



# Biotech Daily

Tuesday November 28, 2017

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: OPTHEA UP 10%; BENITEC DOWN 17%**
- \* **SUDA ACQUIRES ANAGRELIDE FOR CANCER**
- \* **CRESO RAISES \$15.5m, PLAN FOR \$2m MORE TO GROW MARIJUANA**
- \* **ITL, MYHEALTHTEST LAUNCH CONSUMER THYROID TEST**
- \* **AUSTRALIA, NZ APPROVE G MEDICAL PRIZMA VITAL SIGNS SENSORS**
- \* **UP TO 21% OPPOSE ELLEX PLACEMENT CAPACITY**
- \* **UP TO 17% DISSENT AGAINST CLINUVEL PERFORMANCE RIGHTS**
- \* **CELLMID, YPB TO MARKET EVOLIS HAIR-LOSS TREATMENT IN CHINA**
- \* **PETER DIAMOND, DAK DRAFTING TAKE 5% OF NOVITA**
- \* **PRIMA TRADES AS IMMUTEP FROM DECEMBER 1**
- \* **CLINICAL GENOMICS BOWEL CANCER TEST WINS CSIRO GONG**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.08 percent on Tuesday November 28, 2017, with the ASX200 down 4.5 points to 5,984.3 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, eight traded unchanged and three were untraded.

Opthea was the best, up seven cents or 9.9 percent to 78 cents with 245,651 shares traded. Pro Medicus climbed 7.4 percent; Dimerix was up 6.25 percent; Airxpanders and Genetic Signatures were up more than three percent; Orthocell, Polynovo and Viralytics rose more than two percent; Cochlear, Ellex and Reva were up more than one percent; with Nanosonics, Resmed and Sirtex up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 26.3 percent best, Benitec. led the falls, retreating four of the five cents or 16.7 percent to 20 cents, with 512,366 shares traded. Avita lost 7.1 percent; Neuren was down 5.9 percent; Prima fell 4.2 percent; Living Cell, Oncosil, Pharmaxis and Uscom were down more than three percent; Factor Therapeutics and Medical Developments shed more than two percent; Compumedics, LBT and Osprey were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, CSL, Cyclopharm, Starpharma and Volpara down by less than one percent.

## SUDA

Suda says it will acquire the intellectual property relating to anagrelide, an anti-thrombotic agent which has shown promise as an anti-cancer agent.

Suda said it expected to formulate an oro-mucosal anagrelide spray using its Oromist technology, which could potentially avoid the side-effects associated with the molecule when administered as an oral capsule.

The company said that the Salisbury, England-based Aluztra Bio Ltd would assign the relevant global patents and the agreement included access to a number of potential analogues, in return for “low single-digit percentage royalty on direct net sales or a share of income generated by Suda from commercialization of an oro-mucosal spray of anagrelide” with no other payments due.

Suda said that anagrelide was used as an anti-thrombotic agent to reduce elevated levels of platelets, which provided essential growth factors that nourished cancer cells and enabled them to take hold and develop into tumors.

The company said that patients with the highest platelet numbers were the least likely to survive.

Suda said that anagrelide had the potential to be developed as an effective anti-cancer agent, but was limited in its current formulation by cardio-stimulatory side-effects, but an oro-mucosal spray formulation “could minimise these side-effects by avoiding first-pass generation of a highly potent cardio-excitatory metabolite of the drug in the liver”.

The company said that newer cancer treatments included immunotherapies that stimulated the patient's own immune system and anagrelide would be complementary to such treatments by reducing the platelet numbers, reducing the proliferative and protective effect that platelets exhibit on metastatic cells and further rendering circulating cancer cells more susceptible to attack by the body's own killer cells.

Suda chief executive officer Stephen Carter said that an oral anagrelide spray “could provide a compelling new strategy for the treatment of solid tumors”.

“There is substantial data in the literature to support the theory that non-enteral administration of anagrelide could avoid the dose-limiting cardio-toxicity associated with first-pass metabolism of this anti-cancer agent,” Mr Carter said.

Suda was unchanged at 1.8 cents.

## CRESO PHARMA

Creso says its “heavily oversubscribed placement” raised \$15.5 million at \$1.10 a share and it will offer a share plan to raise a further \$2 million.

Creso said that the placement was at an 18 percent discount to its last closing price of \$1.345 and Sydney's Everblu Capital would receive six percent of funds or \$930,000 as the lead manager for the placement.

The company said that eligible shareholders would have the opportunity to buy shares at the same price in a share plan underwritten by the Fremantle, Western Australia-based Energy Capital Partners Pty Ltd, with a record date November 22, opening on November 28 and closing on December 19, 2017.

Creso said the proceeds would fund construction of the cannabis growing facility at the Mernova Medical Inc site in Nova Scotia, Canada and provide for merger and acquisition opportunities, working capital and opportunities in hemp edible products.

Creso chief executive officer Dr Miri Halperin Wernli said that the “support of institutional and sophisticated investors in this capital raising is a strong endorsement of our company”.

Creso fell 9.5 cents or 7.1 percent to \$1.25 with 3.7 million shares traded.

## ITL HEALTH GROUP

ITL says its wholly-owned subsidiary Myhealthtest Pty Ltd has launched a direct-to-consumer pathology thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) test.

ITL said that more than five million thyroid tests were performed every year with thyroid problems were most common in women, affecting about 10 percent of women and up to 25 percent of women over 65 years of age.

The company said the thyroid gland produced hormones that controlled metabolism and its test could indicate an under-active thyroid, known as hypothyroidism.

ITL said that people with low thyroid levels were often prescribed drugs to replace thyroid hormones, usually for the rest of their lives, and monitored with repeat blood tests, so demand for the Myhealthtest thyroid finger-prick blood test would come from people who had difficulty making time to see a doctor to request a blood test.

Myhealthtest general manager Dr Nick Cerneaz said the introduction of the thyroid test was “an exciting step for Myhealthtest as we expand our capabilities to help customers and their doctors detect, monitor and manage major chronic diseases”.

ITL said that the thyroid test was available through its Myhealthtest online shop and would be promoted to the existing database and to new customers and health care providers, with campaigns to begin this week and roll-out from January to March 2018.

Dr Cerneaz said the company expected to launch test services for prostate and cholesterol “in the very near future”.

ITL was unchanged at 45.5 percent.

## G MEDICAL INNOVATIONS HOLDINGS

G Medical says its Prizma medical mobile telephone case with vital signs sensors has been approved in Australia and New Zealand.

G Medical said the Prizma case had been granted Australian Therapeutics Goods Administration approval and certification by the New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority as a class IIa medical device.

The company said the approvals were “yet another significant milestone for the company” and the Prizma could be sold over-the-counter as a medical device in Australia, New Zealand and countries accepting TGA and Medsafe certifications.

G Medical said the Prizma had US Food and Drug Administration and Conformité Européenne (CE) mark approvals.

G Medical fell one cent or 2.35 percent to 41.5 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

## ELLEX MEDICAL LASERS

Ellex’s annual general meeting passed all resolutions easily, except the 10 percent placement capacity which was opposed by 21.2 percent of votes.

Ellex said that the placement capacity resolution was supported by 36,545,457 votes (78.8%) and opposed by 9,833,989 votes (21.2%).

The company said that the remuneration report, the re-election of Meera Verma, the ratification of a prior share issue and the increase in the total remuneration for directors were passed by wider margins.

Ellex’s most recent Appendix 3B new share issue announcement said it had 131,268,931 shares on issue meaning that the opposition to the placement capacity amounted to 7.5 percent of the company’s total shares on issue, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Ellex was up 1.5 cents or 1.5 percent to \$1.04.

## CLINUVEL

Clinuvel's annual general meeting passed all resolutions but with dissent of up to 17 percent against the performance rights plan.

Clinuvel said that the resolution was passed with 12,696,389 votes (83.01%) in favor and 2,598,319 votes (16.99%) against.

The remuneration report and the re-election of director Willem Blijdorp were passed overwhelmingly.

The company's most recent Appendix 3B new issue announcement said that Clinuvel had 47,735,227 shares on issue meaning that the opposition to performance rights amounted to 5.4 percent of the company's total shares on issue, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Clinuvel fell one cent or 0.1 percent to \$9.15.

## CELLMID

Cellmid says it will use the Sydney-based YPB software as a service platform to market its Advangen Evolis FGF5 hair-loss treatment in China.

Cellmid said that YPB was a "brand protection and customer connection" company and the Cellmid contract was YPB's first with an Australian company "driving advanced life sciences expertise into consumer markets" fitting its pharmaceuticals, natural beauty, and health markets.

A joint media release said that Evolis had "demonstrated dramatic hair growth efficacy in blinded, placebo controlled clinical studies" and the hair growth products were sold in Australia and Japan with distribution expansion in other territories.

The companies said that Cellmid's products were positioned to fit the over-the-counter, non-prescription, natural medicines and cosmetics category and YPB would supply Cellmid with quick response (QR) matrix barcode labels for its products, which would protect product authenticity and enable the packaging to be data collection and communication points.

The media release said that marketing costs were expected to be reduced and brand value maximized over time.

YPB executive chairman John Houston said the "relationship with Cellmid ... demonstrates that YPB can help propel cross border [electronic] commerce and international brand building by allowing brands to know and connect with consumers who would otherwise remain entirely anonymous".

Cellmid chief executive officer Maria Halasz said that "access to the Connect platform is expected to be transformative for our consumer strategy in China".

"Knowing the customer behind each sale means that we can become partners in their hair health and provide tailored, personalised information and products to suit their individual needs," Ms Halasz said.

Cellmid was untraded at a post-20-to-one-consolidation 38 cents.

## NOVITA HEALTHCARE (FORMERLY AVEXA)

Peter Diamond and Dak Drafting Services say they have increased their substantial shareholding in Novita from 18,000,000 shares (5.01%) to 20,000,000 shares (5.56%).

In a notice signed by director Peter Diamond, the Perth-based Dak Drafting Services said the 2,000,000 shares were acquired on November 27, 2017 for \$77,560 or 3.9 cents a share.

Novita was untraded at 4.1 cents.

## PRIMA BIOMED

Prima says it has formally become Immutep following shareholder and regulatory approvals and will begin trading under the code IMM on December 1, 2017.

Prima said its Nasdaq code would change to IMM.

Prima fell 0.1 cents or 4.2 percent to 2.3 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

## COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

The CSIRO says the team involved in developing Clinical Genomics Colvera blood test for bowel cancer has won the 2017 Entrepreneurship Award.

The CSIRO media release did not name the team involved, but supporting documents quoted Dr Trevor Lockett saying the Colvera test was "a real success story of science partnering with industry.

Dr Lockett recently left the Organisation to found Rhythm Bio as its chief executive officer, intending to be a competitor to the Clinical Genomics test (BD: Nov 17, 2017).

The CSIRO media release said that Colvera could "indicate early molecular changes associated with cancer development which could lead to a reduction in the number of deaths from the disease".

The CSIRO medal for impact from science went to the electronic research infrastructure the Atlas of Living Australia, which had more than 13 billion downloads, provides free online access to information about Australia's biodiversity.

The Organisation chairman's medal for science excellence was awarded to the cereal rust disease prevention team.

The CSIRO said that the John Philip award for the promotion of excellence in young scientists went to Dr Sam Spinks, whose research helped identify prospective mining regions in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and Dr Robyn Hall for research on managing wild rabbit populations.

The Organisation's chief executive professional development awards went to Emily Chang for new approaches to innovation and collaboration within CSIRO, Dr George Feast to further develop business-research collaboration and Katrina Spencer for work on social entrepreneurship.

The CSIRO said the medal for health, safety and environment achievement was awarded to the team of herbarium curators at the spirit collection, for improving health and safety at the Australian National Herbarium and Australian Tropical Herbarium, with the medal for lifetime achievement for Dr Jennifer Stauber for research on national water and sediment quality guidelines and Dr Mark Stafford Smith for more than 30 years of leadership in sustainability science.

The CSIRO team award went to Dr Jack Steele "for living and breathing what it means to be a member of team CSIRO" but gave no further information.