



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday July 16, 2014

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: AVITA UP 10%, PRANA DOWN 8%**
- \* **NSW, ATP, CALIFORNIA MEDICAL DEVICE POST-DOC PROGRAM**
- \* **IMUGENE HIRES MYMETICS TO MANUFACTURE HER-VAXX**
- \* **UK PATENT FOR CELLMID MIDKINE HAIR GROWTH**
- \* **EXTENDED US PATENT FOR PRIMA'S CVAC**
- \* **ONCOSIL MANUFACTURING PROCESS RE-VALIDATED**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market rose 0.14 percent on Wednesday July 16, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 7.6 points to 5,518.9 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, nine fell, seven traded unchanged and six were untraded.

Avita was the best, up one cent or 10 percent to 11 cents with 260,410 shares traded.

Analytica climbed 9.1 percent; Universal Biosensors was up 8.1 percent; Antisense and Cellmid were up more than seven percent; Oncosil rose 6.1 percent; Prima climbed five percent; Acrux, IDT and Starpharma climbed four percent or more; Bionomics and Patrys were up more than three percent; Ellex, GI Dynamics, Nanosonics and Optiscan rose two percent or more; Benitec and Viralytics were up more than one percent; with CSL and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Prana led the falls, down two cents or 7.7 percent to 24 cents with 538,743 shares traded.

Anteo lost 5.4 percent; Clinuvel fell 3.3 percent; Pharmaxis and Tissue Therapies were down more than one percent; with Alchemia, Cochlear, Medical Developments, Mesoblast and Sirtex down by less than one percent.

## NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT, ATP INNOVATIONS

New South Wales Government has launched the post-doctoral Medical Device Commercialisation Training Program for two years research in San Francisco.

The New South Wales Department of Health website said that successful candidates would be supported with a salary and stipend of up to \$112,000 per year for the two years in California.

The closing date for applications is July 28, 2014.

The New South Wales Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner said that the Program was designed "to promote the discovery and application of new treatments, diagnostic techniques and devices".

"It is vital we support researchers to bring their medical devices to market, as these devices have the power to greatly enhance the quality of life for people living with a range of medical conditions," Ms Skinner said.

A media release from Ms Skinner said that expressions of interest were invited from post-doctoral researchers, as well as doctoral and masters candidates who would complete their degrees in 2014.

The media release said that a demonstrated interest in medical device innovation and commercialization was essential.

The Government said that 20 candidates would undertake a three-month program with technology incubator ATP Innovations, to develop skills such as entrepreneurial literacy, persistence and understanding of the process of commercialization.

The media release said that at the end of the three-month program, up to two candidates would be chosen to travel to San Francisco to participate in the New South Wales-QB3 Rosenman Scholar Program.

The University of California website said that QB3 was a quantitative biosciences collaboration across three of its campuses and the late Dan Rosenman was a medical device innovator and inventor.

The New South Wales Government media release said that the scholar program would allow the successful candidates to work with clinicians and local organizations recognized for expertise in medical device innovation and translation.

The media release said that the Commercialisation Training Program was one of several State Government programs supporting the translation of research into clinical outcomes for patients, including the Medical Devices Fund, which in 2013 awarded \$10.3 million to five medical technologies.

"These devices and technologies are inspiring, from one which improves skin repair for burns victims to another which offers new hope to patients with a failing heart valve," Ms Skinner said.

"But perhaps most exciting of all is the implantable device developed by Saluda Medical to supply constant pain relief to people suffering chronic pain," Ms Skinner said.

"The potential of this world-first technology is enormous [and] ... could transform countless lives," Ms Skinner said.

The media release said that up to \$7.7 million would be available in the 2014 round of the New South Wales Medical Devices Fund, which would be announced soon.

"The [New South Wales] Government understands that the road from a great idea to commercial reality is long and fraught with challenges and that whatever support we can offer medical researchers now will yield enormous benefits for patients down the track," Ms Skinner said.

The media release said that applications and guidelines for the New South Wales Medical Device Commercialisation Training Program were available from the Office for Health and Medical Research and at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/pages/default.aspx>.

## IMUGENE

Imugene says it has engaged the Switzerland-based Mymetics SA to manufacture and supply its cancer immunotherapy Her-Vaxx.

Imugene said that Mymetics had experience and know-how in the manufacturing, formulation and quality aspects of all types of virosomes, including influenza-based virosomes, the key delivery component of its Her-Vaxx peptide-based immunotherapy. The company said that it had previously appointed the Switzerland-based Bachem to manufacture the peptide component of Her-Vaxx (BD: May 27, 2014).

Imugene said that Her-Vaxx was a therapeutic cancer immunotherapy that stimulated a polyclonal antibody response to Her-2/neu, the biomarker targeted by Herceptin, and the next stage of development would be a phase II study in gastric cancer.

Imugene executive director Dr Nick Ede said that Mymetics used the same vaccine delivery platform for infectious diseases that his company was using for its immuno-oncology program "and together both companies will work to exploit the potential value of influenza-based virosomes".

Imugene was up 0.1 cents or 7.1 percent to 1.5 cents.

## CELLMID

Cellmid says the UK Intellectual Property Office has granted its midkine patent entitled 'Method of treatment or prevention of hair loss or for the enhancement of hair growth'.

Cellmid said that the patent protected the use of midkine and the closely related protein pleiotrophin for use as hair loss and/or hair growth treatments.

The company said that the granted claims covered topical formulations of all kinds, including shampoos, conditioners, creams and lotions with protection until 2031.

Cellmid said that the patent was the first granted member of the extensive midkine patent family for hair growth, with other patents filed or are under examination in the US, Europe, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Australia.

The company said that the patent family added to the intellectual property assets of its wholly-owned subsidiary Advangen, which included patent protection and know-how around its FGF5 inhibiting technologies, cell based assays, formulations and brands.

Cellmid said that Advangen's products were on sale in Australia, China and Japan and it intended to expand to the US, Europe and South America.

Cellmid was up 0.2 cents or 7.1 percent to three cents with 7.1 million shares traded.

## PRIMA BIOMED

Prima says the US Patent and Trademark Office has granted a patent entitled 'Compositions for immunotherapy and uses thereof'.

Prima said that the patent protected the CVac technology with a term adjustment extending the expiry date to August 2022.

Prima chief executive officer Marc Voigt said the patent was "an important value proposition for Prima".

"The patent term can potentially be further extended by up to five years if CVac receives market approval before it expires, which would provide the company with essential protection over its commercial development well into the future," Mr Voigt said.

The company said that the patent protected the method of composition and the method of use of CVac, which was formulated in a patient's dendritic cells and then re-injected back into the patient to generate a cytotoxic T-cell response against the mucin 1 antigen.

Prima was up 0.2 cents or five percent to 4.2 cents with eight million shares traded.

## ONCOSIL MEDICAL

Oncosil says the manufacturing process for its radiation treatment for pancreatic cancer has been re-validated for its pivotal trial and European sales.

Oncosil said that with German manufacturer Eckert & Ziegler it had completed a successful commissioning and re-validation of its manufacturing process and quality system to ensure it was ready to supply the Oncosil radiation treatment.

The company said it had sufficient supplies of the raw materials and intermediates required to manufacture the product.

Oncosil said that the Conformité Européenne (CE) mark audit process being conducted by the British Standards Institute was in its final stages and once completed would allow it to sell the radiation therapy from its German manufacturing site.

Oncosil chief executive officer Dr Neil Frazer said the company was “extremely pleased to report that the manufacturing re-validation which will facilitate the production of Oncosil for use in its pivotal clinical trial and also for future sales as part of the CE mark process has now been completed”.

“This represents a major component of the trial process, as it ensures we have sufficient, quality product to meet the demands of our trial participants at various locations across the globe,” Dr Frazer said.

Oncosil was up 0.6 cents or 6.1 percent to 10.5 cents with 2.5 million shares traded.