



Biotech Daily

Wednesday July 15, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: IMMUTEP UP 34.5%; PHARMAXIS DOWN 11%**
- * **NYRADA DELIVERS I-V NYX-242, NYX-1010 FOR BRAIN INJURY, IN RATS**
- * **VISIONEERING H1 RECEIPTS DOWN 4.7% TO \$3.3m, PANDEMIC EFFECT**
- * **OSPREY HALTS \$2.7m RIGHTS SHORTFALL; TOTAL RAISED \$12.8m**
- * **SIENNA EGM OVERWHELMINGLY BACKS BARD1 ACQUISITION**
- * **IMMUTEP GRANTED US PATENT FOR IMP701 FOR CANCERS**
- * **GI DYNAMICS: CRYSTAL AMBER CONVERTS \$7.7m NOTE; TO DELIST**
- * **FACTOR REQUESTS 'POTENTIAL ACQUISITION' TRADING HALT**
- * **INCANNEX REQUESTS 'IHL-675A ARDS ANIMAL RESULTS' TRADING HALT**
- * **CANN GROUP REQUESTS CAPITAL RAISING TRADING HALT**
- * **RESPIRI REQUESTS 'COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT' TRADING HALT**
- * **MERCHANT FUNDS TAKES 9.3% OF RACE**
- * **NAOS TAKES 24.8% OF BTC**
- * **W WHITNEY GEORGE TAKES 41.5% OF RHINOMED**
- * **BONVOYOLO REDUCES TO 5.85% OF NEUROTECH**
- * **L1 BELOW 5% IN CRESO**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.88 percent on Wednesday July 15, 2020, with the ASX200 up 111.8 points to 6,052.9 points. Twenty-eight Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, five fell, five traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Immutep was the best, up five cents or 34.5 percent to 19.5 cents, with 23.9 million shares traded. Amplia and Osprey climbed more than 11 percent; Optiscan was up 8.7 percent; Genetic Signatures and Kazia improved more than seven percent; Clinuvel, Impedimed, Orthocell and Paradigm climbed six percent or more; Alterity and Prescient were up more than five percent; Avita, Mesoblast and Volpara improved more than four percent; CSL, Dimerix, Nanosonics and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Compumedics, Imugene and Resmed rose more than two percent; Cochlear, Polynovo, Proteomics and Telix were up more than one percent; with Medical Developments, Next Science, Nova (Ellex), Opthea and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 20.5 percent best, Pharmaxis, led the falls, down one cent or 10.6 percent to 8.4 cents, with 1.5 million shares traded. LBT lost 6.1 percent; Actinogen and Oncosil fell more than four percent; with Resonance down 3.1 percent.

[NYRADA](#)

Nyrada says it has delivered its two brain injury drug candidates, NYX-242 and NYX-1010, via continuous intravenous injection in rats, with no adverse events observed.

Nyrada said the preclinical pharmacokinetic study aimed to develop a treatment to prevent secondary brain injury following stroke and moderate-severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), caused by a buildup of calcium ions in neuronal cells to toxic levels, resulting in cell death. The company said both drugs were administered in a 15 milligram/kilogram (mg/kg) loading dose over 10 minutes and through a steady infusion of 5mg/kg/hour for five hours and 50 minutes.

Nyrada said the results showed that both of its molecules crossed into the brain and their levels could be maintained at steady concentrations above the level required to block calcium ion entry and accumulation.

Nyrada chief executive officer James Bonnar said the data provided “further evidence that our two potent drug candidates, NYX-242 and NYX-1010, can be given using the preferred route of administration for stroke and moderate-severe TBI patients in the clinical setting”.

“The study also showed that dose levels we anticipate being therapeutic were well-tolerated with no adverse effects observed throughout the six hours of dosing,” Mr Bonnar said. “This gives us confidence as we advance both drug candidates into preclinical efficacy studies of stroke and [traumatic brain injury]”.

Nyrada was up one cent or 4.8 percent to 22 cents.

[VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Visioneering says receipts from customers for the six months to June 30, 2020 were down 4.7 percent to \$US2,342,000 (\$A3,346,910) compared to the previous year.

Visioneering said that for the three months to June 30, 2020 receipts from customers were down 17.0 percent to \$US1,083,000 compared to the previous corresponding period, with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting shipments and revenue.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$US4,035,000 at June 30, 2020 compared to \$US1,269,000 at June 30, 2019 and had 2.21 quarters of funding.

Visioneering was unchanged at 1.8 cents.

[OSPREY MEDICAL](#)

Osprey says it will no longer place the remaining \$2.7 shortfall from its three-for-one entitlement offer at 1.2 cents per Chess depositary interest (CDI).

Last month, Osprey said it had placed \$2.6 million of the shortfall and the rights offer, raised \$10.2 million taking the total raised to \$12.8 million (BD: Apr 29, Jun 9, 2020).

Osprey was up half a cent or 11.4 percent to 4.9 cents with 43.75 million shares traded.

[SIENNA CANCER DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Sienna says its shareholders have voted overwhelmingly in favor of its scheme of arrangement to be acquired by Bard1.

Sienna said 227,631,625 votes (99.85%) supported the resolution, with 341,668 votes (0.15%) opposed.

In April, Sienna and Bard1 said they had an agreement for Bard1 to acquire Sienna through a scheme of arrangement to combine their cancer diagnostics (BD: Apr 9, 2020).

Sienna was up 0.4 cents or six percent to 7.1 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says the US Patent and Trademark Office has granted a patent for its IMP701 antibody for cancers.

Immutep said the patent, titled 'Antibody molecules to LAG-3 and uses thereof', would protect its intellectual property until March 26, 2035.

The company said the patent was co-owned by Novartis AG and Immutep SAS and was "is directed to nucleic acid molecules that code for the LAG525 antibody, to expression vectors and host cells that comprise these nucleic acids, and to methods of producing the LAG525 antibody by culturing the host cells of the invention".

Immutep was up five cents or 34.5 percent to 19.5 cents with 23.9 million shares traded.

GI DYNAMICS

GI Dynamics says Crystal Amber has converted its June 2017 convertible note for \$US5,390,240 (\$A7,708,043) and it will delist from the ASX next week.

Earlier this month, GI Dynamics said it had further extended the maturity date of its \$US5,000,000 (\$A6,595,767) Crystal Amber convertible note to July 31, 2020, and said that if funding was not secured, it "would need to cease operations" and delist from the ASX (BD: Jun 15, 2017; May 4, 18, Jun 17, Jul 1, 2020).

Today, the company said it would issue 51,497,468 shares or 2,574,873,400 Chess depositary interests (CDIs) to Crystal Amber at 10.4 cents a share or 0.21 cents per CDI under the conversion.

GI Dynamics said it was only authorized to issue a total of 75,000,000 new shares or 3,750,000,000 CDIs, so was not able to issue all the shares to Crystal Amber.

The company said it would initially issue 1,920,085,200 CDIs and, subject to shareholder approval, would increase its authorized share capital for the remaining 13,095,764 shares.

GI Dynamics said it would be suspended from the close of trading on Tuesday July 21, and would be removed from the official list on the morning of Wednesday July 22, 2020.

In 2011, GI Dynamics raised \$80 million of a hoped for \$95 million to commercialize its Endobarrier duodenal insert for obesity and type 2 diabetes (BD: Aug 30, 2011).

In 2015, GI Dynamics closed a planned 500-patient US trial, with five of the 325 enrolled patients developing bacterial liver infections (BD: Mar 6, May 6, Jul 30, 2015).

In 2017, the European Union withdrew the Endobarrier conformity certificate and in 2016 the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration cancelled the Endobarrier approval (BD: Sep 14, Oct 24, 2016; May 18, Nov 13, 2017).

In 2018, GI Dynamics said the US Food and Drug Administration had approved a 240-patient Endobarrier trial.

In 2012, GI Dynamics said it would open its first Melbourne 'Centre of Excellence' at the Epworth Centre for Bariatric Surgery.

The Centre's director, Dr Harry Frydenberg, said at that time that the Centre was "privileged to be the first centre to offer this innovative treatment option to patients in Australia as part of a comprehensive approach to diabetes and weight management".

"Despite the pharmaceutical, surgical and lifestyle treatment options currently available, there are patients for whom these treatments are not fully effective," Dr Frydenberg said.

"The Endobarrier offers us a completely new way to treat patients with the potential for substantial weight loss, improvement in diabetes and better overall health," Dr Frydenberg said.

Dr Frydenberg is the father of the Treasurer of Australia, Joshua Frydenberg.

GI Dynamics fell 0.1 cents or 33.3 percent to 0.2 cents with 6.6 million shares traded.

FACTOR THERAPEUTICS

Factor has requested a trading halt “pending an announcement regarding a potential acquisition”.

Trading will resume on July 17, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Factor was unchanged at half a cent.

INCANNEX HEALTHCARE

Incannex has requested a trading halt pending an announcement regarding animal trial results for IHL-675A “for acute respiratory distress syndrome (Ards)”.

Trading will resume on July 17, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Incannex was up 0.1 cents or 1.5 percent to 6.9 cents.

CANN GROUP

Cann Group has requested a trading halt pending an announcement “regarding a capital raising”.

Trading will resume on July 17, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Cann Group last traded at 82 cents.

RESPIRI

Respiri has requested a trading halt pending an announcement “in relation to the completion of a binding commercial agreement with a global pharmaceutical partner”.

Trading will resume on July 17, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Respiri last traded at 11 cents.

RACE ONCOLOGY

Merchant Funds Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Race from 8,533,334 shares (7.40%) to 11,323,335 shares (9.28%).

The Nedlands, Western Australia-based Merchant said that between November 28, 2019 and July 14, 2020 it acquired 885,580 shares for \$160,738 or 18.2 cents a share, 237,753 shares for \$67,317 or 28.3 cents a share, internally transferred 1,166,677 shares for \$320,833 or 27.5 cents a share and bought 1,666,668 shares in the recent \$3 million placement for \$1,000,001 or 60 cents a share (BD: Jul 13, 2020).

Race was up 7.5 cents or 7.35 percent to \$1.095 with 2.1 million shares traded.

BTC HEALTH

Naos Asset Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in BTC from 58,491,446 shares (23.76%) to 60,947,189 shares (24.76%).

The Sydney-based Naos said that on July 13, 2020 it acquired 2,455,743 shares for \$244,270.33 or 9.9 cents a share.

BTC was untraded at 9.5 cents.

RHINOMED

W Whitney George says he has increased his substantial shareholding in Rhinomed from 49,291,543 shares (29.13%) to 105,277,880 shares (41.48%).

The Darien, Connecticut-based Mr George said that on April 14 and 15, 2020 he sold 1,660,500 shares for \$74,792 or 4.5 cents a share and on June 29, acquired 57,646,838 shares for \$4,438,805 or 7.7 cents a share.

In June, Rhinomed raised \$6,514,439 in a rights issue at 7.7 cents a share with Mr George acting as the underwriter.

Rhinomed was up half a cent or 6.85 percent to 7.8 cents.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Bonvoylo says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Neurotech from 15,096,786 (7.02%) to 12,596,786 shares (5.85%).

The Nedlands, Western Australia-based Bonvoylo said that on July 3, 2020 it sold 1,000,000 shares for \$26,000 or 2.6 cents a share and on July 6, it sold 1,500,000 shares for \$19,500 or 1.3 cents a share.

Neurotech fell 0.1 cents or 10 percent to 0.9 cents.

CRESO PHARMA

L1 Capital Global Opportunities Master Fund says it has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Creso.

Last month, the Cayman Islands-based L1 said it had become substantial with 17,968,888 shares or 6.44 percent of the company and later ceased to be substantial (BD: Jun 9, 16, 2020).

L1 said it become substantial in Creso again with 25,148,554 shares or 7.35 percent of the company (BD: Jun 29, 2020).

Today, L1 said that on July 11, 2020 it disposed of 8,287,908 shares.

Biotech Daily calculates that L1 now holds 16,860,646 shares or 4.7 percent of the company.

Creso fell 0.1 cents or 3.3 percent to 2.9 cents with 2.6 million shares traded.