



Biotech Daily

Tuesday June 16, 2015

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX EVEN, BIOTECH DOWN: ACTINOGEN UP 3%, LIVING CELL DOWN 19%**
- * **ENGINEIC: 'COMPLETE RESPONSE FOR MESOTHELIOMA PATIENT'**
- * **DIMERIX INVESTORS AGREE TO SUN BACK-DOOR LISTING**
- * **BIOTRON REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- * **UNILIFE ALAN SHORTALL WINS ERNST & YOUNG PHILADELPHIA GONG**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.05 percent on Tuesday June 16, 2015 with the S&P ASX 200 down 3.0 points to 5,535.8 points.

Seven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell, eight traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Actinogen was the best, up 0.2 cents or 2.6 percent to eight cents with 240,000 shares traded. Optiscan was up two percent; Acrux, Sirtex and Starpharma rose more than one percent; with Benitec and Medical Developments up by less than one percent.

Living Cell led the falls, down 1.4 cents or 18.9 percent to six cents with 5.45 million shares traded.

Prima lost 8.5 percent; Patrys fell 7.1 percent*; Clinuvel shed 6.1 percent; Bionomics and Tissue Therapies fell more than five percent; Admedus, Nanosonics and Oncosil fell more than four percent; Cellmid, Impedimed, GI Dynamics and Reva were down more than three percent; Avita, IDT, Neuren, Osprey and Pharmaxis shed more than two percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Mesoblast, Resmed and Viralytics down by less than one percent.

* The ASX, Commsec website and Iress provided conflicting data for Patrys. The issue is being investigated.

ENGINEIC

Engineic says that a 51-year old male with malignant pleural mesothelioma has had “a near complete response” with its nanocell delivery of microRNA-16a (miR-16a).

In 2011, Engineic said that a \$352,000 Australian Research Council grant would fund the optimization of its minicell drug delivery system in conjunction with the University of Queensland and its Engineic delivery vehicle (EDV) technology was based on bacterially-derived minicells which could be loaded with existing chemotherapies or newer forms of drugs (BD: Jul 14, 2011).

Today, the Sydney-based Engineic said that it worked with the Sydney's Asbestos Diseases Research Institute on the study and the patient was one of six in a phase I trial who received eight weekly infusions of 5.0×10^9 Engineic delivery vehicle nanocells packaged with miR-16a, described as 'Targomirs'.

The company said that the patient had failed three chemotherapy regimens and entered the 'MesomiR-1' study.

Engineic said that at the end of the eight-week study period, a near-complete response was evident on the patient's positron emission tomography and computed tomography scans, confirmed four weeks later, and the patient had a significant improvement in respiratory function.

Engineic said that during the treatment, the patient experienced minor grade 1 toxicities, including transient chills, low-grade fever, fatigue and headache.

The company said that the case study, entitled 'A significant metabolic and radiological response following a novel targeted microRNA-based treatment approach in malignant pleural mesothelioma' was published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and the research, published as correspondence, is available at:

http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1164/rccm.201503-0461LE#.VX_KJ_mqggJ.

Engineic said that its bacterial minicells were 400 nanometre particles capable of carrying a payload of anti-cancer drugs and other therapeutic molecules such as small interference RNA (siRNA), micro-RNA and plasmids and were targeted to tumor cells using antibodies.

The company said it was planning clinical trials in several cancer indications in Australia and the US and had venture capital investors in the US and Australia.

Sydney cancer centre, the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse's medical oncologist Dr Steven Kao said the response was “an amazing response for this patient”.

“The mesothelioma is now almost invisible and the condition of my patient has also improved,” Dr Kao said.

The private Sydney cancer centre Northern Cancer Institute's Prof Nick Pavlakis said that “we are all very excited about this result and of course delighted for the patient, [but] we must stress that this is a very early observation and requires confirmation in the next phase of clinical testing”.

Engineic said that of the five additional patients in the first cohort, four had stable disease and one progressive disease.

The company said that Targomirs were “well-tolerated during the treatment period, with the majority of patients reporting a period of shivering [or] rigor 80 to 90 minutes following infusion with Targomirs, sometimes associated with a burning/painful sensation in the area of disease”.

Engineic joint chief executive officer Dr Himanshu Brahmbhatt said the results demonstrated “the platform nature and versatility of Engineic's targeted EDV nanocells, as in previous phase I clinical studies the EDV nanocells have been used to also deliver cytotoxic drugs”.

Engineic is a private company.

SUN BIOMEDICAL, DIMERIX BIOSCIENCE

Sun says that Dimerix shareholders have signed share sale agreements for the proposed acquisition, a condition precedent for the transaction (BD: May 13, 2015).

In May, Sun and Dimerix agreed to the backdoor listing of Dimerix to develop its combination therapy DMX200 for diabetic kidney disease.

Today, Sun said it expected to complete the transaction following shareholder approval at the extraordinary general meeting on June 30, 2015 for the acquisition of Dimerix and completion of the second tranche of capital raising through the issue of 100 million shares at one cent each.

Sun was unchanged at 1.1 cents with 6.0 million shares traded.

Dimerix Bioscience a public unlisted company

BIOTRON

Biotron has requested a trading halt pending "an announcement to be made to the market concerning a material capital raising".

Trading will resume on June 18, 2015 or on an earlier announcement.

Biotron last traded at 15 cents.

UNILIFE CORPORATION

Unilife says executive chairman Alan Shortall, has won the Ernst and Young award for entrepreneur of the year in Greater Philadelphia for manufacturing and transport.

Unilife said that Mr Shortall founded Unilife in Australia in 2002, before moving to the US in 2009, shifting production from China to Pennsylvania and listing on the Nasdaq in 2010.

The company said that Unilife had expanded in size from about 40 staff to 280 staff, established a manufacturing facility in York, Pennsylvania, an innovation center in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and signed agreements with pharmaceutical companies.

Unilife was unchanged at 53 cents.