



Biotech Daily

Thursday April 4, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: OPTHEA UP 9%; LBT DOWN 14%**
- * **AIRXPANDERS: AEROFORM BREAST EXPANDER 'SUPERIOR'**
- * **SUDA SUBMITS TGA ZOLPIMIST INSOMNIA APPLICATION**
- * **EURO PATENT FOR CYNATA CYMERUS STEM CELLS**
- * **GI DYNAMICS ENDOBARRIER DATA AT NY DIABETES MEETING**
- * **ANTISENSE ON-TRACK FOR ATL1102 FOR DMD RESULTS THIS YEAR**
- * **ALTHEA: '511 MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS; Q3 SALES \$183k'**
- * **AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL TAKES 11% OF PRESCIENT**
- * **REGAL FUNDS BELOW 5% IN PRESCIENT**
- * **KINETIC BELOW 5% IN VISIONEERING**
- * **ACTINOGEN APPOINTS MALCOM MCCOMAS DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.83 percent on Thursday April 4, 2019, with the ASX200 down 52.2 points to 6,232.8 points. Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, nine fell, 10 traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Opthea was the best, up six cents or 8.96 percent to 73 cents, with 23,212 shares traded. Avita climbed 4.9 percent; Clinuvel, Cynata, Oncosil and Osprey were up more than three percent; Prescient, Starpharma and Uscom rose more than two percent; Dimerix, Kazia, Pharmaxis and Proteomics were up more than one percent; with Medical Developments, Pro Medicus and Telix up by less than one percent.

LBT led the falls, down 1.1 cents or 13.6 percent to seven cents, with 177,025 shares traded.

Antisense lost five percent; Mesoblast fell four percent; Immutep was down 3.2 percent; Cochlear, Resmed and Volpara shed more than two percent; CSL, Nanosonics, Paradigm and Polynovo were down more than one percent; with Neuren down 0.8 percent.

AIRXPANDERS

Airxpanders says its patient-controlled carbon dioxide Aeroform breast tissue expander system has advantages over existing devices for breast reconstruction.

Airxpanders said that data was compiled from 115 patients with 185 breast reconstructions, of which 74 used Aeroform and 111 used the traditional saline expanders. The company said Aeroform had 32.4 percent adverse events, compared to 45.9 percent in the saline group.

Airxpanders said that both post-operative wound infection and full-thickness skin necrosis were significantly greater with the saline implants, with 5.4 percent incidence compared to Aeroform's zero.

The company said its Aeroform system reduced the average time to expand to 45 days, compared to the saline group's 87 days, and the time to reconstruct was 94 days, compared to 143 days.

Airxpanders said the findings were reported in an article, titled 'Two-stage Prosthetic Prepectoral Breast Reconstruction: Comparing Tissue Expansion with Carbon Dioxide and Saline', which appeared in the March 25, 2019 online issue of the open-access journal Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Global Open.

(An abstract is available at: <https://bit.ly/2FZdRD6>, which appears to work with Internet Explorer and Firefox browsers, but not Google Chrome.)

Airxpanders chief executive officer Frank Grillo said the data "suggests that reducing multiple needlesticks may be a contributing factor in reducing rates of infection and the consistent weight of the gas-filled Aeroform Expander may explain the reduced necrosis rates".

"This is significant for both the hospital and patient in terms of readmission costs and quality of care," Mr Grillo said.

Airxpanders was in a suspension and last traded at 3.5 cents.

SUDA PHARMACEUTICALS

Suda says it has submitted a marketing authorization application for its oral spray Zolpimist for insomnia to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Suda said its application for Zolpimist or zolpidem tartrate oral spray passed its preliminary assessment and the TGA would complete a full evaluation, including potential approval of Zolpimist, within 255 days.

Suda was up 0.05 cents or 12.5 percent to 0.45 cents with 5.1 million shares traded.

CYNATA THERAPEUTICS

Cynata says it has been granted a European patent for its Cymerus mesenchymal stem cell technology.

Cynata said the patent, titled 'Methods and materials for hematoendothelial differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells under defined conditions' was owned by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and would provide intellectual property protection until March 12, 2034.

The company said the patent would cover its Cymerus technology, including CYP-001 for steroid-resistant graft versus host disease.

Cynata was up 4.5 cents or 3.6 percent to \$1.285.

GI DYNAMICS

GI Dynamics says it will make four presentations on its Endobarrier for obesity and type 2 diabetes at the World Congress on Interventional Therapies for Type 2 Diabetes.

GI Dynamics said that chief executive officer Scott Schorer would participate in a panel discussion on device innovation at the New York meeting from April 8 to April 10, 2019. The company said the presentations were titled 'UK First National Health Service (NHS) Endobarrier Service for Uncontrolled Diabetes Shows the Metabolic Improvements 6-Months after Endobarrier Removal are Well Maintained'; 'Impact of Endobarrier on Need for Continuous-Positive-Airway-Pressure Ventilation (CPAP) in Diabetes/Pre-Diabetes with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) Study: Current Data at Endobarrier Removal and 6-Months Later'; 'Evaluation of the Efficacy and Safety of Endoscopically Achieved Proximal Intestinal Exclusion as an Adjunct to Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Therapy in Diabetes: REVISE Diabetes Randomised Clinical Trial'; and 'Duodenal-jejunal Bypass Liner for Diabetes – Risk Versus Benefit Data from the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) Worldwide Endobarrier Registry'.

GI Dynamics was up 0.2 cents or 9.5 percent to 2.3 cents.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says it has enrolled seven of nine patients in its phase II trial of ATL1102 for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD).

Antisense said one patient had completed the two-month dosing period, five patients were currently in the treatment phase and a seventh patient was about to begin dosing.

The company said the final two patients would be enrolled by April 30, 2019 and dosing would be completed in October 2019.

Antisense said it expected to report results of the trial shortly after completing dosing rather than at the end of the two-month safety monitoring period.

The company said that if meaningful interpretations could be made in the open-label trial, "there may be an opportunity for non-statistical study read-outs on preliminary data ahead of the completion of dosing in all patients, however this would require a sufficient number of patients to have completed their dosing".

Antisense fell 0.2 cents or five percent to 3.8 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

ALTHEA GROUP HOLDINGS

Althea says it has prescribed medical marijuana to 511 patients through 128 healthcare professionals since May 2018.

In its Appendix 4C quarterly report, Althea said it had receipts from customers of \$135,000 for the three months to March 31, 2019 with unaudited sales for the period of \$182,801 and \$245,000 in receipts from customers for the nine months to March 31, 2019.

Althea chief executive officer Joshua Fegan said the company had "very strong growth in the recent quarter, particularly in the back half when doctors returned from their January holidays".

"We further expanded our medical science liaison team in March, and we are already seeing great results with the first few days of April being the best start to any month on record," Mr Fegan said.

Althea was up three cents or 7.7 percent to 42 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

[PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS](#)

Australian Ethical Investment says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Prescient, from 20,622,222 shares (9.8%) to 27,690,861 shares (11.20%).

Australian Ethical said that in August 2016 it sold shares, acquiring shares between May 2, 2017 and April 1, 2019, with the single largest purchase 4,938,922 shares in the recent \$9.1 million capital raising.

Last month, Prescient said it had commitments for a \$7.0 million placement and an underwritten \$2.1 million one-for-five rights issue at five cents a share (BD: Mar 25, 2019). Prescient was up 0.1 cents or 2.2 percent to 4.7 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

[PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS](#)

Regal Funds Management says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Prescient.

Last year, the Sydney-based Regal Funds said it held 14,110,378 shares or 6.66 percent of the company (BD: Dec 13, 2018).

Today, Regal said it sold 1,890,128 shares between December 11, 2018 and March 14, 2019, with the largest sale 723,000 shares for \$42,079 or 5.82 cents a share and was diluted in the placement.

Biotech Daily calculates that Regal holds 12,220,250 shares or 4.8 percent of Prescient.

[VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Melbourne's Kinetic Investment Partners says it has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Visioneering,

Last month Kinetic said it had reduced its holding in Visioneering to 13,155,017 shares (5.29%) (BD: Mar 7, 2019).

Today, Kinetic said it sold 808,755 shares between March 5 and April 2, 2019 for \$53,677 or 6.6 cents a share.

Biotech Daily calculates that Kinetic retains 12,346,262 shares or 4.97 percent.

Visioneering was up 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.5 cents.

[ACTINOGEN MEDICAL](#)

Actinogen says it has appointed Malcolm McComas as a non-executive director.

Actinogen said Mr McComas was currently the chairman Pharmaxis and Fitzroy River Corp and a director at Saunders International and Royalco Resources.

The company said Mr McComas had more than 25 years' financial services experience, with Grant Samuel, Citigroup and Deutsche Bank.

Actinogen said Mr McComas was a director at BC Iron and the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group and the president of the Financial Services Institute of Australia.

The company said Mr McComas held a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Economics from Melbourne's Monash University.

Actinogen said Mr McComas would be granted 3,000,000 options exercisable at 10 cents each vesting quarterly over three years and expiring in five years from grant, subject to shareholder approval.

Actinogen was unchanged at 5.4 cents with 2.9 million shares traded.