



Biotech Daily

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Special Edition

2009: BIOTECHS CLIMB FIVE TIMES FASTER THAN ASX200

BDI-20 UP 155%, ASX200 UP 31%, Prima 4,700%, Biota 643%

The year of the global financial crisis seems to have missed the Australian stock market, with biotech companies arguably the best bet on the ASX for 2009.

The Biotech Daily Top 20 Index (BDI-20) was up 154.5 percent for the year to December 31, 2009 compared to the S&P ASX200 up 30.9 percent for the 12 months. Adjusting the index to compensate for company changes, the BDI-20 climbed 169.7 percent in 2009.

The Second 20 climbed 89.9 percent for the year, taking the overall BDI-40 (which does not include the Big Caps of Cochlear, CSL and Resmed) up 142.2 percent for the year and 163.8 percent in adjusted terms. While the S&P ASX indices use adjusted calculations, the Biotech Daily Indices compare existing total market capitalizations with previous totals, regardless of the change in composition. Biotech Daily has calculated the adjusted BDI-20 and BDI-40 rates for this report.

The BDI-40 continues to numerically surpass the ASX200 with the gap narrowing in December between the ASX200 at 4871 and the BDI-40 at 5055. While the BDI-40 is 281 points (5.3%) from its May 31, 2007 historical best, the ASX200 is 1,980 points (28.9%) short of its November 2, 2007 peak of 6851 points. The more than 100 biotechs monitored by this publication – excluding the Big Caps – climbed 143.2 percent in 2009.

Collectively, the three Big Caps finally turned positive, up 4.3 percent in December and 0.16 percent for the year, with Cochlear up 25.5 percent for the year, Resmed up 15.6 percent and CSL down 6.6 percent.

Most BDI-40 companies more than doubled their share price and market caps for the year with just five companies falling and Labtech unchanged at \$12 million.

Prima was best from a \$2 million low base, soaring 4,700 percent to \$96 million, with a more representative Biota climbing 643.1 percent from \$58 million to close the year at \$431 million.

Nanosonics was up 585.7 percent to \$144 million, followed by QRX Pharma (515.4%) and Tissue Therapies (450%), with Acrux, Alchemia, Avexa, Genera, Sirtex, Starpharma and Phylogica up more than 300 percent for the year. Universal Biosensors more than trebled in value - from \$93 million to \$291 million (212.9%) - as did Psivida, while Bionomics, Chemgenex, Living Cell, Pharmaxis, Cathrx and Cellmid merely doubled in value.

Of the few Top 40 companies that fell, Prana was the worst, losing 45.3 percent for the year from \$64 million to \$35 million, followed by Bone (23.5%), Genetic Technologies (15.8%), Novogen (12.9%) and Phosphagenics (2.0%).

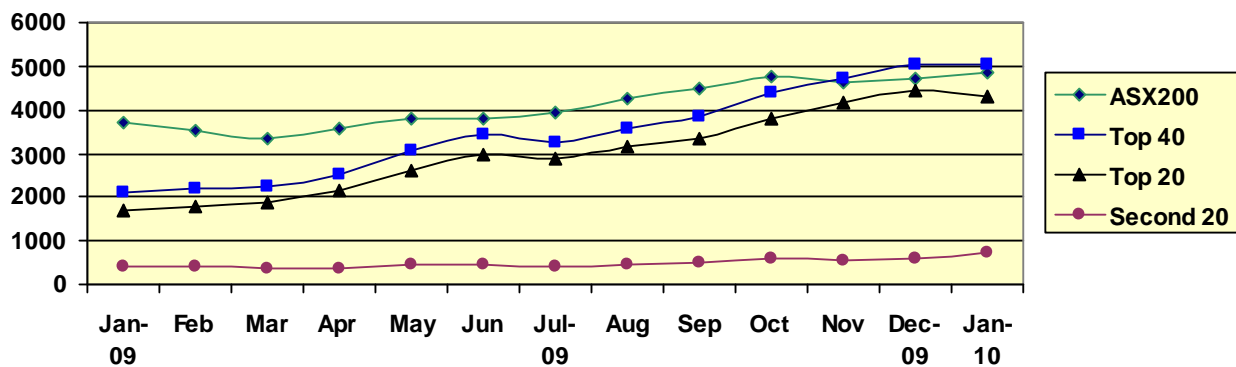
Just outside the Top 40, Biopharmica has been impressive, with a very recent capital raising, up 1150 percent from \$2 million to \$25 in 12 months. Halcygen's merger with Mayne Pharma has driven its market cap up 850 percent from \$10 million to \$95 million, with Avita, Immuron and Unilife up by more than 400 percent and Neuren recovering from 2008's failed phase III trial - up 333 percent to \$13 million. Further down the lists, OBJ was up 833 percent to \$28 million and Karmelsonix rose 550 percent to \$26 million.

While tempted to make changes to the indices, Biotech Daily will resist and monitor for the time being.

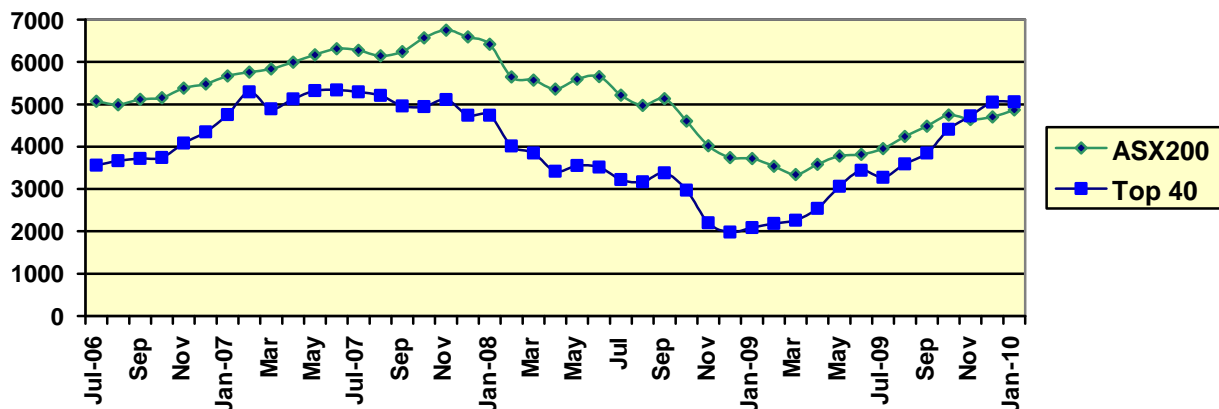
Biotech companies raised \$75.2 million in December and more than \$492 million in the 12 months to December 31, 2009, not including institutional raisings.

Below are two charts, the first showing the past year and the second a longer term 42-month comparison of the ASX200 and the BDI-40.

Biotech Daily Top 40 (\$m) v S&P ASX 200 2009



BDI-40 v ASX200 Jul 1, 2006 to Jan 1, 2010



BIOTECH DAILY'S TOP 40 WITH MARKET CAPITALIZATION

Company \$Am	Jan-10	Dec-09	Nov-09
Cochlear	3,892	3,566	3,629
CSL	18,970	18,871	19,080
Resmed	4,492	4,174	4,117
Top 20			
Acrux	350	389	304
Alchemia	116	100	105
Antisense	32	34	38
Avexa	131	116	119
Bionomics	119	111	92
Biota	431	546	492
Cellectis	314	326	336
Chemgenex	279	252	212
Clinuvel	82	91	94
Genera	44	44	45
Heartware	483	402	418
Impedimed	85	86	79
Living Cell	60	71	79
Mesoblast	191	201	143
Novogen	61	51	62
Pharmaxis	596	532	554
Phosphagenics	50	53	57
Sirtex	421	392	329
Starpharma	165	133	118
Universal Biosensors	291	275	266
Second 20			
Benitec	14	15	16
Bone Medical	13	19	19
Cathrx	44	46	42
Cellmid	11	10	7
Circadian	32	31	33
Compumedics	29	31	28
Genetic Tech	16	19	21
Labtech	12	12	13
Nanosonics	144	126	94
Optiscan	11	12	11
Patrys	23	26	20
Phylogica	32	25	21
Prana	35	42	42
Prima	96	82	86
Psivida	78	73	68
QRX Pharma	80	65	82
Sunshine Heart	20	21	24
Tissue Therapies	22	17	13
Uscom	29	32	31
Viralytics	13	14	9

* Biotech Daily editor, David Langsam, owns shares in Alchemia, Avexa, Chemgenex, Impedimed, Neuren and Optiscan, as well as non-biotechnology stocks and has an indirect interest through Australian Ethical trusts in Cochlear, Genera, Pharmaxis, Resmed and Tissue Therapies. These holdings are liable to change.

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