Biotech Daily

SPECIAL SUMMER CATCH UP EDITION

Sunday January 18, 2015

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*** HUNTER HALL EASES 1% IN ALCHEMIA**

*** UNILIFE TELLS ASX: 'JP MORGAN 10% MAY HAVE PUSHED PRICE 6.5%'**

*** HEALTHLINX AGM BACKS SALE OF OVPLEX FOR $60k (PLUS GST)**

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*** OPTISCAN PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 50% QUERY**

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*** PSIVIDA'S ILUVIEN FOR DME ON SALE IN PORTUGAL**

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*** CHINA PATENT FOR ORTHOCELL CELGRO SCAFFOLD**

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*** NOVOGEN COMPOUNDS 'PROMOTE BRAIN CELL GROWTH', NOTE CANCELLED**

The following articles appear in date order

Monday December 22, 2014

CANADA PATENT FOR PRIMA'S MHC CLASS II LIGANDS
PRIMA BIOMED
Prima says the Canadian Patent Office has granted a patent entitled 'Use of MHC class II Ligands as Adjuvants for Vaccination and of LAG-3 in Cancer Treatment'.
Prima said that patent was licenced from the Villejuif, France based Institute Gustave Roussy and the Dramstadt, Germany-based Merck Serono SA.
The company said that the patent provided protection for the composition and use of MHC class II ligands, such as soluble recombinant LAG-3Ig or IMP321, or derivatives thereof, and CD4, to induce an antigen specific response against cancer.

RHINOMED RECEIVES $570k FEDERAL R&D TAX REFUND
RHINOMED
Rhinomed says it has received $570,337 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

ANTEO, IMRA COLLABORATE
ANTEO DIAGNOSTICS
Anteo Diagnostics says subsidiary Anteo Technologies and the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based IMRA America Inc will co-develop a ready-to-use product for medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics and other biomedical industrial applications.

ANTISENSE ETHICS APPROVAL FOR 600mg ACROMEGALY DOSE
ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS
Antisense says it has ethics approval for a higher dose trial of ATL1103 than the recent phase II acromegaly study (BD: Sep 3, Dec 9, 2014).
Antisense said the trial was expected to begin in “early 2015” with four patients on a dose of 600mg/week.

COMPUMEDICS ANZ $1m EXPORT FACILITY
COMPUMEDICS
Compumedics says it has a $US1.0 million ($A1.2 million) facility with the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation in conjunction with ANZ Bank.

PHYLOGICA, ROCHE GENENTECH ANTIBIOTICS COLLABORATION
PHYLOGICA
Phylogica says that Roche’s Genentech will pay an upfront fee of $US500,000 for a research and licencing agreement to discover new antibiotics.
Phylogica said it would use its Phylomer drug discovery platform to identify Phylomer peptides suitable for further evaluation and it would be eligible for research, development, and commercialization milestone payments up to $US142 million.

Tuesday December 23, 2014

EU RATIFIES EMA CLINUVEL SCENESSE APPROVAL
CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS
Clinuvel says that the European Commission has ratified the European Medicines Agency recommendation for market approval under exceptional circumstances for Scenesse.
Clinuvel said it could market Scenesse (afamelanotide 16mg) for the prevention of phototoxicity in adult patients with erythropoietic protoporphyria across the 31 European Medicines Agency counties.

BELGRAVIA, BLACKMANS DILUTED BELOW 5% IN IDT
IDT AUSTRALIA
Belgravia Group chairman Geoffrey Lord says the Group has been diluted below the substantial shareholder five percent threshold in the most recent IDT placement.
Paulene Blackman of Collins Street Melbourne says she has been diluted below substantial and holds 4,457,737 shares.
Graeme Leslie Blackman of Collins Street Melbourne says he has been diluted below substantial and holds 6,996,376 shares.

IM MEDICAL TO BE SYNCOM DATA CENTRE SERVICES
IM MEDICAL
IM Medical says it will acquire data centre service provider Syncom Australia Pty Ltd through a reverse takeover.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH APPOINTS TURKEY DISTRIBUTOR
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCE
Reproductive Health says it has appointed Tani Medikal as the distributor in Turkey for Embryocellect for in-vitro fertilization pre-implantation genetic screening.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24, 2014

CHIESI BACKS PHARMAXIS BRONCHITOL TRIAL, NOVAQUEST SETTLED
PHARMAXIS
Pharmaxis says it has ended its dispute with Novaquest and Chiesi Farmaceutici SpA will fund up to $US22 million of a pivotal trial of Bronchitol for cystic fibrosis (BD: Aug 4, 2014).
Pharmaxis said that the distribution agreement with the Parma, Italy-based Chiesi for Bronchitol in the US followed the settling of the Novaquest Pharma Opportunities Fund III dispute with an amended financing agreement.
The company said the first patient had been enrolled in the phase III Bronchitol trial and subject to approval, Bronchitol would be sold as part of Chiesi's cystic fibrosis portfolio.
The company said that milestones of up to $US25 million were payable tied to the launch of Bronchitol, and on achieving certain annual sales levels.
Pharmaxis said that Novaquest would receive reduced financial terms on its existing $US20 million investment with no further investment required and the Chiesi agreement to fund the study made it possible to renegotiate terms and end the Novaquest legal action.

Monday December 29, 2014

AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL TAKES 13% OF IDT
IDT AUSTRALIA
Australian Ethical Smaller Companies Trust has become a substantial shareholder in IDT with the acquisition of 22,766,419 shares or 12.81 percent.

NASDAQ SENDS PRIMA PRICE NON-COMPLIANCE NOTICE
PRIMA BIOMED
Prima says it has received a notice from the Nasdaq that, from November 7 to December 19, 2014, the closing bid price of its American depositary shares was below $US1.00.
Prima said it had 180-calendar days until June 22, 2015, to regain compliance.

NUSEP DIRECTOR ANDREW GOODALL TAKES 39%, TI RAKAU 13%
NUSEP
Nusep director Andrew goodall says he has increased his substantial shareholding in the company from 32,225,440 shares (18.82%) to 91,882,704 shares (38.67%).
Ti Rakau Developments says it has become a substantial shareholder in Nusep with 29,788,728 shares (12.54%).
Mr Goodall said that he held an indirect interest in Nusep through Ti Rakau whose notice was signed by Marjorie Goodall.

Tuesday December 30, 2014

NEUREN APPLIES FOR FDA BREAKTHROUGH, ORPHAN FOR NNZ-2566 FOR RETT
NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS
Neuren says it has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for orphan drug designation and breakthrough therapy designation for NNZ-2566 for Rett syndrome.
Neuren said that the FDA's target timeline for responding to an application for breakthrough therapy designation was within 60 days.

IMUGENE FINALIZES HER-VAXX TRIAL PROTOCOL, HIRES WIL RESEARCH
IMUGENE
Imugene says it has "substantially finalized" the clinical protocol for its phase Ib/II trial of HER-Vaxx in patients with gastric cancer, expecte to begin in 2015.
Imugene said the trial would be entitled 'A Phase 1b/2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Comparison of IMU-131 HER2/neu Peptide Vaccine Plus Cisplatin and either Capecitabine or 5-Fluorouracil Chemotherapy in Patients with HER2/neu Overexpressing Metastatic or Advanced Adenocarcinoma of the Stomach or Gastroesophageal Junction'.
The company said it had appointed the Ashland Ohio-based non-clinical research organization WIL Research to conduct US Food and Drug Administration investigational new drug application-enabling preclinical studies to support the trial.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES RAISES $258k OF HOPED FOR $3m
GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES
Genetic Technologies says its share plan to raise up to $3,153,694 through a share plan at 1.35 cents a share raised $257,500.

IDT RAISES $17m; I'ROM INCREASES, DILUTED TO 9% OF IDT
IDT AUSTRALIA
IDT says its underwritten placement of 100,000,000 shares at 15 cents each and share plan to raise up to $3 million has raised $17,016,000.
IDT said the funds were to acquire 23 US generic drug products (BD: Nov 3, 2014).
I'Rom has increased its holding from 12,460,000 shares to 15,793,001 shares but has been diluted from 16.49 percent to 8.89 percent.
The Tokyo, Japan-based company said it was diluted by the recent $15 million placement and share plan at 15 cents a share (BD: Sep 27, Oct 17, 2013).

Monday, January 5, 2015

AVEXA PLAN RAISES $796k
AVEXA
Avexa says its share plan closed December 24, 2014 with application for $795,500 in shares at 1.443 cents per share.

NEUREN TELLS ASX: 'NEWS, FDA APPLICATIONS PUSHED PRICE 54%'
NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS
Neuren says that media reports and applications to the US Food and Drug Administration for orphan and breakthrough designation pushed its share price up 54.5 percent.
The ASX noted that Neuren's share price rose from 11 cents on December 23 2014 to 17 cents on January 5, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volumes.

JOHN MANUSU, YING MING CHIU DILUTED BELOW 5% OF NUSEP
NUSEP
Former Nusep executive chairman John Manusu and Ying Ming Chiu have ceased their substantial shareholdings in the company following a share issue.
Mr Manusu said he held 10,473,434 shares or 4.4 percent and separately Ying Ming Chiu said he held 8,772,330 shares or 3.69 percent.

ADMEDUS CLAIMS 'EXCELLENT' CARDIOCEL RESULTS

ADMEDUS

Admedus says a 37-patient study "demonstrates excellent early results" for its treated bovine tissue Cardiocel patch.

Admedus quoted the study concluding that "implantation was free of tissue-related complications and applicable for manifold indications in complex congenital cardiac repairs".

The company said that between February and August 2014, Cardiocel patch material was used in congenital heart surgery in 37 patients with a median age of 6.1 years (six days to 49.7 years) and a median weight of 18kg (3.2kg to 111.6kg).

The company said the study found no intra-operative difficulties implanting the patch material, the was one death that was non-graft-related and echocardiography at discharge "showed excellent patch function, no signs of device calcification, thrombosis or device failure of the presented cases".

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

SIMAVITA AVAILABLE IN CANADA, H1 REVENUE $458k

SIMAVITA

Simavita says its preliminary unaudited sales revenue for the six months to December 31, 2014 was $458,082, which "compares favorably" to total sales revenue of $349,895 for the year to June 30, 2014.

Simavita said that its Smart Incontinence Management system was available for distribution in Canada.

CYNATA RAISES $2.9m

CYNATA

Cynata says that it has raised $2.9 million through the exercise of more than 97 percent of its listed December 2014 options and the underwriters will be required to take up the shortfall of 393,987 options.

IMMURON, IMMUNE BIOLOGICS PARTNER FOR ALCOHOL TOXICITY

IMMURON

Immuron says it will develop and commercialize IMM-124E for short-term alcohol-induced liver toxicity with Immune Biologics Pty Ltd, a company associated with its largest shareholder, Peter Anastasiou.

Immuron said Immune Biologics would carry-out clinical trials designed to test the efficacy of IMM-124E for the prevention and/or treatment and/or amelioration of short-term alcohol-induced liver toxicity and pending a successful outcome of the clinical it would sell IMM-124E to Immune Biologics for toxicity associated with short-term alcohol intake.

NUSEP SWAPS $89k LOAN FROM JOHN MANUSU TO MARK GELL

NUSEP

Nusep says it has paid out a loan from former executive chairman John Manusu and taken a new loan form director Mark Gell, for the equivalent amount on the same terms.

Nusep said that the new loan was for $89,329.69 and had a fixed interest rate of 12 percent and subject to shareholder approval, Mr Gell would like to convert his loan to a convertible note, on the same terms offered to Mr Manusu.

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

BENITEC DOSES 3rd TT-034 HEPATITIS C PATIENT

BENITEC BIOPHARMA

Benitec says the third patient in its phase I/IIa trial of TT-034 for hepatitis C has been dosed at the Durham, North Carolina-based Duke Clinical Research Unit.

Benitec said that the independent data safety monitoring board determined that the two patients in the first dosing cohort were clear of any significant treatment-related adverse events and the third patient was the first to receive the increased dose of TT-034, a half log higher than the doses administered in the first cohort.

The company said that TT-034 was designed as a potential one-shot cure for hepatitis C, but the current dose was still below the level expected to inhibit viral replication, so data from the second cohort was primarily a further safety assessment.

ACTINOGEN TELLS ASX: 'APPOINTING DR BILL KETELBEY PUSHED PRICE 57%'

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen has told the ASX that the appointment of former Pfizer executive Dr Bill Ketelbey may have pushed its share price 57.1 percent.

Actinogen told the ASX that it was not aware of any information it had not announced which, if known, could explain recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said the company's share price rose from 4.2 cents on December 31, 2014 to 6.6 cents on January 7, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volume.

SIMAVITA APPOINTS MICHAEL BROWN CHAIRMAN

SIMAVITA

Simavita says it has appointed Michael Brown as a director and its chairman, replacing acting chairman Ari Bergman.

Mr Bergman was appointed acting chairman replacing former Biota chief executive officer Peter Cook who was appointed a director on November 20, 2013 and chairman on January 31, 2014 and resigned on September 12, 2014 (BD: Sep 12, 2014).

Simavita said that Mr Brown was the founder and executive chairman of the Melbourne-based Integrated Equity Pty Ltd.

The company said that Mr Brown had "a relevant interest in 210,000 shares ... 1,019,410 options and warrants over the company's shares".

Simavita said Mr Brown held a Master of Science degree.

MEDIVAC DIRECTOR ROBERT CROSSMAN RESIGNS

MEDIVAC

Medivac says that Robert Crossman has resigned as a director.

MELBOURNE UNI: PROF GRAEME CLARK SHARES $US500k COCHLEAR PRIZE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne says that Prof Graeme Clark has shared the US National Academy of Engineering and Ohio University Russ prize of US $500,000 ($A610,139).

The University said that Prof Clark was the first Australian to receive the Russ prize for an outstanding achievement in bioengineering innovation in widespread use to improve health and well-being, namely the cochlear hearing implant and Prof Clark shared the prize with Austria's Prof Ingeborg Hochamair and Prof Irwin Hochmair and the US-based Prof Michael Merzenich and Prof Blake Wilson.

Thursday, January 8, 2015

BIOTRON TELLS ASX: 'TRIAL NEWS, PRESENTATION PUSHED PRICE 26%'
BIOTRON
Biotron says that completing recruitment for its phase II trial of BIT225 for hepatitis C and a presentation pushed its share price up 26.1 percent.
The ASX noted that Biotron's share price rose from 11.5 cents on January 6 to 14.5 cents on January 7, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volumes.

LEANNE RALPH REPLACES IMPEDIMED CO SEC STEPHEN DENARO
IMPEDIMED
Impedimed says it has appointed Leanne Ralph as company secretary effective replacing Stephen Denaro.
Impedimed said that Mr Denaro had been company secretary since September 2009, and previously from March 2003 through April 2008.

SIRTEX COMPLETES FOXFIRE GLOBAL TRIAL RECRUITMENT
SIRTEX MEDICAL
Sirtex says it has completed recruitment of more than 360 patients in its Foxfire Global trial of SIR-Spheres with standard-of-care for first-line metastatic colorectal cancer.
Sirtex said that the three trials Sirflox, Foxfire and Foxfire Global recruited more than 1,000 patients with the primary endpoint of overall survival from the combined studies expected to be available by July 2017.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT $46m NHMRC-ARC DEMENTIA FELLOWSHIPS OPEN
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
The Federal Minister for Education and Training Christopher Pyne says a new fellowship scheme to support research into dementia has opened for applications.
A Federal Government media release said the fellowships would be funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council "as part of the Government's $200 million 'Boosting Dementia Research' budget initiative".
The media release said that up to $46 million of ARC and NHMRC funding was allocated to expand capacity in dementia research.
The Government said that the Institute would target and co-ordinate the national research effort and ensure translation into better treatments, care and services to dementia sufferers, carers and their communities.
Researchers can apply for the grants through NHMRC with more information available at the NHMRC website: http://bit.ly/1AtIQ1G.

SIENNA ANTIBODY TEST DEAL WITH BOSTWICK
SIENNA CANCER DIAGNOSTICS
Sienna says it has an agreement with the Uniondale, New York-based uropathology laboratory Bostwick Laboratories for its anti-hTERT antibody for a bladder cancer test.
Sienna said the SCD-A7 antibody-based diagnostic could enable more accurate results with fewer indeterminate results than current cytology tests for bladder cancer detection.
The company said it was the first clinical application of its telomerase test technology.

CLINICAL NETWORK SERVICES US OFFICE
CLINICAL NETWORK SERVICES
Clinical Network Services says it has established an office San Francisco, California and appointed Megan Hill as the US business development manager.

Friday January 9, 2015

SAFETY MEDICAL RAISES $4m TO ACQUIRE 3D MEDICAL
SAFETY MEDICAL PRODUCTS
Safety Medical says it has raised $4,088,600 to acquire 3D Medical.

Monday, January 12, 2015

HUNTER HALL EASES 1% IN ALCHEMIA
ALCHEMIA
Hunter Hall Investment Management has reduced its substantial holding in Alchemia from 32,508,583 shares (10.02%) to 29,239,945 shares (9.01%).
Hunter Hall said it sold shares between December 15, 2014 and January 8, 2015, with the largest sale on December 29, 2014 of 816,883 shares for $73,056 or 8.9 cents a share.

UNILFE TELLS ASX: 'JP MORGAN 10% MAY HAVE PUSHED PRICE 6.5%'
UNILIFE CORP
Unilife has told the ASX that a substantial shareholder notice from the US-based JP Morgan which held 11,598,406 shares (10.4%) may have pushed its share price.
The ASX said that the company's share price increased five cents or 6.45 percent from 77.5 cents on January 9 to 82.5 cents on January 12, 2015, but did not note an increase in trading volumes.

HEALTHLINX AGM BACKS SALE OF OVPLEX FOR $60k (PLUS GST)
HEALTHLINX
The Healthlinx annual general meeting overwhelmingly supported all resolutions including the "disposal of [its] main undertaking".
Last month the company said it would sell the Ovplex ovarian cancer test for $60,000 plus Australian Goods and Services Tax (BD: Dec 8, 2014).

AUSTRALIAN PATENT FOR CELLMID HAIR GROWTH MIDKINE
CELLMID
Cellmid says that IP Australia has accepted its application entitled 'Method of treatment or prevention of hair loss or for the enhancement of hair growth'.
Cellmid said that the IP Australia (formerly the Patent Office) patent protected the use of midkine and the related protein pleiotrophin for use as hair loss and/or hair growth treatments, covering topical formulations, including shampoos, conditioners, creams and lotions with protection until 2031.

BIOMÉRIEUX TO TERMINATE LBT PREVI ISOLA DEAL
LBT INNOVATIONS
LBT says that France's Biomérieux wants to terminate the Previ Isola agreement in the next 12 months as a consequence of an alliance with Copan.
LBT said the 2007 licence with Biomérieux for the manufacture and market of the Previ Isola automated Agar plate streaking system provided royalty payments which were the company's "primary source of recurring income" and was 16.5 percent of total revenue in the year to June 30, 2014.
The company said it had received about $13.0 million in milestone and royalty payments and royalty income was expected for 2015.

MONASH UNIVERSITY, JANSSEN-CILAG WORK ON AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES
MONASH UNIVERSITY
Monash University says it will collaborate with Johnson & Johnson's Janssen-Cilag to develop medicines for autoimmune diseases and disorders.

MONASH LICENCES MIPS TECHNOLOGY TO CAPSUGEL
MONASH UNIVERSITY
Monash University says that the Morristown, New Jersey-based Capsugel has acquired the intellectual property to proprietary ionic liquids technology.
Monash said that the technology, developed at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, used lipid-like counter-ion salts to improve the solubility of drugs in lipid-based liquid, semi-solid and multi-particulate formulations and would add to Capsugel's suite of bioavailability enhancement technologies and capabilities.

Tuesday January 13, 2015

WEHI: 'MCL-1 REMOVAL KILLS RESISTANT LYMPHOMA CELLS'
THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
Walter and Eliza Hall Institute says its researchers have found that removing the pro-survival protein MCL-1 caused the death and elimination of lymphoma cells that had become resistant to conventional cancer treatments.

DAVID HASTINGS REPLACES UNILIFE CFO DENNIS PYERS
UNILIFE CORP
Unilife has appointed David Hastings as chief financial officer replacing interim chief financial officer Dennis Pyers, effective from February 23, 2015.
Unilife said that Mr Hastings was Incyte Corp chief financial officer from 2003 to 2014 and Mr Pyers would continue as senior vice-president and controller reporting to Mr Hastings.

BONE PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 80% QUERY
BONE MEDICAL
Bone 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 80 percent from 0.5 cents on January 12 to 0.9 cents on January 13, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volume.

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

PHOSPHAGENICS APPOINTS DR ROSS MURDOCH CEO
PHOSPHAGENICS
Phosphagenics says that "after an extensive global search" it has appointed Dr Ross Murdoch as its chief executive officer.
Phosphagenics co-founder and executive director Harry Rosen assumed the role of chief executive officer, following the dismissal and arrest on fraud charges of former chief executive officer Dr Esra Ogru (BD: Jul 24, 2013; Nov 7, 2014).
The company said that Dr Murdoch was formerly Shire Pharmaceuticals senior vice-president and Prana's president and chief operating officer.
Phosphagenics said that Dr Murdoch held a Bachelor of Science from Monash University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in clinical pharmacology from the University of Melbourne.

HEARTWARE BEGINS HVAD LESS INVASIVE STUDY
HEARTWARE INTERNATIONAL
Heartware says it has implanted the first of up to 120 patients in its US investigational device exemption 'Lateral' less invasive clinical trial.
Heartware said that its ventricular assist system would be implanted through a less-invasive thoracotomy procedure in patients with end-stage heart failure who are awaiting a heart transplant and the trial would study the clinical outcomes of the surgical technique.
Heartware said that commercially available systems were only US Food and Drug Administration approved for implantation via median sternotomy through the center of the patient's chest, but the Heartware ventricular assist device was smaller than other devices and was implanted using a small lateral thoracotomy incision between the patient's ribs.
Heartware said that the study population would include patients with end-stage heart failure who had not responded to standard medical management and were eligible for cardiac transplantation.

OPTISCAN PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 50% QUERY
OPTISCAN
Optiscan 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 50 percent from five cents on January 12 to 7.5 cents on January 13, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volume.

Thursday January 15, 2015

MESOBLAST BEGINS PHASE III BACK PAIN STEM CELL TRIAL
MESOBLAST
Mesoblast says it has begun a phase III trial of its mesenchymal precursor cell product MPC-06-ID for chronic low back pain.
Mesoblast said it expected to complete enrollment in mid-2016, with an interim analysis in mid-2016 and top-line data in mid-2017.
The company said it had presented 24-month results from the phase II chronic low back pain trial at the JP Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco, showing that in the randomized, placebo-controlled trial of 100 patients with chronic low back pain due to degenerative disc disease, a single injection of MPC-06-ID was well tolerated and to resulted in substantial improvement in pain and function for at least 24 months.

IMMURON STARTS US NIH-FUNDED TRIAL OF IMM-124E FOR ASH
IMMURON
Immuron says it has begun the US National Institutes of Health-sponsored phase II trial of IMM-124E for alcoholic steatohepatitis.
Immuron said that the first three of 66 patients had now been enrolled.
The company said that IMM-124E was one of three therapeutic candidates selected by the National Institutes of Health from 27 therapeutic candidates to be trialled for the treatment of alcoholic steatohepatitis.

PSIVIDA'S ILUVIEN FOR DME ON SALE IN PORTUGAL
PSIVIDA CORP
Psivida says that Iluvien for diabetic macular oedema is on sale in Portugal, following sales in the UK and Germany.

MRCF $2m TO SOLVANIX FOR GARVAN ANTIBODY STABILIZER
SOLVANIX, MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION FUND, BRANDON CAPITAL
Solvanix says the Brandon Capital-managed Medical Research Commercialisation Fund has invested $2 million to commercialize its Stabilize technology for antibodies.
The Sydney-based Solvanix said that the technology was developed at the Garvan Institute for Medical Research and stabilizes and prevents the aggregation, or stickiness, that compromises the manufacture and storage of therapeutic antibodies.
The company said that Stabilize worked by maximizing colloidal stability and by reducing aggregation of monoclonal antibody products, optimizing amino acids at specific locations within the antibody complementarity determining regions, resulting in a fully human antibody with improved stability and a reduced propensity to aggregate, while retaining the properties necessary for therapeutic use.

CHINA PATENT FOR ORTHOCELL CELGRO SCAFFOLD
ORTHOCELL
Orthocell says it has been granted a Chinese patent covering the manufacture of biological materials to repair damaged soft tissue.
Orthocell said that the patent, entitled 'A Collagen Scaffold for Cell Growth and a method producing the Same' related to its Celgro product.

Friday January 16, 2015

FDA APPROVES SIGNOSTICS SIGNOSRT BLADDER SCANNER
SIGNOSTICS
The Adelaide-based Signostics says its hand-held ultrasound bladder scanner the Signosrt Bladder has received US Food and Drug Administration market clearance.
Signostics said that the Signosrt Bladder was on sale in Australia and New Zealand with applications in aged care, home nursing, midwifery, urology and palliative care and it was planned to be launched in Europe in March 2015.

NOVOGEN COMPOUNDS TO PROMOTE BRAIN CELL GROWTH, NOTE CANCELLED
NOVOGEN
Novogen says it has "identified a family of compounds with an ability to promote the growth and activity of normal brain stem cells".
Novogen said that a part of the hippocampus was constantly renewed by a pool of dividing stem cells and a second discrete pool of stem cells generated daughter cells that could migrate to sites of brain damage to facilitate repair, but the migrating stem cells failed to produce enough new neurons to provide substantial recovery.
The company said it sought drugs that would promote the migration of stem cells to the site of injury, seeking to retain those stem cells at the damaged site, and then promote their regenerative capacities.
Novogen said that its super-benzopyran drug platform technology could "stimulate the growth of healthy brain stem cells to create new nerve cells" and a medicinal chemistry program was underway to produce a lead candidate compound to taken into an animal model of human brain injury.
Separately, Novogen said that it had terminated its convertible note agreement with Hudson Bay Capital, having exercised for of fie notes for $6 million.