



Biotech Daily

Wednesday April 22, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH EVEN: AVITA UP 9%; CYNATA DOWN 21%**
- * **CYNATA RAISES \$3.55m; SHARE PLAN FOR \$2m MORE**
- * **CLARITY: 67CU-SARTATE FOR NEUROBLASTOMA FDA ORPHAN STATUS**
- * **VIVAZOME, TOOLGEN EXPAND WORK ON EXOSOME GENE-EDITING**
- * **IMMUTEP DOSES FINAL INSIGHT-004 CANCER PATIENT**
- * **PRESCIENT PTX-100 STUDY INCREASES TO 1g DOSE**
- * **CELLMID: WONDFO COVID-19 TEST '100% ACCURATE FROM DAY-6'**
- * **G MEDICAL: HOMESTAY CARE TO USE PRIZMA FOR TELEHEALTH**
- * **THC CANNDEO MARIJUANA TO LAUNCH IN AUSTRALIA, EUROPE**
- * **ALTERITY: 'NASDAQ COVID-19 RELIEF FROM \$US1 BID REQUIREMENT'**
- * **CARDIEX REQUESTS MOBVOI SENSOR SUSPENSION**
- * **HARBOUR TAKES 9% OF VOLPARA**
- * **BATH ROAD BELOW 5% IN PROBIOTEC**
- * **NYRADA APPOINTS CAMERON JONES CFO**
- * **MGC CLAIMS 'MARIJUANA KILLS GLIOBLASTOMA IN-VITRO'**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was unchanged on Wednesday April 22, 2020, with the ASX200 down 0.1 points to 5,221.2 points. Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell and eight traded unchanged.

Avita was the best, up four cents or 9.3 percent to 47 cents, with 21.1 million shares traded. Osprey climbed 9.1 percent; Prescient was up 8.6 percent; Immutep improved 6.7 percent; both Actinogen and LBT were up five percent; Dimerix was up 3.1 percent; CSL, Kazia, Medical Developments, Optiscan and Starpharma rose more than two percent; Amplia, Clinuvel, Orthocell, Pharmaxis and Pro Medicus were up more than one percent; with Cochlear up 0.4 percent.

Cynata led the falls, down 17.5 cents or 21.0 percent to 66 cents, with 724,390 shares traded. Uscom lost 10.6 percent; Antisense retreated six percent; Paradigm fell 4.95 percent; Opthea, Proteomics and Telix were down more than three percent; Genetic Signatures, Mesoblast, Next Science, Polynovo, Resmed and Volpara shed two percent or more; Compumedics, Cyclopharm and Ellex were down more than one percent; with Nanosonics down 0.8 percent.

CYNATA THERAPEUTICS

Cynata says it has raised \$3.55 million through an institutional placement at 60 cents a share and hopes to raise a further \$2 million through a share purchase plan.

Cynata said the offer price was a 23.3 percent discount to the 15-day volume weighted average price to the April 17, 2020 closing price.

The company said that under the share plan, shareholders would be able to apply for up to \$30,000 worth of shares at the same price, with an April 21, 2020 record date.

Cynata said the funds would be used to progress clinical development, to ensure it was “well placed to take advantage of any opportunities to pursue new therapeutic targets” and to strengthen its balance sheet.

The company said HC Wainwright was the lead manager to the placement in the US and Vesparum Capital was an independent capital markets advisor.

Cynata fell 17.5 cents or 21.0 percent to 66 cents.

CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity said the US Food and Drug Administration has granted orphan drug designation for ⁶⁷Cu-Sartate for neuroblastoma.

Clarity said that neuroblastoma most often occurred in children under five years of age and presented when the tumor grew and causes symptoms.

The company said that neuroblastoma was the most common type of cancer to be diagnosed in the first year of life and accounted for about 15 percent of paediatric cancer mortality.

Clarity said that FDA orphan drug designation facilitated the development of investigational therapies intended to treat, diagnose or prevent rare diseases affecting fewer than 200,000 people in the US.

The company said that the designation qualified it for incentives including seven years of market exclusivity on regulatory approval, potential tax credits on US clinical costs, exemptions from certain administrative fees and eligibility for grants to fund future clinical work.

Clarity executive chairman Dr Alan Taylor said that orphan drug designation would “potentially provide a number of advantages for the development of Sartate for the treatment of neuroblastoma and allow us to progress more swiftly to our ultimate goal of better treatment of children and adults with cancer”.

Clarity is a public unlisted company.

VIVAZOME THERAPEUTICS

Vivazome says it has extended its Toolgen Inc collaboration on gene-editing for enhanced exosome production.

Vivazome said that Toolgen would use Crispr Cas9, or clusters of regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats-CRISPR-associated protein 9, technology to introduce gene edits into selected cell types to selectively alter the content and characteristics of exosomes produced by the cells.

The company said that under a knockdown gene editing pilot study completed by Toolgen, exosomes produced by the edited cells were “maintained at high levels”.

Vivazome said the next stage of the collaboration would aim to create a gene-edited cell that could be used in its exosome manufacturing process, with the potential “to create a novel cell-line” tailored to the company’s manufacturing processes.

Vivazome is a private company.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says it has dosed the final second cohort patient in its 12-patient Insight-004 phase I trial of IMP321 and avelumab for advanced solid malignancies.

Immutep said the six-patient second cohort had received a standard dose of avelumab, a human anti-programmed death-ligand 1 (anti-PD-L1) antibody, and six milligrams of IMP321, with no new safety signals or dose limiting toxicities.

The company said the trial would evaluate the safety, tolerability and recommended phase II dose of IMP321, with initial results expected to be disclosed at a medical conference by July 2020.

Immutep was up one cent or 6.7 percent to 16 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient says its phase Ib study of PTX-100 for cancer will move to the 1,000mg dose, following acceptable safety and completion of the 500mg first cohort.

Prescient said that one patient with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma “experienced symptomatic relief with an unconfirmed response and will continue on therapy with PTX-100” and no patients showed drug-related safety issues.

The company said it had added Peninsula and South Eastern Haematology and Oncology Group as a trial site to aid recruitment and the diversity of cancer types for the trial.

Prescient said the study aimed to determine safety, dose regimen and treatment schedule for PTX-100 for patients with Ras and RhoA (Ras homolog gene family member A) mutation cancers.

Prescient chief executive officer Steven Yatomi-Clarke said the company was “delighted with the safety profile in the first cohort leading to a dose escalation of PTX-100, especially in heavily pre-treated patients with advanced cancers”.

“We are especially pleased at the progress of this trial in the face of substantial global disruptions,” Mr Yatomi-Clarke said.

Prescient was up 0.3 cents or 8.6 percent to 3.8 cents with four million shares traded.

CELLMID

Cellmid says the Indian Council of Medical Research found its Wondfo Biotech’s Covid-19 antibody test 100 percent accurate from day-6 of symptoms.

Last week, Cellmid said it had imported 600 of Wondfo’s Covid-19 test kits, each containing 20 tests (BD: Apr 14, 2020).

Today, the company said the validation study, by the Indian Council of Medical Research National Institute of Virology, tested 24 samples of Covid-19 patients between day-2 and day-13 from the onset of symptoms, with 12 samples positive for other related and non-related viruses used as controls.

Cellmid said the test for antibodies to the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2), which caused Covid-19, detected antibodies in all but one sample on day-4 from symptom onset and in all samples by day-6 from onset of symptoms.

The company said the test showed no false positives, no cross-reactivity with other viruses and the results were consistent with Wondfo’s 596-patient study earlier this year.

Biotech Daily asked Cellmid chief executive officer Maria Halasz whether the results published today referred to the previous validation of the test or the company’s intended internal testing prior to release in Australia but at the time of publication had not received a reply.

Cellmid fell 1.5 cents or 6.25 percent to 22.5 cents with 11.05 million shares traded.

[G \(GEVA\) MEDICAL INNOVATIONS HOLDINGS](#)

G Medical says Perth's Homestay Care will distribute its Prizma vital signs smart phone application in Australia and New Zealand through its Uvue telehealth platform.

G Medical said the Uvue system was an internet cloud-based telehealth platform connected to a client's television and was used by aged care providers as a communication delivery system.

G Medical fell one cents or 9.1 percent to 10 cents with 3.6 million shares traded.

[THC \(THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY\) GLOBAL GROUP](#)

THC says its Canndeo-branded marijuana will be available in Australia from May 20, 2020 and Germany's ACA Müller will distribute Canndeo in Europe.

THC said it would supply the marijuana for pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals in Australia and it expected its first order under the 18-month ACA Müller agreement by September 2020.

THC was unchanged at 31 cents.

[ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS \(FORMERLY PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY\)](#)

Alterity says the Nasdaq has provided temporary relief from compliance with the \$US1.00 minimum bid price requirement until October 19, 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

In February, Alterity said it had received a non-compliance letter from the Nasdaq requiring it to ensure its share price was above \$US1.00 within 180 days, after its American depositary share (ADS) price was below \$US1.00 for 30 consecutive trading days (BD: Feb 7, 2020).

Alterity was unchanged at 1.7 cents.

[CARDIEX](#)

Cardiex has requested a suspension following the halt requested on Monday pending an announcement of the development of a sensor with Beijing's Mobvoi Information Technology (BD: Dep 11, 2019, Apr 21, 2020).

Cardiex said the suspension would continue until April 23, 2022 or an announcement.

Cardiex last traded at 1.8 cents.

[VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Harbour Asset Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Volpara from 17,390,718 shares (7.960%) to 19,677,115 shares (9.006%).

The Wellington, New Zealand-based Harbour said that between March 13 and April 21, 2020 it bought 2,307,397 shares for \$2,500,685 or \$1.08 a share and on March 27, sold 21,999 shares for \$22,491 or \$1.02 a share.

Yesterday, Volpara said it had raised \$28 million in a placement at \$1.30 a share and hoped to raise a further \$7 million in an underwritten share plan (BD: Apr 21, 2020).

Volpara fell 3.5 cents or 2.7 percent to \$1.265 with 929,884 shares traded.

[PROBIOTEC](#)

Bath Road Pty Ltd says it has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Probiotec.

In 2017, Bath Road said it had become substantial in Probiotec with 3,950,000 shares or 6.49 percent of the company with Bath Road director and South Pack Laboratories chief executive officer Tony Giam saying the shares were issued as part consideration for the sale of South Pack to Probiotec (BD: Oct 5, 2017).

Today, the Kirrawee, New South Wales-based Bath Road said that on April 7, 2020 it sold 118,000 shares for \$230,237 or \$1.95 a share and on April 17, sold 197,000 shares for \$387,294 or \$1.96 a share.

Biotech Daily calculates that Bath Road retains 3,635,000 Probiotec shares (4.86%). Probiotec was up 9.5 cents or 5.4 percent to \$1.865.

[NYRADA INC](#)

Nyrada says it has appointed Cameron Jones as its chief financial officer, replacing Shawn van Boheemen.

Nyrada said Mr Jones was the managing director of Bio101 and was the chief financial officer and company secretary for several ASX-listed and venture capital life science companies.

The company said Mr Jones held a Bachelor of Accounting from Monash University. Nyrada was unchanged at 16 cents.

[MGC PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

MGC says its marijuana cannabinoid formulations kill the brain cancer glioblastoma multiforme in-vitro.

MGC said the collaborative research program was conducted by the National Institute of Biology and the Ljubjana, Slovenia-based University Medical Centre's Neurosurgery Department.

MGC was up 0.1 cents or 3.3 percent to 3.1 cents with 9.4 million shares traded.