



Biotech Daily

Tuesday July 7, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH DOWN: UNIVERSAL BIO UP 19.5%
- PRESCIENT DOWN 8%**
- * **CSL ENROLS 1st PATIENT IN CSL312 PHASE II COVID-19 TRIAL**
- * **LBT: BECKMAN COULTER MARKETS APAS IN EUROPE; TRADING HALT**
- * **CYCLOPHARM: H1 SALES DOWN 13.8% TO \$5.6m, UNDERLYING UP**
- * **ESENSE: BLUE SCIENCE US TERPENES SANITIZER DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **TOTAL BRAIN: 3.8m LOUIS GAGNON, DR EVIAN GORDON OPTIONS EGM**
- * **CELLMID REQUESTS 'DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT' TRADING HALT**
- * **LIFE BIOSCIENCES DILUTED TO 25% OF ALTERITY**
- * **LAZARD TAKES 6% OF MAYNE**
- * **PYXIS TAKES 8% OF LIFESPOT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.03 percent on Tuesday July 7, 2020, with the ASX200 down 1.7 points to 6,012.9 points. Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell, five traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Universal Biosensors was the best on no news, up four cents or 19.5 percent to 24.5 cents, with 1.15 million shares traded. Uscom climbed 10.6 percent; Optiscan was up 7.5 percent; Compumedics improved five percent; Antisense, Genetic Signatures, Imugene, Pharmaxis and Proteomics rose more than two percent; Polynovo and Pro Medicus were up more than one percent; with Avita, Cyclopharm and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Prescient led the falls, down half a cent or 7.8 percent to 5.9 cents, with 2.4 million shares traded. Immutep, Impedimed and Osprey lost more than six percent; Neuren and Next Science were down more than five percent; Alterity, Amplia, Dimerix and Mesoblast fell four percent or more; Paradigm, Resonance and Volpara were down more than three percent; Opthea, Orthocell and Nova Eye (Ellex) shed more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear, CSL, Cynata, Medical Developments, Nanosonics and Resmed down by less than one percent.

CSL

CSL says it has enrolled the first of 124 patients in its phase II trial of CSL312 for severe respiratory distress in Covid-19 patients with pneumonia.

CSL said that subsidiary CSL Behring's randomized, multi-centre, double-blind, placebo-controlled study would assess the safety and efficacy of its factor XIIIa antagonist monoclonal antibody CSL312, or garadacimab, for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2), the virus that caused Covid-19.

The company said patients would be randomized to receive either CSL312 or a placebo, as well as standard of care treatment.

CSL said that the primary endpoint was the incidence of tracheal intubation or death.

The company said it was evaluating five approaches to prevent and treat Covid-19, including development of a Covid-19 vaccine with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the University of Queensland, and an anti-Sars-Cov-2 plasma product, Covid-19 Immunoglobulin (BD: May 6, Jun 5, 2020).

CSL said it was also a founding member of the Covig-19 Plasma Alliance, which aimed to develop a potential plasma-derived therapy for Covid-19, and had partnered with the Sioux Falls, South Dakota-based SAB Biotherapeutics to deliver an immunotherapy that targeted Covid-19 (BD: Apr 7, 9, 2020).

CSL Behring head of research and development, and chief medical officer Dr Bill Mezzanotte said that "when it comes to COVID-19, we have gone all in on the battle and are in the fight together with many external partners".

"Whether it is preventative with vaccines, or preventing progression with a hyperimmune, or using our monoclonal antibodies, like CSL312, to help people who are experiencing severe respiratory complications, CSL has taken on projects we think make sense both scientifically and that fit our capabilities," Dr Bill Mezzanotte said.

"In this way we are most likely to deliver on our promise to patients by helping find solutions to stop this virus and to treat the damage it inflicts on people," Dr Bill Mezzanotte said.

CSL fell 73 cents or 0.25 percent to \$290.08 with 781,604 shares traded.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says it has a three-year agreement with Beckman Coulter to market its automated plate assessment system (Apas) Independence in Europe.

LBT said its joint venture company, Clever Culture Systems, would pay the Brea, California-based Beckman Coulter a fixed referral fee for each sale, including increased incentives for early sales.

The company said it would initially focus on sales in Germany, the UK and France, but it would extend to additional countries.

LBT said the full terms of the agreement remained commercial-in-confidence, but it would be responsible for sales, installation and ongoing service and maintenance of the Apas instrument.

The company said it planned a soft launch for late 2020.

LBT chief executive officer Brent Barnes said that Beckman Coulter had more than "11,000 associates around the globe making them one of the largest diagnostic companies in the world and they have a leading market share in Europe".

In a separate announcement, LBT requested a trading halt "pending an announcement in respect of a capital raise" with the funds to be used for the expansion of sales in Europe. Trading will resume on July 9, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

LBT last traded at 19 cents.

CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says sales revenue for the six months to June 30, 2020 was \$5.6 million, down 13.8 percent compared to the previous corresponding period.

Cyclopharm said revenue was impacted by delays to patient administration set (PAS) consumable orders due to Covid-19 restrictions, including a scheduled French order.

The company said it expected sales orders in France to resume over the next six months and PAS kit sales to rebound as Covid-19 restrictions were eased.

Cyclopharm said that excluding sales to France, total revenue was up 10 percent compared to the prior corresponding period, with \$600,000 from new revenue streams from the distribution of third-party products in Europe.

Cyclopharm was up half a cent or 0.33 percent to \$1.50.

ESENSE-LAB

Esense says the Florida-based Blue Science Solutions will exclusively distribute its future terpenes-based sanitiser products in the US.

Esense said Blue Science would have exclusivity in the US, subject to minimum product sales of \$10 million over the first five years and \$3 million in the first initial 12-month period.

The company said it would pay Blue Science an arm's length standard commission on all sales to introduce the future products through its supply chain, including as an approved supplier through the IBM Rapid Supplier Connect initiative.

Esense said it would issue 10,000,000 Chess depository interests (CDIs) to Blue Science at one cent each.

Esense was up 0.4 cents or 20 percent to 2.4 cents with 595.2 million shares traded.

TOTAL BRAIN

Total Brain says it will vote to issue 2,600,000 options to chief executive officer Louis Gagnon and 1,205,156 options to founder and chief medical officer Dr Evian Gordon.

Total Brain said the options would form part of Mr Gagnon and Dr Gordon's remuneration packages and would vest in three tranches on achievement of \$US8 million, \$US12 million and \$US20 million annual revenue targets.

The company said the five-year options would be exercisable at the 30-day volume-weighted average price, with a 20 percent, 40 percent and 60 percent premium respectively per tranche of options.

The company said it would also vote to update its employee share option plan and to cancel and re-issue 2,823,297 options to Mr Gagnon and 3,709,076 options to holders of employee options, exercisable at 80 cents per option.

The meeting will be held at Level 3, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria on August 5, 2020 at 10am (AEST).

Total Brain was untraded at 38 cents.

CELLMID

Cellmid has requested a trading halt pending "an announcement regarding the company entering into a new distribution agreement".

Trading will resume on July 9, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Cellmid last traded up one cent or 7.1 percent to 15 cents.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

The Boston, Massachusetts-based Life Biosciences says its 269,905,533 share-holding in Alterity has been diluted from 31.35 percent to 24.88 percent.

Last week, Alterity said it had raised \$1,562,789 through a placement at 3.28 cents a share and would issue 47,646,000 shares on July 2, 2020 (BD: Jul 2, 2020).

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

Last year, Prana voted to accept Life Biosciences investment of \$41.8 million for 63 percent of the company and the change of name to Alterity (BD: Mar 6, Apr 5, 2020).

Alterity fell 0.2 cents or 4.8 percent to four cents with 29.9 million shares traded.

MAYNE PHARMA GROUP

Lazard Asset Management Pacific Co says it has increased its substantial holding in Mayne Pharma from 84,728,442 shares (5.05%) to 101,805,753 shares (6.06%).

The Sydney-based Lazard said it bought the shares between June 5 and July 3, 2020 with the single largest purchase 2,792,293 shares for \$1,047,340 or 37.5 cents a share.

Mayne was up half a cent or 1.2 percent to 43 cents with 11.0 million shares traded.

LIFESPOT HEALTH

Pyxis Holdings says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Lifespot from 6,038,192 shares (6.24%) to 7,500,000 shares (7.75%).

The Claremont, Western Australia-based Pyxis said that on June 30, 2020 it bought 961,808 shares for \$36,365 or 3.8 cents a share and on June 3, 2020 bought 500,000 shares for \$23,374 or 4.7 cents a share.

Lifespot was untraded at 4.7 cents.