



Biotech Daily

Tuesday August 16, 2016

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: IDT UP 9%, MESOBLAST DOWN 16%**
- * **\$1m OF \$60k CASS FOUNDATION GRANTS OPEN**
- * **VICTORIA GROWS PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY MARIJUANA, ADVISORS**
- * **ADHERIUM PROVIDES SMARTINHALERS TO ASTRAZENECA**
- * **MEGAN BOSTON REPLACES BENITEC DIRECTOR IAIN ROSS**
- * **BIO-MELBOURNE WORKSHOPS MEDTRONIC, IBM DIABETES DATA**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was down 0.14 percent on Tuesday August 16, 2016 with the ASX200 down 8.0 points to 5,532.0 points.

Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, eight were unchanged and two were untraded.

IDT was the best, up two cents or 9.3 percent to 23.5 cents with 34,600 shares traded.

Actinogen and Psivida climbed more than five percent; Prana improved 4.35 percent; Benitec and Ellex were up three percent or more; Acrux and Factor Therapeutics rose more than two percent; Avita and Universal Biosensors were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel, CSL and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Mesoblast led the falls, ending five consecutive days of recovery, down 29 cents or 16.2 percent to \$1.505 with 3.2 million shares traded.

Orthocell lost 6.25 percent; Biotron, Impedimed and Viralytics fell more than five percent; Admedus was down 4.35 percent; Cellmid, Compumedics, Medical Developments and Polynovo were down more than three percent; Starpharma shed two percent; Living Cell, Nanosonics, Neuren, Opthea, Pro Medicus and Uscom lost more than one percent; with Airxpanders, Cochlear and Resmed down by less than one percent.

CONTRIBUTING TO AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIP AND SCIENCE (CASS)

The Contributing to Australian Scholarship and Science (Cass) Foundation says applications are open for about \$1 million in medicine and science grants.

Cass Foundation executive director Daniel Rechtman told Biotech Daily that the grants were restricted to Victorian applications and were capped at \$60,000 each.

Mr Rechtman said that last year the Foundation provided 21 medicine and science grants.

The Foundation's website said that the grants supported short-term proof-of-concept research "in promising topic areas, which if validated, have the potential to attract longer-term funding and to contribute to better practice and delivery of services".

Applications close on September 9, 2016.

For more information go to: www.cassfoundation.org.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says its medicinal cannabis has entered its second phase and an independent medical advisory committee has been appointed.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Health Jill Hennessy said that Prof James Angus had been appointed as the committee chairperson.

A Victoria Government media release said that the committee would providing advice on patient eligibility including expanding the scheme to include other cohorts and the approval of the types of medicinal cannabis products that would be available, including specialist physicians in cancer, addiction medicine, neurology and pain management and experts in pharmacology, HIV/AIDS, medical research, medical ethics, pharmacy practice, nursing and a consumer representative.

The media release said that Prof Angus was the head of the University of Melbourne's Medical School from 2003 to 2010 and dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences from 2003 to 2013.

The Government said that marijuana cultivation was "on-track to deliver supply to [children] with severe epilepsy in 2017" and it was ready to commence cultivation for the first patient group.

The media release said that the Office of Medicinal Cannabis was operating, would be responsible for the regulation of clinical and manufacturing aspects of the medicinal cannabis framework and would develop and publish educational material about medicinal cannabis, eligibility and regulatory requirements for participation in the scheme.

"We are delivering on our promise to give access to medicinal cannabis as soon as possible because we know it can change lives," Mr Andrews said.

ADHERIUM

Adherium says it will provide its Smartinhaler dose measuring devices for an Astrazeneca Australia pilot program but did not disclose the commercial details of the agreement.

Adherium said that the program would use the devices, mobile telephone application and internet platform "to show how these devices improve medication adherence in patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease".

Adherium chief executive officer Garth Sutherland said the program was "an important milestone".

"Adherence rates in patients with asthma or [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease] are low and clinical trials have demonstrated that our platform can make a significant difference for patients and health care professionals," Mr Sutherland said.

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

BENITEC BIOPHARMA

Benitec says that Megan Boston has been appointed as a director effective August 16, replacing Iain Ross who will retire on September 30, 2016.

Benitec said that Ms Boston had been appointed as chair of the audit committee.

The company said that Ms Boston was recently the managing-director of investor relations company Omni Market Tide.

According to Omni filings to the ASX, Ms Boston and four other directors were re-elected overwhelmingly on May 30, 2016, but three have since left the company.

Benitec said that Ms Boston was the acting chair of statutory authority Adult Multicultural and Education Service (AMES) and a director of the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and was previously a director of Beyond Medical Education.

The company said that Mr Ross was appointed a director in 2010 and continues as a director of Novogen and Anantara.

Benitec was up half a cent or 3.7 percent to 14 cents.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network says that Medtronic Diabetes executive Dr Huzefa Neemuchwala will discuss “data-driven healthcare” at its August 25 Bio-Briefing.

The Network said that Dr Neemuchwala was Medtronic Diabetes senior director of data and informatics innovation diabetes service and products.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said that diabetes was a data-intense disease where people with diabetes tracked glucose, insulin, meals, medications, sleep and activity to make decisions on an event-by-event, hour-by-hour basis.

Bio-Melbourne Network chief executive officer Dr Krystal Evans said that “the promise of cognitive computing will be to liberate us from the tedious task of data tracking, by contextualizing personalized insights specific to our situation”.

The Network said that Dr Neemuchwala would discuss Medtronic’s collaboration with IBM Watson Health and the resulting cognitive computer application which aimed to help diabetes patients to understand how their behaviour affects their glucose level by uncovering important patterns and trends using a retrospective analysis of patients insulin, continuous glucose monitors and nutritional data.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said that Medtronic had partnered with IBM Watson Health to advance research into cognitive computing and build products using data so patients could better manage their condition.

The Bio-Briefing will be held at KPMG, 147 Collins Street, Melbourne on August 25, 2016, with registration from 3:45pm and the presentation from 4pm to 5.30pm followed by a networking session.

To register go to: <http://biomelbourne.org/event/25th-august-biobriefing-data-diabetes>.