



Biotech Daily

Monday October 7, 2019

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: ANTISENSE UP 24%; ACTINOGEN DOWN 8%**
- * **MEDADVISOR RAISES \$17m; JEFF SHERMAN DIRECTOR**
- * **ANTISENSE PLEADS SCHULTZ, PUBLICITY TO ASX 45% QUERY**
- * **PHARMAUST EXPECTS \$1.5m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **RESPIRI WHEEZO PASSES CE MARK SAFETY; FEB 2020 SALES**
- * **INVEX: JAPAN PATENT FOR ELEVATED INTRA-CRANIAL PRESSURE**
- * **USCOM SHARE FACILITY PRICE CHANGE**
- * **ORTHOCELL 'CELGRO TRIAL RESULTS' TRADING HALT**
- * **EMPERY TAKES 9% OF BENITEC**
- * **CRYSTAL AMBER TAKES 71% OF GI DYNAMICS**
- * **TELIX APPOINTS DR DAVID CADE CBO, IR HEAD**
- * **CLINUVEL RENEWS CEO DR WOLGEN; \$1.4m BASE SALARY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.71 percent on Monday October 7, 2019, with the ASX200 up 46.5 points to 6,563.6 points. Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, nine traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Antisense was the best for the second trading day in a row, closing up 2.3 cents or 23.7 percent to 12 cents with 18.3 million shares traded. Proteomics climbed 7.5 percent; Pharmaxis was up 5.3 percent; Clinuvel, LBT, Resonance and Uscom were up more than four percent; Avita, Polynovo and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; CSL, Nanosonics, Prescient, Resmed and Telix rose more than one percent; with Cochlear, Compumedics and Cynata up by less than one percent.

Actinogen led the falls, down 0.4 cents or eight percent to 4.6 cents, with 46.3 million shares traded. Impedimed and Universal Biosensors lost more than five percent; Patrys fell 4.8 percent; Paradigm was down 3.2 percent; Medical Developments shed 2.8 percent; Next Science and Oncosil were down more than one percent; with Ellex, Mesoblast, Starpharma and Volpara down by less than one percent.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says it has raised \$17 million, of which \$11 million came from HMS Holdings, with HMS chief financial officer Jeff Sherman to be appointed a director.

Medadvisor said the over-subscribed placement at five cents a share was at an 11 percent premium to the last closing price of 4.5 cents.

The company said it raising \$2 million more than its hoped-for \$15 million.

Medadvisor said the funds would be used to continue developing its medication management software technology, to grow UK and US sales, to support its Zuellig joint venture in South East Asia as well as boost Australian sales and “capitalize on the legislative shift to e-prescribing in Australia”.

Medadvisor said that following its \$11 million investment, the Irving, Texas-based US Healthcare provider HMS Holdings would be the largest shareholder with about 13 percent of its shares.

The company said it would become HMS’s preferred partner for the distribution of digital health programs in the US and Australia.

Medadvisor said Mr Sherman had more than 30 years’ experience in the healthcare industry and had previously held executive roles at Accentcare and Lifepoint Hospitals.

Medadvisor chief executive officer Robert Read said HMS was “the largest private partner of the [Australian] Federal Government’s Digital Health [Cooperative Research Centre], which will provide opportunities to validate joint solutions”.

Medadvisor climbed 1.1 cents or 24.4 percent to 5.6 cents with 7.4 million shares traded.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense has told the ASX that it is not aware of any information it has not announced which, if known, could explain recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said the company’s share price rose 45.0 percent from a low of 10 cents to an intraday high of 14.5 cents, today, October 7, 2019.

Antisense said that following last month’s positive preliminary results from its phase II trial of ATL1102 for Duchenne muscular dystrophy there had been “an increase in both media coverage of [the company] and investor related enquiries” (BD: Sep 18, 2019).

Antisense closed up 2.3 cents or 23.7 percent to 12 cents with 18.3 million shares traded.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says it expects to receive \$1,452,000 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Pharmaust said it had been pre-approved for domestic and overseas research and development tax incentives by the Federal Advance Finding for its research and development of monepantel as a treatment for dogs with cancer for the three years to June 20, 2021.

The company said it had an expected research and development expenditure of \$2,215,000 within Australia and \$1,123,000 in the US and Canada.

Pharmaust said it would receive a 43.5 percent refund, or \$1.452 million for the total expenditure of \$3,338,000 over three years.

The company said that due to overseas research, part of its tax incentive would be provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for Advanced and Overseas Findings.

Pharmaust was up half a cent or 3.3 percent to 15.5 cents.

RESPIRI (PREVIOUSLY ISONEA, KARMELSONIX)

Respiri says its Wheezo asthma diagnostic has passed all safety and compliance tests for its Conformité Européenne (CE) mark, with first sales expected in February 2020.

Respiri said that following the expected receipt of a laboratory report the Wheezo technical file would be provided to the 'notified body' for review "in mid-October".

The company said the regulatory process had experienced delays "due to soft plastics biocompatibility challenges and finalization of the Wheezo breath sensor design" which were resolved by Respiri's technology partner, Grey Innovation.

Respiri said that a second audit of its quality management systems was likely to follow two weeks after submission of the technical file, but due to legal and bureaucratic changes in Europe there was "extreme pressure on the notified body's resources".

Respiri said that it expected the review process and CE mark approval to take up to 12 weeks from submission allowing Wheezo sales to begin in February 2020.

Respiri, and previously Isonea and Karmelsonix, has been attempting to commercialize its wheeze test for asthma since 2006, saying it would be available in Europe and the US in February 2007 (BD: Nov 24, 2006).

Respiri fell 0.3 cents or 3.7 percent to 7.9 cents.

INVEX THERAPEUTICS

Invex says the Japan Patent Office has granted a patent relating to the treatment of increased intra-cranial pressure.

Invex was unable to provide the title or duration of the patent at the time of publication but the Japan Patent Office website said that the patent was titled 'Treatment of elevated intracranial pressure' and had a priority date of September 3, 2014 as part of an international Patent Cooperation Treaty filing.

The Japan Patent Office named Alex Sinclair as the inventor.

Invex said that elevated intracranial pressure was observed in subjects with idiopathic intracranial hypertension as well as a broader group of diseases including; secondary pseudo-tumor cerebri, hydrocephalus, normal pressure hydrocephalus, meningitis, brain trauma, brain injury and venous sinus thrombosis.

Invex was up three cents or 4.8 percent to 65 cents.

USCOM

Uscom says it has amended the share price for its unmarketable parcels facility from 11 cents each to "the best price reasonably obtainable".

In September, Uscom said the share sale facility would sell parcels worth less than \$500 at 11 cents a share for 252 holders of unmarketable parcels, holding a total of 424,528 shares, with the closing date set for October 22, 2019 (BD: Sep 10, 2019).

Today, the company said the shares would be sold "a price which the directors consider to be the best price reasonably obtainable for the shares at the time they are sold".

Uscom was up half a cent or 4.55 percent to 11.5 cents.

ORTHOCELL

Orthocell has requested a trading halt pending the release of an announcement "regarding its Celgro nerve regeneration trial".

Trading will resume on October 9, 2019 or on an earlier announcement.

Orthocell last traded at 39.5 cents.

[BENITEC BIOPHARMA](#)

New York's Empery Tax Efficient LP says it has become a substantial shareholder in Benitec with 28,000,000 shares or 8.94 percent of the company.

Empery and associates, said they acquired 1,400,000 American depository shares (ADS), equivalent to 28,000,000 shares, on October 1, 2019 for \$US980,000 or 70 US cents (\$A1.04) each, or 5.2 cents per Australian share.

Last week, Benitec said it would raise \$US2.25 million (\$A3.33 million) in a placement of 2,800,000 American depository shares at 70 US cents each (BD: Oct 1, 2019).

Also last week, Sabby Volatility Warrant Master Fund said it acquired 1,400,000 Benitec American depository shares at 70 US cents each (BD: Oct 3, 2019)

Benitec fell 0.1 cents or 1.75 percent to 5.6 cents with 1.15 million shares traded.

[GI DYNAMICS](#)

The Guernsey-based Crystal Amber says it has increased its holding in GI Dynamics from 1,069,623,901 shares (68.48%) to 1,227,178,430 shares (71.37%).

In August, GI Dynamics said it had \$US10 million (\$A14,773,150) in convertible notes and warrants with Crystal Amber (BD: Aug 22, 2019).

Today, Crystal Amber said that between September 5 and 23, 2019 it bought 74,215 shares for \$2,450 or 3.3 cents a share and on September 30, 2019 it converted notes for 157,480,314 shares for \$2,968,239 or 1.88 cents a share.

GI Dynamics fell 0.2 cents or 4.35 percent to 4.4 cents.

[TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Telix says it has appointed Dr David Cade as chief business officer and head of investor relations.

Telix said Dr Cade had more than 20 years of commercial, clinical and public company experience and was previously the chief medical officer at Cochlear and Sirtex.

The company said Dr Cade held a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Melbourne's Monash University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Melbourne.

Telix was up 2.5 cents or 1.9 percent to \$1.365 with 954,072 shares traded.

[CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Clinuvel says it has renewed chief executive officer Dr Philippe Wolgen's employment agreement, disclosing a base salary of \$S1,319,915 (\$A1,415,410).

Clinuvel said that Dr Wolgen had been its chief executive officer since 2005 and under his leadership the company had a 37 percent enterprise value increase, a 722 percent shareholder value increase since 2016, and sustained profitability.

The company said Dr Wolgen would be entitled to short term incentives of up to \$S750,000 (\$A804,320) based on the achievement of milestones, and loyalty payments of \$S7,103 (\$A7,617) for each month with the company, conditional to remaining with the company for 12 months from the agreement renewal date.

Clinuvel was up \$1.08 or 4.15 percent to \$27.10 with 273,518 shares traded.