



Biotech Daily

Friday December 12, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: PATRYS UP 13%, LIVING CELL DOWN 5%**
- * **NSW \$7m MEDICAL DEVICES FUND APPLICATIONS OPEN**
- * **INNATE ADDS 7 NZ COMPASSIONATE USE MIS416 PATIENTS**
- * **PRANA PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 29% QUERY**
- * **GENERA TAKES CAPITAL RAISING HALT TO SUSPENSION**
- * **WEHI'S JANE VISVANDER WINS ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA MEDAL**
- * **UNILIFE HIRES INTEL'S KEVIN SELLERS, PROMOTES STEPHEN ALLAN**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.22 percent on Friday December 12, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 down 11.4 points to 5,219.6 points.

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

Patrys was the best, up 0.2 cents or 13.3 percent to 1.7 cents with 582,352 shares traded, followed by Admedus up 9.5 percent to 11.5 cents with 2.4 million shares traded.

Genetic Technologies, Medical Developments and Oncosil climbed more than seven percent; Neuren rose 6.4 percent; Benitec and Tissue Therapies were up more than five percent; Alchemia and Biotron were up more than four percent; Analytica was up 3.85 percent; Bionomics and Prima rose more than two percent; Avita, Ellex, GI Dynamics and Nanosonics were up more than one percent; with Cochlear and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Living Cell led the falls, down 0.3 cents or 4.8 percent to six cents with 72,328 shares traded.

Optiscan lost 3.6 percent; Starpharma shed 2.2 percent; Acrux, Clinuvel, Mesoblast, Pharmaxis, Sirtex and Viralytics were down more than one percent; with CSL down 0.5 percent.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT

The New South Wales Government says that applications for the Medical Devices Fund third round are open, with \$6.7 million available for “outstanding medical technologies”. New South Wales Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner encouraged innovators to apply for the grants.

A State Government media release said that the previous two rounds allocated \$16.4 million to nine technologies, including Saluda Medical’s fully-implantable chronic pain management system and Elastagen’s human protein elastin to naturally repair skin.

Ms Skinner said that New South Wales had “long been a world leader in the field of medical devices and over half of Australia’s medical devices industry is based here”.

“The recipients of the NSW Medical Devices Fund will be instrumental in the application of new treatments, diagnostic techniques and devices that will be major contributors to health improvements in the future,” Ms Skinner said.

Ms Skinner said the \$6.7 million could help support individuals, public and private hospitals, medical research institutes, universities, other public sector research organizations or the medical devices industry.

The media release said that applications close 5pm on February 5, 2015, with the application kit and guidelines available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/mdf> or by email at medicaldevicesfund@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

INNATE IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS

Innate says it will supply its MIS416 drug candidate for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis to seven additional New Zealand patients on compassionate grounds.

Innate said that the patients were not able to enrol into the Australian based phase IIb trial of MIS416 for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.

The company said that the patients were long-term multiple sclerosis patients and had endured the relapsing-remitting phase of the disease, where there were a number of approved therapies, but faced steadily increasing disability with no approved effective drugs.

Innate said that MIS416 demonstrated a favorable safety and tolerability profile and in an early stage phase IIa trial, 80 percent of patients recorded a 20 percent or better improvement in their multiple sclerosis-related clinical status.

The company said that the seven new compassionate use patients were in addition to 18 patients administered MIS416 by their doctors for periods ranging from 15 months to over six years.

Innate said that of the 18 patients, 15 reported significant and sustained improvements in many of the disabilities associated with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.

The company said that a sub-group of nine patients who participated in the previous New Zealand-based phase Ib and IIa trials, had regularly completing the short form-36 question health survey questionnaire.

Innate said that in the most recent analysis of the short form-36 results, eight patients showed improvements that met or exceeded the clinically significant threshold in at least three areas of disability, consistent with the results from earlier survey time points.

The company said that in addition to completing the short form-36 survey, the new compassionate use patients would be monitored using several neuro-muscular measurements being used in the Australian based phase IIb trial, with the first results from the assessments expected by June 2015.

Innate was up half a cent or 2.9 percent to 18 cents.

PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY

Prana 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 5.0 cents or 28.6 percent from 17.5 cents on December 9 to 22.5 cents on December 11, 2014 and noted an increase in trading volume.

Prana was unchanged at 22 cents.

GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera has requested a voluntary suspension to follow the trading halt requested on December 10, "pending the release of an announcement to the market in relation to a proposed capital raising" (BD: Dec 10, 2014).

Genera last traded at 22 cents.

THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute says that breast cancer researcher Prof Jane Visvader has won the Royal Society of Victoria medal for excellence in scientific research.

WEHI said that Prof Visvader was awarded the medal for her work to define normal breast development and identify cells of origin for breast cancer.

The Institute said that in 2006, Prof Visvader with Prof Geoff Lindeman and their team were the first to identify and isolate breast stem cells and show they could give rise to every type of cell within the breast.

WEHI said that subsequent studies by the team implicated breast stem cells and their daughter progenitor cells as a potential cell of origin for breast cancer and helped to explain the link between female hormones and breast cancer.

"Breast stem cells are key to discovering how cancers form," Prof Visvader said.

"Studying how normal breast tissue develops will help us to find how normal processes go awry during cancer growth and help us create new diagnostic tools or identify potential targets for novel therapeutic treatments," Prof Visvader said.

WEHI said that Prof Visvader and her team had created a number of preclinical models of human breast cancers using donated tissue samples from patients, which were "vital research tools" for testing potential treatments, or drug combinations, on human tumor cells to examine how they respond.

The Institute said that Prof Visvader and colleagues found that breast stem cells and their daughter progenitor cells were long-lived, suggesting that potentially harmful genetic changes acquired early in life could lead to breast cancer decades later.

WEHI said that this work allowed scientists to better understand how breast cancers developed and identify potential therapeutic targets.

"Finding the cells of origin for breast cancer is key to improving outcomes for this disease," Prof Visvader said.

WEHI director Prof Doug Hilton said the breast cancer team, led by Prof Visvader and Prof Lindeman were making "remarkable progress in understanding breast cancer".

"Jane and Geoff were recruited to the institute in 1997 to set up a breast cancer laboratory and since then they have made some truly significant discoveries," Prof Hilton said.

"Jane is highly respected around the world for her leadership and scientific achievements, making her a worthy recipient of this award," Prof Hilton said.

The Institute said that the medal for excellence in scientific research is the Royal Society of Victoria's highest award and was introduced at the society's centenary in 1959.

UNILIFE CORPORATION

Unilife says it has appointed Intel Corp marketing and communications executive Kevin Sellers as marketing and communications senior vice-president.

Unilife said that Mr Sellers was with Intel for 23 years, most recently as vice-president of creative services and digital marketing and previously in investor relations.

The company said that one initial area of focus would be investor relations.

Unilife said that executive Stephen Allan, who had been with the company since 2002, had been appointed strategic planning senior vice president.

Unilife was up two cents or 3.5 percent to 58.5 cents.