



# Biotech Daily

Friday April 10, 2015

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: COMPUMEDICS UP 33%, ANALYTICA DOWN 9%**
- \* **CANADA APPROVES HEARTWARE PUMP FOR BRIDGE-TO-TRANSPLANT**
- \* **GENETIC SIGNATURES INSTALLS 1<sup>st</sup> EASYSscreen RESPIRATORY TESTS**
- \* **ADMEDUS READY FOR PHASE II HSV-2 VACCINE TRIAL**
- \* **CANCER THERAPEUTICS CRC WINS \$5.4m WELLcome GRANT**
- \* **MARQUETTE LENDS NUSEP \$239k**
- \* **BONE PLEADS SCHULTZ TO ASX 40% QUERY**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.61 percent on Friday April 10, 2015 with the S&P ASX 200 up 36.2 points to 5,968.4 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, seven fell, 12 traded unchanged and three were untraded.

Compumedics was the best, up 5.5 cents or 33.3 percent to 22 cents with 961,509 shares traded followed by Neuren up 21.05 percent to 11.5 cents with 9.2 million shares traded.

Biotron climbed 6.9 percent; Benitec was up 5.6 percent; Viralytics rose 4.65 percent; Oncosil, Optiscan and Pharmaxis were up more than three percent; Acrux, Atcor and Sirtex rose more than two percent; Admedus, Anteo, Avita, Psivida and Starpharma were up one percent or more, with CSL, Mesoblast, Nanosonics and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Analytica led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 9.1 percent to two cents with 444,533 shares traded.

Tissue Therapies lost 4.8 percent; Prima was down 3.6 percent; Clinuvel and Genetic Technologies shed more than two percent; Impedimed and Medical Developments were down more than one percent; with Cochlear down three cents or 0.03 percent.

## HEARTWARE INTERNATIONAL

Heartware says that Health Canada has approved its Heartware ventricular assist system as a bridge-to-heart transplantation in patients with end-stage heart failure.

Heartware said that its ventricular assist system received US Food and Drug Administration approval in 2012 as a bridge to heart transplantation in patients with end-stage heart failure and the system had been the leading ventricular assist device implanted in patients outside the US for the last three years, having received Conformité Européenne (CE) mark in the European Union in 2009 and Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration approval in 2011 and more than 8,000 advanced heart failure patients globally had received the Heartware ventricular assist device (HVAD) pump.

Heartware said that the HVAD pump was a golf ball-sized full-support circulatory assist device designed to be implanted next to the heart, which avoided the abdominal surgery generally required to implant competing devices.

The Vancouver-based St Paul's Hospital director of cardiac transplant Dr Anson Cheung said that "since 2010, we've been able to build an extensive and positive clinical experience with the HVAD pump".

"Earlier this year, we commenced Lateral, a clinical trial to examine the potential benefits of implanting this device through a less invasive left thoracotomy technique, as an alternative to the sternotomy approach," Dr Cheung said.

Heartware chief executive officer Doug Godshall said the company was "grateful for the efforts of the leading heart failure specialists in Canada who have worked diligently to gain an understanding of the attributes of the Heartware system and share insights as we worked toward commercial approval".

Last night on the Nasdaq, Heartware was up \$US2.86 or 3.25 percent to \$US90.92 (\$A118.005, equivalent to \$3.37 per CDI prior to the company's departure from the ASX) with 241,158 shares traded (BD: Sep 10, 2013).

## GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says it has completed the first customer site installation of its Easyscreen respiratory virus detection kit at Sydney's St Vincent's Pathology.

Genetic Signatures said that St Vincent's Pathology was an existing customer of the company's Easyscreen enteric pathogen assays that screen for a wide range of infectious agents including viral, bacterial and protozoan agents.

The company said that the Easyscreen respiratory virus detection kit was developed over 18 months leveraging its molecular diagnostics 3Base platform technology and simultaneously identified 15 of the most common respiratory viral infections and contained the necessary reagents to detect multiple viral gene targets, allowing rapid screening of a large number of viral pathogens.

Genetic Signatures said that the respiratory multiplex assay was initially available in research use form.

Genetic Signatures chief executive officer Dr John Melki said that the first installation was "very successful and we look forward to [St Vincent's Pathology] participation in the final testing of the respiratory kit, before its registration as a diagnostic product".

St Vincent's Pathology senior hospital scientist Dr Damien Stark said that "during initial beta-testing, the Easyscreen respiratory virus detection kit was found to detect significantly more viral respiratory infections compared to our current molecular methodology".

Genetic Signatures was up 2.5 cents or 5.7 percent to 46.5 cents.

## [ADMEDUS](#)

Admedus says it expects to dose the first of 40-patients in its phase II herpes simplex virus-2 vaccine trial this month, complete enrolment by July, with interim data this year. Admedus said the study would investigate the safety and efficacy of the herpes simplex virus-2 (HSV-2) vaccine in subjects who carried the virus but were otherwise healthy. The company said that more than half the participants had passed initial screening, prior to a 45 day baseline observation period before receiving the first of three therapeutic vaccine injections.

Admedus said the trial would explore two intradermal injection regimens, administered three times, with a four week break between each injection regime, followed by a six month booster.

The company said that the primary objective of the phase II trial was to demonstrate the vaccine's safety and how well tolerated it was in people with HSV-2, with secondary and exploratory objectives to confirm the immunogenicity seen in the first study.

Admedus chief executive officer Lee Rodne said the study was "the next step ...[for] the HSV-2 therapeutic vaccine, building on the positive data shown in the phase I study where this vaccine was able to stimulate a T-cell response against the virus".

Admedus said the therapeutic vaccine was developed by Prof Ian Frazer and his scientific team to target HSV-2, the strain of the virus most commonly associated with genital herpes.

Admedus was up 0.1 cents or 1.2 percent to 8.2 cents with 14.1 million shares traded.

## [THE CANCER THERAPEUTICS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE](#)

The Cancer Therapeutics Cooperative Research Centre says it has won a \$5.4 million Wellcome Trust Seeding Drug Discovery Award for treating major blood disorders.

The Melbourne-based Cancer Therapeutics CRC said it was funded through the Australian Government CRC program and worked closely with two of its partners, Monash University and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, to develop drugs from one of its discovery programs in a bid to improve the life of patients suffering from the blood diseases thalassemia and sickle cell disease.

Cancer Therapeutics said the disorders of the oxygen carrying protein haemoglobin were the most common genetic diseases, affecting millions of people, consuming 30 percent of the donated blood supply and the CRC had developed drugs to treat the diseases by switching on foetal haemoglobin normally only used by babies before birth and which could replace the damaged adult haemoglobin and allow patients to live normal lives, without regular blood transfusions or damage to vital organs.

The CRC said that the drugs being developed were underpinned by more than 20 years of research led by Monash University Department of Medicine head and Alfred Hospital director of research Prof Stephen Jane.

"The [CRC] partnership provided the necessary translational expertise needed to turn our medical and scientific research into novel treatments and enabled the project to reach a stage where it was ready to progress into clinical development," Prof Jane said.

The CRC said that its major focus was developing cancer drugs "but the potential benefit for these other major diseases could not be ignored" so it turned to the Wellcome Trust for assistance and the Seeding Drug Discovery Award was designed to help applicants take later stage projects towards clinical trials.

The Cancer Therapeutics chief executive officer Dr Warwick Tong said that "if the project progresses successfully the first trials in humans should be starting in about three years".

### NUSEP HOLDINGS

Nusep says it has received a loan of \$S250,000 (\$A238,791) from Marquette Pte Ltd at an interest rate of five percent per annum and repayable in six months from receipt of funds. Nusep said that the funds would be used for operations. Nusep was untraded at four cents.

### 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 40 percent from 1.0 cents on April 9 to 1.4 cents today, April 10, 2015 and noted an increase in trading volume.

Bone closed up 0.3 cents or 30 percent at 1.3 cents with 40.6 million shares traded.