



Biotech Daily

Friday October 16, 2009

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH EVEN: CATHRX UP 24%; COMPUMEDICS DOWN 5%**
- * **BIONOMICS ANTI-ANXIETY DRUG BNC210 NON-ADDICTIVE FOR RATS**
- * **PRIMA HOPES 15¢ SHARE PLAN WILL RAISE \$5m**
- * **CLINUVEL AGM TO VOTE ON NEW EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE PLAN**
- * **LABTECH AGM VOTES ON NAME CHANGE TO LBT INNOVATIONS**
- * **GENESIS EGM VOTES ON DIRECTORS' SHARES IN LIEU OF CASH**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market retreated 0.48 percent on Friday October 16, 2009 with the S&P ASX 200 down 23.5 points to 4836.4 points.

Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, 13 traded unchanged and four were untraded.

Cathrx was best, up 10 cents or 23.8 percent to 52 cents with 77,695 shares traded, followed by Bone up 14.3 percent to 20 cents and Phylogica up 10 percent to 11 cents.

Avexa rebounded 8.3 percent; Sirtex was up 7.3 percent; Antisense and Biota climbed more than four percent; Mesoblast, Pharmaxis, Resmed and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; with Acrux up 1.1 percent.

Compumedics led the falls, down one cent or five percent to 19 cents with 30,000 shares traded.

Clinuvel and Progen fell more than four percent; Nanosonics lost 3.1 percent; Phosphagenics and Prana shed more than two percent; with Heartware, Peplin, Starpharma and Sunshine Heart down more than one percent.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics says its BNC210 for anxiety is effective in rat models of stress-induced anxiety and depression with “no sign of dependency following interruption of treatment”.

Bionomics said the rats were dosed repeatedly with BNC210 for a period of 14 days and following the end of treatment there was no sign of dependency.

The company said addiction and dependency were unwanted side effects seen with many drugs acting on the central nervous system, including those used to treat anxiety.

Bionomics said the new data would be presented at the 2009 Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago, October 17-21, 2009.

The company said the data demonstrated that BNC210 reduced anxiety levels of stressed rats to pre-stress or baseline levels.

Bionomics said the expansion of the anxiolytic profile of BNC210 confirmed “the potent activity of BNC210” and supported its potential in the treatment of both acute and chronic anxiety disorders.

Bionomics chief executive officer Dr Deborah Rathjen said the data “reinforces the superiority of BNC 210, as identified by our pre-clinical research, over blockbuster anxiety drugs many of which have major drawbacks or side-effects”.

The company said BNC210 has shown antidepressant activity in a rat model of depression following both acute treatment and daily dosing for 14 days.

Repeat dosing with BNC210 resulted in increased potency. This effect is also seen with marketed anti-depressants, where repeat dosing produces enhanced therapeutic benefit.

Bionomics said the Society for Neuroscience meeting was the world’s largest annual gathering of neuroscientists, psychiatrists, neurologists and psychologists.

The conference poster is at www.bionomics.com.au.

In a table with its media release, Bionomics said BNC210 succeeded on five measures: no sedation; no addiction; no memory impairment; fast acting; and no drug to drug interaction.

Bionomics said that Valium failed on the first three measures and succeeded on the last two, while Prozac succeeded on the first three and failed on the second two.

Prozac is an anti-depressant and a Biotech Daily medical advisor says that although there are no dependency cravings there is an associated withdrawal syndrome that requires management.

Bionomics was unchanged at 28 cents.

GENESIS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

An extraordinary general meeting of Genesis Research and Development will vote to transfer technology to Solima Biosciences and pay directors’ fees in shares.

Directors Andrew Hubert Gearing, Steven Gillis, James Neil McLean, Joachim Herbert von Roy and Stewart James Washer will be issued shares in lieu of directors’ fees.

The ASX has granted Genesis a waiver from listing rule 10.13.3 to allow Genesis to issue entitlements accrued by Directors up to December 31, 2010.

Genesis said the maximum number of shares which may be acquired by directors in each six monthly period under the director fee payment scheme is \$122,500 divided by the volume weighted average market price for Genesis shares trading on the NZSX over the 20 trading days before the issue occurs, not later than two months after the announcement by Genesis of its interim and annual results.

The meeting will be held at the Remuera Room, Ellerslie Event Centre, 100 Ascot Ave, Greenlane East, Auckland, New Zealand on October 23, 2009 at 10.30am.

Genesis was untraded at six cents.

PRIMA BIOMED

Prima is offering eligible shareholders parcels of shares up to \$15,000 each at no more than 15 cents a share.

Prima executive director Martin Rogers told Biotech Daily that although the company could raise \$78 million if all 5,200 shareholders applied for the maximum amount of shares, the company was hoping to raise about \$5 million.

Mr Rogers said the share plan was intended to provide retail investors with an opportunity to increase their holding in the company following several institutional placements.

Prima closed at 26.5 cents on Oct 7, 2009 but tumbled to 16.5 cents at the close of trading today.

The announcement to the ASX that the share plan would be priced at no more than 15 cents was made after the market closed today at 4.28pm.

Prima said the offer price for each share would be the lesser of 15 cents or a 10 percent discount to the volume weighted average price of shares traded in the five trading days to November 25, 2009, the date the plan is scheduled to close, rounded to the nearest cent.

Prima

Prima said the record date was October 15, 2009 and the share plan would close on November 25, 2009.

Prima fell one cent or 5.7 percent to 16.5 cents with 23.1 million shares traded.

CLINUVEL

Clinuvel has issued 3,270,000 conditional performance rights to its employees under a plan which "largely substitutes the [2007] Clinuvel employee option plan".

Clinuvel company secretary Darren Keamy told Biotech Daily that none of the performance rights were provided to executive directors and all were for employees of the company.

The company has proposed that a further 3,500,000 performance rights be made available for future employees and consultants.

Mr Keamy said directors would be allowed to receive the new plan performance rights, but so far had not been included and would only do so with shareholder approval.

H said directors did receive options under the previous option plan.

In its announcement to the ASX, Clinuvel's board said the number of rights reserved for future employees and consultants was "appropriate considering the advanced stage of the development program which will require the company to attract further high quality staff".

The company said if all performance conditions were achieved and all rights issued, the dilutory impact would be 2.2 percent of ordinary capital.

The performance conditions are: obtaining a second orphan designation for afamelanotide; successful commencement of further global phase III trials; US Food and Drug Administration approval to commence a phase III trial in the US; successful completion of phase III trials in Europe and the US; lodgment of the first marketing authorization application; and the grant of the first marketing authorization for afamelanotide.

The meeting will also consider the election of directors Dr Helmer Agersborg and Stanley McLiesh.

The meeting will be held at the Condell Room, Melbourne Town Hall, Cnr Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne on November 18, 2009 at 10am.

Clinuvel fell 1.5 cents or 4.4 percent to 32.5 cents.

LABTECH SYSTEMS

Labtech has proposed that its annual general meeting change the company name to LBT Innovations Ltd.

The meeting will also consider the re-election of director Stephen Mathwin.

The meeting will be held at the office of Edwards Marshall Level 3, 153 Flinders Street Adelaide on November 20, 2009 at 11am.

Labtech was untraded at 12.5 cents.