



Biotech Daily

Wednesday March 21, 2018

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: COMPUMEDICS UP 15.5%; USCOM DOWN 8%**
- * **FEDERAL MRFF \$6m FOR REGIONAL NSW**
- * **ONCOSIL 'MILESTONE SURGERY'; \$16.7m PLACEMENT, SHARE PLAN**
- * **NOXOPHARM 2 PATIENT 'ABSCOPAL RESPONSE'; FUNDING HALT**
- * **ACTINOGEN ALZHEIMER'S TRIAL ENROLMENT HALF-WAY, ON-TARGET**
- * **ISRAEL PATENT FOR BARD1 LUNG CANCER TEST**
- * **UNIQUEST APPOINTS JOHN GRANT, RICHARD MOORE DIRECTORS**
- * **INVION APPOINTS HUDSON'S DR ANDREW STEPHENS ADVISOR**
- * **MACH7 APPOINTS PER LARSEN 1st ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.23 percent on Wednesday March 21, 2018, with the ASX200 up 13.0 points to 5,950.3 points.

Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 10 traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Compumedics was the best, up 5.5 cents or 15.5 percent to 41 cents with 112,436 shares traded.

Bionomics and Starpharma climbed eight percent or more; Opthea and Universal Biosensors were up six percent or more; LBT, Nanosonics, Osprey, Pharmaxis, Pro Medicus and Telix improved three percent or more; Admedus, Impedimed and Polynovo were up one percent or more; with Cyclopharm and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Uscom led the falls, down two cents or 7.7 percent to 24 cents with 188,398 shares traded.

Volpara lost six percent; Benitec and Mesoblast fell more than four percent; both Actinogen and Optiscan were down 3.85 percent; Medical Developments shed two percent; Avita, Cochlear, Ellex and Reva were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, CSL, Psivida and Resmed down by less than one percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says the Medical Research Future Fund will provide \$6.1 million for telehealth, aged care and weight strategies in regional New South Wales.

A media release from the Minister for Minister Greg Hunt said the funds would be allocated to medical research projects in the Hunter and Northern New South Wales region to improve healthcare options for patients.

The Government said that the funding aimed “to translate medical research into real health outcomes for patients by research and healthcare strategies being integrated through clinicians and the local community” and would investigate best practice models for telehealth and aged care and changing community behaviour through healthy weight strategies.

The media release said that people living outside capital cities and major regional centres did not have access to the same level of healthcare as their city counterparts.

The media release said that through the Medical Research Future Fund and Centres for Innovation in Regional Health “frontline workers and the community can be empowered to research solutions to break down access barriers to healthcare”.

ONCOSIL MEDICAL

Oncosil says it hopes to raise \$16.7 million in a placement and share purchase plan, following surgery on two patients in its Brachysil radiation for pancreatic cancer trial.

Oncosil said the two study participants had “surgical resection with curative intent” known as the Whipple procedure, with both achieving clear margins following the removal of the tumors.

The company said the surgery was an “important milestone which demonstrates an improved outcome in a patient study group who had been deemed inoperable when enrolled”.

Oncosil said that three other study participants were being assessed by their clinical team for surgical resection.

The company said that surgical resection was the only potential cure for pancreatic cancer, but under current therapeutic programs fewer than 15 percent of all diagnosed pancreatic patients were eligible for a resection procedure.

Oncosil said that the \$16.7 million would be raised through a two-tranche \$12.7 million institutional placement to professional and sophisticated investors and a \$4.0 million share purchase plan at 12 cents a share.

The company said the placement and plan were not underwritten, with the first tranche for \$8.7 million and the second requiring shareholder approval of \$4.0 million.

Oncosil said that shareholders at the record date of March 20, 2018 could apply for parcels of shares up to \$15,000 each.

The company said that the funds were expected to see it through to European Union commercialization of the radiation product, including Conformité Européenne (CE) mark certification, as well as for the continued expansion of the global pancreatic cancer clinical study programs including recruitment of 65 patients.

Oncosil company said the placement was being managed by Wilsons Corporate Finance. Oncosil requested a trading halt until March 23 for the capital raising and last traded at 14 cents.

[NOXOPHARM](#)

Noxopharm has requested a trading halt for a capital raising following what it calls an “abscopal response” in two patients in its trial of NOX66 for cancer.

Noxopharm said that an abscopal response was when non-treated tumors had a similar response to treatment as radiated tumors.

The company said that the two patients had different late-stage, metastatic cancers and received NOX66 in combination with palliative, or low-dose, radiotherapy.

Noxopharm said that the data was presented by the chairman of its advisory board Prof Paul de Souza at the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group meeting in Hobart, Australia, March 19 to 22, 2018.

The company said that both patients received NOX66 “on a compassionate use outside of the company’s formal clinical trial program”, with NOX66 administered with the radiotherapy with the intention of enhancing the clinical benefit of the radiotherapy.

Noxopharm said the rationale was that NOX66 would “at the very least ... lead to greater and more durable shrinkage of the irradiated tumors, and at best [would lead] to a similar response in all other tumors ... that are not irradiated, [the] so-called abscopal response”.

Noxopharm said that one patient was a 68-year old man with metastatic, castrate-resistant prostate cancer involving secondary tumors in bone and soft tissue and two months after radiotherapy and NOX66 treatment “scans showed complete disappearance of the irradiated tumors and the absence of any other visible tumors” with prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels returning to normal.

The company said that 3.8 years later the patient was “in complete remission with undetectable PSA levels and has required no further treatment”.

Noxopharm said that the second patient was a 70-year old woman with leiomyosarcoma, a cancer of smooth muscle cells, in her inferior vena cava with multiple secondary tumors in the lung, causing a chronic cough.

“Within one month of treatment, a significant reduction in the size of the lung metastases was observed, with the patient’s cough resolving,” Noxopharm said.

The company said that six months after treatment, the primary tumor was “stable” and the lung metastases response remained.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Graham Kelly said that “with two out of two patients with distinctly different cancer types responding in this way, we now are focused on continuing with our clinical development program to confirm this outcome in a larger number of patients”.

“If all we are able to do is to provide a partial abscopal response in patients as we have seen in case study two, we believe this would be a major advance in the treatment of late-stage metastatic cancer,” Dr Kelly said “Providing a complete abscopal response as seen in case study one, potentially represents a new frontier in cancer therapy,” Dr Kelly said.

Noxopharm last traded at \$1.00.

[ACTINOGEN MEDICAL](#)

Actinogen says that with 87 of 174 patients enrolled in its Xanadu phase II trial of Xanamem for Alzheimer’s disease it has reached the mid-way point enrolment mark.

Actinogen said that enrolment was “on target” with the final patient expected by the end of 2018 and top-line results by June 2019.

The company said that the data safety and monitoring board would conduct an interim analysis when the fiftieth evaluable patient completed the 12 week treatment period and four week follow up phase, expected by July this year.

Actinogen fell 0.2 cents or 3.85 percent to five cents with 4.4 million shares traded.

BARD1 LIFE SCIENCES

Bard1 says the Israeli Patent Office has issued a patent, titled 'Bard1 isoforms in lung and colorectal cancer and use thereof', protecting its technology until August 17, 2031.

Bard1 said the patent covered "the sequence of various Bard1 isoforms specific to lung and colorectal cancer, methods for detecting the presence of the specific Bard1 isoforms, and methods for treating and/or preventing lung cancer and colorectal cancer".

The company said that the patent was filed in the name of Université De Genève and Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève on August 17, 2011, from where it had licenced the commercial rights to exploit the technology.

Bard1 chief executive officer Dr Leeorne Hinch said the core patent family had six granted patents in the US, Japan, Israel, China and Australia, with other jurisdictions pending.

The company said its lung test was in development for the early detection of lung cancer, the fifth most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in Australia, with no approved blood test available for screening lung cancer in people without symptoms.

Bard1 was untraded at 2.3 cents.

UNIQUEST

The University of Queensland's commercialization company Uniquet has appointed John Grant and Richard Moore as directors.

Uniquet chairman Dr Jay Hetzel said Mr Grant was an information technology (IT) "stalwart", businessman and sport administrator.

Dr Hetzel said that Mr Moore was a start-up advisor.

Uniquet said that Mr Grant was a partner and managing-director of Data#3 "and led it from its ASX listing in 1997 to revenues approaching \$1 billion".

The company said Mr Grant was formerly the inaugural chairman of the Australian Rugby League Commission and chair of the Australian Information Industry Association, the Federal IT Industry Innovation Council and the Queensland Government's IT Industry Advisory Board.

Uniquet said that Mr Moore previously worked in the finance and information technology sectors and was now involved with Brisbane digital start-ups, as an early-stage internet company advisor.

The company said that Mr Moore formerly worked for Citigroup and Bankers Trust and was the chief executive officer of Dark Blue Sea.

INVION

Invion says that it has appointed the Melbourne-based Hudson Institute of Medical Research's Dr Andrew Stephens to its advisory board.

Invion said that Dr Stephens was the head of the Hudson Institute's Ovarian Cancer Biomarkers Research Laboratory to assist development of its Photosoft photo-therapy for cancer.

Yesterday, the company said it had a research and development agreement with Hudson Institute to collaborate on a range of projects (BD: Mar 20, 2018).

Today, Invion said that Dr Stephens established the ovarian cancer biomarker group at the Hudson Institute in 2009 after completing his Doctorate of Philosophy at Monash University.

Invion was up 0.2 cents or 7.4 percent to 2.9 cents with 52.6 million shares traded.

[MACH7 TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Mach7 says it has established an industry advisory board and appointed its first member Per Larsen.

Mach7 said that the advisory board would advise the board of directors and executive management on healthcare and information technology matters including business strategy, product development initiatives, competition, markets and provide introductions to partners and potential customers.

The company said that Mr Larsen was an executive with more than 30 years' experience and was currently an advisor to businesses in the US and in Europe including as a member of the City of Richardson, Texas international business advisory council and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Technology Business Council.

Mach7 said that Mr Larsen was previously the head of US technology start-up and was a director of three technology companies based in Denmark.

The company said that Mr Larsen was formerly an executive with IBM in Europe and in US as well as banking automation group Olicom.

Mach7 was unchanged at 28.5 cents.