



Biotech Daily

Tuesday July 2, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH DOWN: LBT UP 8%; OPTISCAN DOWN 7%**
- * **PAINCHEK, MCRI PARTNER FOR INFANT STUDY**
- * **NUHEARA IQBUDS, IQSTREAM TV ON FEDERAL HEARING PROGRAM**
- * **ZELDA STARTS MARIJUANA OPIOID REDUCTION TRIAL**
- * **TELIX SIGNS PI MEDICAL NETHERLANDS TLX591-CDX DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **CORRECTION: PROBIOTEC**
- * **MICRO-X, THALES COMPLETE \$10m NOTE AGREEMENT**
- * **PHARMAUST'S EPICHEM REPAYS \$750k FEDERAL LOAN FOR LAB**
- * **CRESO'S MERNOVA SELLS 1st MARIJUANA FLOWER HARVEST**
- * **E-SENSE 300-LITRE VAPORSPEC MARIJUANA E-JUICE ORDER**
- * **CEO PAUL RENNIE INCREASES, DILUTED TO 12% OF PARADIGM**
- * **UNISUPER REDUCES TO 5.5% IN IMPEDIMED**
- * **SIGMA TAKES 10% OF BTC**
- * **WALKER GROUP DILUTED TO 5.6% OF BTC**
- * **W WHITNEY GEORGE, SPROTT TAKE 25% OF RHINOMED**
- * **GENERA LOSES 9-YEAR CHAIRMAN LOU PANACCIO**
- * **STEMCELL LOSES DIRECTOR GLENN DAVIES**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.08 percent on Tuesday July 2, 2019, with the ASX200 up 5.1 points to 6,653.2 points. Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell, 10 traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

LBT was the best, up one cent or eight percent to 13.5 cents, with 1.6 million shares traded. Cyclopharm and Polynovo climbed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Cochlear, Paradigm, Pro Medicus, Starpharma and Telix were up more than one percent; with CSL and Resmed up by less the one percent.

Optiscan led the falls, down 0.4 cents or 7.1 percent to 5.2 cents, with 30,000 shares traded. Compumedics, Dimerix, Oncosil and Orthocell lost more than five percent; Antisense, Patrys and Proteomics fell four percent or more; Ellex was down 3.6 percent; Amplia, Avita, Neuren and Pharmaxis shed two percent or more; Benitec was down 1.85 percent; with Cynata, Genetic Signatures, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Nanosonics and Volpara down by less than one percent.

[PAINCHEK](#)

Painchek says the Murdoch Children's Research Institute will conduct a 100-patient trial to test its mobile pain assessment and monitoring application for infants.

Painchek said the trial at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital would assess infants undergoing painful procedures within the emergency department.

The company said the trial was "expected to commence within days" and be led by the Hospital's Prof Franz Babl and Prof Di Crellin.

Painchek said pain scores derived using the application would be compared to those obtained using other observational children's pain assessment tools.

Painchek was up half a cent or 2.5 percent to 20.5 cents with 6.8 million shares traded.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara says it has placed its Iqbuds Boost and Iqstream TV for hearing assistance on the Federal Government Hearing Services Program for immediate supply.

Last year, Nuheara said it had been registered as an approved supplier to the Hearing Services Program and had renewed its contract to June 30, 2019, with an optional extension to June 30, 2020 (BD: Mar 16, Jul 27, 2018).

Today, the company said it renewed its Federal Government contract on June 25, 2019 and its Iqbuds Boost and Iqstream TV would be provided as a bundle and would be fully subsidized.

Nuheara chief executive officer Justin Miller said the "self-fitting, self-testing and self-calibrating Iqbuds Boost ... [and] Iqstream TV now provides Nuheara with a unique value proposition in the [Hearing Services Program] supply".

"The multifunctionality of this bundle is unparalleled in its offering for those with low end hearing challenges," Mr Miller said. "It enables the user to stream media, make phone calls, enhance hearing, self-test and calibrate their hearing and now provide independent enhanced hearing control for watching [television]."

Nuheara fell 0.2 cents or 3.5 percent to 5.5 cents with 13.2 million shares traded.

[ZELDA THERAPEUTICS](#)

Zelda says its nine-patient, phase I, marijuana for opioid reduction trial in chronic non-cancer pain will begin "immediately" at Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital.

Last year, Zelda said it had partnered with St Vincent's to study the potential of marijuana-based medicine in patients on chronic, high-dose, pain management (BD: Nov 26, 2019).

Today, the company said the trial would begin immediately, with preliminary results expected by October 2019 with final results by the end of the year.

Zelda said the trial would evaluate the safety and tolerability of the whole marijuana plant extract, studying single and repeated doses in patients with "chronic non-cancer pain on long-term opioid analgesia".

The company said the primary endpoint was to assess the efficacy of medical marijuana in reducing opioid dependence in non-cancer chronic pain patients.

Zelda said the secondary endpoints would include pharmacokinetics, or movement of drugs within the body, and the effects on pain, mood, sleep and opioid use over the duration of the trial.

The company said the trial results would inform a larger phase II study to assess the impact of oral whole plant extract on patients' ability to tolerate a "stepped opioid tapering protocol".

Zelda was up 0.4 cents or 9.5 percent to 4.6 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telix says it has appointed the PI Medical Diagnostic Equipment BV to distribute its TLX591-CDx for the imaging of prostate cancer with positron emission tomography. Telix said the Raamsdonksveer, Netherlands-based PI Medical was “a leading nuclear medicine equipment and consumables distributor in the Netherlands with an excellent understanding of gallium-based [positron emission tomography] products”.

The company said PI Medical has exclusive distribution rights for TLX591-CDX distribution in the Netherlands, with non-exclusive rights for the Flemish region of Belgium. PI Medical managing-director Peter Liedorp said “Telix’s products are an excellent fit with the PI Medical portfolio and our management team’s expertise in nuclear medicine”. Telix was up two cents or 1.6 percent to \$1.30.

PROBIOTEC

Yesterday’s edition incorrectly reported that Probiotec expected to complete its \$28 million acquisition of the Australian Blister Sealing by March 31, 2020.

In fact, the company expects to complete the acquisition by October 2019.

The mistake was made by the former Monday sub-editor who has been seconded to Calendar and Diaries Weekly to learn the difference between “financial year” (FY) and “calendar year” (CY).

Probiotec fell 1.5 cents or 0.9 percent to \$1.66.

MICRO-X

Mirco-X says the Paris-based Thales Group has invested \$10 million through a convertible note to fund its next generation of x-ray products.

In April, Micro-X said that Thales had a \$10 million, six-year convertible bond at 3.0 percent, and would collaborate on products including ultra-miniature x-ray tubes for medical and security markets (BD: Apr 1, 2019).

Today, the company said Thales would contract Micro-X’s engineering capability to build the core imaging system of Thales’s high-speed airport checkpoint security system using carbon nanotubes cathodes and they would collaborate on its Mobile Backscatter Imager which assessed improvised explosive devices.

Micro-X was up one cent or 4.65 percent to 22.5 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says its synthetic and medicinal chemistry subsidiary Epichem has paid off its \$750,000 Export Finance Australia loan for its 2015 laboratory expansion.

In 2015, Pharmaust said Epichem’s laboratory was fully functional and was more than twice the size of its previous laboratory (BD: Sep 29, 2015).

Today, the company said Epichem made its final repayment in June 2019.

Pharmaust said that the Federal Government’s Export Finance Australia had provided Epichem with a second \$466,000 loan which was 40 percent repaid and expected to be finalized by August 2021.

The company said that Epichem’s revenue had increased by 38 percent to \$3.02 million in the three years to June 30, 2018 and was expected to be more than \$3.7 million for the year to June 30, 2019 and \$4.2 million for the year to June 30, 2020.

Pharmaust was up 0.2 cents or five percent to 4.2 cents.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso Pharma says its Halifax, Nova Scotia-based subsidiary Mernova Medical has sold its first harvest of dried marijuana flowers.

In May, Creso said it had harvested its first Canadian marijuana crop at its Nova Scotia facility (BD: May 23, 2019).

Today, the company said the sale was part of a multi-year agreement that expected to see revenue rise from the initial \$C150,000 (\$A163,752) to \$C5,000,000 (\$A5,458,410) by the end of 2019 and it expected to produce approximately 700,000 grams of dried flower by the end of 2019, increasing production capacity to 4,000 kilograms a year.

Creso was up one cent or two percent to 51 cents.

E-SENSE-LAB

E-sense says it has received an additional order of 10,000 30ml bottles of electronic cigarette liquid, or e-juice, from its North American distributor Vaporspec.

In February, E-sense said it had a three-year agreement with the Costa Mesa, California-based Vaporspec to supply up to five million 10ml bottles a year of marijuana-infused vaporizing juice to the US and Canada, including a minimum of 450,000 bottles in the first year to five million in the third year (BD: Feb 7, 2019).

Today, the company said the order was received following a test shipment of 500 bottles. E-sense was up 0.3 cents or 17.65 percent to two cents with 18.9 million shares traded.

PARADIGM BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Paradigm chief executive officer Paul Rennie says he has increased but been diluted in Paradigm from 23,379,935 shares (16.68%) to 23,414,935 shares (12.18%).

In April, Paradigm said it had raised \$51.55 million in a placement at \$1.50 a share, along with \$9.8 million in an institutional rights issue placement, and a further \$16.6 million to be raised in the retail rights offer (BD: Apr 17, 2019).

In May, the company said it had completed the \$16.6 million underwritten retail rights issue, taking the total raised to \$77.9 million (BD: May 9, 2019).

Today, the Adelaide-based Mr Rennie said that on June 28, 2019 he acquired 35,000 shares for \$49,000 or \$1.40 a share with Kzee and Ear Investments.

Paradigm was up 1.5 cents or 1.1 percent to \$1.385.

IMPEDIMED

Unisuper has reduced its substantial holding in Impediment from 26,737,759 shares (7.04%) to 20,777,986 shares (5.47%).

Unisuper said that between June 24 and 28, 2019 it sold 5,959,773 shares for \$719,016 or an average price of 12.06 cents a share.

Impedimed was unchanged at 11.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

RHINOMED

W Whitney George and Sprott Asset Management say they have increased their holding in Rhinomed from 33,951,741 shares (23.92%) to 35,384,852 (24.93%).

The Carlsbad, California-based Mr George said that between May 4 and June 27, 2019 he bought 1,433,111 shares for \$US221,793 (\$A317,849) or 22.2 cents a share.

Rhinomed was up one cent or 4.55 percent to 23 cents.

BTC HEALTH

The Sigma Company says it has increased its holding in BTC Health from 8,143,533 shares (5.02%) to 25,000,000 shares (10.22%).

The Melbourne-based Sigma said it bought 16,856,467 shares for \$1,348,517 in the BTC placement at eight cents a share, which raised \$8 million to buy the Admedus' hospital infusion business (BD: May 13, 15, 2019).

In June, BTC raised a further \$1,189,700 in a share purchase plan taking the total raised to \$9,189,700 (BD: Jun 12, 2019).

BTC was up 0.4 cents or 4.65 percent to nine cents.

BTC HEALTH

The Walker Group says its 13,784,910 share-holding in BTC Health has been diluted from 8.50 percent to 5.64 percent.

The Sydney-based Walker Group said it was diluted in the recent BTC capital raisings (see above).

GENERA BIOSYSTEMS

Genera says director Lou Panaccio has resigned from its board of directors, effective from June 28, 2019.

Genera said Mr Panaccio had been a director since November 2010 and executive chairman until October 2014, when he stepped down to non-executive chairman.

The company said it was considering the appointment of a new chairman and would make an announcement before July 8, 2019.

Genera was in a suspension and last traded at 16 cents.

STEMCELL UNITED

Stemcell says that director Glenn Davies has resigned.

In October, Stemcell said it had appointed Mr Davies and Ee Ting Ng as directors, replacing chairman Jaimie Khoo (BD: Oct 23, 2018).

Stemcell was up 0.1 cents or 6.7 percent to 1.6 cents.