



Biotech Daily

Wednesday February 6, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: PRANA UP 5%; KAZIA DOWN 10%**
- * **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$20m FOR PHENOMICS RESEARCH**
- * **RECCE REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- * **NOXOPHARM: VEYONDA (NOX66) 'WELL-TOLERATED'**
- * **TOTAL BRAIN LAUNCHES 40 NEW 'TRAININGS', VIDEOS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.34 percent on Wednesday February 6, 2019, with the ASX200 up 20.2 points to 6,026.1 points.

Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 10 fell, 11 traded unchanged and five were untraded.

Prana was the best, up 0.2 cents or 5.13 percent to 4.1 cents with 177,112 shares traded, followed by Benitec up five percent to 10.5 cents, with 278,100 shares traded.

Ellex, Immutep and Optiscan climbed more than three percent; Compumedics, Prescient and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; Cochlear, Genetic Signatures, Nanosonics, Neuren, Resmed and Volpara were up more than one percent; with Medical Developments and Mesoblast up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 13.25 percent best, Kazia, led the falls, down 4.5 cents or 9.6 percent to 42.5 cents, with 67,906 shares traded.

LBT lost 5.95 percent; Antisense, CSL, Oncosil and Paradigm shed more than two percent; Opthea and Pro Medicus were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Polynovo and Telix down by less than one percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says it will provide \$20 million to the Australian National University and Murdoch University for phenomics research for personalized medicine. A media release from Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said that the Canberra-based Australian National University Phenomics Translation Initiative and the Perth-based Murdoch University Australian National Phenome Centre would each receive \$10 million from the Medical Research Future Fund.

Mr Hunt's media release said that "a person's phenome is a snapshot of their unique biology that results from complex interactions between their DNA and their environment, which includes factors relating to diet, lifestyle and exposure to pollutants and analysing these biological fingerprints helps researchers better understand the underlying causes of disease and ultimately to develop personalized therapies and treatments".

The ANU said the money would be used for a two-year program "to develop new diagnostic and treatment options for people living with chronic and debilitating diseases including lupus, type 1 diabetes and age-related macular degeneration".

The Government said the Murdoch University Centre would "use a person's DNA and their environment to [develop] personalized medicine for ... conditions including obesity, autism and type 2 diabetes".

Mr Hunt said that precision and personalized medicine "promises to transform the way we practice medicine".

"A person's phenome is a snapshot of their unique biology that results from complex interactions between their DNA and their environment, which includes factors relating to diet, lifestyle and exposure to pollutants," Mr Hunt said.

"Analysing these biological fingerprints helps researchers better understand the underlying causes of disease and ultimately to develop personalized therapies and treatments," Mr Hunt said.

The Federal Government said that using the Australian National Phenome Centre's technologies, researchers planned to map the phenomes of large sections of the population, "giving them a window into environmental and social factors influencing health trends and providing generations with a 'crystal ball' to look into their future health risks".

The media release said that researchers would have a particular focus on the detection, treatment and prevention of obesity, autism and type two diabetes among children and the Australian Indigenous population".

"The Australian National Phenome Centre is Australia's first dedicated metabolic phenotyping laboratory and a hub within an international network of compatible centres," Mr Hunt said.

"Western Australia provides a unique, contained population to collect such information from and has a history of successful population studies," Mr Hunt said.

RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce has requested a trading halt "pending the release of an announcement relating to a material capital raising".

Recce executive director James Graham told Biotech Daily that the funds were "for the antibiotic program and the application to the US Food and Drug Administration for a phase I trial by the end of the year".

Trading will resume on February 8, 2019 or on an earlier announcement.

Recce last traded at 17 cents.

[NOXOPHARM](#)

Noxopharm says a 12-patient, phase I study of Veyonda, formerly known as NOX66, with radiotherapy has shown clinical benefits for end-stage prostate cancer.

Noxopharm said 12-week data of its safety and dose escalation study showed the combination was “well tolerated” with reductions in prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels, pain and aggregate lesion sizes.

The company said the trial showed that at the higher doses of Veyonda, of 800mg and 1200mg, the combination showed PSA, pain and tumor responses, with two patients in each cohort had PSA levels fall above 50 percent.

“Apart from pain relief in 2 patients in the 400 mg cohort, this dose did not appear to have any significant anti-cancer effect in this small number of patients,” Noxopharm said.

The company said that one patient in the 800mg cohort had a reduction of tumor size of more than 30 percent, six of eight patients in the 800mg and 1200mg groups had “stable disease” and one patient in the 1200mg cohort was unaccounted.

The company said that 1200mg dose was “confirmed as the therapeutic dose”.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Graham Kelly said that “any interpretation of phase I data always comes with the proviso that we are talking about small sample sizes”.

“However, when you balance that with the advanced and rapidly progressive nature of the disease, plus the palliative, end-of-life nature of the treatment these men are receiving, to achieve any clinical benefit is a notable achievement,” Dr Kelly said.

“In broad terms, about half of the patients in the 800mg and 1200mg dosage cohorts reported significantly less bone pain combined with evidence of a reduction in the growth of their cancer through to a reduction in their tumor load,” Dr Kelly said.

Noxopharm was unchanged at 44 cents.

[TOTAL BRAIN \(FORMERLY BRAIN RESOURCE\)](#)

Total Brain says it has launched “40 new trainings and videos to help users optimize their brains”.

Total Brain said the new products, including breathing exercises and meditations, were produced by the Nidwalden, Switzerland-based Transformational Leadership for Excellence (TLEX) Institute.

Total Brain was unchanged at 2.4 cents.