



# Biotech Daily

Tuesday October 14, 2014

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: ONCOSIL UP 9%, LIVING CELL DOWN 12%**
- \* **BIONOMICS: 'PRE-CLINICAL BNC105 COMBINATION TUMOR EFFICACY'**
- \* **REPRODUCTIVE'S EMBRYOCOLLECT IVF TEST READY FOR LAUNCH**
- \* **AUSTRALIAN PATENT FOR PRIMA, IMMUTEP LAG-3 TECHNOLOGY**
- \* **ADMEDUS 180% DIRECTORS FEES AGM**
- \* **IMMURON 40-TO-1 CONSOLIDATION AGM**
- \* **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 'ACTION PLAN FOR AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE'**
- \* **BONE AGGREGATES UNMARKETABLE PARCEL SHARES**
- \* **ANALYTICA AROUND AUSTRALIA PERICOACH TOUR**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market rebounded 1.01 percent on Tuesday October 14, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 51.9 points to 5,207.4 points.

Eleven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 13 traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Oncosil was the best, up one cent or 9.1 percent to 12 cents with 247,000 shares traded.

Medical Developments climbed 7.3 percent; Prana was up 4.55 percent; Admedus and Neuren were up more than three percent; Alchemia rose 2.3 percent; Acrux, Cochlear, Mesoblast, Sirtex, Starpharma and Viralytics were up more than one percent; with CSL and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Living Cell led the falls, down 0.9 cents or 12.3 percent to 6.4 cents with 72,587 shares traded.

Clinuvel and Ellex fell more than five percent; Compumedics and Impedimed lost four percent or more; Cellmid and GI Dynamics were down more than three percent; Bionomics shed 2.5 two percent; with Atcor, Avita, Phosphagenics and Tissue Therapies down by one percent or more.

## BIONOMICS

Bionomics says a research paper describes the utility of combining BNC105 with approved anti-cancer targeted therapies in mice.

Bionomics said that the data showed that BNC105 treatment selectively induced hypoxia, or low oxygen, in tumors and that the tumors attempted to survive by increasing the expression of a number of growth factors that stimulated the formation of new blood vessels and new protein synthesis.

The article, entitled 'The Vascular Disrupting Agent BNC105 potentiates the efficacy of VEGF and mTOR inhibitors in renal and breast cancer, was published in Landes Bioscience Cancer Biology and Therapy.

An abstract is available at: <http://bit.ly/1tpUN6a>.

Bionomics said the growth factors might be inhibited through concurrent treatment using BNC105 with the marketed anti-cancer drugs Avastin, Votrient or Afinitor.

The company said that combination of BNC105 with each of these drugs caused prolonged anti-tumor effects resulting in greater inhibition of renal and breast solid tumor growth in preclinical models.

Bionomics said that tumor-bearing animals survived longer when BNC105 was combined with the approved drugs compared to treating animals with each of the drugs alone.

Bionomics chief executive officer Dr Deborah Rathjen told Biotech Daily the studies were in mice.

In a media release Dr Rathjen said that the discoveries provided the scientific rationale for clinical trials combining BNC105 with Avastin, Votient and Afinitor.

"Bionomics is actively exploring partnering opportunities to advance further clinical trials combining BNC105 with these targeted agents," said Dr Rathjen.

Bionomics fell 1.5 cents or 2.5 percent to 57.5 cents.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCE

Reproductive Health says it has made "significant progress" and its pre-implantation genetic screening test product Embryocollect is ready for market launch.

Reproductive Health said that finalization of the enhanced Embryocollect polymerase chain reaction kit for use in in-vitro fertilization (IVF) pre-implantation genetic screening included "commercially important modifications to improve the shelf life and further enhance the simplicity of Embryocollect".

The company's chairman Dr David Brookes said that the kit had been refined "to improve ease of use and durability for our customers while retaining the same high accuracy for the ... microarray".

Reproductive Health chief executive officer Dr Michelle Fraser said that the advantages of the modifications to enhance the Embryocollect kit were "significant and the completion coincides with a number of IVF clinics in Australia and overseas engaging with [us] for the commencement of testing Embryocollect".

"IVF clinics have shown significant interest in our Embryocollect kit and as a result we have commenced collaborative embryo analysis," Dr Fraser said.

"With the addition of embryo data to the product performance description, the initial risk hurdle for clinical uptake of the kit is significantly reduced," Dr Fraser said.

"We expect clinics that have already shown an interest in the product will advance their discussions with the company," Dr Fraser said.

"Select clinics will receive training over coming months as the company progresses towards product sales," Dr Fraser said.

Reproductive Health was unchanged at 20.5 cents.

### PRIMA BIOMED

Prima says that the Australian Patent Office has allowed a patent relating to Immutep SA's cancer immuno-therapies based on its lymphocyte activation gene 3 (LAG-3) technology. Prima said that the patent, entitled 'Use of recombinant LAG-3 or the derivatives thereof for eliciting monocyte immune response', provided protection to October 2028.

Earlier this month, Prima said that, pending shareholder approval, it would acquire Immutep for about \$US28 million (\$A32 million) in cash, shares and warrants through an investment agreement with the New York-based Bergen Global Opportunity Fund, for Immutep's cancer immuno-therapies (BD: Oct 2, 2014).

The company said that lead product IMP321 had been tested alone and in combination with other therapies in clinical trials and Immutep held the world-wide rights excluding China and Taiwan, to commercialize IMP321.

Today, Prima said that the patent provided protection for the use of soluble recombinant LAG-3 immunoglobulin (IMP321) or derivatives thereof, notably in combinations, in order to boost a monocyte-mediated immune response, in particular to elicit an increase in the number of monocytes in the blood.

The company said that the invention was in trials for cancer and the claims provided options for numerous applications.

Prima said that by increasing the number of monocytes or antigen-presenting cells in the blood, IMP321 could stimulate increased cytotoxic T-cell responses against cancer antigens.

Prima was unchanged at 3.8 cents with two million shares traded.

### ADMEDUS

Admedus will vote to increase the aggregate fee pool of non-executive directors by 180 percent from \$250,000 a year to \$700,000 a year.

Admedus said the company had not increased the directors' fees pool since 2002 and an increase would "provide scope for the expansion of the board over the next five years".

The company said that it would seek shareholder approval for the prior issue of 83,000,000 placement shares, approve the 10 percent placement facility and re-elect directors Wayne Paterson and John Seaberg.

The meeting will be held at the Duxton Hotel, 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia on November 14, 2014 at 11am (AWST).

Admedus was up half a cent or 3.85 percent to 13.5 cents with 2.9 million shares traded.

### IMMURON

Immuron will vote to reduce its total outstanding share capital in a 40-to-one consolidation from 2,995,662,120 shares to 74,891,553 shares.

Immuron said it would ask shareholders to approve the executive share and option plan, re-elect chairman Dr Roger Aston, and issue 2,916,667 pre-consolidation shares to Grandlodge Pty Ltd a company associated with director Stephen Anastasiou.

The company said that the shares would be issued at 0.4 cents a share to Grandlodge as consideration for \$11,667 in fees payable from July 1 to August 31, 2014.

Immuron said that the issue price was agreed in June 2013, when the share price was below 0.4 cents a share, as an incentive-based fee structure.

The meeting will be held at K&L Gates, Level 25, South Tower, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne on November 13, 2014 at 3pm (AEDT).

Immuron was unchanged at 0.7 cents.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In a series of media releases, the Federal Government said it had 'An Action Plan for Australia's Future' and an 'Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda'.

The media releases from Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane said the Federal Government would "invest \$188.5 million in Industry Growth Centres to pursue global excellence in areas of competitive strength".

The media release said there would be five centres including food and agriculture; mining equipment, technology and services; oil, gas and energy resources; advanced manufacturing; and medical technologies and pharmaceuticals.

The media releases said that through the medical technologies and pharmaceuticals centre, businesses might be assisted to identify new opportunities through linking with medical device and materials researchers to develop new biomedical devices and platform technologies to improve health outcomes and business profitability.

The Federal Government said it would invest \$12 million to improve the focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects in primary and secondary schools across the country.

The media releases said that the Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda was a central part of the Government's Economic Action Strategy "to build a strong, prosperous economy for a safe, secure Australia".

The Government said it had scrapped the carbon and mining taxes, cut more than 10,000 pieces of "unnecessary legislation and regulations", commenced the largest infrastructure construction program in Australian history and signed free trade agreements with Japan and Korea.

The Government said would "change the taxation treatment of employee share schemes to encourage start-ups to attract and retain employees and commercialize good ideas in Australia ... [and] reverse for all companies the changes made in 2009 to the taxing point for options".

The Government said it would reform the 457 visa program for skilled migrants, while improving program integrity to ensure that sponsored workers on 457 visas were a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the local workforce.

The Government said it would host a series of roundtables around Australia to consult with the business community, industry associations and peak bodies, as well as academia, on the policy directions outlined in the Competitiveness Agenda.

The Government said that its Competitiveness Agenda Report and fact sheets were available at [www.industry.gov.au/growthcentres](http://www.industry.gov.au/growthcentres).

## BONE MEDICAL

Bone says that most of the 2,725,007 unmarketable parcel shares have been acquired for resale by a stock-broker.

Bone said that 1,259 shareholders holding 2,725,007 unmarketable parcel shares, worth less than \$500, were eligible to take part in the sale process, with 1,108 holders of 1,992,349 shares agreeing to do so.

The company said that 151 shareholders holding 732,658 shares elected to retain their holdings.

Bone said it had engaged stock broker CPS Securities to sell the 1,992,349 shares at a price of not less than 1.9 cents per share.

The company said that at the completion of the sale it would distribute the proceeds to the shareholders that elected to participate in the share sale facility.

Bone fell 0.1 cents or 7.7 percent to 1.2 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

## ANALYTICA

Analytica says it will hold investor presentations around Australia next week.

Analytica said the presentations would allow shareholders to meet the directors and management and discuss the rights issue as well as the intra-vaginal Pericoach pelvic floor diagnostic and training product and launch.

The company said it would be in Melbourne on October 20, Perth on October 21, Brisbane on October 22, and Sydney and the Sunshine Coast on October 23.

Analytica was unchanged at 3.3 cents with 1.9 million shares traded.