



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday June 12, 2019

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ORTHOCELL UP 15%; GENETIC SIGNATURES DOWN 8%**
- \* **BOD 300-PATIENT PAY-FOR MARIJUANA PTSD OBSERVATIONAL STUDY**
- \* **BTC SHARE PLAN RAISES \$1.2m, TOTAL \$9.2m**
- \* **AMPLIA PLACEMENTS, RIGHTS FOR \$2.73m**
- \* **US PATENT FOR STARPHARMA, ASTRAZENECA DEP-BCL2/XL INHIBITORS**
- \* **IMMURON: 'TRAVELAN REDUCES DYSENTERY INFLAMMATION IN MONKEYS'**
- \* **RESAPP RECEIVES \$1.8m R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- \* **TELIX, OSAKA UNI EXTEND TLX101 FOR CANCER COLLABORATION**
- \* **AVITA: 3 VITILIGO, ACNE POSTERS AT DERMATOLOGY MEETING**
- \* **OPTISCAN REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- \* **THC REQUESTS 'MANUFACTURE LICENCE' TRADING HALT**
- \* **CREDIT SUISSE REDUCES TO 6% OF PRESCIENT**
- \* **KARST PEAK, ADAM LEITZES REDUCE TO 9.5% OF AVITA**
- \* **PAUL COZZI TAKES 8% OF VISIONEERING**
- \* **PAUL BENHAIM, RAW WITH LIFE; D&G HEALTH DILUTED IN ELIXINOL**
- \* **CANOPY GROWTH TAKES 13% OF AUSCANN**
- \* **EYE CO APPOINTS PROF WILLIAM SPONSEL ADVISOR**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.04 percent on Wednesday June 12, 2019, with the ASX200 down 2.6 points to 6,543.7 points. Eleven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, five traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Orthocell was the best, up six cents or 14.6 percent to 47 cents, with 7.3 million shares traded. Impedimed improved 12.5 percent; Actinogen was up 11.1 percent; Dimerix climbed four percent; LBT, Nanosonics and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Antisense, Compumedics and Telix rose two percent or more; with Cynata up 1.2 percent.

Genetic Signatures led the falls, down nine cents or 7.96 percent to \$1.04 with 94,350 shares traded. Kazia and Volpara lost more than six percent; both Alterity (Prana) and Opthea fell 5.7 percent; Benitec and Osprey were down more than four percent; Cochlear, CSL, Pharmaxis, Prescient, Proteomics, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors shed two percent or more; Clinuvel, Neuren, Oncosil, Polynovo and Resmed were down one percent or more; with Medical Developments, Mesoblast and Paradigm down by less than one percent.

## BOD AUSTRALIA

Bod Australia says it wants to recruit 300 people to pay for a 12-month “observational study” of medical marijuana for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Bod Australia listed in October 2016 as a “skin care and health products” and natural medicines company and in 2017 appointed Mickey Perret as a non-executive director to “help facilitate the company’s strategic focus on the emerging medical cannabis industry in Australia”.

Mr Perret resigned in January this year.

Last year, the company said it had a Federal Government grant for a collaboration with researchers from the University of Sydney’s Lambert Initiative for cannabinoid therapeutics in medicine.

In March, Bod said it had completed a 24-patient, phase I, open-label, randomized, placebo-controlled, crossover study to determine the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of ECs315 as a single or multiple sublingual wafer compared to oil and found it had superior bio-availability.

In a media release yesterday, the company said the observational study would be conducted by the Sydney-based Applied Cannabis Research and was approved by the “National Human Research Ethics Committee”.

“Patients will be treated exclusively through Cannabis Access Clinics with centres across Australia through a shared-care medical model,” Bod said.

The company said that eligible patients in remote or regional areas could use tele-health video-conferencing to participate, and patients would pay \$25 to register for the study and “bear standard treatment costs for participating in the study, although they would be eligible for rebates through Medicare and, in some cases, private insurers”.

Bod said its pharmaceutical-grade Medicablis 50mg/millilitre cannabidiol ECs315 oil would be used in the study and it was high in cannabidiol, low in tetrahydrocannabidiol, was “organically grown and [genetically modified organism]-free”.

A Bod executive told Biotech Daily that a 50ml bottle of the oil retailed for \$491 and with the recommended dose of one drop a day was expected to last about one month.

The executive said it would be up to each patient’s doctor to assess the benefits or otherwise of the oil and doctors should know within three months if there was a benefit and be able to recommend whether the patients continued on the medication.

The Bod media release said that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was “the second most common mental health disorder after depression” with about 12 percent of Australians experiencing PTSD in their lifetime and as many as 800,000 Australians suffering from the condition at any given time.

The company said that some occupations, such as the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) had higher exposure to traumatic events and the ADF reported that about 90 percent of members experienced at least one potentially traumatic event at some time in their life, compared to 73 percent in the general community, with about 8.3 percent of ADF members having PTSD in the last 12 months.

Bod said that “80 percent of people with long-standing PTSD develop anxiety disorders, depression and/or substance abuse which can lead to serious addictions”.

The company said there was a gap in treatment options available to treat the maladaptive cognitive features of PTSD and/or to prevent its development, but there was emerging evidence that medicinal cannabis might be suitable for PTSD.

Bod chief executive officer Jo Patterson said the study would “provide valuable insight into how medicinal cannabis is being used and its effects on patient outcomes”.

For more information go to: [www.bodaustralia.com.au](http://www.bodaustralia.com.au).

Bod was unchanged at 27.5 cents.

## BTC HEALTH

BTC says its share plan has raised \$1,189,700 taking the total to \$9,189,700.

Last month, BTC said it completed an \$8 million placement at eight cents a share to buy Admedus' hospital infusion business (BD: May 15, 2019).

BTC fell one cent or 9.1 percent to 10 cents.

## AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY INNATE IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS)

Amplia says it hopes to raise up to \$2.73 million in two placements and a one-for-two non-renounceable rights issue at 10 cents a share.

Amplia said the capital raising would include an initial placement for \$360,000, a directors and management placement for \$170,000, and a hoped-for \$2.2 million from the rights issue.

The company said that investors would receive one attaching option for every two new shares acquired, exercisable at 15 cents each by June 30, 2022.

Amplia said the directors and management placement would be subject to shareholder approval at its August 30, 2019 annual general meeting.

The company said the funds would be used to complete remaining studies required to begin a phase I trial of AMP945 for cancer and for general working capital.

Amplia said that Taylor Collison was the lead manager to the initial placement.

Amplia fell half a cent or 4.55 percent to 10.5 cents.

## STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says that Astrazeneca has been granted a US patent for its dendrimer enhanced product technology and Astrazeneca's Bcl2/xL inhibitors for cancers.

Starpharma said the patent, titled 'Therapeutic dendrimers' would provide protection for its intellectual property until 2038, with a potential five-year extension.

The company said AZD0466 was a developmental dendrimer enhanced product (DEP) Bcl2/xL inhibitor being evaluated for both solid tumors and blood cancers.

Starpharma fell 3.5 cents or 2.5 percent to \$1.35.

## IMMURON

Immuron says Travelan reduces the gastrointestinal inflammation response associated with bacillary dysentery, in a trial of 12 juvenile rhesus monkeys.

Immuron said the study conducted by the Bangkok-Thailand-based US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, assessed eight primates treated with Travelan and four primates with a placebo over six days.

Last September, the company said six of eight non-human primates were symptom free after 11 days of Travelan for bacillary dysentery (BD: Sep 5, 2018).

Immuron said two of the eight treated with Travelan showed signs of dysentery, while all four treated with a placebo showed signs of dysentery within 24 and 36 hours.

Today, Immuron said a recent histopathological analysis showed that animals in the placebo group showed severe inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract and had high levels of inflammatory cytokines in faecal samples.

The company said three of the eight Travelan-treated monkeys showed signs of inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract and two had high levels of inflammatory cytokines in faecal samples.

Immuron was up half a cent or four percent to 13 cents.

### RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp says it has received \$1,785,262 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Resapp said the rebate related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2018.

Resapp was up half a cent or 2.9 percent to 18 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

### TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telix says it has extended its research collaboration with Osaka University to develop astatine-labelled variants of TLX101 for cancer treatment.

Telix said the collaboration with Osaka University's Department of Nuclear Medicine and Tracer Kinetics would be partially funded through a \$US130,000 (\$A186,984.20) grant from the Japan Science and Technology Agency.

Last year, the company said the collaboration would explore the feasibility of using its targeting agents with astatine (BD: May 30, 2018).

Today, Telix said the extended matched-funding grant would allow it to develop second-generation astatine-labelled variants of TLX101 for advanced cancers.

The company said in the first year of the collaboration, it achieved promising efficacy of a 211-astatine variant of TLX101 in preclinical studies and planned to publish the results.

Telix said it had captured intellectual property for a new 211-astatine synthesis of TLX102 to improve its short half-life and limited production availability.

Telix was up two cents or 2.1 percent to 99 cents.

### AVITA MEDICAL

Avita says it will present preliminary Recell data for vitiligo and facial acne scars at the World Congress of Dermatology meeting in Milan, Italy from June 10 to 15, 2019.

Avita said it would present three posters, titled 'Treatment of Facial Acne Scars in Chinese Patients: Combination of Dermabrasion and Recell Technique'; 'Is Suction Blister Epidermal Grafting a Simple and Reliable Way to Screen Patients with Large Area Vitiligo for Recell Treatment?' And 'Spontaneous Pigmentation Spots are Signs of Successful Recell Therapy in Patients with Stable Large Area Vitiligo'.

Avita was unchanged at 36 cents with 6.5 million shares traded.

### OPTISCAN IMAGING

Optiscan has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement to be made by the company to the market in relation to a proposed capital raising".

Trading will resume on June 14, 2019 or on an earlier announcement.

Optiscan last traded at 4.5 cents.

### THC GLOBAL (FORMERLY THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY)

THC has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement with respect to the grant of a manufacture licence by the Office of Drug Control".

Trading will resume on June 14, 2019 or on an earlier announcement.

THC last traded up one cent or 2.3 percent to 44 cents.

### [PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS](#)

The Sydney-based Credit Suisse Holdings says it has reduced its holding in Prescient from 30,567,904 shares (7.75%) to 23,600,404 shares (5.99%).

Credit Suisse said that on June 7, 2019 it bought 32,500 shares for \$1,451 or 4.46 cents a share and sold 7,000,000 shares for \$315,000 or 4.5 cents a share.

Yesterday, Credit Suisse said it reduced its holding from 38,767,904 shares (9.83%) to 30,567,904 shares (7.75%) (BD: Jun 11, 2019).

Prescient fell 0.1 cents or 2.4 percent to four cents with 8.3 million shares traded.

### [AVITA MEDICAL](#)

Karst Peak Capital and Adam Leitzes say they have reduced their substantial shareholding in Avita from 196,154,563 shares (10.52%) to 177,963,603 shares (9.52%).

The Hong Kong-based Karst Peak said that the shares were sold in more than 1,800 trades between March 26 and May 30, 2019 at prices ranging from 26.5 cents a share to 49.5 cents a share.

### [VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Paul Cozzi says he has become a substantial shareholder in Visioneering with 20,082,748 shares or 8.08 percent.

The Sydney-based Mr Cozzi said he acquired the shares between August 1, 2018 and June 7, 2019 for \$1,929,957 or 9.6 cents a share.

Visioneering was up 0.2 cents or 4.65 percent to 4.5 cents.

### [ELIXINOL GLOBAL](#)

Elixinol chief executive officer Paul Benhaim says his notional 77,923,131 share-holding (62.56%) has been reduced and diluted to 77,870,572 shares (56.47%).

The Mullumbimby, New South Wales-based Mr Benhaim through his Murwillumbah company Raw With Life said that on December 27, 2018, 52,559 shares were released from escrow and on May 12, 2019, the holding was diluted in the \$50 million placement at \$3.90 a share (BD: Jun 5, 2019).

Mr Benhaim told Biotech Daily that he had not sold any of his personal holding of 54,623,008 shares and an Elixinol executive told Biotech Daily that because of his large holding, Mr Benhaim was deemed to control the shares held in escrow.

Separately, The New York and Colorado-based D&G Health, David Newman and Gabriel Ettenson said they were diluted in the placement with 12,791,977 shares from 10.27 percent to 9.22 percent.

Elixinol was unchanged at \$3.90 with 517,905 shares traded.

### [AUSCANN GROUP](#)

Canopy Growth Corp says it has increased its shareholding in Auscann from 34,410,000 shares (11.13%) to 42,087,639 shares (13.28%).

The Ontario, Canada-based Canopy said that on June 10, 2019 it acquired 7,677,639 shares for \$1,535,528 or 20 cents a share through the exercise of unlisted options.

Auscann was up 3.5 cents or 9.9 percent to 39 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

## EYE CO PTY LTD

Eye Co says it has appointed ophthalmologist Prof William Sponsel to its scientific advisory board (BD: May 27, 2019).

Eye Co said that Prof Sponsel established the Glaucoma Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at Indiana University in 1991 and in 1994 was recruited to the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio as professor and director of clinical research.

The company said that Prof Sponsel was currently the San Antonio, Texas-based University of Incarnate Word professor of vision sciences and University of Texas professor of biomedical engineering.

Eye Co is a private company.