



Biotech Daily

Wednesday September 9, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PRESCIENT UP 5%; PATRYS DOWN 14%**
- * **CYCLOPHARM, MCMASTERS PARTNER ON TECHNEGAS FOR COVID-19**
- * **CLARITY: 64-CU-SARTATE WINS FDA RARE KIDS DISEASE STATUS**
- * **PHARMAUST: ELANCO DROPS 2018 MONEPANTEL OPTION; COVID-19**
- * **IMUGENE: BELL POTTER UNDERWRITES \$5.7m OPTIONS**
- * **MEMPHASYS RECEIVES \$1.3m R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **ANTEOTECH DEVELOPS COVID-19, INFLUENZA A, INFLUENZA B TEST**
- * **TGA JOINT SESSION DROPS MARIJUANA CBD TO O-T-C SCHEDULE 3**
- * **MEMPHASYS, HYDRIX GOOD DESIGN GONG FOR SPERM SEPARATOR**
- * **LOUMEA INCREASES, DILUTED TO 6.9% OF RHYTHM**
- * **VIBURNUM TAKES 22% OF UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS**
- * **NAOS TAKES 26% OF BTC**
- * **KIRMAN 2, BRIAN SHERMAN TAKE 5.7% OF REGENEUS**
- * **NOXOPHARM APPOINTS FRED BART AS NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 2.15 percent on Wednesday September 9, 2020, with the ASX200 down 129.2 points to 5,878.6 points. Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 24 fell and eight traded unchanged.

Prescient was the best, up 0.3 cents or 4.9 percent to 6.4 cents, with 5.5 million shares traded. Antisense, Cynata and Osprey climbed more than four percent; Compumedics and Neuren rose two percent or more; Cyclopharm and Starpharma were up more than one percent, with Resmed up 0.04 percent.

PatrYS led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 14.3 percent to 1.2 cents, with 18.1 million shares traded. Alterity, Imugene and Kazia fell four percent or more; Mesoblast, Oncosil, Paradigm, Pharmaxis, Resonance and Volpara lost more than three percent; Avita, Clinuvel, CSL, Impedimed, Nanosonics, Opthea, Proteomics, Universal Biosensors and Uscom shed more than two percent; Cochlear, Medical Developments, Next Science and Orthocell were down more than one percent; with Polynovo, Pro Medicus and Telix down by less than one percent.

CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says it has partnered with the Hamilton, Ontario-based McMaster's University to assess Technegas for Covid-19 lung ventilation and perfusion imaging.

Cyclopharm said it would conduct a 14-month, 100-patient study on both healthy and Covid-19 recovered asthmatics, in order to assess Technegas' ability to detect the functional consequence of airway and vasculature injury.

The company said it would be part of a collaboration with McMaster's University, the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health and Imaging Research Centre and St Joseph's Healthcare.

Cyclopharm said full enrolment was expected by April 2021, with study completion expected by the end of 2021.

Cyclopharm managing-director James McBrayer said the 14-month study could establish ventilation-perfusion single photon emission computed tomography (VQ-Spect) using Technegas as "an important tool in both diagnosis and management of acute respiratory [distress syndrome] related complications in survivors of Covid-19."

Cyclopharm was up 1.5 cents or 1.1 percent to \$1.38.

CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity says the US Food and Drug Administration has granted rare paediatric disease designation for 64-copper Sartate for paediatric neuroblastoma.

In May, Clarity said 64-copper Sartate had been granted orphan drug designation from the FDA (BD: May 20, 2020).

Today, the company said it would be eligible for a tradable priority review voucher to an expedited six months, which had been sold for prices ranging from \$US67.5 million (\$A93.5 million) to \$US350 million (\$A485 million).

Clarity said neuroblastoma was the most common type of cancer in the first year of life and accounted for 15 percent of paediatric cancer mortality.

Clarity is a public unlisted company.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says Elanco will not exercise its 2018 option to negotiate for a royalty-bearing commercial licence to use its intellectual property for cancer in animals.

Pharmaust did not disclose any reasons for the Eli Lilly subsidiary decision.

In 2018, Pharmaust said it had an option agreement with Elanco to develop the monepantel sheep round-worm drench as a treatment for dog cancer (BD: Apr 18, 2018).

The company said at that time that Elanco would supply monepantel for clinical trials in dogs at commercial rates and Elanco would have the option to negotiate for a royalty-bearing commercial licence to use Pharmaust's intellectual property for cancer in animals, and the option agreement would last for six months after receipt of the final report for the relevant canine trial.

In May, Pharmaust said that monepantel for naïve B cell lymphoma in dogs was "successful", with one of seven dogs having a 60 percent reduction in tumor size after treatment (BD: May 12, 2020).

Today, in a separate announcement, the company said monepantel and monepantel sulfone reduced severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2), in in-vitro anti-viral confirmatory testing and it was preparing for a phase I trial in humans.

Pharmaust fell 0.3 cents or 3.75 percent to 7.7 cents.

IMUGENE

Imugene says an underwriting agreement with Bell Potter Securities for options not exercised by November 30, 2020, will raise \$5.7 million at 2.6 cents a share.

Imugene said there were 217,462,548 options and Bell Potter would subscribe for the shortfall and receive a two percent underwriting fee.

The company said the funds would be used to support its clinical programs, for intellectual property and milestone payments and for working capital.

Imugene fell 0.2 cents or four percent to 4.8 cents with 16.5 million shares traded.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it has received \$1,293,092 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Memphasys said the rebate related to expenditure for the year to June 30, 2020.

Memphasys was up one cent or 8.7 percent to 12.5 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

ANTEOTECH

Anteotech says development of a high sensitivity antigen test for Covid-19 has moved to the design validation phase.

In July, Anteotech said its test would differentiate severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) from influenza A and B (BD: Jul 16, 2020).

Today, the company said internal development testing had detected a strong positive signal from 10 samples of Covid-19 and a low signal from five samples.

Anteotech said it achieved a sensitivity of 0.02 nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml) compared to the 0.1ng/ml target, but the data was from a small sample size and would not be used for clinical evidence in regulatory approval.

The company said it would begin external validation tests with Shanghai's Geneodx and the Cuarte de Huerva, Spain-based Operon SA to validate the test and indicate versatility.

The company said it expected to complete development in five to eight months.

Anteotech said it had separately tested the first half strip of its influenza A and B multiplex test and a clear signal was observed across all combinations with no cross reactivity.

The company said the stand-alone antigen test would be rolled out first, with development processes for the multiplex test beginning in late 2020.

Anteotech was up 0.8 cents or 16.7 percent to 5.6 cents with 21.0 million shares traded.

AUSTRALIAN THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration says it has made an interim decision to downgrade cannabidiol to schedule three, allowing for over-the-counter sales.

On its website, the TGA said the down-scheduling would be subject to a number of criteria being satisfied, including: restrictions on preparation and dose, dosage form, pack size, age and limiting supply; a requirement for a child-resistant closure; a requirement for specific warning statements; cannot be advertised directly to consumers; and limited to medicines that were entered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The decision of the Advisory Committee on Medicines and Chemicals Scheduling joint session is available at: <https://bit.ly/3mekxAm>.

[HYDRIX, MEMPHASYS](#)

Hydrix and Memphasys say they have been named as the joint recipients of the 2020 Good Design Awards for the Felix sperm separator device for human in-vitro fertilization. Memphasys and Hydrix said the device, won both the Gold Award for engineering and the Award for product design in the medical and scientific category. Hydrix fell three cents or 9.5 percent to 28.5 cents with 1.8 million shares traded.

[RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES](#)

Melbourne's Loumea Investments says it has increased and been diluted in Rhythm from 10,000,000 shares (9.93%) to 13,800,000 shares (6.85%). Loumea said that between August 28 and September 9, 2020 it disposed of 2,200,000 shares for \$225,000 or 10.2 cents a share and acquired 6,000,000 shares for \$360,000 through the \$3,627,004 rights issue at six cents a share (BD: Sep 2, 2020). Rhythm was up one cent or 8.7 percent to 12.5 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

[UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS](#)

Viburnum Funds says it has increased its substantial holding in Universal Biosensors from 36,636,061 Chess depositary interests (20.65%) to 39,025,336 CDIs (21.99%). The Nedlands, Western Australia-based Viburnum said that between July 27 and September 7, 2020 it bought 2,169,275 CDIs for \$589,305 or 27.17 cents per CDI. Universal Biosensors fell one cent or 2.9 percent to 33 cents.

[BTC HEALTH](#)

Naos Substantial Holders says it has increased its substantial shareholding in BTC from 60,947,189 shares (24.76%) to 64,478,325 shares (26.20%). The Sydney-based Naos said that on September 8, 2020 it acquired 3,531,136 shares for \$327,955 or 9.29 cents a share. BTC fell 0.9 cents or 10 percent to 8.1 cents.

[REGENEUS](#)

Kirman 2 Pty Ltd and Brian Michael Sherman say they have become substantial shareholders in Regeneus with 15,760,892 shares or 5.67 percent. The Sydney-based Kirman and Mr Sherman said that they acquired 6,250,000 shares on September 3, 2019 as part of an underwriting agreement for the company's \$620,157 rights offer at eight cents a share (BD: Aug 30, 2019). Regeneus fell one cent or 5.6 percent to 17 cents.

[NOXOPHARM](#)

Noxopharm says it has appointed Fred Bart as its non-executive chair to allow executive chair Dr Graham Kelly to focus on his role as chief executive officer. In May, Noxopharm said it had appointed Mr Bart as a director (BD: May 8, 2020). Noxopharm was up two cents or 6.8 percent to 31.5 cents.

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