



# Biotech Daily

Friday October 2, 2015

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES UP 28%  
- BIOTRON DOWN 9%**
- \* **RESONANCE, PFIZER STUDY MACHINE CLASSIFIED FIBROSIS**
- \* **AUSBIOTECH INVEST, CONFERENCE STARTS ON TUESDAY**
- \* **GOLDMAN SACHS TAKES 5% OF NANOSONICS, YET AGAIN**
- \* **ASIC EXTENDS QRX REPORTING, AGM UP TO 2 YEARS**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.18 percent on Friday October 2, 2015 with the ASX200 down 60.1 points to 5,052.0 points, with Victoria closed for the Australian Football League Grand Final State public holiday, ahead of the Hawthorn v West Coast game tomorrow.

Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, nine traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Genetic Technologies was the best on no news, up half a cent or 27.8 percent to 2.3 cents with 1.8 million shares traded, followed by Reva up 10.9 percent to 86.5 cents with 132,912 shares traded.

Ellex climbed 9.2 percent; Anteo and Living Cell were up more than eight percent; Antisense and Benitec rose more than six percent; Cellmid and Uscom were up more than three percent; Avita and Starpharma rose more than two percent; with Clinuvel, Pro Medicus and Viralytics up by less than one percent.

Biotron led the falls, down one cent or 15.6 percent to 5.4 cents with 2.45 million shares traded.

Optiscan lost 6.4 percent; Impedimed was down 5.95 percent; Actinogen fell 3.45 percent; Cochlear, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Neuren, Orthocell and Sirtex shed more than two percent; Admedus, CSL and IDT were down more than one percent; with Resmed down 0.4 percent.

## RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says a Pfizer-funded study has shown that its prototype liver fibrosis measurement could classify liver fibrosis stage in patients with hepatitis C.

Resonance said that the study conducted at Melbourne's Austin Hospital concluded that "machine-learned image analysis models have the potential to classify liver fibrosis stage from high contrast [magnetic resonance] images of the liver in patients with [hepatitis C]". The company said that the study results were in an abstract by chief scientific officer Professor Tim St Pierre, entitled 'Machine-learned Image Analysis Models for Classifying Liver Fibrosis Stage from Magnetic Resonance Images' and published by the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease ahead of its meeting in San Francisco, California, to be held November 13 to 17, 2015.

Resonance said the study examined the potential of computer-learned image analysis models to distinguish between low and high fibrosis scores in a patient cohort with hepatitis C using magnetic resonance images of the liver.

The company said the study involved further research on image data obtained in the Austin Hospital study, which aimed to assist development of a non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) based detection and measurement of liver fibrosis, known as the 'pilot study to assess the utility of magnetic resonance imaging in the staging of liver fibrosis' or Puma study (BD: Jun 10, 2015).

Resonance said that a standardized, accurate test to non-invasively measure liver fibrosis "would offer clinicians vital information on their patients' liver condition, either in isolation or in conjunction with [its] Hepafat-Scan to measure liver fat".

The company said that the most widely used method for measuring liver fibrosis is through liver biopsy which was invasive, painful and could be subject to inaccuracy.

Resonance said that liver fibrosis could be caused by a number of factors including chronic liver disease resulting from hepatitis C, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, high alcohol intake or a compromised immune system and might lead to cancer of the liver.

The company said that in the US there were about 2.7 million chronically infected hepatitis C patients, 80 percent of whom required biopsies in the course of their treatment.

Resonance chairman Dr Martin Blake said the development of a non-invasive test for liver fibrosis was "an important milestone for the company and we are delighted to have achieved this very exciting result".

"We are exploring opportunities with [pharmaceutical] companies who are developing treatments for liver fibrosis," Dr Blake said.

Resonance said that validation studies were being planned along with further research to confirm the utility of the test across different disease states.

Resonance was up 0.1 cents or 2.6 percent to 3.9 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.

## NANOSONICS

The Delaware-based Goldman Sachs Group says it has become a substantial shareholder in Nanosonics, again, with 14,256,636 shares or 5.03 percent.

Goldman Sachs said that between June 4 and September 29, 2015 it bought or borrowed Nanosonics shares, with the single largest acquisition on September 8, 2015 of 79,008 shares for \$101,920 or \$1.29 a share, while the single largest transaction was on September 29, 2015 of 1,247,750 shares for no applicable consideration.

Previously, under a counterparty agreement, Goldman Sachs returned, lent and borrowed shares held by subsidiaries, Rothesay Life, JP Morgan Chase, RBC Dexia Australian, HSBC Custody Nominees Australia and the Bank of New York Mellon (BD: Apr 13, 2015). Nanosonics was unchanged at \$1.30.

## AUSBIOTECH

Ausbiotech's annual investment summit and national conference begins on Tuesday October 6, 2015, in Melbourne.

Ausbiotech said the two-day Australia Biotech Invest partnering event would be held at the Crown Casino Conference Centre and included the partnering system allowing delegates to schedule 30 minute meetings with other delegates.

The industry organization said that topics for the Biotech Invest program included investment trends, strategies for partnering and licencing, superannuation fund investments and partnering in China.

Ausbiotech said it expected more than 1,000 delegates at its conference to be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre from October 7 to 9, 2015.

Ausbiotech chief executive officer Dr Anna Lavelle said the conference would "focus on supporting the development, growth and prosperity of the ... industry".

Ausbiotech said the conference would feature a one-day regenerative medicine symposium, focussing on "science's potential to deliver replacements for damaged tissue and organs and how close we are to creating 'made to order' body parts".

Ausbiotech said that Stem Cells Australia program leader Prof Martin Pera would join regenerative medicine experts to discuss different applications for, and advances in, regenerative medicine on October 8 and a public forum on October 9 would discuss the balance between the advances in stem cell medicine and the need for regulation.

The industry organization said that stem cell scientist and in-vitro fertilization pioneer Prof Alan Trounson would be the plenary speaker and open the conference, with the annual Prof Nancy Millis oration to be delivered by the Australian National University's head of the Department of Pathogens and Immunity Prof Carola Vinuesa.

Ausbiotech said the conference would cover regenerative medicine, new markets, business development, access to capital, entrepreneurship, biotechnology investment and clinical trials, as well as the Exhibition Hall providing networking activities for exhibiting companies and delegates, as well as "the Aus-Partnering program, where delegates can request and accept meetings with other delegates" via a mobile telephone application.

For more information and to register go to: [www.ausbiotech.org](http://www.ausbiotech.org).

## QRX PHARMA

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has extended QRX's annual general meeting date and mandatory reporting requirements to September 30, 2017.

TPH Insolvency administrators Timothy Heesh and Amanda Lott say the company applied for and was granted relief "in respect of the company's financial reporting requirements and in principle extended the time within which the company must hold an annual general meeting".

"The deferral period starts on September 30, 2015 and ends on the earlier of either September 30, 2017 or the date the company ceases to be under external administration," TPH said.

The ASIC notice said that QRX did not have to comply with a number of reporting provisions including half-year and full year accounts.

QRX was placed in administration following the failure to win regulatory approval for the Moxduo dual opioid capsule (BD: Aug 14, 2014; May 25, 2015).

QRX last traded at 2.8 cents.

**Biotech Daily can be contacted at: PO Box 5000, Carlton, Victoria, Australia, 3053**  
**email: [editor@biotechdaily.com.au](mailto:editor@biotechdaily.com.au); [www.biotechdaily.com.au](http://www.biotechdaily.com.au); twitter: @biotech\_daily**