



Biotech Daily

Thursday October 7, 2010

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH UP: PRIMA UP 12%; BENITEC DOWN 14%**
- * **LUCY TURNBULL REPLACES ALBERT WONG AS PRIMA CHAIRMAN**
- * **GENERAL MEETING TO RESUSCITATE NARHEX LIFE SCIENCES**
- * **GLOBAL LEADERS AT AUSBIOTECH'S MELBOURNE CONFERENCE**
- * **TEAM-VIC'S TRANSLATIONAL STEM CELL ENGINEERING SEMINAR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was flat, edging up 0.1 percent on Thursday October 7, 2010 with the S&P ASX 200 up 4.5 points to 4691.3 points.

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

Prima was best, up 1.5 cents or 12 percent to 14 cents with 28.9 million shares traded, followed by Cathrx up 8.7 percent to 25 cents with 10,500 shares traded.

Nanosonics climbed 7.3 percent; Bionomics, Impedimed, LBT and Phylogica were up six percent or more; Tissue Therapies was up 5.8 percent; Novogen was up four percent; Alchemia and Viralytics were up more than three percent; Mesoblast, Pharmaxis, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; with Cellestis and Psivida up more than one percent.

Benitec led the falls, down 0.6 cents or 14.3 percent to 3.6 cents with 1,280,000 shares traded, followed by Patrys down eight percent to 6.9 cents with 26,500 shares traded.

Chemgenex lost 7.5 percent; Genera was down 5.6 percent; QRX fell 4.35 percent; Heartware, Immuron and Resmed shed more than two percent; with Acrux and Cochlear down more than two percent.

PRIMA BIOMED

Prima has appointed Lucy Turnbull as the company's chairman, replacing major shareholder and interim chairman Albert Wong, effective for October 6, 2010.

Mr Wong was appointed as interim chairman on Jul 23, 2010, replacing Ata Gokyildirim, who resigned from the company on July 27, 2010 (BD: Jul 23, 28, 2010).

Prima said at that time that it was negotiating with an external candidate for the role of chairman. On the same day Prima reinstated chief executive officer Martin Rogers as a director, following his departure from the board the previous month (BD: Jun 25, 2010) and appointed chief medical officer Dr Neil Frazer as an executive director.

Today, Prima said Mr Wong would be the company's deputy chairman.

Prima said Ms Turnbull was previously the chairman of the New South Wales Government's ministerial advisory committee on biotechnology (2001-'02), a director of the Sydney Cancer Foundation (2002-'06) and director and chair of the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation (1993-2000) and was on the board of the Cancer Institute NSW.

Ms Turnbull is the former mayor of Sydney and is married to former Federal Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull, now the Coalition's communications spokesman.

Prima said Ms Turnbull had experience in commercial law and investment banking and was a director of the ASX-listed Melbourne IT and was a director of local organizations, the Waterloo Redfern Authority and the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority.

Ms Turnbull said she looked forward to working with Prima "in enabling further research and development, so that one day there may be a viable and effective therapy for ovarian cancer that is based on Australian science and innovation".

"Ovarian cancer is both hard to detect and hard to treat," Ms Turnbull said. "For those reasons, it has often been referred to as a "silent killer".

"Anyone who has known anyone suffer from this disease knows that is a powerful description for it," Ms Turnbull said.

Prima was up 1.5 cents or 12 percent to 14 cents with 28.9 million shares traded.

NARHEX LIFE SCIENCES

A general meeting will be held to approve a series of capital raisings to revive Narhex Life Sciences, currently subject to a deed of company arrangement.

Narhex has faced considerable difficulties including the death of its then chairman and acting managing director Dr Michael Cohen in November 2009 and an ASX suspension over non-payment of listing fees (BD: Aug 25, 2009).

Hall Chadwick administrators Richard Albarran and David Ross were appointed administrators of a deed of company arrangement executed on May 7, 2010.

Mr Ross told Biotech Daily that Narhex assets would be transferred to a wholly-owned subsidiary that would form a joint venture with Tittel Pty Ltd - a company related to former Narhex chairman David Mandel (BD: Jan 28, 2010) and Peter Nash (BD: May 11, 2010).

Following recapitalization, the company would continue to develop its DG17 compound for HIV and its China investments.

Today, the company said that completion of the recapitalization would result in: the restructure of the company's capital base; the raising of working capital; the possible appointment of a new board of directors; termination of the deed of company arrangement and retirement of the deed administrators; settlement of all provable debts of the creditors; and application for reinstatement to the ASX.

The meeting will be held at Level 2, 90 William Street, Melbourne, on November 5, 2010 at 10am AEDT.

Narhex is in a suspension and last traded at 1.6 cents.

AUSBIOTECH

Ausbiotech says that some of the biggest names in the global biotechnology community will be plenary speakers at its October conference in Melbourne.

Ausbiotech said that among the speakers expected to address the Australasian Life Science Investment Summit and three day conference beginning on October 19, 2010 would be the president and chief executive officer of the US Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) Jim Greenwood, Merck & Co Inc's senior vice-president of worldwide licencing and knowledge management Dr David Nicholson, Datamonitor Healthcare director Dr Bornadata Bain, the director of Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute at Monash University Prof Nadia Rosenthal, Eli Lilly's vice-president of global external research and development Dr Rob Armstrong and QRX chief executive officer Dr John Holaday.

The industry organization said the human health session scheduled for the conference was "a key motivator for many of those attending this year's conference".

Other topics to be discussed include regulation in key markets, maximizing Australia's investment in medical research - new approaches to discovery and commercialization; translating hope into help - practical applications of cancer research for patients; large pharmaceutical company scouts - what they want and what you get; understanding the implications of the rapidly evolving US healthcare and regulatory environment; research ethics and governance - state initiatives for global trials; and India - beyond contract manufacturing.

Ausbiotech continues its business matching program, which last year saw a record 3,683 requested meetings and 2,159 confirmed 30-minute partnering meetings with representatives from attending companies.

Ausbiotech said that about 400 companies had registered for the event.

The Australasian Life Science Investment Summit to be held on October 19, 2010 is by invitation only.

The Ausbiotech conference runs from October 20 to 22, 2010.

For more details go to: <http://ausbiotech2010.com.au>.

TISSUE ENGINEERING AND MATRIX GROUP VICTORIA

The Tissue Engineering and Matrix Group Victoria (TEAM-Vic) will hold a seminar on seminar on 'Translational stem cell engineering' in Melbourne on October 28, 2010.

Australian Tissue Engineering Centre business development manager Dr Buzz Palmer said the seminar would hear from the director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Stem Cell Research at the University of Cambridge Prof Austin Smith and the director of Stem Cell Medicine at the Bernard O'Brien Institute Prof Jeremy Crook.

Dr Palmer said the free event was sponsored by the Victorian Department of Innovation Industry Research and Development and the Bernard O'Brien Institute.

The seminar will be held at the Treetops conference room at the Melbourne Museum on October 28, 2010 at 5.30pm.

Dr Palmer said registration was essential due to limited space and details should be emailed to: b.palmer@atecltd.com.au.