



Biotech Daily

Thursday September 12, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: IMPEDIMED UP 11%; USCOM DOWN 8%**
- * **STARPHARMA: 'DEP-IRINOTECAN BEST FOR COLON CANCER IN MICE'**
- * **KAZIA KIDS BRAIN CANCER TRIAL ESTABLISHES GDS-0084 DOSE**
- * **PROTEOMICS TO LAUNCH PROMARKERD KIDNEY TEST IN EUROPE**
- * **MEMPHASYS PILOT FELIX SPERM SEPARATION PRODUCTION**
- * **MEDADVISOR JV SIGNS KLINIFY FOR MALAYSIA DISTRIBUTION**
- * **VOLPARA INVESTORS, DIRECTORS SELL 6.1m SHARES**
- * **RECCE \$150k ACUITY PLACEMENT, \$350k LOAN**
- * **USCOM CHAIR PROF ROB PHILLIPS 2.2m 'IN LIEU' RIGHTS AGM**
- * **RHINOMED TRADES ON US OTCQB**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.25 percent on Thursday September 12, 2019, with the ASX200 up 16.9 points to 6,654.9 points. Seventeen Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, seven traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Impedimed was the best, up two cents or 11.4 percent to 19.5 cents, with 2.8 million shares traded, followed by Proteomics up 11.1 percent to 30 cents, with 285,219 shares traded. Dimerix and Immutep climbed more than nine percent; Actinogen was up 7.1 percent; Kazia climbed 6.7 percent; Medical Developments improved 5.2 percent; Patrys was up 4.55 percent; Mesoblast and Paradigm were up more than three percent; Avita, Optiscan, Pharmaxis and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; Cyclopharm and Orthocell were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear and CSL up by less than one percent.

Uscom led the falls, down one cent or eight percent to 11.5 cents, with 66,041 shares traded. Cynata lost 7.2 percent; Nanosonics shed 5.2 percent; Imugene, LBT and Neuren fell four percent or more; Opthea was down 3.8 percent; Next Science, Oncosil and Pro Medicus shed more than two percent; Compumedics and Prescient were down more than one percent; with Polynovo and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says its dendrimer enhanced product (DEP) irinotecan with olaparib outperforms standard irinotecan with olaparib for colon cancer in mice.

Starpharma said DEP-irinotecan was a nanoparticle formulation of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin (SN-38), the active metabolite of irinotecan, marketed as Camptosar and was delivered in combination with the breast and ovarian cancer medicine olaparib or Lynparza.

The company said the human colon cancer cell line, HT-29 was implanted in the mice, who were dosed with DEP-irinotecan in low and high doses or combined with olaparib and compared with saline, olaparib 50mg/kg alone, irinotecan 80mg/kg alone, and olaparib 50mg/kg combined with irinotecan 80mg/kg.

Starpharma said it assessed tumor size, volume and growth over 28 days.

The company said it found that DEP-irinotecan in combination with olaparib showed “significantly enhanced and synergistic” anti-tumor efficacy compared to either DEP irinotecan or olaparib alone or the combination of olaparib and standard irinotecan.

Starpharma said that at day-28, standard irinotecan showed modest tumor growth inhibition of 33 percent, while DEP-irinotecan showed 62 percent tumor growth inhibition for a low dose and 97 percent for a high dose.

The company said olaparib in combination with DEP-irinotecan showed anti-tumor activity greater than olaparib or DEP-irinotecan alone and the two anti-cancer agents together. Starpharma said olaparib alone showed no effect on tumor growth and minimal benefit to the efficacy of standard irinotecan.

The company said the addition of olaparib to DEP-irinotecan showed a greater level of efficacy and regression of tumors.

Starpharma chief executive officer Dr Jackie Fairley said that “the synergistic anti-cancer effect seen in this study supports earlier data generated showing significant benefits with Starpharma’s patented dendrimer formulations in combination with other marketed anti-cancer drugs”.

“The enhanced effects are thought to be due to the improved pharmacokinetics and increased drug-tissue levels ... achieved with dendrimer delivery,” Dr Fairley said

The company said DEP-irinotecan was currently in a phase I/II trial at UK hospitals. Starpharma fell one cent or 0.9 percent to \$1.11.

KAZIA THERAPEUTICS

Kazia says the first stage of its 41-patient, paediatric, phase I GDS-0084 trial for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma has established a dose of 27 milligrams/square metre.

Last year, Kazia said it would recruit children at the Memphis, Tennessee-based St Jude Children’s Research Hospital with newly-diagnosed diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma and establish a maximum tolerated dose of GDC-0084 in children, prior to a second part of the trial that would examine efficacy (BD: Oct 3, 2018).

Today, the company said 13 patients had received the treatment and it had determined a maximum tolerated dose for children was 27 milligrams/square metre.

Kazia said safety was broadly similar to that in adults and it had no unexpected safety findings.

The company said it would advance into the second stage to explore preliminary signals of efficacy.

Kazia was up 2.5 cents or 6.7 percent to 40 cents.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics says its Atturos will manufacture a mass spectrometry version of its Promarkerd test for diabetic kidney disease for European laboratory use.

Proteomics said the Dublin-based Atturos would make the Promarkerd test available to licence partners as a mass spectrometry laboratory-developed test.

Proteomics managing-director Dr Richard Lipscombe said that “with dialysis treatment costing approximately EUR80,000 [\$A128,015] per year, Promarkerd has the potential to save patients and healthcare systems billions of dollars”.

Proteomics was up three cents or 11.1 percent to 30 cents.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it expects pilot production of its Felix sperm separation device consoles and cartridges for human in-vitro fertilization by September 30, 2019.

Memphasys said Sydney-based cartridge manufacturer W&S Plastics and Melbourne console manufacturer SRX Global were planning production for the first 500 cartridges and 25 consoles, respectively.

The company said the devices would be used in a verification and validation process, along with the initial supply of devices for the key opinion leader assessment program, beginning at the end of September 2019.

Memphasys said it had appointed a clinical applications executive to oversee the key opinion leader program and assemble the technical file for regulatory submissions.

The company said it was planning a pre-submission meeting with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration by December 31, 2019, but its Conformité Européenne (CE) mark application and US Food and Drug Administration pre-submission meeting would be delayed.

Memphasys was up 0.2 cents or 3.85 percent to 5.4 cents.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says Klinify Holdings will distribute its prescription reminder service to 900 doctors in Malaysia to improve medication adherence in more than two million patients. Medadvisor said the distribution deal was through its Singapore-based joint venture with Zeulig Pharma, ZP Medadvisor.

The company said Klinify would receive a portion of the revenue from pharmaceutical manufacturers, which it expected to be less than five percent for the first full year.

Medadvisor said 10 percent of Malaysian doctors used the Klinify software, acquired by Zuelig in June 2019 and it expected to complete integration by September 30, 2020.

Medadvisor was up 0.1 cents or 2.1 percent to 4.8 cents.

VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Volpara says a group of founders, early investors and directors have sold 6.1 million shares or 2.8 percent of the company in a block trade to institutional investors.

Volpara said the group sold approximately 12 percent of their respective holdings, reducing their combined holdings to 23 percent.

The company said chief executive officer Dr Ralph Highnam was approached by a broker on behalf on the investors, who “wanted to purchase shares but were unable to build a suitable position on market”.

Volpara was unchanged at \$1.60.

[RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Recce says it will raise \$500,000 in a \$150,000 placement to Acuity Capital at 20 cents a share and a \$350,000 loan from Australian sophisticated investors.

Recce said the placement price was a 4.87 percent discount to the closing price on September 11, 2019.

The company said the non-dilutionary, unsecured, short-term loan had interest payable to the investor of 3.71 percent, with the loan amount and interest due on completion of a capital raising or within six weeks.

Recce said it would issue the placement shares following its extraordinary general meeting on September 30, 2019.

Recce fell one cent or 4.65 percent to 20.5 cents.

[RHINOMED](#)

Rhinomed says it will trade on the US Over-The-Counter Quality Exchange B (OTCQB) under the code RHNMF from today.

Rhinomed said the OTCQB was a mid-tier OTC Markets Group US exchange for early stage and developing US and international companies.

The company said the dual listing was not dilutive to its existing shareholders and no new capital or shares would be issued to facilitate the listing.

Rhinomed fell one cent or 3.7 percent to 26 cents.

[USCOM](#)

Uscom says its annual general meeting will vote to grant executive chairman Prof Rob Phillips 2,173,913 performance rights vesting on January 1, 2020.

Uscom said Prof Phillips cash salary was \$250,000 and "significantly lower than the remuneration payable by a company of the size and nature of Uscom to its executive chairman".

Prof Phillips told Biotech Daily that the performance rights were associated with key performance indicators and were compensation for a higher industry standard salary.

The company said it would vote on the remuneration report and to re-elect director Christian Bernecker, ratify a private placement and would vote to increase the share capacity by up to 10 percent.

The meeting will be held at Level 11, 66-74 Clarence Street, Sydney, on October 16, 2019 at 11:30am (AEDT).

Uscom fell one cent or eight percent to 11.5 cents