



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday February 4, 2009

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ANTISENSE UP 14%, PSIVIDA DOWN 21%**
- \* **EDITORIAL: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S \$42bn ECONOMIC PACKAGE**
- \* **VICTORIA GRANT BRINGS CANCER RESEARCHERS HOME**
- \* **BARCLAYS GROUP CEASES SUBSTANTIAL IN CSL**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 2.02 percent on Wednesday February 4, 2009 with the S&P ASX 200 down 70.8 points to 3,437.9 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, seven traded unchanged and 12 were untraded.

Antisense was best, up half a cent or 14.29 percent to four cents with 75,000 shares traded, followed by Alchemia up 1.5 cents or 12 percent to 14 cents.

Starpharma and Viralytics climbed five percent or more; Circadian was up 3.08 percent; Bionomics, Clinuvel and Sirtex rose more than three percent; with Cellestis up 1.38 percent.

Psivida led the falls, down 29 cents or 20.86 percent to \$1.10 cents with 20,000 shares traded, followed by Labtech down two cents or 16.67 percent to 10 cents.

Genera Biosystems lost 9.09 percent; Living Cell fell 5.26 percent; Arana and Biota were down more than three percent; Acrux, Cochlear, Mesoblast and Ventracor shed more than two percent; with Avexa, CSL and Resmed down more than one percent.

## EDITORIAL: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S \$42bn ECONOMIC PACKAGE

Biotech Daily welcomes the Federal Government's pump-priming initiative to stimulate the economy.

It is unfortunate that there does not appear to be a single penny available for the health sector - including urgently needed upgrades to public teaching hospitals - let alone investment in public or private research and development.

A spokesman for Health Minister Nicola Roxon confirmed to Biotech Daily that there were no new funds for health in the package. Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr's office said the economic package provided a \$2.7 billion Small Business and General Business Tax Break and businesses were eligible to claim a 30 percent deduction for all tangible assets. Several directors and chief executive officers have written to Biotech Daily supporting the 'Once In An Economic Lifetime Opportunity' editorial (BD: Jan 30, 2009) and asking what can be done to encourage the Federal Government to take our sector seriously.

We can only urge readers to take democracy into their own hands and personally and directly lobby their local members of parliament as well as the key decision-making ministers: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Treasurer Wayne Swan, Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner and Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr.

Their contact details are at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au).

**David Langsam Editor**  
**Marc Sinatra, Analyst**

## VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

Victoria's Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings says that a State Government grant has attracted two senior cancer researchers to return to Melbourne.

Mr Jennings said Dr Ross Dickens and Prof Ygal Haupt received a Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation fellowship enabling them to return from overseas. Mr Jennings said the Victorian Government was "taking action to expand Victoria's cancer research capabilities because we want all Victorians to have access to the best possible treatments and benefit from ground-breaking research".

Mr Jennings said the fellowships were established with a \$10 million endowment from the Victorian Government "to bring some of Victoria's best and brightest back home, complete with all their valuable international experience".

Fellows receive up to \$100,000 a year for up to five years, funds that are matched by an academic or research institution or company, a Government media release said.

Prof Haupt was at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

"Prof Haupt became known internationally for his work which directly led to the development of a novel class of anticancer drugs," Mr Jennings said.

He said the fellowship, complemented by matching funding from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre would allow Prof Haupt to continue his work on the regulation of tumor suppression, towards improving cancer diagnosis and providing new anti-cancer drugs.

The media release said cancer researcher Dr Ross Dickens would return after working at Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory cancer centre in New York.

"Dr Dickens was instrumental in developing technology which models new cancer therapies by using RNA interference, research with a potential to accelerate cancer drug discovery," Mr Jennings said.

Dr Dickens' fellowship was complemented by matching funding from the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research (WEHI).

"This is a great outcome for Victorian medical research, for Peter MacCallum and for WEHI and is another example of how the Brumby Government is supporting Victoria's growth as a global centre of biomedical excellence," Mr Jennings said.

## CSL

Barclays Group has ceased its substantial holding in CSL.

The Group said it sold 111,463 shares (0.03%) at an average price of \$33.13.

The Barclays Group said the JP Morgan Chase Bank and various other custodians held shares in CSL as custodian and for which the members of the Barclays Group were either the responsible entity or trustee of pooled investment products such as registered managed investment schemes or the investment manager of portfolios held for a number of institutional investors.

The institutional investors are generally superannuation funds and the holding of shares in CSL was acquired as part of the wide portfolio of Australian shares and units acquired for the funds and the portfolios.

CSL fell 49 cents or 1.38 percent to \$35.11 with 3.1 million shares traded.