



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday December 17, 2014

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: GI DYNAMICS UP 12%, IDT DOWN 11%**
- \* **SIEMENS LAUNCHES UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS COAGULATION TEST**
- \* **NOVOGEN TO RAISE \$4m - SHARES RUN UP TO 27c, DOWN TO 10.5c**
- \* **PRIMA COMPLETES \$31m IMMUTEP ACQUISITION**
- \* **ACORN REDUCES TO 6% OF STARPHARMA**
- \* **GRIST, HOGAN, HENDERSON DILUTED BELOW 5% IN IMUGENE**
- \* **CHAIRMAN PAUL HOPPER INCREASES, DILUTED TO 5% OF IMUGENE**
- \* **MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS APPOINTS PHILIP POWELL DIRECTOR**
- \* **USCOM APPOINTS DENISE PATER DISTRIBUTION, SALES MANAGER**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market rose 0.19 percent on Wednesday December 17, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 9.6 points to 5,161.9 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, 14 traded unchanged and six were untraded.

GI Dynamics was the best, up three cents or 12 percent to 28 cents with 246,271 shares traded, followed by Universal Biosensors up 11.4 percent to 19.5 cents with 580,140 shares traded.

Starpharma climbed nine percent; Osprey was up 6.4 percent; Biotron was up five percent; Clinuvel and Sirtex were up more than four percent; Alchemia, Phosphagenics and Resmed rose more than two percent; with CSL up 0.5 percent.

IDT led the falls, down two cents or 11.1 percent to 16 cents with 3,000 shares traded.

Cellmid lost 7.4 percent; Admedus, Anteo, Benitec and Living Cell fell four percent or more; Analytica was down 3.7 percent; Impedimed and Mesoblast shed more than two percent; Acrux and Bionomics were down more than one percent; with Cochlear down 0.3 percent.

## UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says that Siemens has begun the European limited release of the Xprecia Stride Coagulation Analyzer, triggering a \$US1 million milestone payment.

Universal Biosensors said that the Xprecia Stride was the first point-of-care prothrombin time, international normalized ratio (PT-INR) coagulation testing product, which received Conformité Européenne (CE) mark approval last week (BD: Dec 9, 2014).

The company said that the Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Xprecia Stride incorporated its electro-chemical sensing technology which offered "high performance and ease-of-use in an affordable, handheld format".

Universal Biosensors chief executive officer Paul Wright said that it was "an important milestone for both Universal Biosensors and Siemens".

"We have been collaborating on the development of this product for more than three years and we are confident the Xprecia Stride Coagulation Analyzer will be well received in the point-of-care market," Mr Wright said.

Universal Biosensors said the system was used to monitor the use of the anti-coagulant, warfarin and the company was the exclusive manufacturer of the test strips for Siemens. The company said that up to 10 million patients globally were taking warfarin for a variety of reasons, including the treatment of blood clots in the veins or certain heart conditions which increase the likelihood of a potentially life-threatening clot forming.

Universal Biosensors said that patients on warfarin required frequent testing to assess the clotting tendency of their blood and the PT-INR test allowed physicians to adjust patient doses for diet and lifestyle changes.

The company said that the PT-INR test was the first of several tests in development with Siemens to bring laboratory-quality to the point-of-care.

Siemens Healthcare point-of-care business unit chief executive officer Dr David Stein said that the Xprecia Stride extended the company's 30 years experience in haemostasis to point-of-care diagnostics.

"Our teams have worked hard together to reach this important milestone in our collaboration which offers great opportunity to bring laboratory performance to near-patient testing," Dr Stein said.

Universal Biosensors was up two cents or 11.4 percent to 19.5 cents.

## NOVOGEN

Novogen says it has definitive agreements to raise \$4.1 million from US institutional investors in a private placement at 12.5 cents a share.

Novogen said that the shares would come with attaching options exercisable at 15 cents within five years and the offer was expected to close on or about December 22, 2014.

Novogen executive chairman Dr Graham Kelly said the placement "more than makes up for the shortfall in the recent capital-raise and gives the company the solid runway it requires in its transition into a clinical-stage company".

Yesterday, Novogen climbed 8.1 cents or 96.4 percent to 16.5 cents with 15.7 million shares traded on the announcement that a mouse study had shown that lead candidate TRXE-009 was highly active against melanoma, as well as brain cancers.

On the Nasdaq overnight, Novogen climbed \$US3.67 or 214.62 percent to \$US5.38 with 19,085,191 shares traded.

Today on the ASX, Novogen climbed as much as 10.5 cents or 63.6 percent to a 27 cents falling to 24 cents prior to the trading halt at 1.02pm (AEDT).

Novogen closed down five cents or 30.3 percent to 11.5 cents with 67.6 million shares traded.

## PRIMA BIOMED

Prima says it has completed the acquisition of the French Immutep SA for its immuno-oncology assets, for about \$US25 million rather than the earlier \$US28 million estimate. In October, Prima said that the New York-based Bergen Global Opportunity Fund was assisting the funding to acquire Immutep's immuno-therapies based on its lymphocyte activation gene 3 (LAG-3) technology, with lead product IMP321 tested alone and in combination with other therapies in clinical trials (BD: Oct 2, 2014).

Today, Prima said that Immutep founder Prof Frédéric Triebel had been appointed chief scientific officer and chief medical officer.

Prima said it had made an upfront cash payment of \$US10.8 million with the remaining cash component of \$US7.2 million, partly payable on the achievement of a predetermined milestone and partly payable after 12 months subject to the satisfaction of warranty retention arrangements.

The company said it had also issued \$US3 million worth of its shares, subject to trading limitations, to Immutep shareholders at a price of 4.016 per share and issued up to 200,000,000 warrants expiring in four years.

Prima said the total cost reduction to about \$US25 million (\$A30.7 million) was due to the reduction in value of the warrants using updated market data

Prima chief executive officer Marc Voigt said the company had "secured an extremely compelling value proposition with the potential to unlock significant value from Immutep's assets".

"With the acquisition completed we can now focus on progressing our considerably expanded product portfolio and on new research-driven opportunities based on the LAG-3 technology," Mr Voigt said.

Prima was unchanged at 3.5 cents.

## STARPHARMA

Melbourne's Acorn Capital has reduced further its holding in Starpharma from 25,054,351 shares (8.00%) to 18,714,254 shares (5.87%).

Acorn began reducing its holding in Starpharma from 36,614,463 shares (13.05%) last year (BD: Aug 19, 2013).

Today, Acorn said that between September 3 and December 16, 2014 it sold 6,340,097 shares for \$2,831,226 or an average price of 44.66 cents a share.

Starpharma was up four cents or nine percent to 48.5 cents.

## IMUGENE

The Western Australia groups of companies directed by Tony Grist, Kim Hogan and Tom Henderson have been diluted below five percent by Imugene's recent capital raising. In separate substantial shareholder notices, Oaktone and Denlin Nominees with Grist Investment and Tony Grist of Perth; JK Nominees and Kim Hogan of Fremantle; and Tisia Nominees with the Henderson Family and Tom Henderson of Dalkeith, all maintained their holdings in Imugene but said they had been diluted in the capital raising.

The three groups also have or had investments in Oncosil which was formerly Neurodiscovery and Cynata which was formerly Eco Quest, while the companies related to Mr Henderson invested in Actinogen.

In November and December, Imugene's share plan and placements at one cent a share raised \$3,583,500 (BD: Nov 13, Dec 9, 2014).

Imugene was untraded at one cent.

## IMUGENE

Executive chairman Paul Hopper has increased his holding in Imugene from 68,296,875 shares to 69,796,875 shares but has been diluted from 7.22 percent to 5.25 percent.

The substantial shareholder notice said that Mr Hopper acquired 1,500,000 shares for \$15,000 in the company's share purchase plan.

The notice said that the shares were held indirectly through Kilinwata Investments, Deborah Anne Coleman and Moreglade Pty Ltd.

## MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL

Medical Developments says it has appointed accountant and Polynovo director Philip Powell as a non-executive director, effective immediately.

Medical Developments said that Mr Powell had a finance background and began working in investment banking in 1996 at Hambros Corporate Finance following 10 years in finance roles with Oamps, and previously Mr Powell worked for Arthur Andersen & Co for 10 years.

The company said that from 2006 to 2013 Mr Powell was an executive director at corporate finance advisory firm Kidder Williams, owned by Medical Developments and Polynovo chairman David Williams.

Medical Developments was unchanged at \$1.30.

## USCOM

Uscom says it has appointed Denise Pater as its distribution and sales manager.

Uscom said that Ms Pater had nearly 20 years experience in medical device distribution, sales, marketing, business development and management, previously working for GE Healthcare, Datex-Omeda, Medtel and Ramsay Healthcare.

The company said that Ms Pater was previously employed in a critical care clinical nursing role.

Uscom said that Ms Pater would co-ordinate and target resources within the company to support and motivate the growing distribution network and develop business initiatives.

Uscom executive chairman Dr Rob Phillips said that Ms Pater was "an experienced and respected member in the medical technology world and her contribution to Uscom management will be vital as we accelerate into our growth phase".

Uscom was untraded at 22.5 cents.