



Biotech Daily

Monday August 18, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: BENITEC UP 26%, TISSUE THERAPIES DOWN 6%**
- * **LIVING CELL IMPLANTS 2nd NTCELL PARKINSON'S PATIENT**
- * **REGENEUS PLACEMENT RAISES \$3m, SHARE PLAN FOR \$3m MORE**
- * **GENERA, INCELLDX 'STRATEGIC ALLIANCE'**
- * **PHYLOGICA, GENENTECH UNDISCLOSED DRUG DISCOVERY PROJECT**
- * **REVA RAISING \$25m FOR 2014 FANTOM STENT TRIAL**
- * **USCOM REVENUE UP 67% TO \$1m, LOSS UP 11% TO \$1.5m**
- * **BENITEC PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 13% QUERY, ASX MISSES 13%**
- * **ANTEO APPOINTS JOSH SOLDI SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS V-P**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.37 percent on Monday August 18, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 20.6 points to 5,587.1 points.

Twenty-one of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, three traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Benitec was the best, up 25 cents or 26.3 percent to \$1.20 with 1.1 million shares traded, followed by Avita up 10 percent to 11 cents with 151,613 shares traded.

Living Cell climbed 9.3 percent, Universal Biosensors, Uscom and Viralytics were up more than five percent; Oncosil rose 4.2 percent; Acrux, Anteo, Genetic Technologies, IDT, Nanosonics and Pharmaxis were up more than three percent; Clinuvel and Psivida rose more than two percent; with Ellex, Impedimed, Neuren and Starpharma up more than one percent.

Tissue Therapies led the falls, down two cents or 6.25 percent to 30 cents with 356,176 shares traded.

Circadian lost 5.3 percent; Bionomics, Biotron and GI Dynamics fell four percent or more; Admedus, Analytica, Antisense, Atcor and Cellmid lost more than three percent; with Phosphagenics, Prana and Prima down more than one percent.

LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Living Cell says the second Parkinson's disease patient has been implanted with its NTCell encapsulated pig choroid plexus cells at Auckland City Hospital.

Living Cell said that it intended to complete the treatment phase of the four-patient, open-label phase I/IIa clinical trial this year.

The company said that the study, directed by Dr Barry Snow at the Auckland District Health Board, was investigating of the safety and clinical effects of NTCell in patients no longer responding to current therapy.

Living Cell chief executive officer Dr Ken Taylor said that the company's approach was "to target regeneration of brain cells for patients who are failing the current conventional treatment for Parkinson's disease".

The trial was paused in December last year following the withdrawal from publication of a rat study (BD: Dec 19, 2013).

The first patient was implanted in September 2013 and in November the independent data safety monitoring board approved three more patients (BD: Sep 20, Nov 25, 2013).

In June, the company received New Zealand regulatory approval to resume recruitment of the remaining three patients in (BD: June 23, 2014).

Living Cell was up 0.5 cents or 9.3 percent to 5.9 cents.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says its placement at 26 cents was fully subscribed and raised \$3 million, with and hopes a share plan will raise a further \$3 million (BD: Aug 6, 2014).

Regeneus said that Pelaton Capital was the lead manager to the placement.

Earlier this month, Pelaton said that there would be one free attaching option for every three new shares acquired, exercisable at 40 cents each within 12 months of issue.

Regeneus was unchanged at 25.5 cents

GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera says it hopes to sign a "strategic commercial alliance" with the Menlo Park, California-based molecular diagnostics company IncellDx Inc.

Genera said the two companies had been in commercial discussions since early 2014 "regarding the optimal approach to best leverage the sound strategic fit which exists between the companies" (BD: Jun 30, 2014).

Genera executive chairman Lou Panaccio said the "strategic fit between Genera and IncellDx is compelling, not only in being able to offer a comprehensive [human papillomavirus] testing regime to rival that of Roche Diagnostics, but also in the ability to offer a broad menu of high-value [molecular diagnostic] tests that may also leverage similar flow-cytometry-based instrumentation platforms".

"Achieving commercial alignment between our combined platform technologies and high-value [molecular diagnostics] tests may provide material benefits for both companies, pathology customers, clinicians and their patients," Mr Panaccio said.

Mr Panaccio said that IncellDx had "an exceptional high-calibre team both on the commercial and development front who have unequivocally demonstrated their ability to develop and commercialize world-leading [molecular diagnostics] and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship for all stakeholders".

Genera said the terms of the agreement were being finalized and the company hoped to announce specific details "by the close of business this week".

Genera was unchanged at 29 cents.

PHYLOGICA

Phylogica says it has a research service agreement with the Roche Group's Genentech division to use its Phylomer technology to identify novel approaches for drug discovery. Phylogica chief executive officer Dr Richard Hopkins said his company was "delighted to be working with Genentech" but did not release any detail on the agreement.

Dr Hopkins told Biotech Daily that the work with Genentech would also use some of the technologies developed as part of the collaboration with Janssen, Biotech, including the endosomal escape trap (BD: Jan 22, 2012; Jul 1, 2013; May 16, 2014).

Phylogica was up 0.1 cents or 8.3 percent to 1.3 cents with 9.2 million shares traded.

REVA MEDICAL

Reva says it is on-track to begin a Conformité Européenne (CE) mark directed clinical trial of its Fantom bioresorbable cardiac stent "before the end of the year".

Reva investor relations director Cheryl Liberatore told Biotech Daily the company was "working to close a \$25 million financing by the end of October, which should be sufficient to get us through our CE marking time frame".

"We expect to have the data needed to apply for CE marking by the end of 2015 with approval anticipated in mid 2016," Ms Liberatore said.

In March, Reva closed its Rezolve programs and laid-off 40 staff members working on those programs to focus on the smaller diameter Fantom bio-resorbable, x-ray-visible polymer scaffold (BD: Mar 27, Apr 3, 2014).

Reva fell one cent or 6.7 percent to 14 cents.

USCOM

Uscom says that revenue for the year to June 30, 2014, was up 67 percent to \$1,064,666 with net loss after tax up 11 percent to \$1,520,500.

Uscom said that the sales increase was from the USCOM 1A ultra-sonic cardiac output monitor as the Uscom BP+ central blood pressure diagnostic was being prepared for manufacture and market.

The company said it expected that with increased sales and distribution channels there would be significant increases in revenues reflecting customer sales.

Uscom said that net tangible asset backing per share increased 116.7 percent to 0.026 cents, with diluted loss per share down 9.1 percent to 2.0 cents.

The company said that it had cash and cash equivalents of \$1,582,834 at June 30, 2014 compared to \$541,195 at June 30, 2013.

Uscom was up 1.5 cents or 5.9 percent to 27 cents.

BENITEC BIOPHARMA

Benitec 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 rose 13 cents or 13.7 percent from 95 cents on Friday August 15 to "an intraday high of \$1.08 today Monday August 18, 2014 ... [and] noted an increase in the volume of trading".

Benitec closed up 25 cents or 26.3 percent at \$1.20 with 1.1 million shares traded.

ANTEO DIAGNOSTICS

Anteo says it has appointed Josh Soldo as scientific affairs vice-president, to be based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Anteo said that Mr Soldo had more than 15 years experience at leading in-vitro diagnostics companies, with a track record building business relationships and selling technology.

The company said that Mr Soldo would work with business development vice-president Tina Baumgartner, who was based in Europe.

Anteo said that Mr Soldo was previously the scientific affairs corporate director of Diasorin Inc, where he oversaw product development, marketing and sales.

The company said that Mr Soldo was the principal inventor of two in-vitro diagnostics patents, including "the world's first fully automated immunoassay for 1,25 dihydroxy vitamin D".

Anteo said that Mr Soldo had authored and presented numerous publications and presentations at scientific and industry conferences.

The company said that Mr Soldo held a Bachelor of Science from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Anteo was up half a cent or 3.3 percent to 15.5 cents with 2.6 million shares traded.