



# Biotech Daily

Monday May 16, 2016

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: NEUREN UP 4%, ANTEO DOWN 8.5%**
- \* **STARPHARMA CONDOMS FOR RIO OLYMPICS**
- \* **REGENEUS PROGENZA STEM CELL OSTEOARTHRITIS TRIAL ENROLLED**
- \* **NUSEP: PRIME SHAREHOLDER CONVERTIBLE LOAN FOR \$5m**
- \* **OPTHEA (CIRCADIAN) COMPANIES REDUCE TO 6% OF ANTISENSE**
- \* **POLYNOVO TO RELEASE 32m ESCROW SHARES**
- \* **PRESCIENT REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- \* **RESPIRI (ISONEA) REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- \* **SIRTEX APPOINTS KEVIN RICHARDSON AMERICAS CEO**
- \* **RECCE APPOINTS DR DOMINIC BARNES DIRECTOR**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.56 percent on Monday May 16, 2016 with the ASX200 up 29.9 points to 5,358.9 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, 11 traded unchanged, with two untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Neuren was the best, up 0.3 cents or 4.3 percent to 7.3 cents with 4.15 million shares traded.

Both Oncosil and Pharmaxis climbed four percent; Acrux, Antisense, Cochlear and Sirtex were up more than three percent; Actinogen, Mesoblast, Orthocell, Osprey and Starpharma rose more than two percent; with CSL, Opthea and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Anteo led the falls, down 0.4 cents or 8.5 percent to 4.3 cents with 1.9 million shares traded.

Polynovo fell 7.7 percent; Admedus lost 6.8 percent; Factor Therapeutics and Genetic Technologies fell five percent or more; Biotron, Medical Developments and Prana were down more than four percent; Atcor was down 3.2 percent; Impedimed shed 2.8 percent; Clinuvel and Compumedics were down more than one percent; with Ellex, Nanosonics and Pro Medicus down by less than one percent.

## STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says that with Ansell it will provide more than 15,000 Vivagel Dual protect condoms to the Australian Olympic team for Brazil's Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. An Australian Olympic Committee spokesman told Biotech Daily that the 750-strong team going to the August 5 to 21, 2016 Olympic Games, included 440 athletes as well as support staff.

The spokesman told Biotech Daily that the team would be supplied with 15,000 condoms, or two boxes of 10 condoms per box per person, in addition to the 144 boxes of Dual Protect Vivagel condoms, each containing six condoms, already shipped by the AOC. Starpharma chief executive officer Dr Jackie Fairley told Biotech Daily that the condoms were a gift from Ansell and Starpharma and the condom boxes were branded with both the Vivagel and Starpharma names.

Dr Fairley said that Vivagel was able to provide antiviral protection against the Zika virus, which was known to be sexually transmitted, and there had been more than one million cases of Zika virus detected in Brazil.

Dr Fairley said that her company was "delighted to play a role in supporting Australian athletes as they compete on the world-stage at the Olympic Games in Rio".

"Given sexual transmission of Zika virus is of increasing importance the potent activity of Starpharma's Vivagel against Zika could prove very significant," Dr Fairley said.

Starpharma said that Dual Protect was the only antiviral condom and Vivagel had been proven to inactivate HIV, herpes simplex virus and human papillomavirus.

The company said that Vivagel showed "near-complete antiviral protection against Zika virus" in in-vitro studies at levels significantly below the Dual Protect concentration.

The Australian Olympic team Chef de Mission Kitty Chiller said that "the health and well-being of the team comes first and our association with Starpharma will provide extra protection for everyone on the team and is a common sense approach to a very serious problem we are facing in Rio".

Starpharma was up two cents or 2.9 percent to 72 cents.

## REGENEUS

Regeneus says it has enrolled all 20 patients in its phase I, single ascending-dose trial of intra-articular Progenza stem cell therapy for adult knee osteoarthritis.

Regeneus said that a review of the cumulative study safety data from the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial identified no safety concerns.

The company said that the safety, tolerability and efficacy of Progenza (Step) trial was the first clinical trial of Progenza, an allogeneic, or off-the-shelf, stem cell product for the treatment of knee osteoarthritis, with the primary objective to evaluate the safety and tolerability of Progenza, and secondary objectives investigating the effect of Progenza on knee pain and function, quality of life, knee joint structures using magnetic resonance imaging and osteoarthritis biomarkers.

Regeneus said that completion of the second cohort ahead of schedule was "a positive milestone for the clinical development of the company's allogeneic stem cell therapy".

The company said that the review of the safety data included a minimum of one-month follow-up and was "also encouraging".

Regeneus said the study would be completed when the last patient completed 12 months of post treatment follow up, concluding with a second magnetic resonance imaging scan.

The company said that patients received ultrasound-guided injections of Progenza or placebo directly into their arthritic knee joint.

Regeneus was up one cent or 6.45 percent to 16.5 cents.

### NUSEP HOLDINGS

Nusep says that Singapore subsidiary Prime Biologics Pte Ltd intends to raise up to \$S5 million (\$A5 million) through a convertible loan from its shareholders.

Nusep said that Prime's offer was in pro-rata to current shareholdings, interest-free and at a 10 percent discount to the previous capital raising.

The company said that the funds were to discharge liabilities and for working capital.

Nusep said that Prime "urgently requires funds to carry on its business" was yet to obtain manufacturing accreditation and with this raising it will have raised nearly \$S25 million.

The company said that Prime had "indicated that post this funding round it will seek to raise additional funding to support scale up and commercialization".

Nusep fell 0.1 cents or 10 percent to 0.9 cents.

### ANTISENSE, OPTHEA (FORMERLY CIRCADIAN TECHNOLOGIES)

One of two Opthea companies is being wound up and has sold its 4,170,934 Antisense shares, reducing Opthea from 14,361,583 shares (8.89%) to 10,190,649 shares (5.77%).

The companies were the then Circadian's wholly-owned subsidiary Polychip

Pharmaceuticals and Polychip's 51.67 percent subsidiary Syngene.

Opthea said that Polychip retained its 10,190,649 shares but Syngene, which had been developing a diabetes treatment, was being wound-up.

The substantial shareholder notice said that Syngene sold shares between May 15 and November 17, 2015, with the balance sold in a private sale by the liquidator on May 11, 2016, with 4,170,934 shares sold for \$174,340 or an average price of 4.2 cents a share.

In 2010, the then Circadian told Biotech Daily that the Packer-family Consolidated Press Holdings held 19.9 percent of Syngene, the Howard Florey Institute owned about 20 percent, with the remainder held by about 40 other investors (BD: Feb 5, 2010).

Antisense was up 0.2 cents or 3.5 percent to 5.9 cents.

Opthea was up half a cent or one percent to 48.5 cents.

### POLYNOVO

Polynovo says that 32,000,000 shares will be released from voluntary escrow on May 31, 2016.

Polynovo said that the escrowed shares were issued on December 22, 2015 to entities associated with Prof John Greenwood and Julian Burton as consideration for the acquisition of minority interests in subsidiary companies Novoskin Pty Ltd and Novowound Pty Ltd, enabling Polynovo to take full control of its operations and retain 100 percent of all future revenue from sales for the use of its biodegradable temporising matrix in burns and surgical wounds.

The company said that following the release from escrow, it would have 554,678,820 shares available for trading, with a further 4,185,095 shares in voluntary escrow until April 15, 2017.

Polynovo fell two cents or 7.7 percent to 24 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

### PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient has requested a trading halt "pending the release of an announcement to the market in relation to a material capital raising".

Trading will resume on May 18, 2016 or on an earlier announcement.

Prescient last traded at 11 cents.

### RESPIRI (FORMERLY ISONEA)

Respiri has requested a trading halt pending “an announcement to the market in relation to a proposed capital raising via a rights issue”.

Trading will resume on May 18, 2016 or on an earlier announcement.

Respiri last traded at 3.2 cents.

### SIRTEX MEDICAL

Sirtex says it has appointed Kevin Richardson as its chief executive officer for the Americas region, effective from July 1, 2016.

Sirtex said that Mr Richardson had been its North America general-manager for the past six years and was a member of the US executive committee, and was responsible for overall sales, market development, customer service and health economics.

The company said that prior to Sirtex, Mr Richardson worked in sales and marketing at St Jude Medical and was a Boston Scientific marketing director.

Sirtex was up 93 cents or 3.05 percent to \$31.43 with 341,171 shares traded.

### RECCE

Recce says it has appointed Dr Dominic Barnes as an independent non-executive director.

Recce said that Dr Barnes had supervised 20 human trials.

The company said that Dr Barnes was a practicing medical doctor obtaining his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of surgery for Queensland University and held a Master of Business Administration from Macquarie University, as well as a Master of Drug Development from the University of New South Wales.

Recce said that Dr Barnes completed an executive development program at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based Wharton School of Management.

The company said that Dr Barnes had held directorships and regulatory appointments with Shire, Astrazeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

Recce was up half a cent or 2.9 percent to 17.5 cents.