



Biotech Daily

Wednesday September 11, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: LBT UP 14%; ACTINOGEN DOWN 12.5%**
- * **BURNET: VIRUS-LIKE PARTICLES FOR MALARIA VACCINES**
- * **INVEX EXANATIDE INTRACRANIAL HYPERTENSION TRIAL ON-TRACK**
- * **CLARITY 64-COPPER SARTATE FDA ORPHAN STATUS APPLICATION**
- * **CARDIEX, MOBVOI J-V FOR WEARABLE MONITORS**
- * **INVITROCUE: DISSIDENT DIRECTORS CALL CEO DR STEVEN FANG EGM**
- * **MGC \$1m PRIORITY OFFER TAKES TOTAL TO \$5.75m**
- * **UNISUPER TAKES 5% OF IMPEDIMED**
- * **AUSTRALIAN SUPER BELOW 5% IN ORTHOCELL**
- * **REGENEUS CEO LEO LEE TAKES 5%**
- * **REGENEUS CSO PROF GRAHAM VESEY INCREASES, DILUTED TO 6%**
- * **TAMARA BARR REPLACES AVITA JOINT CO SEC KATHERINE GOLAND**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.36 percent on Wednesday September 11, 2019, with the ASX200 up 23.9 points to 6,638.0 points. Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, eight traded unchanged and five were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

LBT was the best, up 1.5 cents or 13.6 percent to 12.5 cents, with 1.7 million shares traded, followed by Resonance up 13.0 percent to 13 cents, with 2.55 million shares traded. Impedimed climbed 12.9 percent; Mesoblast was up 6.7 percent; Genetic Signatures, Paradigm and Prescient were up more than three percent; Universal Biosensors rose 2.7 percent; with Medical Developments up 0.45 percent.

Actinogen led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 12.5 percent to 0.7 cents, with 2.7 million shares traded. Pro Medicus lost 8.3 percent; Kazia was down 6.25 percent; Antisense, Clinuvel, Cynata, Ellex, Neuren, Oncosil, Opthea and Polynovo were down more than three percent; Nanosonics, Orthocell and Telix shed more than two percent; Cochlear, Cyclopharm and Volpara were down more than one percent; with Compumedics, CSL, Resmed and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

BURNET INSTITUTE

The Burnet Institute says a novel virus-like particles malaria vaccine delivery platform has generated antibodies that block malaria transmission.

The Burnet said the research article, titled 'Malaria vaccine candidates displayed on novel virus-like particles are immunogenic and induce transmission-blocking activity' was published in the US Public Library of Science (Plos) One and the article is available at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/comments?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0221733>.

The Institute said the technology was based on virus-like particles (VLPs) engineered to express malaria proteins and was developed with the Düsseldorf, Germany-based Artes Biotechnology and doctoral student David Wetzel.

The Burnet Institute said it used the nanoparticle VLPs with the potential to generate strong immune responses to act as a platform to deliver malaria vaccines.

Burnet Institute researcher Dr Jo-Anne Chan said "we were able to use these VLPs to express malaria antigens that we are interested in, targeted antigens that we know are important vaccine candidates, and then look at the antibody responses generated in animal models".

"The antibodies we were able to generate by using the VLPs were effective in blocking malaria transmission, which is a very encouraging step towards the end goal of this research, to inform the development of vaccines that prevent malaria transmission and promote elimination," Dr Chan said.

Dr Chan said the next step would be to validate the findings in a larger study and expand the scope to include VLPs that displayed antigens expressed at other stages of the malaria life cycle.

INVEX THERAPEUTICS

Invex says it has dosed 12 of 16 patients in its phase II, UK proof-of-concept trial of Exanatide for idiopathic intracranial hypertension.

Invex said patients would be dosed with either Exanatide or a placebo for 12 weeks and would be monitored for intracranial pressure changes.

The company said Exanatide was a small peptide and synthetic version of the Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonist exedin-4, approved to treat type 2 diabetes in the US in 2005 and in Europe in 2006.

Invex said that patients with idiopathic intracranial hypertension had "severely raised intracranial pressure which causes disabling daily headaches and can compress the optic nerve, causing permanent vision loss in 25 percent of those affected".

The company said that the usual age of onset was 20 to 30 years, and it was most common in obese women.

In July, Invex raised \$12 million in an initial public offer at 40 cents a share to develop Exenatide, acquiring the intellectual property from England's University of Birmingham, with founder Prof Alexandra Sinclair appointed an executive director and chief scientific officer (BD: Jul 9, 2019).

The company said at that time that Dr Jason Loveridge was its chairman and directors included former Neurodiscovery (which became Oncosil) founder and executive director David McAuliffe as a and Narelle Warren.

Invex said that directors and management held 20 percent of the company with Andrew Forrest's Minderoo Group holding 9.1 percent.

Invex was up half a cent or 0.9 percent to 56 cents.

CLARITY THERAPEUTICS

Clarity says it has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for orphan drug designation for its 64-copper Sartate diagnostic for neuroendocrine tumors.

Clarity said the designation would mean that 64-copper Sartate was eligible for tax credits for clinical costs, exemptions for certain FDA administrative fees, grants for future clinical work and seven years of marketing exclusivity if a marketing application was approved.

The company said 64-copper Sartate used copper-64 to manufacture products in large volumes without the logistical and financial challenges of gallium-68, to improve early-stage diagnosis to prolong survival.

Clarity is public unlisted company.

CARDIEX

Cardiex says it will form a multi-year joint venture with the Beijing-based Mobvoi Information Technology to develop consumer wearable heart health applications.

Cardiex described Mobvoi as “the largest Google wearable platform partner in China”.

The company said it would integrate algorithms and software developed by subsidiary Atcor Medical for its Sphygmocor non-invasive, central blood pressure and arterial stiffness monitor.

Cardiex said the venture would use Mobvoi’s sensor technology to develop a wearable consumer heart health platform on the Google Wear platform for smart watches and smart phones.

The company said exclusive commercialization would be from licencing, royalty and subscription services, which it expected in 2021.

Mobvoi co-founder and chief technology officer Mike Lei said, “the joint development with Cardiex’s algorithms and Mobvoi’s sensor creates the possibility for differentiation of our future wearable products, which is very exciting”.

Cardiex was up 0.9 cents or 37.5 percent to 3.3 cents with 19.5 million shares traded.

INVITROCUE

Invitrocue says a meeting has been called to remove chief executive officer Dr Steven Fang by directors Prof Henry Yu, Kit Wei Lui and Ee Ting Ng.

Last week, Invitrocue filed two board spill motions, one from Prof Yu, Mr Lui and Ms Ng to remove Dr Steven (Boon Sing) Fang as a director and one from Dr Fang and directors Gary Pace and Andreas Lindner to remove Prof Yu and Mr Lui as directors of the company (BD: Sep 9, 2019).

A substantial shareholder notice said Prof Yu, Mr Lui and Equinex Investments held 53,397,410 shares or 9.86 percent of Invitrocue, while in May, Biotech Daily reported that Dr Fang held 22.03 percent of the company (BD: May 31, 2019).

On Monday, Invitrocue appointed Geoffrey Thomas as a director (BD: Sep 10, 2019).

Today, the company said Prof Yu, Mr Lui and Mr Ting Ng sought to remove Dr Fang due to a “lack of strategic direction and decline in business of the company, ... lack of transparency, ... appointment of [an] additional director ... [and] insufficient observance of shareholders’ interests”.

The meeting will be held at the offices of Macpherson Kelley, Level 21, 20 Bond Street, Sydney, on October 11, 2019 at 11am (AEDT).

Invitrocue was in a suspension and last traded at six cents.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says its \$1 million 'priority' offer at four cents a share had \$1,361,300 in subscriptions, following a placement that raised \$4.75 million at the same price. MGC said that Computershare would scale back oversubscribed applications on a pro-rata basis.

In August, the company said the funds were for production of pharmaceutical grade marijuana products, construction of its Malta marijuana facility, clinical trials, to dual list on the London Stock Exchange and for working capital.

MGC was unchanged at 4.1 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

IMPEDIMED

Unisuper says it has become a substantial shareholder in Impedimed with 25,586,596 shares or 5.04 percent of the company.

The Melbourne-based Unisuper said it shares were held by Unisuper Management, Kinetic Investment Partners, Discovery Asset Management and Selector Funds Management.

The company said it bought and sold shares between June 18 and September 5, 2019, with the most recent purchase 2,780,630 shares for \$391,195 or 14.1 cents a share.

Impedimed was up two cents or 12.9 percent to 17.5 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

ORTHOCELL

Australian Super says it has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Orthocell.

In May, the Melbourne-based Australian Super said that it became a substantial shareholder with 7,570,000 shares or 6.20 percent of the company through Stone Ridge Ventures Tech Trust, which was founded and directed by then Orthocell director Matt Callahan (BD: May 17, Aug 23, 26, 2019).

Orthocell fell one cent or 2.6 percent to 37.5 cents.

REGENEUS

Regeneus chief executive officer Leo Lee says he has become a substantial shareholder in the company with 13,511,000 shares or 5.03 percent of the company.

Mr Lee said that on September 3, 2019 he acquired 12,500,000 shares for \$1,000,000.

In August, Regeneus said it had applications for \$620,157 in the rights issue at eight cents a share, with \$1.8 million underwritten by directors (BD: Aug 30, 2019).

Regeneus fell 0.1 cents or 1.3 percent to 7.4 cents.

REGENEUS

Regeneus executive director Prof Graham Vesey says he has increased and been diluted in the company from 15,495,352 shares (8.34%) to 15,879,968 shares (5.92%).

Prof Vesey said that on November 6, 2014 he acquired 384,616 shares for \$100,000 or 26 cents a share and was diluted on August 7 and September 3, 2019 in the one-for-six rights issue at eight cents a share (BD: Aug 30, 2019).

AVITA MEDICAL

Avita says Tamara Barr will replace Katherine Goland as joint company secretary, effective from today.

Avita said both Ms Barr and Ms Goland worked for Mertons Corporate Services and Mark Licciardo, who also worked for Mertons, would continue as joint company secretary. Avita was unchanged at 51 cents with 7.2 million shares traded.