



Biotech Daily

Thursday July 2, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: OSPREY UP 69%; ALTERITY DOWN 63%**
- * **AFFINITY CLAIMS 'ANTIBODIES BLOCK SARS-COV-2', IN-VITRO**
- * **ALTERITY PLACEMENT RAISES \$1.6m**
- * **ELLEX (NOVA EYE) PAYS \$921k FOR MOLTENO-3 GLAUCOMA DEVICE**
- * **DORSAVI: QBE \$250k, 12-MONTH VISAFE DEAL**
- * **ACTINOGEN PLEADS SCHULTZ, ALTERITY TO ASX 59% QUERY**
- * **RESAPP RAISES \$1.4m FROM M-D DR TONY KEATING OPTIONS**
- * **OSTEOPORE APPOINTS BIOPLATE US DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **ONCOSIL FILES FOR TGA PANCREATIC CANCER DEVICE APPROVAL**
- * **BOD Q4 MARIJUANA REVENUE UP 100% TO \$2.5m, YTD \$6m**
- * **INCANNEX (IMPRESSION): \$1.5m MAIDEN MARIJUANA SALES REVENUE**
- * **THC: MEDLEAF PAYS \$260k; EXPECTS CANADA, EUROPEAN ORDERS**
- * **NEUROTECH REQUESTS 'ACQUISITION, CAPITAL RAISING' HALT**
- * **PAUL, ELEANOR STEPHENS BELOW 5% IN RHINOMED**
- * **APEIRON, CHRISTIAN ANGERMAYER TAKE 13% OF BIONOMICS**
- * **MARK LAMBERT, BVF DILUTED TO 17% OF BIONOMICS**
- * **CRESO CHAIR BOAZ WACHTEL BELOW 5%**
- * **MGC EXPANDS ARTEMIC COVID-19 TRIAL TO INDIA**
- * **CELLMID EXTENDS WONDFO COVID-19 DISTRIBUTION**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.66 percent on Thursday July 2, 2020, with the ASX200 up 98.3 points to 6,032.7 points. Twenty-eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, eight fell, three traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Osprey was the best, up 0.9 cents or 69.2 percent to 2.2 cents, with 159.3 million shares traded. Pharmaxis climbed 15.9 percent; Antisense and Impedimed improved 11 percent or more; Optiscan and Patrys were up more than eight percent; Next Science was up 7.9 percent; Imugene, Resonance and Uscom climbed more than six percent; Cyclopharm was up 5.6 percent; Cynata, Kazia, Oncosil, Orthocell, Telix and Volpara were up four percent or more; Cochlear, Ellex and Prescient were up more than three percent; Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Paradigm, Polynovo, Starpharma and Resmed rose more than two percent; CSL and Neuren were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Opthea and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's best, Alterity, led the falls, down 10.4 cents or 63.0 percent to 6.1 cents, with 192.0 million shares traded. Actinogen lost 10.7 percent; Genetic Signatures, LBT and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; with Avita and Dimerix down more than one percent.

[AFFINITY BIOSCIENCES PTY LTD](#)

Affinity says it has “potent antibodies with therapeutic potential against Covid-19” by binding to the Sars-Cov-2 spike protein, in-vitro.

Affinity said it was an antibody platform company focused on cancer, but in March began screening its library of one hundred billion human antibodies to discover those that might neutralize severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2), the virus that causes Covid-19.

The company said it discovered that “a number of candidate antibodies” blocked the virus spike protein from binding to its human receptor, and in April it engaged the Peter Doherty Institute to test the virus in the laboratory.

Affinity said that the Doherty Institute confirmed that the antibodies could “completely neutralize the infectivity of Sars-Cov-2 at a single digit microgram [per millilitre] concentration in a five-day virus neutralization assay”.

“The antibodies have high affinity for the Sars-Cov-2 spike protein at around 20 picomolar, driven by an exceptionally slow off-rate, a measure of how long the antibody remains bound to its target,” the company said.

Affinity, and former Alchemia, chief executive officer, Dr Peter Smith told Biotech Daily the antibodies were immunoglobulin G-1 (IgG-1) human antibodies.

“The antibodies attach to the receptor binding domain on the Sars-Cov-2 spike protein and block its ability to attach to human cells and infect them,” Dr Smith said.

“These antibodies may be protective in humans by preventing the virus from gaining a foothold in healthy people exposed to the virus, and may be useful in arresting the progress of the virus in an infected person by blocking its ability to infect new cells and replicate,” Dr Smith said in a media release.

“The next steps will be discussions with manufacturers and then human testing, hopefully by the end of this year,” Dr Smith said.

In its media release the company said it would identify expedited clinical development and approval pathways with US, European and Australian regulatory agencies, along with discussions with governments, non-government organizations and pharmaceutical companies for accelerated development and commercial distribution.

Affinity said its antibodies were in a comparative study conducted by Los Angeles-based La Jolla Institute for Immunology, funded by the Covid-19 Therapeutics Accelerator launched in March by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Mastercard, and philanthropists.

The company said it was part of a consortium headed by the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for the development of biologics against Sars-Cov-2 which recently received funding from the Victorian Government and the Federal Medical Research Future Fund. Affinity is a private company.

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

Alterity says it has raised \$1,562,789 through a placement at 3.28 cents a share “for working capital and to progress research activities”.

In an announcement titled ‘Proposed issue of securities’, Alterity said 47,646,000 shares would be issued on July 2, 2020 and were within the 15 percent placement capacity.

In May, Alterity said it raised \$3,490,013, placing 137,945,160 shares at 2.53 cents a share, and in March said it has raised \$123,251 at 1.75 cents a share (BD: Mar 26, 2020).

In 2017, the then Prana refreshed a \$US50 million (\$A72.2 million) at-the-market, draw-down equity facility (BD: Oct 11, 2017).

Alterity fell 10.4 cents or 63.0 percent to 6.1 cents with 192.0 million shares traded.

ELLEX MEDICAL LASERS (TO BE NOVA EYE)

Ellex says it has acquired the Molteno-3 glaucoma drainage device platform from the Dunedin, New Zealand-based Molteno Ophthalmic for \$NZ985,000 (\$A921,000).

Earlier this week, Ellex said it completed the \$97.4 million sale of its laser and ultrasound business to France's Lumibird, which would allow it to focus on the glaucoma consumable device market (BD: Jun 30, 2020).

Today, the company said the Monteno-3 platform was "clinically validated for the treatment of severe or complex glaucoma" and would complement its Itrack mild to moderate glaucoma device.

Ellex said it had a three-month consulting agreement with Molteno chief executive officer Dr Nina Molteno to assist with the transition of Molteno's operations.

Ellex chairman Victor Previn said that with the acquisition of the Molteno-3, "we will be able to offer our ophthalmologist customers a portfolio of reimbursed, surgical consumable devices that cover all stages of the glaucoma disease process".

"Designed to treat severe or complex glaucoma, the Molteno-3 platform serves as a perfect complement to our Itrack [minimally invasive glaucoma surgery] portfolio, which aims to treat mild-moderate cases of glaucoma," said Mr Previn.

Ellex said that Molteno products were sold in about 30 countries and had growth potential. The company said it planned to leverage its existing glaucoma product sales and marketing infrastructure to increase sales of the Monteno-3 platform in the US and other key markets.

Yesterday, Ellex said the Australian Securities and Investment Commission had registered its name change to Nova Eye Medical and it expected to begin trading under the ASX code EYE from the beginning of trading on Friday July 3, 2020.

Ellex was up 2.5 cents or 3.65 percent to 71 cents.

DORSAVI

Dorsavi says it has a \$250,000, 12-month deal with Queensland Bankers Equity (QBE) Australia to provide QBE customers with its wearable sensor technology.

Dorsavi said that over an initial 12-month period, the Sydney-based QBE insurance company would pay Dorsavi to provide its Visafe and Myvisafe wearable body movement sensor technology as well as data insights to reduce movement risk, injury claims and workers compensation premiums

The company said its on-body sensors would be used "in real-time and real work environments to monitor and measure movement and muscle activity, quantify movement risk and guide decision making on appropriate risk mitigating strategies".

Dorsavi was up 2.5 cents or 276.9 percent to 4.9 cents with 297.0 million shares traded.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen 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 59.1 percent from a low of 2.2 cents to a high of 3.5 cents on July 1, 2020, but did not note an increase in trading volume.

Actinogen said that Alterity was "undertaking biomedical research in a broadly similar area" and had a share price increase of more than 1,500 percent and "we speculate that the increase in Actinogen's share-price may have been as a direct consequence of this (BD: Jun 30, Jul 1, 2020).

Actinogen fell 0.3 cents or 10.7 percent to 2.5 cents with 21.8 million shares traded.

RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp says it has raised \$1,375,000 through the exercise of 20,000,000 unlisted options held by managing-director, Dr Tony Keating.

In an announcement titled, 'Section 708A Notice and Appendix 2A', Resapp said the 20,000,000 shares were issued on July 1, 2020.

The company said that 5,000,000 options were exercised at 2.5 cents each, 5,000,000 were exercised at 5.0 cents each, and 10,000,000 were exercised at 10 cents each.

Resapp fell one cent or 5.7 percent to 16.5 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

OSTEOPORE

Osteopore says it has appointed the Los Angeles, California-based Bioplate to distribute its Osteopore bone void filler products in the US.

Osteopore said its Osteomesh, Osteoplug and Osteoplug-C products had US Food and Drug Administration approval as cranio-facial products under the FDA 510k clearance.

The company said that the value of orders received to date from San Francisco's Stanford University and the University of California San Francisco was less than \$5,000 and was "not considered material".

Osteopore said it was "in discussions with Bioplate to assess future demand following the signing of the ... agreement".

The company said that it could not provide US sales forecasts but would update the ASX as further information became available.

Osteopore said the non-exclusive, two-year, distribution agreement with Bioplate was "potentially highly significant" and represented a key strategic milestone in its commercialization path.

Osteopore was up 43.5 cents or 108.75 percent to 83.5 cents with 13.65 million shares traded.

ONCOSIL MEDICAL

Oncosil says it has filed for Australia Therapeutic Goods Association approval of its radiation therapy for locally advanced pancreatic cancer.

Last month, Oncosil said its pancreatic cancer device had been approved by Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (BD: Jun 1, 2020).

Oncosil was up half a cent or 4.55 percent to 11.5 cents with 3.4 million shares traded.

BOD AUSTRALIA

Bod says that revenue for the three months to June 30, 2020 was \$2.5 million, or 42.2 percent of the revenue for the 12 months to June 30 of \$5.92 million.

Bod said the three months to June 30 revenue, from sales of its medical marijuana, cannabidiol and hemp-based products, was a 100 percent increase on the revenue for the three months to March 31, 2020 and a 1,258.7 percent increase compared to the previous corresponding period's revenue of \$184,000.

Bod chief executive officer Jo Patterson said that the revenue was "an exceptional result for Bod".

"In the last year, we have invested considerably in building our two core divisions and this hard work is now paying off," Ms Patterson said.

"Revenue growth from the last two quarters clearly reflects this," Ms Patterson said.

Bod was unchanged at 26.5 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

[INCANNEX \(FORMERLY IMPRESSION HEALTH\)](#)

Incannex says sales of marijuana products for the three months to June 30, 2020 was up 97.35 percent to \$671,000, taking the 12 months revenue to \$1.5 million.

Incannex said revenue came from sales of its marijuana-based products for obstructive sleep apnoea, traumatic brain injury, concussion, acute respiratory distress syndrome and temporomandibular joint disorder, including its best-selling product, Cannagesia cannabidiol oil.

The company said it expected the sales momentum to continue in the three months to October 31, 2020 following the receipt of 2,500 Incannex branded Cannagesia products. Incannex chief executive officer Joel Latham said that “after sourcing a great range of medicinal cannabis manufacturers, we have been unrelenting in our efforts to grow cash sales of the Incannex range of products”.

“I am delighted to report that the company has achieved its greatest quarter of cash sales receipts, being a 97 percent increase over the previous corresponding June 2019 quarter,” Mr Latham said.

Incannex was up 0.4 cents or 8.2 percent to 5.3 cents with 5.4 million shares traded.

[INCANNEX \(FORMERLY IMPRESSION HEALTHCARE\)](#)

Incannex says it has completed its name change from Impression Healthcare to Incannex Healthcare and has retained the ASX ticker code IHL.

The company said shareholders had approved the change on June 26, 2020.

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

THC says it will supply 2,250 bottles of Canndeo to Medleaf for \$260,000, and expects orders of 3,000 bottles to Canada, plus initial European orders.

Last week, THC said it has an agreement to produce and supply 2,250 bottles of its Canndeo full spectrum cannabidiol and balanced tetrahydrocannabinol with cannabidiol the Auckland, New Zealand-based Medleaf Therapeutics from October 2020 to August 2021, with an automation renewal option.

Today, the company said Medleaf would pay \$260,000 for the 2,250 bottles, or \$115.55 a bottle, to supply 800 patients.

THC said it expected to export 3,000 bottles to Canada by October 31, 2020.

The company said that it expected its first European orders by the end of 2020 and was verifying the Good Agricultural and Collection Practice, a European requirement, of its suppliers of cannabis oil.

THC said that to support the increase demand on its products it had “secured additional crude cannabis extract supply from Southern America”.

THC was unchanged at 30 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

[NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL](#)

Neurotech has requested a trading halt “pending an announcement in relation to an acquisition along with a material capital raising”.

Trading will resume on July 8, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Neurotech last traded at one cent.

RHINOMED

Paul and Eleanor Stephens say their 9,351,129 share-holding in Rhinomed has been diluted below five percent and they have ceased their substantial holding.

The San Francisco-based Mr and Ms Stephens said that on June 26, 2020 their 7.95 percent holding was diluted by a rights issue.

Last week, Rhinomed said it raised \$6,514,439 through a rights issue at 7.7 cents a share (BD: Jun 24, 2020.)

Rhinomed was unchanged at 7.3 cents.

BIONOMICS

Apeiron Investment Group and Christian Angermayer say they have become substantial in Bionomics with 81,500,000 shares or 13.015 percent of the company.

The Malta-based Apeiron and London-based Mr Angermayer said that on June 30, 2020 they bought 81,500,000 shares at four cents a share.

Last month, Bionomics said it hoped to raise \$22 million in a capital raising at four cents a share, including \$5,433,320 from a two-tranche agreement with Apeiron, with the second tranche subject to shareholder approval (BD: Jun 2, 2020).

Bionomics was up half a cent or 8.2 percent to 6.6 cents.

BIONOMICS

Mark Lambert and BVF Partners and say their 108,537,206 shares substantial holding in Bionomics has been diluted from 19.99 percent to 17.33 percent.

The San Francisco, California-based Mr Lambert said that on June 30, 2020 their holding had been diluted following a placement of 81,500,000 shares (see above).

CRESO PHARMA

Creso chairman Boaz Wachtel says his 8,300,000 share-holding has been diluted below five percent and he has ceased to be a substantial shareholder.

Mr Wachtel says that through the Kfar Neter, Israel-based International Water Energy Savers, he was diluted on November 29, 2019.

Last year, Creso said it hoped to raise up to \$9,785,161 to repay the \$C3.9 million (\$A4.3 million) Pharmaciolo loan by November 30, 2019 and to fund its ongoing operations (BD: Nov 28, 2019).

Creso was unchanged at 3.5 cents with 3.9 million shares traded.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says it has expanded 50-subject, phase II trial of its supplement artemisinin and curcumin-based Artemic for Covid-19 patients to India.

MGC said it had approval to recruit Covid-19 patients from the Aurangabad, Maharashtra-based Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College and Hospital.

The company said that recruitment was expected to begin in mid-July and the trial would conclude by the end of the year.

MGC said that the trial expansion to India was important as it could "facilitate the future sale of Artemic in India, and other Asian countries with mutual recognition with India".

MGC was up 0.1 cents or five percent to 2.1 cents with 53.9 million shares traded.

CELLMID

Cellmid says Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech has extended the distribution of its rapid antibody diagnostic test for Covid-19 in Australia until December 30, 2020.

In March, Cellmid said that through the Guangzhou, Guangdong-based Wondfo Biotech's authorized distributor Australian Application Pty Ltd it had a supply agreement to distribute antibody diagnostic test for Covid-19, the disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) (BD: Mar 30, 2020).

Today, the company said that, with Australian Application, it had amended the agreement such that it was valid until December 30, 2020 and removed the previous minimum order requirements.

Cellmid chief executive officer Maria Halasz told Biotech Daily that the original agreement between Wondfo and Australian Application expired on June 30, 2020.

Ms Halasz said that Cellmid did not have a fixed expiry date with Australian Application. Cellmid said the amended agreement was "subject to Cellmid maintaining registration of the product with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration".

Cellmid said it expected that rapid tests would have "an important role in widespread population surveys, research and development activities such as drug and vaccine trials and as an adjunct device in diagnostic and triage settings".

Cellmid was up two cents or 20 percent to 12 cents with 2.4 million shares traded.