



# Biotech Daily

Thursday June 2, 2016

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: ANTISENSE UP 11%**
  - AVITA, LIVING CELL DOWN 9%
- \* **VICTORIA \$10m FOR \$80m MONASH, MELBOURNE BIO-RESEARCH**
- \* **CLINUVEL NASDAQ'S '1<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATION ADR BIOTECH'**
- \* **PHARMAUST PREPARING FOR US IPO, LISTING**
- \* **DR STEPHANIE SIMONDS WINS \$16k VICTORIA PREMIER'S GONG**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.83 percent on Thursday June 2, 2016 with the ASX200 down 44.3 points to 5,278.9 points.

Twenty-two of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks rose, 13 fell, four traded unchanged and Mesoblast was in a trading halt, pending a "corporate development" (BD: Jun 1, 2016).

Antisense was the best, up 0.4 cents or 11.1 percent to four cents with 185,000 shares traded.

Uscom climbed 9.1 percent; Oncosil was up 7.1 percent; Bionomics rose 5.2 percent; Acrux, Admedus, Ellex and Prima improved four percent or more; Actinogen, Atcor and Prana were up more than three percent; Biotron, Factor, Pro Medicus and Starpharma rose more than two percent; Airxpanders, Impedimed, Opthea, Polynovo and Viralytics were up more than one percent; with Nanosonics and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Avita and Living Cell led the falls, both down 9.1 percent, to 10 cents and five cents, respectively, with 127,459 shares and 593,000 shares traded, respectively.

Neuren lost six percent; Genetic Technologies and Osprey fell more than four percent; Benitec, IDT and Psivida were down three percent or more; Anteo and Reva shed more than two percent; Medical Developments and Universal Biosensors were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear and CSL down by less than one percent.

## VICTORIA GOVERNMENT, MONASH UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Victoria has committed \$10 million to an \$80 million collaboration between Monash University and the University of Melbourne for biomedical research.

A media release from the two universities said that Premier Daniel Andrews made the commitment towards the \$60 million needed to start the enterprise, with the universities committing a further \$50 million.

The media release said that further funding was being sought from the Federal Government, philanthropic trusts and charities and the enterprise was expected to generate about \$360 million in activity, support new companies, increase investment and exports and create specialized jobs.

A spokesperson for Monash University told Biotech Daily that the as yet unnamed enterprise was the brainchild of Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences director Prof Bill Charman and the head of the University of Melbourne's Department of Pharmacology Prof Danny Hoyer.

The spokesperson said that the enterprise would be incorporated in July 2016, begin operations in January 2017 and would be chaired by former Victorian Premier and Treasurer John Brumby.

Mr Brumby and former Premier Steve Bracks have been credited with funding significant infrastructure for both the Parkville and Clayton bio-medical precincts, including the Australian Synchrotron, Bio21, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Florey Neurosciences, the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, the Victorian Life Sciences Computation project and the Victoria Mental health Research Institute (BD: Dec 9, 2005; Jun 18, 2008; Apr 9, 2009).

Prof Charman said the Melbourne biomedical sector was "already world-leading, ... [but] too often important medical discoveries have not made it from the lab into new cures and therapies".

"And those that have succeeded, have often [needed] to be taken off shore early in their development such that higher commercial and scientific value has been lost to Australia," Prof Charman said.

Prof Charman said the enterprise would use the combined research expertise and infrastructure as a pipeline for drug targets and candidates, with an independent entity to progress them to more advanced and externally-funded stages of development.

Today's announcements said the enterprise "taps into the outstanding and complementary biomedical research capabilities and successful pharmaceutical outcomes" of the two universities with their associated research institutes and hospitals and both were in the top 50 for medicine, pharmacy and pharmacology.

The media release said that combining the two universities research strengths in selected therapeutic areas would place them in the top 10 institutions globally.

The universities said they would own the enterprise jointly and it would be governed by an independent board, which would bring the advanced commercialisation skills and funding needed to address the early stage valley-of-death facing new discoveries.

Monash University vice-chancellor Prof Margaret Gardner said that Melbourne had been "at the leading edge of biomedical innovation for the better part of a century, from John Cade's experiments with lithium in the 1940s to pioneering work in [in-vitro fertilization] and the bionic ear during the 1970s and more recent breakthroughs in cancer treatment, stem cell research and anti-viral drugs".

"This collaboration will extend that record of innovation even further," Prof Gardner said.

"This is an era in which Victoria can make unprecedented strides in tackling disease and investing in transformative research to solve the health challenges for the state and the world."

## CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS

Clinuvel says it is “the first life science company” to be included in the Nasdaq’s international designation sponsored level 1 American depository receipt program. Clinuvel said the program was “a new visibility offering available to non-US companies” launched by the Nasdaq on December 9, 2015.

The company said its American depository receipts (ADRs) had traded on the over-the-counter market since 2004, under the code CLVLY, with one ADR equal to one ASX-listed ordinary share and the Bank of New York Mellon as the depository bank.

Clinuvel said that the international designation would provide access to the Nasdaq’s visibility assets, with the Nasdaq distributing company news through its media release distribution service, reaching investor and financial news and online services.

The company said that international designation was not a listing and participating companies were not subject to the same listing or qualification standards applicable to securities listed on an exchange.

Clinuvel said that there were no additional regulatory or compliance requirements to what was in place for level 1 ADRs.

According to a Nasdaq fact sheet, applicant companies need to meet minimum requirements and pay a \$US5,000 application fee and a \$US20,000 annual fee.

For more information go to: <http://business.nasdaq.com/list/international-designation>.

Clinuvel chief financial officer Darren Keamy said that as the company’s US activities expanded, “it is natural for us to consider broadening our appeal to US investors, with a US listing a viable option for continued growth”.

“It is our expectation Nasdaq’s international designation will provide a benefit to the company’s visibility in the US and to its level 1 ADR program, Mr Keamy said.

“An assessment of the benefits and effectiveness of the international designation will be made by the board in due course, Mr Keamy said.

“In parallel, management continues to prepare the company for a number of options to broaden its appeal in the US,” Mr Keamy said.

Clinuvel fell two cents or 0.4 percent to \$4.68.

## PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says it has appointed the New York-based investment bank, Joseph Gunnar & Co for a fully underwritten registered public offering in the US.

Pharmaust said that the listing process could take four to six months and would run in parallel to the next stages of product development.

The company said it had material transfer agreements to provide two UK academic institutions with liquid monepantel, formerly known as PPL-1, for canine and human cancer and capsule-reformulated monepantel.

Pharmaust said that it had appointed UK-based Juniper Pharma Services to reformulate the drug into capsules to overcome the palatability issues with the liquid formulation used in the human and dog cancer trials (BD: Apr 15, Oct 21, 2015).

The company said that when the reformulated monepantel was available in about eight weeks, human and animal studies would investigate tumor regression and markers.

Pharmaust executive chairman Dr Roger Aston said it was “an important step for Pharmaust, particularly judging from the level of US interest in the prospects of repurposing [monepantel] for the global cancer therapy market.”

The company previously said that monepantel was marketed by Novartis as Zolvix as a treatment for roundworm infestation in sheep (BD: Nov 26, 2015).

Pharmaust was up one cent or 12.35 percent to 9.1 cents.

## VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says that Monash University's Dr Stephanie Simonds has won the \$16,000 Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research.

A Victoria Government media release said that Department of Physiology's Dr Simonds research investigated the links between fat mass, obesity and cardiovascular disease and found that the hormone leptin was the cause of elevated blood pressure in obesity.

The media release said that three researchers won \$8,000 commendations, including St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research and the University of Melbourne's Dr Brian Liddicoat, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research's Dr Julia Marchingo and the University of Melbourne's Dr Thomas Oxley.