



Biotech Daily

Tuesday February 2, 2010

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: SIRTEX UP 9%; CATHRX DOWN 14%**

- * **BIONOMICS ANTI-ANXIETY DRUG ENHANCES NERVE CELL GROWTH**

- * **EURO PATENT FOR LBT**

- * **US STUDY BACKS ATCOR MEASURE FOR LV HYPERTROPHY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market rebounded 1.8 percent on Tuesday February 2, 2010 with the S&P ASX 200 up 81.2 points to 4605.3 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, eight traded unchanged and three were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Sirtex was best, up 49 cents or 8.5 percent to \$6.24 with 77,334 shares traded.

Prima, QRX and Universal Biosensors climbed more than seven percent; Genera and Tissue Therapies were up five percent or more; Avexa, Bionomics, Circadian, LBT and Patrys were up more than three percent; with Acrux, Biota, Nanosonics, Phosphagenics, Resmed and Viralytics up one percent or more.

Cathrx led the falls, down six cents or 13.6 percent to 38 cents with 39,500 shares traded, followed by Living Cell down 7.1 percent to 19.5 cents.

Mesoblast and Sunshine Heart lost more than five percent; Novogen and Optiscan fell more than four percent; Antisense and Chemgenex were down more than three percent; with Genetic Technologies, Impedimed and Starpharma down more than two percent.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics says anti-anxiety compound BNC210 enhances nerve cell growth in culture neurons, supporting its potential for antidepressant activity.

Bionomics said that BNC210 project leader Dr Sue O'Connor would detail the study results in a poster presentation entitled 'The anxiolytic compound BNC210 exhibits an antidepressant effect without symptoms of physical dependence' at the Australian Neuroscience Society annual conference in Sydney today.

The company said the data expanded the evidence of antidepressant activity of BNC210, which also displays potent activity in several models of anxiety.

Bionomics said antidepressants increased the formation and development of nerve cells in various regions of the brain and induce nerve growth in culture.

Studies of the effects of BNC210 on nerve cells in culture have shown that it too enhances their growth, consistent with antidepressant activity, the company said.

Bionomics said the data indicated that BNC210 treatment was not associated with physical dependence, supporting previous research that showed that BNC210 did not cause abuse liability or development of tolerance.

Bionomics said abrupt cessation of current antidepressant medication may produce withdrawal symptoms, such as changes in body weight, food intake or body temperature.

Bionomics said such changes signify physical dependence to the drug, which were not associated with BNC210 treatment of rats over 14 days and subsequent cessation of treatment when monitored over an 18 day period.

Dr O'Connor said the data provided support for the evaluation of BNC210 in humans for anxiety and provide evidence for the utility of BNC210 in the treatment of depression". The poster is at: http://www.bionomics.com.au/siteFiles/files/news/Announcements_387.pdf.

Bionomics said depression was a common mental disorder that presented with depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, feelings of guilt or low self esteem, disturbed sleep or appetite, low energy and poor concentration.

The company said about six percent of adult Australians were affected by a depressive illness and an estimated 121 million people worldwide.

The company said the global antidepressant market has sales of \$US11 billion in 2008. Bionomics was up one cent or 3.1 percent to 33 cents.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT (formerly Labtech) says the European Patent Office has granted its patent for the agar plate streaking technology at the core of its Microstreak system.

LBT said the European patent entitled 'Microbial Streaking Device' was granted on January 21, 2010.

The company said it "secures its intellectual property in 27 countries and adds to the previously full grant of the patent in Australia".

LBT chief executive officer Lusia Guthrie said the patent was "the most important patent protection to date ... covering one of the company's most important market regions".

LBT said the patent covered the methods and design of the agar plate streaker, which was licenced to France's Biomérieux in 2007 and is marketed as Previ Isola.

LBT said the patent was granted to Medvet Science from February 17, 2010 in those countries where the grant is being validated. Medvet licenced the microbial streaking technology to LBT.

The technology was invented by John Glasson and Lachlan Smith who at the time of the patent filing worked at Adelaide's Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science.

LBT climbed 0.3 cents or 3.45 percent to nine cents.

[ATCOR MEDICAL](#)

Atcor says central aortic blood pressure is a more important indicator of left ventricular hypertrophy than brachial blood pressure.

Atcor has developed the Sphygmocor system which measures central blood pressures and arterial stiffness, noninvasively

The company said a US National Institutes of Health-funded study entitled 'Relations of central and brachial blood pressure to left ventricular hypertrophy and geometry: the Strong Heart Study' was published in the Journal of Hypertension 2010 (Vol 28 No 2, pp: 384-8). The abstract is at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20051906>.

Atcor said left ventricular hypertrophy related to muscle thickening in the heart's pumping chamber.

The company said the incidence increased with age and was more common in people who have high blood pressure.

Atcor said the study included data from 2,585 participants in the Strong Heart study and concluded that its results lent support to the "growing body of data indicating that central pressure is a more important determinant of cardiovascular target organ damage, morbidity, and mortality than brachial blood pressure".

Atcor chief executive officer Duncan Ross said the publication "reinforces the vital importance of measuring central blood pressure, in clinical trials and in patient care".

"Left ventricular hypertrophy is a major risk factor for heart failure, heart attack and stroke," Mr Ross said.

"This is more evidence that shows it is vitally important to measure central blood pressure to identify patients at risk, effectively manage hypertension therapy and assess the impact of positive lifestyle changes," Mr Ross said.

Atcor was up 1.5 cents or 9.1 percent to 18 cents.