



# Biotech Daily

Tuesday August 4, 2020

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: ALTERITY UP 35%; PATRYS DOWN 13%**
- \* **APPLICATIONS FOR \$300k GILEAD GRANTS CLOSE AUGUST 14**
- \* **MONASH UNI, JANSSEN OXYTOCIN FOR POSTPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE**
- \* **PATRYS UNDERWRITTEN RIGHTS RAISE \$4.3m**
- \* **USCOM VENTITEST CALIBRATES VENTILATORS**
- \* **RESAPP SLEEPCHECK FOR APNOEA AVAILABLE ON-LINE**
- \* **RECCE: 'RECCE-435 REDUCES HELICOBACTER PYLORI IN RATS'**
- \* **ALTERITY: ATH434 MSA MOUSE SAFETY, EFFICACY PRESENTATIONS**
- \* **ALTERITY 49m DIRECTOR 'INCENTIVE' OPTIONS EGM**
- \* **MERCHANT FUNDS TAKES 12.3% OF BARD1**
- \* **STEPHEN DOBSON BELOW 5% IN NEUROTECH**
- \* **VOLPARA: KATHERINE SINGSON US CEO, MARK KOENIGUER GOES**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.88 percent on Tuesday August 4, 2020, with the ASX200 up 111.5 points to 6,037.6 points. Twenty-four of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell and four traded unchanged.

Alterity was the best, up 1.2 cents or 35.3 percent to 4.6 cents, with 308.2 million shares traded. Mesoblast climbed seven percent; LBT was up 6.9 percent; Immutep and Opthea improved more than five percent; Actinogen, Avita, Impedimed, Medical Developments, Oncosil, Polynovo, Universal Biosensors and Uscom were up more than four percent; Dimerix, Nanosonics, Starpharma and Volpara climbed more than three percent; CSL and Paradigm rose more than two percent; Antisense, Compumedics, Neuren, Orthocell and Resmed were up one percent or more; with Clinuvel and Next Science up by less than one percent.

Patrys led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 13.3 percent to 1.3 cents, with 6.4 million shares traded. Osprey lost 8.8 percent; Amplia, Cyclopharm, Imugene and Resonance retreated more than three percent; Kazia and Pro Medicus shed more than two percent; Nova was down 1.6 percent; with Cochlear, Genetic Signatures, Proteomics and Telix down by less than one percent.

## GILEAD SCIENCES

Gilead Australia says that applicants for \$300,000 for local initiatives and community-focused research projects close on August 14, 2020.

Gilead said that its Fellowship Research Grants Program was in its tenth year and aimed “to help bridge the gap in Australian research funding, providing support to projects which have a local community focus and which often struggle to secure funding or face high competition”.

The company said that the maximum amount for an individual project was \$60,000.

Gilead said that this year’s criteria for applicants included research into emerging viruses such as Covid-19 as well as HIV, chronic viral hepatitis, haematological malignancies, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, inflammatory diseases, and invasive fungal infections.

The company said that projects should have a clinical and ‘real-world’ focus, ideally engaging with local communities and aimed at enhancing patient outcomes.

Gilead Australia and New Zealand medical director Dr Paul Slade said that his company was “committed to helping patients through important research and development projects”.

“It means a lot to us that the Gilead Fellowship has been able to play a role in helping vital research projects get off the ground over the past nine years, and we’re looking forward to continuing to support the next generation of Australian researchers with this 2021 grant,” Dr Slade said.

Gilead said that applications must be received by August 14 and recipients would be notified in November 2020.

For more information, go to: [www.gileadfellowship.com.au](http://www.gileadfellowship.com.au), or contact [admin@gileadfellowship.com.au](mailto:admin@gileadfellowship.com.au).

## MONASH UNIVERSITY, JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Monash University says it will work with Janssen Pharmaceutica NV to develop inhaled dry powder oxytocin for postpartum haemorrhage.

Monash University said the agreement with Johnson & Johnson’s Beerse, Belgium-based Janssen Pharmaceutica would allow the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences to rapidly evaluate the dry powder formulation for postpartum haemorrhage or excessive blood loss after birth, as the leading cause of maternal mortality.

The University said an inhalable form of oxytocin, which would not require refrigeration, could ease use by frontline health workers, birth attendants and mothers in low income countries.

Monash University said the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund would co-fund a clinical trial to confirm safety and performance, which, subject to successful completion, would lead to a large-scale, phase III international efficacy trial in Australia and low-income countries in high need.

The University said access to quality oxytocin in low income countries was limited, as it was currently only available in an injectable form, which required supply and storage.

Monash University said Glaxosmithkline would continue to provide access to technical expertise as required to support ongoing development of inhaled oxytocin.

Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences project lead Prof Michelle McIntosh said that “making an oxytocin inhaler a standard part of every midwife’s bag, or including one in a safe birthing kit for expectant mothers, could be the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of women”.

## [PATRYS](#)

Patrys says it had applications for \$1,789,620 in its one-for-three fully underwritten non-renounceable entitlement offer at 1.2 cents a share to raise \$4,290,371.

Patrys said it received applications for 103,201,204 shares or \$1,238,414, applications for 45,934,493 additional top-up facility shares worth \$551,214, and would allocate 208,395,130 shortfall shares to the lead underwriter to raise a further \$2,500,742.

The company said that for each parcel of three new shares, investors would receive one free attaching option exercisable at 2.4 cents each within three years.

Patrys said Lazarus Corporate Finance was the underwriter and lead manager to the offer.

Patrys fell 0.2 cents or 13.3 percent to 1.3 cents with 6.4 million shares traded.

## [USCOM](#)

Uscom says its Spirosonic Ventitest accurately calibrates respiratory assist devices including ventilators used for Covid-19 patients.

Uscom said the Ventitest measured the flow, pressure and volume output of respiratory devices, including ventilators, anesthesia devices, home ventilation systems and respiratory drug administration systems.

The company said the test used its Ventitest-S flow pressure analysis software for archiving, display and analysis, including extended calculations, data logging and test report generation and printing.

Uscom said it expected regulatory approval for the Ventitest in China, South East Asia, Europe and the US within three months of an accelerated non-medical device pathway.

The company said that the device had 18 months protection under the Patent Co-operation Treaty and could then transition to patent applications for each jurisdiction.

Uscom executive chair Prof Rob Phillips said the Ventitest would be sold to hospitals, respiratory device manufacturers and home consumers “all of which depend on accurate calibration of their respiratory devices for effective operation and optimal clinical outcomes”.

“The global medical ventilators market is one of the fastest-growing segments in medical devices, and while it’s not difficult to manufacture ventilators, ventilator calibration requires technology with high levels of precision and our ultrasonic sensors have been in development and clinical use for over 15 years,” Prof Phillips said.

“For Uscom this is a rational business expansion; specializing our own patented protected technologies into new products for a rapidly expanding market and unprecedented global needs,” Prof Phillips said.

Uscom was up one cent or 4.9 percent to 21.5 cents with 2.85 million shares traded.

## [RESAPP HEALTH](#)

Resapp says its Sleepcheck sleep apnoea self-assessment smart phone application is now available from the Apple Appstore in 36 countries.

Resapp said Sleepcheck used the Iphone microphone to record and analyze breathing and snoring patterns overnight for risk of sleep apnoea.

Reapp chief executive officer Tony Keating said Sleepcheck had been translated into local languages in the European countries with the highest prevalence of sleep apnoea, including Germany, France and Spain “and we will continue to build out localized information for users”.

Resapp was up one cent or 7.7 percent to 14 cents.

## RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce says its oral broad-spectrum synthetic antibiotic Recce-435 has achieved dose-dependent efficacy and reduced bacterial load for *Helicobacter pylori* in rats.

Recce said the independent efficacy study assessed dose-dependent efficacy in five groups of 10 rats against a clinical isolate of *Helicobacter pylori*, a Gram-negative bacterium that affected the lining of the stomach and upper digestive tract.

The company said three groups were treated with either 250, 500 or 1,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of Recce-435.

Recce said it found dose-dependent efficacy at all three doses, with “significant reduction in bacterial load” and there were no signs of toxicity at any dose level.

The company said that, post-treatment, 90 percent of the 10 infected control rats had *Helicobacter pylori*, 50 percent of rats given the standard therapy of amoxicillin and clarithromycin, 60 percent of rats given 250mg/kg of Recce-435, 40 percent when given 500mg/kg of Recce-435 and 20 percent when given 1,000mg/kg of Recce-435.

Recce said that an additional independent study of up to 500mg/kg of Recce-435 indicated that it did not negatively impact feeding habits.

Recce was up 12.5 cents or 10.6 percent to \$1.305 with 1.7 million shares traded.

## ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY)

Alterity says it will present new data that ATH434 for multiple system atrophy preserves neurons and improves motor performance in mice.

Alterity said the research was conducted at Austria’s Medical University of Innsbruck, and would be presented at the 2020 International Congress of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders from September 12 to 16, 2020 and the American Neurological Association’s 2020 Annual Meeting from October 4 to 9, 2020.

The company said the new mouse data confirmed and extended previous findings that its small molecule inhibitor of  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation ATH434 (formerly PBT434) reduced  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology, preserved neurons and improved motor performance.

Alterity said that its phase I study reinforced previous findings that ATH434 was well tolerated at all doses, had an adverse event profile comparable to the placebo and found that there was no cardiac liability at clinically tested doses (BD: Jul 29, 2019).

Alterity was up 1.2 cents or 35.3 percent to 4.6 cents with 308.2 million shares traded.

## ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

Alterity says its extraordinary general meeting will vote to issue 49 million incentive options to chair Geoffrey Kempler and five directors.

Alterity said it would vote to issue 14 million incentive options to Mr Kempler and seven million incentive options each to directors Dr David Sinclair, Tristan Edwards, Peter Marks, Lawrence Gozlan and Brain Meltzer, all exercisable at “two times the closing price ... on the last day” before they were issued and within five years from issue.

Alterity said it would also vote to issue 157.5 million shares under its 2004 ASX Plan and its 2018 ADS Plan.

The company said it would vote to ratify the prior issue of 216,204,540 shares in a placement.

The meeting will be held virtually on September 3, 2020 at 10:30am (AEST).

### [BARD1 LIFE SCIENCES](#)

Merchant Funds Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Bard1 from 155,266,958 shares (11.36%) to 318,137,725 shares (13.29%).

The Nedlands, Western Australia-based Merchant Funds said that it acquired 1,676,904 shares for \$74,804 or 4.5 cents a share and sold 3,584,233 shares for \$167,307 or 4.7 cents a share in on-market trades.

Merchant Funds said that on July 28, 2020 it acquired 164,778,096 shares for \$3,019,042 or 1.8 cents a share through its scheme of arrangement to acquire Sienna Cancer Diagnostics (BD: Jul 29, 2020).

Bard1 was unchanged at 3.1 cents.

### [NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL](#)

The North Fremantle, Western Australia-based Stephen Dobson says he has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Neurotech.

In April, Mr Dobson said that he had become a substantial shareholder in Neurotech with 15,096,786 shares or 7.01 percent of the company.

Today, Mr Dobson said that on July 30, 2020 he sold 15,096,756 shares for \$335,628 or 2.2 cents a share.

Neurotech was unchanged at one cent with 30.5 million shares traded.

### [VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Volpara says it has appointed Katherine Singson as chief executive officer of its US subsidiary Volpara Solutions Inc replacing chief commercial officer Mark Koeniguer. Volpara said Ms Singson was a breast cancer survivor, based in Silicon Valley, California and had more than 30 years' experience in technology, including for Next, Apple, Pixar and Microsoft.

The company said Ms Singson would advise its move towards digital marketing and to drive continued growth in annual recurring revenues.

Volpara said that Ms Singson had experience in strategy, branding, business-to-business activities, sales and marketing.

Volpara said Mr Koeniguer would leave "as we reorganize to meet the shifting business environment and strategy" for its breast cancer screening software.

Volpara was up four cents or 3.1 percent to \$1.34.