



# Biotech Daily

Thursday September 19, 2019

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PHARMAXIS UP 19%; ANTISENSE DOWN 18%**
- \* **AVITA: 'RECELL IMPROVES DERMABRASIAN ACNE SCAR HEALING'**
- \* **NOVITA RIGHTS, SHORTFALL RAISE \$2m**
- \* **RHYTHM 'COLOSTAT DIFFERENTIATES CANCER, HEALTHY TISSUE'**
- \* **BIONOMICS SUBMITS BNC210 PTSD US FAST TRACK APPLICATION**
- \* **OBJ ESTABLISHES 'WELLFULLY' SUBSIDIARIES**
- \* **LIVING CELL \$1.2m FROM VERTEX BUYING SEMMA**
- \* **RHINOMED REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- \* **ANTHONY EATON REPLACES INVITROCUE DIRECTOR DR GARY PACE**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.54 percent on Thursday September 19, 2019, with the ASX200 up 35.9 points to 6,717.5 points. Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 23 fell, six traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps rose.

Pharmaxis was the best on no news, up 3.5 cents or 18.9 percent to 22 cents with 572,064 shares traded.

Patrys climbed 9.5 percent; Dimerix was up 5.4 percent; Avita improved 4.2 percent; Nanosonics and Polynovo were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Ellex, Paradigm, Resmed and Volpara up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 63.8 percent best, Antisense led the falls, down 1.4 cents or 18.2 percent to 6.3 cents, with 16.8 million shares traded.

Cynata lost 9.2 percent; Proteomics shed 7.7 percent; Impedimed, Mesoblast and Oncosil were down more than five percent; LBT, Opthea and Uscom fell more than four percent; Compumedics, Orthocell and Pro Medicus were down more than three percent; Amplia, Next Science, Optiscan, Osprey, Telix and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; Clinuvel and Prescient were down more than one percent; with Medical Developments, Neuren and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

## AVITA MEDICAL

Avita says a 78-patient study by the Beijing-based Peking Union Medical College Hospital shows its Recell system with dermabrasion improves acne scar healing time.

Avita said the study by the Hospital's Department of Plastic Surgery, titled 'The clinical efficacy of Recell autologous cell regeneration techniques combined with dermabrasion treatment in acne scars' was published in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

The abstract is available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31451856>.

Avita said the retrospective study used either dermabrasion alone or with its Recell spray on skin harvesting device to compare healing time and the rate of post-operative complications in facial acne scar patients.

The company said there was a "statistically significant difference in healing time" with the combination taking an average of 5.27 days compared to dermabrasion alone 12.3 days ( $p < 0.001$ ), and post-operative complications including pigmentation and scar hyperplasia did not occur when treated with Recell, which had higher patient satisfaction rates.

Avita was up 2.5 cents or 4.2 percent to 61.4 cents with 21.1 million shares.

## NOVITA HEALTHCARE

Novita says it has raised \$2 million in its five-for-11 pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer and shortfall placement at one cent a share.

According to its three most recent appendix 3B new issue announcements from August 28, September 5 and September 13, Novita issued 185,579,677 shares raising \$1,855,797 (BD: Aug 27, Sep 5, Sep 16, 2019).

Novita fell 0.1 cents or 8.3 percent to 1.1 cents with 6.8 million shares.

## RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm says its Colostat colorectal cancer test has been optimized and antibodies for the lead biomarker can differentiate between cancer and healthy samples.

Rhythm chief executive officer Glenn Gilbert said "the optimization of this key lead biomarker is a critical development cornerstone for the Colostat test".

"Previous antibodies were not able to distinguish between cancer and healthy samples," Mr Gilbert said. "Achieving that ability for such a key biomarker is a hugely exciting milestone for us."

Rhythm was up half a cent or 2.8 percent to 18.5 cents with 1.1 million shares.

## BIONOMICS

Bionomics says it has submitted a fast track designation application to the US Food and Drug Administration for BNC210 for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Last year, Bionomics said its 193-patient, phase II post-traumatic stress disorder trial "did not meet [the] primary endpoint", but in June this year said it intended to change the formulation to raise BNC210 blood levels (BD: Oct 2, 2018; Jun 26, 2019).

Today, the company said it received positive feedback from the FDA in a type C meeting to seek guidance on plans for further development of a second phase II trial of BNC210 for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bionomics said it expected to complete a single, ascending dose, pharmaco-kinetic study in healthy volunteers to demonstrate that it could achieve BNC210 blood levels necessary to meet primary efficacy endpoints using its new solid dose formulation in October 2019.

Bionomics was up 1.4 cents or 35.9 percent to 5.3 cents with 11.9 million shares.

## OBJ

OBJ says it has established subsidiaries to commercialize its beauty and consumer device products.

OBJ said the subsidiaries would market the products under its own 'Wellfully' brand, allowing it to retain control over the commercialization of its products and taking a higher proportion of sales revenue.

The company said that recently-appointed chief executive officer Paul Peros had established the Wellfully SA business in Switzerland as a technology and consumer products holding company.

OBJ said Wellfully SA had three subsidiaries, Wellfully d o o, a sales and marketing company in Croatia, Peros Ltd, a Hong Kong trading company, and Peros (Dongguan) Technology and Trading, both of which would be renamed Wellfully.

The company said that it expected to establish UK and US trading companies within the Wellfully SA business.

OBJ was up 0.1 cents or 6.25 percent to 1.7 cents with 3.97 million shares.

## LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Living Cell says it expects to receive or \$US838,105 (\$A1,234,948) when Vertex Pharmaceuticals acquire Semma Therapeutics, in which it holds 121,995 shares.

Living Cell said Semma Therapeutics used human stem cell-derived islets as a treatment for type I diabetes and previously acquired Cytosolv Inc, a company in which Living Cell had a shareholding.

Living Cell fell 0.2 cents or 9.5 percent to 1.9 cents.

## RHINOMED

Rhinomed has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement in relation to a proposed capital raising".

Trading will resume September 23, 2019 or on an earlier announcement.

Rhinomed last traded at 24 cents.

## INVITROCUE

Invitrocue says it has appointed Anthony Eaton as a non-executive director, replacing Dr Gary Pace.

Earlier this month, Invitrocue said it received board spill calls from directors Prof Henry Yu, Kit Wei Lui and Ee Ting Ng to remove chief executive officer Dr Steven (Boon Sing) Fang as a director and from Dr Fang and directors Gary Pace and Andreas Lindner to remove Prof Yu and Mr Lui as directors (BD: Sep 9, 2019).

The company said Mr Eaton was a lawyer with experience providing corporate and commercial legal advice.

According to his LinkedIn page, Mr Eaton holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland.

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