



Biotech Daily

Thursday October 4, 2018

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: VOLPARA UP 15%; IMUGENE DOWN 5%**
- * **SIMAVITA PLACEMENT, CONVERTIBLE NOTES RAISE \$3m**
- * **PATRY'S TARGETS BREAST AND BRAIN CANCER FOR PAT-DX1**
- * **ORTHOCELL: 'CELGRO IMPROVES OUTER BONE REPAIR IN RATS'**
- * **FACTOR LAST LEG ULCER PATIENT TREATED; RESULTS NEXT MONTH**
- * **AIRXPANDERS AEROFORM STUDY SATISFACTION, NO CO2 LEAKS CO2**
- * **ADHERIUM HAILIE IN SMARTAIRLA ASTHMA PROGRAM**
- * **NEUROTECH MENTE AUTISM IN NETHERLANDS, YEMEN; STUDY PLANS**
- * **FATIMA DICKEY, RICHARD BAYLES, LAGODA BELOW 5% IN CLINUVEL**
- * **IMUGENE APPOINTS DR JOSEP TABERNERO ADVISOR**
- * **PHARMAXIS LOSES DIRECTOR DR SIMON BUCKINGHAM**
- * **DR WENYI GU REPLACES ADMEDUS DIRECTOR DR SIMON BUCKINGHAM**
- * **NEUROTECH APPOINTS PROF NEIL FONG DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.49 percent on Thursday October 4, 2018 with the ASX200 up 30.2 points to 6,176.3 points. Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 11 traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Volpara was the best, up 14 cents or 15.2 percent to \$1.06 with 1.3 million shares traded. Prana climbed 13.95 percent; Avita was up 8.7 percent; Uscom rebounded 7.1 percent; Mesoblast was up 4.8 percent; Reva improved 3.7 percent; Actinogen, Clinuvel, Cynata, Paradigm and Universal Biosensors rose two percent or more; Opthea, Optiscan and Starpharma were up one percent or more; with Cochlear, CSL, Pro Medicus and Telix up by less than one percent.

Imugene led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 4.55 percent to 2.1 cents, with 17.4 million shares traded. Compumedics and Immuteq lost more than three percent; ITL, Neuren and Polynovo shed two percent or more; Dimerix, Factor Therapeutics, Impedimed and Pharmaxis were down more than one percent; with Ellex, Nanosonics and Resmed down by less than one percent.

SIMAVITA

Simavita says it has raised \$2.975 million through a \$1.975 million placement at three cents per Chess depository instrument (CDI) and a \$1 million convertible note facility. Simavita said the private placement to sophisticated investors was at no discount to the three cents closing price on September 24, 2018.

The company said the convertible note facility was subject to shareholder approval and the notes would convert into shares at three cents a share on December 31, 2018.

The company said the funds would be used for working capital and commercialization of its Alertplus smart incontinence management system in North America and Europe.

Simavita was up 0.3 cents or 10 percent to 3.3 cents.

PARTYS

Patrys says it has selected triple negative breast cancer and glioblastoma as the targets for its PAT-DX1 cell penetrating antibodies.

Patrys said that a review of clinical needs and market opportunities around a number of potential cancers with DNA damage repair status had indicated that triple negative breast cancer and glioblastoma were the most attractive targets for PAT-DX1.

The company said it had secured an unnamed and experienced provider for the PAT-DX1 cell line and would begin cell line development "in the coming weeks".

Patrys chief executive officer Dr James Campbell said the company had supportive data for triple negative breast cancer and glioblastoma and while nomination of the two target indications would not change development and toxicology studies, "it will focus our efforts towards building a network of expert collaborators".

Patrys fell 0.1 cents or 2.6 percent to 3.7 cents with 9.5 million shares traded.

ORTHOCELL

Orthocell says a rat tibial fracture study has found that its Celgro combined with bone growth factors improves healing of fractures with cortical, or outer, bone defects.

Orthocell said the study found Celgro dosed with bone growth factors prior to surgically covering the bone defect improved the repair of cortical bone eight weeks after treatment.

The company said that Sweden's Lund University doctoral student Deepak Raina presented results from the study at the European Orthopaedic Research Society meeting in Galway, Ireland September 25 to 28, 2018.

Orthocell managing director Paul Anderson said the study results "indicate Celgro has the potential to aid in accelerating the repair of critical bone defects".

Orthocell was unchanged at 26 cents.

FACTOR THERAPEUTICS

Factor says the last of 156 patients has been treated in its phase II trial of VF001 for venous leg ulcers, with results expected in November 2018 (BD: Jul 16, 2018).

Factor chief executive officer Dr Ros Wilson said "the last treatment visit took place overnight in the US, a little ahead of schedule.

"We're delighted to have reached this important milestone," Dr Wilson said.

"We're now only a matter of weeks away from readout and are continuing, in the meantime, with partnering discussions and preparations for regulatory interactions in Europe and the US next year," Dr Wilson said.

Factor fell 0.1 cents or 1.25 percent to 7.9 cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

AIRXPANDERS

Airxpanders says a study has found patients and physicians were satisfied with its improved Aeroform system for breast reconstruction following mastectomy.

Airxpanders said the Australian study found that improvements made to version three of its Aeroform breast tissue expander system resulted in less noticeable carbon dioxide permeation during second-stage breast reconstruction following mastectomy and that 96 percent of physicians and patients reported that they were “very satisfied” with the system, but did not state the number of physicians and patients in the study.

The company said the median time to the completion of expansion was 21 days and that the median time to exchange was 96 days, with 100 percent of patients achieving the primary treatment success of exchange and a treatment success with “all cause analysis rate” of 98 percent.

Airxpanders principal investigator Dr Tony Connell said “the study results demonstrate the latest version of the Aeroform tissue expander improves upon previous iterations of the device and continues to facilitate treatment success”.

“While prior versions of Aeroform exhibited an undesirable level of [carbon dioxide] permeation, the latest version, which is available for sale in both the US and Australia, did not,” Dr Connell said. “There were no permeation-related complications or device issues reported and both patients and physicians reported high rates of satisfaction.”

Airxpander said the study data was presented at the American Society of Plastic Surgery meeting in Chicago, held between September 28 and October 1, 2018.

Airxpanders was unchanged at 10.5 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

ADHERIUM

Adherium says its Hailie asthma inhaler monitor will be used in the Smart Air LA program to “reduce the effects and prevalence of asthma” in Los Angeles.

Adherium said that its Hailie, formerly Smartinhaler, asthma inhaler sensor would be used in the Smart Air LA program to help “patients with asthma and [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease] access better care through...a smartphone [application]...and a sensor that attaches to a patient’s prescription inhaler”.

Smart Air LA executive director Ray Cheung said “we are grateful for Adherium’s strong support of our partnership to advance health equity for underserved children in Los Angeles by transforming how we treat asthma”.

Adherium was untraded at 7.7 cents.

NEUROTECH

Neurotech says it has signed distribution agreements for the Netherlands and Yemen and is preparing for multi-site studies in Italy and the Middle East.

The Malta-based Neurotech said that Neurobics would distribute its Mente Autism neurofeedback device in the Netherlands and an unnamed distribution partner would distribute the device in Yemen.

The company said it had shipped 20 Mente Autism devices to Italy and the Middle East for studies aiming to validate the product in different markets, generate awareness and acceptance of the technology and support potential reimbursement schemes.

Neurotech said that it had shipped a total of 100 of the improved devices to Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Germany, United Kingdom and the Middle East, with 50 devices going to Italy (BD: Aug 10, 2018).

Neurotech was untraded at 13.5 cents.

CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS

Lagoda Investment Manager, Fatima Dickey and Richard Bayles have ceased their substantial shareholding in Clinuvel.

In July, the associated entities said that they had reduced to 3,405,794 shares (7.12%) of Clinuvel (BD: Jul 4, 2018).

Today Lagoda and Ms Dickey said that Mr Bayles was no longer an associate and several associated entities were no longer managed by Lagoda.

Clinuvel was up 52 cents or 2.4 percent to \$22.42 with 66,665 shares traded.

IMUGENE

Imugene says it has appointed the president of the European Society for Medical Oncology Dr Josep Taberbero to its scientific advisory board.

Imugene said the Barcelona, Spain-based Dr Taberbero was currently the Vall d'Hebron Barcelona Hospital Campus head of medical oncology and the director of the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology.

The company said that Dr Taberbero currently led the Research Innovation of Catalanian Cancer Centers Network and directed the Barcelona-based Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology's gastrointestinal and endocrine tumors group and the research unit for molecular therapy of cancer.

Imugene said Dr Taberbero was the principal investigator of clinical studies on targeted immune-therapies, novel chemotherapeutics and promising immune checkpoint targets and had authored or co-authored more than 350 peer-reviewed papers.

Imugene fell 0.1 cents or 4.55 percent to 2.1 cents with 17.4 million shares traded.

PHARMAXIS

Pharmaxis says Dr Simon Buckingham will retire as a director after the annual general meeting on November 22, 2018.

Pharmaxis said Dr Buckingham had been a director for six years and was retiring to "direct his time towards early stage private companies, not-for-profit foundations and advisory opportunities".

The company said Dr Buckingham would consult, and provide assistance, to its partnering discussions, including its LOXL2 fibrosis drug program (BD: Jun 14, 2018).

Pharmaxis fell half a cent or 1.6 percent to 30 cents.

ADMEDUS

Admedus says Star Bright Holding nominee Dr Wenyi Gu will replace retiring director Dr Simon Buckingham as of today.

Admedus said Dr Gu was a research fellow at the University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and previously worked at the Australian National University John Curtin Medical School and as a visiting fellow at the Harvard Medical School.

The company said Dr Gu held a Master of Veterinary Science and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the Australian National University.

Admedus is in an extended suspension and last traded at 13.5 cents.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Neurotech says it has appointed Western Australia's Professor Neil Fong as a non-executive director.

Neurotech said that Dr Fong was the Western Australian Country Health Service Board chair, the Western Australia Government's Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention Council chair and Curtin University professor of healthcare leadership.

The company said Prof Fong was the executive chairman of the Claremont, Western Australia-based Bethesda Health Care private hospital and a director of "several health companies".