



Biotech Daily

Monday September 7, 2009

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: BENITEC UP 17%; GENETIC TECHNO DOWN 17%**
- * **BENITEC, CHINA'S BIOMICS BEGIN HEP B ddRNAi COLLABORATION**
- * **CIRCADIAN LICENCES VEGF RIGHTS TO PERKINELMER**
- * **BIONOMICS EXTENDS PLACEMENT HALT TO SUSPENSION**
- * **USCOM SHARE PLAN TO RAISE \$1.26m**
- * **HELICON RELEASES 42m ESCROW SHARES**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.43 percent on Monday September 7, 2009 with the S&P ASX 200 up 18.9 points to 4454.4 points.

Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 10 traded unchanged and four were untraded.

Benitec was best, climbing 0.6 cents or 17.14 percent to 4.1 cents with 1.1 million shares traded, followed by Antisense up 0.5 cents or 12.5 percent to 4.5 cents.

Cathrx climbed 7.7 percent; Tissue Therapies was up 6.98 percent; Tyrian was up 5.6 percent; Chemgenex and Mesoblast were up more than four percent; Living Cell was up 3.2 percent; Biota, Compumedics, CSL, Genera and Pharmaxis rose more than two percent; with Sirtex up 1.85 percent.

Genetic Technologies led the falls, down one cent or 16.7 percent to five cents with 9,500 shares traded, followed by Cytopia down 1.5 cents or 10.3 percent to 13 cents.

Impedimed and Uscom lost more than five percent; Avexa fell 4.35 percent; Cellestis and Phylogica were down more than three percent; Acrux, Nanosonics and Peplin shed more than two percent; with Alchemia, Cochlear and Psivida down more than one percent.

BENITEC

Benitec has begun its collaborative work with China's Biomix Biotechnologies Co on a DNA directed (ddRNAi) or vector-expressed RNAi for chronic hepatitis B.

Benitec's chief executive officer Sue MacLeman said the two companies had agreed to a final project plan and budgets and told Biotech Daily that work began today.

Ms MacLeman said the first step in the collaboration was for the scientific teams to undertake further target identification and validation in the hepatitis B polymerase.

Once the target was validated it would undergo preclinical testing before moving to early stage clinical trials.

Benitec said the companies would share jointly in intellectual property developed during the project and would collaborate in product development and commercialization.

Benitec said all other terms of the agreement were confidential.

"Chronic hepatitis B virus infection is one of the leading causes of liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma and our combined technologies have the potential to offer a more effective antiviral therapy for HBV infection," Ms MacLeman said.

Benitec was up 0.6 cents or 17.1 percent to 4.1 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

CIRCADIAN

Circadian has licenced vascular endothelial growth factor rights to US equipment company Perkinelmer Inc.

Circadian said the confidential agreement rights to vascular endothelial growth factor C and D (VEGF-C and VEGF-D) for life science research products.

The company said Perkinelmer made and distributed equipment, reagents and Elisa diagnostics and other products to the life sciences sector.

Circadian said the licence related to diagnostics to detect VEGF-C and VEGF-D in tissue samples and required a licence from its wholly-owned subsidiary Vegenics.

Circadian said it owned "extensive intellectual property rights for the use of VEGF-C and VEGF-D for diverse therapeutic applications and diagnosis" and its internal programs were focused on the development of novel therapeutics for cancer.

Circadian chief executive officer Robert Klupacs said the company was "committed to maximizing the potential of our intellectual property through collaborative relationships with leaders in their field".

"Although the financial benefit to Circadian may not be significant, we expect this agreement could lead to greater benefits for our current or future product development from further research findings implicating the important role of VEGF-C and VEGF-D in cancer and other diseases," Mr Klupacs said.

He said it was "another example of the diverse range of commercial opportunities and value of our VEGF intellectual property".

Circadian was unchanged at 74.5 cents.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics has requested a voluntary suspension extending from its trading halt to complete a placement of \$5 million of shares.

Last week Bionomics placed \$7 million of shares with Start-up Australia for funds from the Australian Government's Innovation Investment Follow-on Fund, conditional on Bionomics raising a further \$5 million as well as shareholder approval (BD: Sep 3, 2009).

Bionomics last traded at 24 cents.

USCOM

Uscom is offering eligible shareholders up to \$15,000 each in shares at 63 cents a share to raise \$1.26 million.

Uscom said that at 63 cents, the shares were priced at a 19.85 percent discount to the average market price of the shares for the five days up to the record date of September 4, 2009.

The company said the funds would be used to expand support for the relationship with Spacelabs, its direct sales and marketing alliance in the US and Europe as well as initiate further growth strategies through additional marketing partnerships and further commercialization of its intellectual property in new clinical applications.

The offer opened today and closes on September 28, 2009.

Uscom said the share plan was not underwritten and should applications exceed the \$1.26 million target the company would scale-back applications.

Uscom fell five cents or 5.9 percent to 80 cents.

HELICON GROUP

Helicon says 41,720,376 shares and 6,500,000 options will be released from escrow on September 21, 2009.

Following the release of these securities, Helicon will have 83,915,177 shares and 6,500,000 options available for trading.

Helicon was up 0.7 cents or 10.8 percent to 7.2 cents.