



Biotech Daily

Thursday April 12, 2018

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: GENETIC SIGNATURES UP 6%; ITL DOWN 13%**
- * **PRESCIENT ASX AWARE QUERY: 'TRIAL DATA PUBLISHED PROMPTLY'**
- * **AVITA RECELL REDUCES SKIN HARVESTING 97.5%, COSTS**
- * **COGSTATE Q3 CUSTOMER RECEIPTS UP 60% TO \$13m**
- * **MEDIBIO COMPLETES VITAL CONVERSATIONS ACQUISITION**
- * **HYDROPONICS APPOINTS EXECUTIVE TEAM**
- * **DIMERIX RETAINS WESTAR AS CORPORATE ADVISORS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.23 percent on Thursday April 12, 2018 with the ASX200 down 13.2 points to 5,815.5 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, 10 traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Genetic Signatures was the best, up 1.5 cents or 6.1 percent to 26 cents with 3,603 shares traded.

Mesoblast climbed 5.5 percent; Dimerix and Psivida improved more than four percent; Uscom rose 2.6 percent; Admedus, Bionomics and Impedimed were up more than one percent; with CSL, Resmed and Viralytics up by less than one percent.

ITL led the falls, down four cents or 12.9 percent to 27 cents with 88,028 shares traded.

Airxpanders lost 11.4 percent; Compumedics and Starpharma fell more than four percent; LBT, Orthocell and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Acrux, Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Pharmaxis and Volpara shed more than two percent; Avita, Cochlear, Neuren, Opthea, Optiscan, Polynovo and Pro Medicus were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel down 0.1 percent.

PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient has told an ASX 'aware' query that it published its phase Ib cancer trial data "promptly and without delay" after receipt of the results.

The ASX asked Prescient whether the information in the announcement was material and if so when it first became aware of the information.

Prescient said the information was material and it received the trial results on Monday, April 9 at 4.25pm.

The company said that the board discussed the data with the clinical team and the results were published on the ASX platform on Tuesday, April 10, before the market opened.

On April 10, Prescient said that of the 10 evaluable patients in its 28-patient, phase Ib trial of PTX-200 for breast cancer five (50%) had an overall response rate, twice the expected rate (BD: Apr 10, 2018).

In February, Viralytics was acquired by US-based Merck Inc for \$502 million for its immuno-oncology drugs (BD: Feb 22, 2018).

Viralytics chair Paul Hopper is a director of Prescient which also is developing immuno-oncology drugs.

Prior to the announcement of the sale of Viralytics, Prescient was trading at between five and seven cents and following the sale announcement, Prescient traded between seven and nine cents, climbing from 9.2 cents on March 22 to 12 cents on March 23, 2018.

Prescient closed at 14 cents on April 9, prior to the trial results announcement, and opened on April 10 at 17 cents and closed at 12 cents.

Prescient told the ASX it published a presentation on March 19, 2018, which said that trial results were due "in the coming weeks" and it had "no input" to an article in Melbourne's Sunday Herald Sun on April 8 that said the results were "not far away".

Prescient was unchanged at 10.5 cents with 3.1 million shares traded.

AVITA MEDICAL

Avita says its Recell spray-on skin device reduces the amount of skin harvested for partial thickness burns by 97.5 percent and costs by 44 percent.

Avita said the results of its 101-patient, randomized, controlled trial were presented by the Memphis, Tennessee-based Firefighter Burn Centre's Dr William Hickerson at the American Burn Association conference in Chicago, April 10 to 13, 2018.

The company said the trial of patients with second degree partial-thickness burns compared Recell with standard treatment, a two-to-one meshed autograft.

Avita said the study found that, compared to the standard treatment, Recell involved harvesting 97.5 percent less skin to treat burn sites ($p < 0.001$), significantly less donor-site pain ($p \leq 0.0025$), significantly higher patient satisfaction with donor-site appearance ($p \leq 0.0025$) significantly better donor-site scarring ($p \leq 0.0025$), significantly greater incidence of donor-site healing at two weeks ($p \leq 0.001$) and a 4.4 greater rate of healing two weeks for burns treated (BD: Sep 12, 2017).

The company said that the Phoenix, Arizona Burns Centre's Dr Kevin Foster presented of a health economic model which found that burns treatment with Recell reduced total treatment costs of large burns by 44 percent or more compared to the standard-of-care.

Avita said the trial was one of two pivotal trials for its US pre-market approval application for the treatment of burns.

Dr Foster said that the economic model "highlights the potential of the Recell device to improve patient care in the treatment of severe burns, while also providing a technique for reducing the total cost of treatment".

Avita fell 0.1 cents or 1.75 percent to 5.6 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

COGSTATE

Cogstate says receipts from customers for the three months to March 31, 2018 was up 60.4 percent to \$US10,024,270 (\$A12,926,797) compared to prior corresponding period). Cogstate said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$US5,711,730 with an estimated cash burn of \$US\$7,816,798 for the next three months.

Cogstate was up nine cents or 10.7 percent to 93 cents.

MEDIBIO

Medibio says it has completed the acquisition of Perth-based Vital Conversations for \$500,000 in cash and shares (BD: Mar 5, 2018).

Medibio chief executive officer Jack Cosentino said that following the acquisition “we are positioned to ... [provide] a measurable and objective methodology for improving employee mental health whilst driving a realizable [two to three times] return on investment for corporations,” Mr Cosentino said.

Medibio fell half a cent or 2.6 percent to 7.6 cents.

THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY

Hydroponics says it has appointed Dr Andrew Beehag, Ken Charteris and Henry Kinstlinger to its executive team following last month’s board spill.

In March, the company said its extraordinary general meeting to spill the board called by former chairman Alan Beasley resulted the removal of directors Ian Mutton, Mary Verschuer, Peter Wallace and Hamish Macdonald and the appointment of Steven Xu, Lou Cattelan and John Radcliff (BD: Jan 21; Mar 15, 2018).

Today the company said that Mr Charteris had been appointed director of its wholly-owned subsidiary Canndeo, Mr Kinstlinger had been appointed joint company secretary after being replaced by Jarrod White as secretary in August last year and Dr Beehag was appointed as an executive consultant (BD: Aug 16, 2017).

Hydroponics said that Mr Charteris was involved in its acquisition of Canndeo and that Mr Charteris and Dr Beehag were involved in obtaining operating licences from the Australian Office of Drug Control and partnership deals with Endoca and BOL Pharma.

Hydroponics was up half a cent or 1.1 percent to 47 cents.

DIMERIX

Dimerix says it has retained the Perth-based Westar Capital as its corporate advisor.

Dimerix said Westar had been its corporate advisor for the past two years and was the lead manager for its 2016 capital raise and its recent oversubscribed \$7.5 million raise (BD: Jan 25, 2017; Feb 21, 2018).

The company said that Westar would be issued 500,000 unlisted options exercisable at 25 cents within two years of issue and 1,500,000 unlisted options exercisable at 50 cents a share within two years from issue.

Dimerix said the issue date was at Westar’s discretion but could not occur after recruitment of the first patient in its phase II DMX-200 for chronic kidney disease trial.

Dimerix was up half a cent or 4.55 percent to 11.5 cents.