



# Biotech Daily

Thursday March 7, 2019

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PATRYS UP 14%; BENITEC DOWN 6.5%**
- \* **DSMB BACKS OPTHEA PHASE IIb OPT302 WET AMD TRIAL**
- \* **IMMUTEP DOSES 1<sup>st</sup> IMP321, KEYTRUDA CANCER PATIENT**
- \* **MEDIBIO: ILUMEN SHOWS 26% OF STAFF DEPRESSED, ANXIOUS**
- \* **CORRECTION: ORTHOCELL**
- \* **EMPLOYEE SUES NEUROTECH FOUNDER, SUBSIDIARIES**
- \* **KINETIC INVESTMENT REDUCES TO 5.3% OF VISIONEERING**
- \* **CRESO TO RELEASE 2m VOLUNTARY ESCROW SHARES**
- \* **ALTHEA: APHRIA'S JAKOB RIPSHEIN REPLACES GREGG BATTERSBY**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.29 percent on Thursday March 7, 2019, with the ASX200 up 18.3 points to 6,263.9 points.

Eleven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, nine traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Patrys was the best, up 0.3 cents or 14.3 percent to 2.4 cents, with 2.9 million shares traded.

Uscom climbed 12 percent; Genetic Signatures and Medical Developments improved nine percent or more; Kazia was up 5.45 percent; Neuren, Opthea and Orthocell were up more than three percent; Antisense and Oncosil rose more than two percent; Nanosonics was up 1.2 percent; with CSL up 0.7 percent.

Benitec led the falls, down one cent or 6.45 percent to 14.5 cents with 108,980 shares traded.

Airxanders and Immutep lost more than five percent; Osprey, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors fell more than four percent; Ellex was down 3.4 percent; Impedimed, Prana and Telix shed more than two percent, Cynata, Dimerix, LBT, Paradigm and Resmed were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear, Cyclopharm, Mesoblast, Polynovo and Pro Medicus down by less than one percent.

## OPTHEA

Opthea says the data and safety monitoring board has recommended its phase IIb trial of OPT-302 for wet age-related macular degeneration “continue without modification”. Opthea said the data and safety monitoring board reviewed data from the 366 patients, including 209 who had completed the six-month dosing period and 24-week clinic visit and “did not identify any safety concerns”.

Last year, the company said it completed enrolment of patients for the trial ahead of schedule and expected primary data by the end of 2019 (BD: Nov 14, 2018).

Opthea said that a final board meeting would follow dosing and clinic visits.

Opthea was up 2.5 cents or 3.3 percent to 78 cents.

## IMMUTEP

Immutep says it has dosed the first of 109 patients in its phase II Tacti-002 combination trial of IMP321 with Keytruda for head and neck or lung cancer.

Immutep said it would assess its eftilagimod alpha or IMP321 in a collaboration with Merck & Co’s programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) blocking antibody Keytruda, or pembrolizumab, on patients with second line head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or non-small cell lung cancer.

The company said recruitment had begun at two Australian sites, one US site and four European sites, with the study to be conducted in 13 centres.

Immutep said the primary objective was an evaluation of the objective response rate, with secondary objectives safety and tolerability, response rate, disease control rate, progression-free survival and overall survival.

Immutep fell 0.2 cents or 5.7 percent to 3.3 cents with 3.6 million shares traded.

## MEDIBIO

Medibio says that 26 percent of employees agreeing to join its first commercial program of Ilumen to assess mental health reported depression or anxiety.

Medibio said that 1,675 employees, or 22 percent of the unnamed Australian company’s 7,500 staff agreed to participate in the six-week Ilumen program.

The company said Ilumen used biomarkers to assess mental health data from personal devices, including mobile telephones and computer systems.

Medibio said 1,675 staff members registered for the program and 26 percent reported symptoms of depression or anxiety in the moderate to severe range, which was “broadly consistent with population norms”.

The company said the result equated to “more than 40,000 hours of productivity lost per year due to depression in the cohort, demonstrating some of the benefits the Ilumen provides to employers and employees”.

Medibio was up 0.3 cents or 17.65 percent to two cents.

## CORRECTION: ORTHOCELL

Last night’s edition reported that Orthocell fell 0.1 cents or 7.1 percent to 13 cents, which has been pointed out is mathematically impossible. The company fell one cent.

The Wednesday sub-editor is still recovering from half-yearly reports and has been sent to Biotech Daily’s preferred optometrist ahead of potential remedial mathematics classes.

We apologise for the error.

Today, Orthocell was up half a cent or 3.85 percent to 13.5 cents.

## NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Neurotech says former employee Dr Rudi Agius is suing founder Dr Adrian Attard Trevisan and subsidiaries AAT Research and AAT Medical for breach of copyright. Neurotech said that Dr Agius alleged that Dr Trevisan had not acknowledged Dr Agius as an author in a doctoral thesis about epilepsy and argued that AAT Research and AAT Medical were jointly liable for loss and damages.

Neurotech said Dr Agius' claims were "without any basis in fact and in law", while other allegations predated Dr Trevisan's work with Neurotech, were "not believed to be material to the company" and should be considered a private matter between the two parties. The company said Dr Trevisan had not been a full-time employee since 2016 and resigned as director in June 2018 but was contracted as an independent advisor in December 2018 (BD: Jun 28, Dec 20, 2018).

Neurotech said its Mente device brain training therapy for autism spectrum disorder was independently verified in a US trial and had not breached any intellectual property. Neurotech was up 0.2 cents or eight percent to 2.7 cents.

## VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES

Kinetic Investment Partners says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Visioneering from 16,458,894 shares (6.68%) to 13,155,017 shares (5.29%).

The Melbourne-based Kinetic Investment said that between August 21, 2018 and March 4, 2019 it bought and sold 354,743 shares for \$61,477 or 17.3 cents a share and a "transfer out" of 3,303,677 shares.

Visioneering was untraded at 9.4 cents.

## CRESO PHARMA

Creso says that 2,053,025 ordinary and 303,027 "performance" Kunna acquisition shares will be released from voluntary escrow on March 20, 2019 (BD: Dec 21, 2018).

Creso said other shares in voluntary escrow included 6,159,096 consideration shares to be released in approximately equal tranches on June 20, September 20 and December 20, 2019, and 909,093 performance shares to be released on the same dates.

The company's most recent Appendix 3B new issue announcement said it had 133,744,332 shares available for trading on the ASX.

Creso was unchanged at 37.5 cents.

## ALTHEA GROUP

Althea says it has appointed Aphria president Jakob Ripshtein as a non-executive director representing Aphria, replacing Gregg Battersby.

Althea said Mr Ripshtein was the head of finance of Diageo Canada and the chief financial officer at Diageo North America, before joining Aphria as its chief commercial officer.

The company said the Leamington, Ontario-based cannabis producer Aphria owned 25 percent of Althea.

Althea was up 1.5 cents or 4.2 percent to 37 cents.