



Biotech Daily

Tuesday September 3, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH UP: CYCLOPHARM UP 8%;
- UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS DOWN 7%**
- * **UNIQUEST, GRÜNENTHAL CONE SNAIL NEUROPATHIC PAIN DRUG**
- * **PHYLOGICA: CPP DELIVERS ANTISENSE DRUG IN MICE**
- * **EMVISION READIES FOR BRAIN SCANNER STROKE PILOT TRIAL**
- * **STARPHARMA: 'ONE MORE SE ASIAN VIVAGEL BV APPROVAL'**
- * **MGC 100-PATIENT CANNEPIL, MXP100 MARIJUANA EPILEPSY STUDY**
- * **BOD: AUGUST MARIJUANA PILLS UP 95% TO 329 SCRIPTS**
- * **MORGAN STANLEY TAKES 5% OF TOTAL BRAIN**
- * **REGAL FUNDS TAKES 10% OF MEDIBIO**
- * **FIL INCREASES, DILUTED TO 9% OF MEDIBIO**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.09 percent on Tuesday September 3, 2019, with the ASX200 down 6.0 points to 6,573.4 points.

Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, eight traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Yesterday's 7.75 percent worst, Cyclopharm, was today's best, up 10 cents or eight percent to \$1.35, with 364 shares traded. Polynovo climbed 7.1 percent; Neuren and Prescient improved more than six percent; LBT, Oncosil, Patrys and Resonance were up more than four percent; Alterity, Avita, Genetic Signatures and Volpara were up more than three percent; Kazia rose 2.7 percent; Cochlear and Pro Medicus were up more than one percent; with Compumedics, CSL, Mesoblast and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Universal Biosensors led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 7.1 percent to 19.5 cents, with 733,720 shares traded. Proteomics lost 5.7 percent; Imugene, Opthea and Osprey fell more than four percent; Amplia and Medical Developments were down more than three percent; Clinuvel and Telix shed more than two percent; Nanosonics and Orthocell were down more than one percent, with Cynata, Ellex and Paradigm down by less than one percent.

UNIQUEST

Uniquet says that Grünenthal and the University of Queensland will develop non-opioid drugs from alpha-conotoxins for chronic neuropathic pain.

Uniquet said the collaboration would combine the expertise of the university in target and peptide drug discovery and Grünenthal's expertise in pain research and drug development to identify novel drug candidates and to progress them towards clinical development.

The commercialization arm of the University of Queensland, Uniquet, said Grünenthal would fund and coordinate the discovery activities and assume full responsibility for the development of drug candidates derived from the collaboration.

Uniquet said that the project was based on work by the Faculty of Medicine's Dr Richard Clark on conotoxins derived from the venom of cone snails.

PHYLOGICA (TRADING AS PYC THERAPEUTICS)

Phylogica says its peptide-delivery reduces by more than 90 percent the amount of antisense drug required for 'exon-skipping' effect in mouse eyes compared to drug alone. Phylogica said that at 0.8 micrograms (0.8µgm) its cell-penetrating peptide delivered its cargo of antisense oligonucleotide, but there had been no evidence of exon-skipping when the antisense oligonucleotide was delivered 'naked' or without the cell-penetrating peptide and at levels up to 10.0µgm.

Phylogica chief business officer Kaggan Ausma told Biotech Daily that in a different reporter gene and at 50µgm antisense drug per eye, exon skipping had been observed.

In July, the company said its peptide technology was able to deliver four times the amount of the antisense drug to retina targets in mice and was 400 percent more effective at achieving "exon skipping, the desired effect of a drug cargo" (BD: Jul 23, 2019).

Last month, the company said it was able to deliver the antisense drug with its peptide into human retinal pigment epithelial cells in-vitro, and the peptide could sustain the anti-sense drug in mice for longer times between doses than the antisense drug alone, which increased compliance levels and the likelihood of better treatment (BD: Aug 6, 22, 2019).

Today, Phylogica said the anti-sense drug administered to mice without the cell penetrating peptide was not effective at doses of 1.0µgm or 10µgm.

The company said the mouse results showed that its "delivery platform can make [antisense oligonucleotides] into potent drugs at doses that are otherwise ineffective, meaning better drugs with fewer side effects".

Phylogica said that "the improved effectiveness of the drug that incorporates [its] delivery technology along with the decreased toxicity of these molecules gives our approach to RNA therapeutics a dual advantage in the critical 'therapeutic index' of a drug, the ability to effectively treat a patient without causing toxic side effects".

Phylogica was up 0.4 cents or 9.3 percent to 4.7 cents with 13.9 million shares traded.

EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it will begin a pilot human trial of its non-invasive, low-cost, portable brain scanner for stroke at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital by the end of the year.

Emvision said the trial would provide two scanners to the Princess Alexandra Hospital and collect data from patients with diagnosed ischaemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke, with confirmatory computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging scans.

In July, the company said it had approval to conduct the trial at Princess Alexandra Hospital, after making improvements to the brain scanner's antenna (BD: Jul 1, 2019).

Emvision was up half a cent or 1.35 percent to 37.5 cents.

STARPHARMA

Starpharma says that its distributor Mundipharma has a further regulatory approval for Vivagel BV for bacterial vaginosis in an unnamed South East Asian country.

Last month, Starpharma said it had its first South East Asian regulatory approvals for Vivagel BV but not disclose which the specific countries of the 11 nations of South East Asia had given approval (BD: Aug 15, 2019).

Today, the company said the specific countries would “remain undisclosed at this time for competitive reasons”.

Starpharma said the Singapore-based Mundipharma would market the Vivagel product as Betadine BV gel, and it would be available over-the-counter.

The company said that with Mundipharma it had submitted further regulatory submissions in countries across Asia and other Mundipharma regions.

Starpharma was unchanged at \$1.15.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says it will begin a 100-patient, 12-month study comparing its five percent tetrahydrocannabinol Cannepil to its 100 percent cannabidiol MXP100 for epilepsy.

MGC said the study was expected to begin by the end of 2019 and would treat “severe intractable epilepsy” patients from Cannabis Access Clinics with its Cannepil, which was five-percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and 95-percent cannabidiol (CBD), or MXP100, which was 100 percent CBD.

The company said the study would observe the long-term safety of THC, the efficacy of cannabinoid treatments when compared to other available treatments, and the long-term impact the company’s products on quality of treatment and quality of life as assessed by doctors.

MGC said the primary outcome of the study would be patient reported outcome measures which would measure and track the duration, medication, type, possible trigger and location of patients’ seizures.

The company said patients would be monitored for four weeks prior to the trial to establish a baseline, and then monitored for 12 months while taking Cannepil or MXP100.

MGC said it expected to begin recruitment by the end of 2019 and it expected to release results “within 24 months of commencement”.

MGC was up 0.1 cents or 2.6 percent to four cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

BOD AUSTRALIA

Bod says that August sales of its 5.0 percent cannabidiol Medicabilis for neurological diseases has increased 94.7 percent to 329 prescriptions, compared to 169 in July.

Bod said the increase in sales came through its distribution deals with Cannabis Access Clinics and Burleigh Heads Cannabis (BD: Jun 4, 21, 2019).

The company said Medicabilis had received repeat prescriptions from patients and doctors, indicating “satisfaction from both consumers and medical professionals”.

Bod chief executive officer Jo Patterson said the company was “confident that it will continue growth in prescription volumes as it progresses relationships with distributors in new markets and commences dispensing in the United Kingdom in the coming weeks”.

Bod was up 6.5 cents or 14.3 percent to 52 cents.

TOTAL BRAIN

Morgan Stanley Australia says it has become a substantial shareholder in Total Brain with 40,238,333 shares or 5.17 percent of the company.

The Sydney-based Morgan Stanley said that between May 16 and August 29, 2019 it bought 29,625,014 shares for \$819,068 or an average of 2.76 cents a share, with the single largest purchase of 25,900,000 shares on May 16 for \$700,699 or 2.7 cents a share.

Total Brain was up 1.2 cents or 32.4 percent to 4.9 cents with 10.6 million shares traded.

MEDIBIO

Regal Funds Management says it has become a substantial shareholder in Medibio, with 100,000,000 shares or 10.05 percent of the company.

The Sydney-based Regal Funds said the registered shareholder was Merrill Lynch Nominees and on August 29, 2019 it acquired the shares through the conversion of 50,000,000 convertible notes.

Last month, Medibio said it had completed an “oversubscribed” share purchase plan at one cent a share, raising \$1,210,000 (BD: Aug 19, 2019).

Medibio was unchanged at 1.3 cents with one million shares traded.

MEDIBIO

The Hong Kong-based FIL Limited says it has increased but been diluted in Medibio from 40,485,128 shares (14.27%) to 91,785,128 shares (9.22%).

FIL said it acquired 51,300,000 shares at one cent each in Medibio’s recent share plan (BD: Aug 19, 2019).