



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday August 12, 2020

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PRESCIENT UP 9%; MESOBLAST DOWN 9%**
- \* **VICTORIA KEEPS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE CENTRE**
- \* **LBT SHARE PLAN RAISES \$367k OF HOPED-FOR \$1m; TOTAL \$8.4m**
- \* **RACE: WILLIAMS, EMMANUEL, MERCHANT EXERCISE \$1.5m OPTIONS**
- \* **US PATENT FOR IMMUTEP IMP321 COMBINATION THERAPY**
- \* **PRESCIENT INCREASES PTX-100 CANCER TRIAL DOSE**
- \* **BOTANIX STARTS PHASE IIa BTX1801 SURGICAL INFECTION STUDY**
- \* **RESPIRI, APA PARTNER FOR 'REAL WORLD' WHEEZO ASTHMA STUDY**
- \* **CRESO: DHS PORTUGAL, SPAIN MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTOR**
- \* **M&G MOSTLY CORRECTS MESOBLAST SUBSTANTIALS**
- \* **EMVISION: FOROUGH KHANDAN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT HEAD**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.11 percent on Wednesday August 12, 2020, with the ASX200 down 6.7 points to 6,132.0 points. Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 26 fell and four traded unchanged.

Prescient was the best, up 0.5 cents or 8.6 percent to 6.3 cents, with 11.75 million shares traded. Cyclopharm climbed 5.7 percent; Kazia and Oncosil were up more than four percent; Cochlear and LBT improved three percent or more; Immutep and Universal Biosensors rose two percent or more; Compumedics was up 1.15 percent; with CSL, Next Science and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Mesoblast led the falls for the second day in a row, down 29 cents or 8.6 percent to \$3.07, with 37.2 million shares traded. Amplia, Genetic Signatures and Patrys lost more than seven percent; Avita, Proteomics and Resonance were down six percent or more; Osprey and Uscom were down five percent or more; Actinogen and Nanosonics fell four percent or more; Antisense, Dimerix, Medical Developments, Opthea, Paradigm and Polynovo shed two percent or more; Impedimed, Imugene, Orthocell, Starpharma, Telix and Volpara fell more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cynata, Neuren and Resmed down by less than one percent.

## VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says it has retained the national headquarters of the Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine Australia.

A Victoria Government spokesman told Biotech Daily that there had been competition from other jurisdictions for the Centre, but the State Government had provided unspecified funds to keep it in Melbourne.

“Funding has been made available for general working purposes,” the spokesman said. In a media release from the Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford, the State Government said that retaining the Centre’s national headquarters in Melbourne would “allow Victoria to build upon its position as Australia’s undisputed leader in research and development of regenerative medicines and pharmaceuticals”.

The media release said that regenerative medicine used stem cells or bio-engineered cells to treat injuries and diseases by harnessing the body’s regenerative capabilities. The Victoria Government said that institutions such as the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre were leading Australia’s delivery of new therapies, using car-T cell immunotherapy products to precisely target cancer cells and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre’s commercial manufacturing facility Cell Therapies was partnering with biotechnology companies to manufacture cell therapy products.

The Government said that the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, Monash Health and Monash University were conducting clinical trials into the use of stem cells to treat conditions such as stroke, lung diseases and organ scarring.

The media release said that the Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine was based at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute within Monash University in Clayton and was established in 2016 through Victorian Government funding.

The Victoria Government said the Centre was the Australian node of the Canadian-based centre in Toronto.

Ms Pulford said that cell therapies “can save lives and change the fate of families”.

## LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says it has raised a total of \$8,367,400 through an \$8 million placement and \$367,400 share purchase plan at 16 cents a share.

Last month, LBT said it had commitments to raise \$8 million in a placement at 16 cents a share and hoped to raise a further \$1 million in a share plan (BD: Jul 9, 2020).

Today, the company said the funds would be used to expand its automated plate assessment system (Apas) Independence commercialization activities in Europe and the US, continue development for a new analysis module and for working capital.

LBT was up half a cent or 3.45 percent to 15 cents.

## RACE ONCOLOGY

Race says that 6,000,000 options, issued to former chief executive officer Dr Peter Molloy, have been acquired and exercised raising \$1.5 million.

Race said that Dr Molloy’s options had been acquired and exercised by investors Kidder Williams principal David Williams, EFM Asset Management’s Jeff Emmanuel and Merchant Opportunities Fund.

Merchant managing-director Andrew Chapman said he believed in the Race technology and invested “to remove any share price overhang”.

Race fell four cents or 4.65 percent to 82 cents.

## IMMUTEP

Immutep says it has been granted a US patent for its eftilagimod alpha or IMP321 in a chemotherapy and immunotherapy combination for cancer and autoimmune disease. Immutep said the patent, titled 'Combined Preparations for the Treatment of Cancer' would protect its intellectual property until January 25, 2035.

Immutep was up half a cent or 2.7 percent to 19 cents, with 4.6 million shares traded.

## PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient says its phase Ib, up to 24-patient trial of its Ras pathway inhibitor PTX-100 for cancer will move to the 2,000 milligrams per square metre (mg/m<sup>2</sup>) dose.

Prescient said it had completed the second 1,000mg/m<sup>2</sup> cohort of three patients and no drug-related safety issues were observed.

The company said further follow-up analyses on patients in the first cohort at 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> showed that two patients had a partial response, had stable disease or better and would continue the therapy.

Prescient said the open label, non-randomized "basket" study aimed to determine the safety, dose regimen and treatment schedule of PTX-100 as a single agent for a range of cancers where the Ras and Ras homolog gene family member A (RhoA) mutations were prevalent.

Prescient was up half a cent or 8.6 percent to 6.3 cents, with 11.75 million shares traded.

## BOTANIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Botanix says it has begun recruitment for an up-to 60 patient, phase IIa, antimicrobial study of its nasal, synthetic cannabinoid BTX1801 to prevent surgical site infections.

Botanix said the double-blind, vehicle-controlled study aimed to evaluate the safety, tolerability and efficacy of two formulations of BTX1801, administered nasally twice daily over five days, in healthy adults.

The company said it would test the ability of BTX1801 to eradicate *Staphylococcus aureus*, or golden Staph, and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from the nose, which increased the risk of serious and life-threatening infections post-surgery.

Botanix said it hoped to complete the study by the end of 2020 and would then move to a pivotal study of patients undergoing surgery.

The company said that BTX1801 had US qualified infectious disease product (QIDP) designation and it was pursuing US Food and Drug Administration fast track status.

Botanix fell 0.2 cents or 3.6 percent to 5.3 cents, with 3.3 million shares traded.

## RESPIRI

Respiri says it has partnered with the Australian Patients Association for a "real-world" asthma management study of its Wheezo device.

Respiri said the Melbourne-based Association was a not-for-profit organization, connected with 1.1 million Australian patients and 15,000 healthcare practitioners.

The company said the study would provide patients and doctors access to its technology to log their wheeze, symptoms, medication use and to digitize their asthma plans.

Respiri chief executive officer Marjan Mikel said that patients participating in the study and using the platform was "very valuable and will allow us to evolve the platform to truly meet the needs of asthma patients and extend asthma care beyond the clinic".

Respiri was up one cent or 7.4 percent to 14.5 cents.

## CRESO PHARMA

Creso says it has a commercial agreement with DHS Business Portugal to distribute its marijuana products in Portugal and Spain.

Creso said it would pay DHS Business an “industry standard” commission on sales of products, initially focussing on Cannadol 0.5 percent and 1.0 percent cannabidiol topical gels to improve mobility for athletes and for patients with rheumatoid arthritis and arthrosis.

The company said it would also consider product sales of Cannqix oral care for stress reduction.

Creso said it aimed to cover 2,000 sports shops and pharmacies in Portugal and 4,000 in Spain, with first products expected to be sold by April 2021.

Creso was up 0.1 cents or 2.5 percent to 4.1 cents, with 16.1 million shares traded.

## MESOBLAST

The London-based M&G Investment Funds has corrected the cost of shares in its two most recent substantial shareholder notices in Mesoblast.

Last week, M&G said it had reduced its holding in Mesoblast from 72,470,118 shares (12.48%) on May 18 to 65,668,769 shares (11.24%) on August 5, 2020 (BD: Aug 7, 2020).

On Monday, M&G said it had reduced its holding from 70,068,935 shares (12.05%) to 64,531,906 shares (11.04%) (BD: Aug 10, 2020).

In both previous substantial shareholder notices, M&G said it had bought 29,750 shares for \$35,402,500 but no calculation made sense of the claim.

Today, M&G made numerous corrections to calculations of sales, including the sale of the 29,750 shares for \$93,761 or \$3.17 a share.

Both amended shareholder notices continued to use incorrect dates.

M&G filed substantial shareholder notices in Mesoblast on May 27, August 7 and August 10, 2020, saying that the changes were made on May 25, August 5, and August 6, 2020, respectively.

According to M&G Finds it currently holds 64,531,906 Mesoblast shares or 11.04 percent of the company.

Mesoblast fell 29 cents or 8.6 percent to \$3.07, with 37.2 million shares traded.

## EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it has appointed Forough Khandan as the head of program management. Emvision said Ms Khandan was previously the program manager for Nanosonics for nine years involved in product development programs, partnerships and engagement programs.

Former Nanosonics chief executive officer, now Emvision chief executive officer, Dr Ron Weinberger said that Ms Khandan’s “expertise in global regulatory standards and requirements for getting product to market is an important reason why I have chosen her for this instrumental role”.

Emvision fell 7.5 cents or 4.8 percent to \$1.495.