TRIAL**
- * **HENNESSY TO MANUFACTURE REGENEUS KVAX DOG CANCER VACCINE**
- * **BIOTRON RECEIVES \$1.7m FEDERAL R&D TAX REFUND**
- * **PERPETUAL TAKES PROFIT, AGAIN, DOWN TO 8% OF SIRTEX**
- * **ALLAN GRAY TAKES 15.6% OF ACRUX**
- * **ASX RELEASES 15m BIOXYNE SHARES FROM ESCROW**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.24 percent on Friday April 4, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 12.9 points to 5,422.8 points.

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

Antisense was the best, up one cent or 6.45 percent to 16.5 cents with 533,342 shares traded.

Benitec, Living Cell and Viralytics climbed more than four percent; Cellmid was up 3.45 percent; Anteo and Starpharma rose more than two percent; Cochlear and Medical Developments were up more than one percent; with Acrux, Alchemia, CSL, Nanosonics and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Atcor led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 12.0 percent to 11 cents with 758,606 shares traded.

Reva lost 9.4 percent; Avita fell eight percent; Tissue Therapies was down 7.25 percent; Clinuvel and Phosphagenics fell more than four percent; Admedus, Bionomics, GI Dynamics, Mesoblast and Osprey were down more than three percent; Circadian, Patrys, Prima and QRX shed more than two percent; Genetic Technologies, Impedimed and Prana were down more than one percent; with Sirtex down 0.1 percent.

BONE MEDICAL

Bone says that Q-Pharm will conduct a human dose-ranging study comparing its Capthymone oral parathyroid hormone for osteoporosis against an injectable treatment. In 2012, Bone said that the Brisbane, Queensland-based Q-Pharm had begun dosing patients with its lead program oral Capthymone to be compared with injectable parathyroid hormone (BD: Dec 3, 2012).

Bone said at that time that it expected results "in the first few months of 2013".

Today, Bone chairman Robert Towner told Biotech Daily that the company was "very pleased to be progressing the Capthymone program".

In a media release to the ASX, Bone said that parathyroid hormone was a naturally occurring hormone that played an important role in regulating bone formation and an injectable formulation, Forteo, was approved and marketed for osteoporosis, with sales of more than \$US1.2 billion in 2013.

The company said that the study's aim was to determine whether the oral formulation could provide parathyroid hormone blood levels comparable to the blood levels from Forteo.

Bone said that if the oral formulation generated a significant level of the same intact form of parathyroid hormone that Forteo delivered, this would potentially enable Bone to fast-track development plans for Capthymone.

"A new oral treatment could replace the current daily injection treatment for osteoporosis and significantly expand the market through greater adoption of a delivery form of this important osteoporosis drug that is more convenient and acceptable to patients," Mr Towner said.

The trial is expected to begin at the Brisbane-based Q-Pharm clinical trial site in May 2014 subject to review and approval by the site's review committee and take about three months to complete.

Bone was up half a cent or 25 percent to 2.5 cents with 20.7 million shares traded.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says it has contracted the Kansas City, Kansas-based veterinary vaccine manufacturer Hennessy Research for its Kvax autologous canine cancer immunotherapy. Regeneus said that last year the US Center for Veterinary Biologics approved the commercialization of the canine cancer immunotherapy in the US (BD: Nov 14, 2013).

The company said that the Kvax immunotherapy used the removal of a tumor or biopsy from the dog as source material to produce a personalized vaccine.

Regeneus said that pieces of tumor would be shipped from US veterinary clinics to Hennessy for manufacture of vaccines and returned to the clinics for injection into the dog. The company said that the vaccine stimulated the dog's immune system to see the cancer cells as foreign and help prevent further growth of the tumor as well as development of new tumors.

Regeneus said the technology was developed by Kolling Institute of Medical Research's Prof Ross Davey and Dr Chris Weir at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital.

The company said the next step following the establishment of a US manufacturing site would be to begin a marketing trial in dogs with key US opinion leaders.

Regeneus was up half a cent or 1.1 percent to 44.5 cents.

BIOTRON

Biotron says it has received \$1.7 million from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Biotron said the rebate related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2013 on its HIV and hepatitis C virus drug development programs.

Biotron managing director Dr Michelle Miller said that while the company was “fully funded for its current BIT225-008 trial, an important phase II, 12 week dosing trial of BIT225 in sixty patients infected with HCV genotypes 1 or 3, this [research and development] cash rebate will strengthen the company's cash position and support ongoing underlying expenditure”.

Biotron was up half a cent or 4.8 percent to 11 cents.

SIRTEX MEDICAL

Perpetual and its subsidiaries have reduced their substantial shareholding in Sirtex from 5,049,609 shares (9.00%) to 4,438,816 shares (7.91%).

Perpetual said it sold the 610,793 shares from February 24 to April 2, 2014 at prices ranging from \$15.14 to \$16.31.

Perpetual and its subsidiaries sold 581,566 shares in February at prices from \$15.04 to \$15.13 (BD: Feb 21, 2014).

Sirtex fell two cents or 0.1 percent to \$16.13 with 131,965 shares traded.

ACRUX

Allan Gray Australia has increased its substantial holding in Acrux from 24,108,916 shares (14.48%) to 25,970,168 shares (15.60%).

Allan Gray said that between February 12 and April 2, 2014 it bought 1,861,252 shares for \$3,394,192 or an average price of \$1.82 a share.

Acrux was up half a cent or 0.3 percent to \$1.705 with 1.35 million shares traded.

BIOXYNE

Bioxyne says that 14,999,046 previously unquoted restricted shares will be released from ASX escrow today, April 4, 2014.

Bioxyne said that following the release from escrow, it would have a total of 200,343,101 shares on issue and available for trading.

Bioxyne was unchanged at 0.7 cents.