



Biotech Daily

Monday October 12, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: LBT UP 8%; RESONANCE DOWN 9%**
- * **BIOTECH DAILY COMMENT: ASX 'UPGRADE'**
- * **OPTHEA HOPES FOR \$221m NASDAQ IPO**
- * **LBT SELLS APAS INDEPENDENCE, MRSA TO LIMBACH**
- * **NUHEARA EARNS HEWLETT PACKARD \$2m EAR BUD MILESTONE**
- * **ACRUX: DASH TO SELL UNNAMED GENERIC IN THE US**
- * **ADALTA PLEADS SCHULTZ, \$8m CAPITAL RAISE TO ASX 42% QUERY**
- * **OPTHEA 8% OPPOSE 4m DIRECTOR OPTIONS**
- * **POLYNOVO 42% DIRECTORS FEES POOL HIKE AGM**
- * **PYC CLAIMS COMPOUND FOR AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT OPTIC ATROPHY**
- * **NOXOPHARM TREATS LAST PROSTATE CANCER TRIAL PATIENT**
- * **MGC SHIPS 'HIGH THC' MARIJUANA TO BRAZIL**
- * **ALTERITY REQUESTS 'POTENTIAL CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- * **AURORA SELLS CANN GROUP 12%**
- * **PYC LOSES 9-MONTH US CEO DOUG HUEY**
- * **LIFESPOT APPOINTS MATTHEW GOLDEN CEO**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.49 percent on Monday October 12, 2020, with the ASX200 up 29.8 points to 6,132.0 points. Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, six traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

LBT was the best, up one cent or 8.3 percent to 13 cents, with 2.6 million shares traded. Genetic Signatures climbed 7.5 percent; Patrys was up 5.3 percent; Oncosil and Pharmaxis improved four percent or more; Actinogen and Paradigm were up more than three percent; Immutep and Resmed rose more than two percent; Avita, Cochlear, Medical Developments and Next Science were up one percent or more; with CSL, Nanosonics, Opthea and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Resonance led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 8.6 percent to 16 cents, with 553,889 shares traded. Amplia lost 8.3 percent; Uscom shed 7.5 percent; Cynata fell 4.7 percent; Antisense, Cyclopharm, Osprey and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Orthocell and Telix shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Dimerix, Imugene, Kazia and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with Mesoblast, Polynovo, Proteomics and Volpara down by less than one percent.

[BIOTECH DAILY COMMENT: ASX 'UPGRADE'](#)

Last week, we were told - rather unceremoniously - that the ASX website would be updated as of today and the old website would no longer be available.

Your correspondent immediately went to the proposed site, found a plethora of missing features, most notably no links to the announcements page, along with the page appearing quite different on different browsers, as well as screen size ratios.

But the outstanding failure was the absence of any links to the announcements page.

The ASX was told immediately and given the suggestion that it should either halt the launch until the errors were repaired, or at the very least provide clearly found links to the old announcements page and search functions until the new site could be repaired.

These suggestions were ignored and today the new ASX website crashed, with the result that no announcements were available.

Biotech Daily uses the Commonwealth Bank's Commsec website for reporting articles and the Commsec Iress website for the Market Report and daily final share prices.

However, our staff often use the ASX site for writing reports and we certainly all use it for finding historical data.

We apologise if we have missed any news today and request readers let us know of any missing news announcements, which will appear in tomorrow's edition.

Anyone with a telephone number or direct email address for ASX chair Rick Holliday-Smith or chief executive officer Dominic Stevens might care to pass on the message.

David Langsam
Editor

[OPTHEA](#)

Opthea says it hopes to raise \$US160 million (\$A221.4 million) in American depository shares to list on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the code OPT.

Opthea said it intended to grant the underwriters a 30-day option to buy up to an additional 15 percent of the ADSs sold in the offer or \$US24 million in ADSs if the offer was fully subscribed.

The company said that Citigroup and SVB Leerink were the joint book-running managers, with Oppenheimer & Co and Truist Securities lead managers.

Trading will resume on October 13, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Opthea was up one cent 0.33 percent to \$3.04.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara says it has received a \$2 million phase II purchase order from technology company Hewlett Packard for an ear bud variant specific to its confidential use case.

In August, Nuheara said it had a collaboration agreement with Hewlett Packard to develop "new audio experiences" for the company and its customers, related to personal computing (BD: Aug 27, 2020).

Today, the company said the purchase order was for works associated with the development and engineering of a Hewlett Packard specific ear bud, following a proof-of-concept study for software services.

Nuheara fell 0.1 cents or 1.9 percent to 5.2 cents with 12.3 million shares traded.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says it has sold its first APAS Independence and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) analysis module to Germany's Limbach Group.

LBT said the sale included a five-year software licence for the MRSA module and an ongoing service contract for the APAS instrument, following a six-month evaluation of the technology by Limbach's Ravensburg-based laboratory Labor Dr Gärtner.

The company said the sale was completed by 50 percent joint venture company Clever Culture Systems, and the instrument would be installed and maintained by its service provider Oneservice.

LBT said Limbach had more than 30 laboratories in Germany.

LBT was up one cent or 8.3 percent to 13 cents with 2.6 million shares traded.

ACRUX

Acrux says it has an exclusive US sales, marketing and distribution agreement with Dash Pharmaceuticals for an unnamed generic "product in its pipeline".

Acrux said that the Upper saddle River, New Jersey-based Dash would commercialize the product, coordinate commercial manufacturing and manage sales and distribution, subject to US Food and Drug Administration approval.

The company said US sales of the product exceeded \$US30 million (\$A41.5 million) for the year to March 31, 2020 and it would now share profits from sales with Dash.

Acrux chief executive officer and managing director Michael Kotsanis said the deal was "another licencing agreement for Acrux with a highly experienced generic company in the United States".

Acrux was up half a cent or 2.8 percent to 18.5 cents.

ADALTA

Adalta has told the ASX that it is not aware of any information it has not announcement which, if known, could explain recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said the company's share price rose 42.3 percent from 13.0 cents on October 8 to 18.5 cents on October 9, 2020 and noted a "significant increase" in the trading volume.

Adalta said it had "recently" completed an oversubscribed placement for \$4 million and rights issue for \$4.1 million, and had progressed its collaboration with Chicago's GE Healthcare (BD: Aug 11, Sep 7, 21, 2020).

Adalta was up 0.25 cents or 1.6 percent to 15.5 cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

OPTHEA

Opthea says more than eight percent of votes at its annual general meeting opposed the issue of 2,000,000 options each to directors Lawrence Gozlan and Dan Spiegelman.

Opthea said the greatest opposition showed 13,431,871 votes (8.29%) against the options to Mr Gozlan, with 148,571,330 votes (91.71%) in favor, with the issue of options to Mr Spiegelman opposed by similar numbers.

The company said that 6.76 percent of the meeting opposed the issue of shares for the proposed Nasdaq listing, with all other resolutions passed more easily.

According to Opthea's most recent Appendix 3B new issue announcement, the company had 269,157,769 shares on offer, meaning the votes against Mr Gozlan's options amounted to 4.99 percent, below the 5.0 percent minimum to call extraordinary meetings.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says its annual general meeting will vote to increase its non-executive directors' fees pool by 41.7 percent from \$600,000 to \$850,000.

Polynovo said investors would vote to elect David McQuillan, Robyn Elliott and Christine Emmanuel as directors, adopt the remuneration report and employee share plan.

The virtual meeting will be held online at: <https://web.lumiagm.com/393580807> on November 13, 2020 at 1pm (AEDT).

Polynovo fell two cents or 0.85 percent to \$2.33 with 1.65 million shares traded.

PYC THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PHYLOGICA)

PYC says it has added a third potential drug candidate, VP-002, for autosomal dominant optic atrophy to its pipeline.

Last week, PYC said it had added a second "potential blockbuster" drug for eye disease to its pipeline (BD: Oct 5, 2020).

Today, the company said pre-clinical development of VP-002 had shown that its cell penetrating peptide technology could deliver a drug cargo into the target cell of interest, retinal ganglion cells, in animal models.

PYC said it had also shown that its lead antisense oligonucleotide sequence could achieve a more than 100 increase in optic atrophy 1 (OPA1) protein levels in fibroblasts derived from autosomal dominant optic atrophy patients caused by an OPA1 deficiency.

The company said it had filed for a patent and would take VP-002 to patient-derived laboratory and animal models to evaluate efficacy.

PYC was up 1.5 cents or 8.3 percent to 19.5 cents with 10.5 million shares traded.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it has treated the last of 56 patients in its phase Ib/IIa trial of Veyonda, or NOX66, with radiation therapy for late-stage prostate cancer.

Noxopharm said the dose-response study, at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital, compared 400mg, 800mg and 1,200mg doses of Veyonda in combination with 177-lutetium-prostate specific membrane antigen-617 (177-Lu-PSMA-617).

In February, the company said data from 32 patients treated with the 400mg and 800mg doses showed a median overall survival rate of 17.1 months and 28 of 32 patients had a fall in prostate specific antigen levels (BD: Feb 14, 2020).

Today, Noxopharm said data from the final 24 patients treated with 1,200mg of Veyonda was yet to be reported, with the next set of data planned by April 2021.

Noxopharm was up 1.5 cents or 3.7 percent to 42 cents.

MGC (MEDICAL GRADE CANNABIS) PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says it has shipped its first Mercury Pharma marijuana products directly to patients in Brazil, including its high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) ratio products.

MGC said the shipment was through its agreement with Onix Empreendimentos e Participações with minimum orders of 20,000 units in the first year (BD: Mar 3, 2020).

In Biotech Daily's Medical Marijuana Survey, MGC said it sold various combinations of cannabidiol and THC oils, including its 25mg/mL THC Cannepil oil for epilepsy.

Today, the company said it was the first to ship high THC formulations directly to a patient's door in Brazil.

MGC was unchanged at 2.3 cents with three million shares traded.

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

Alterity has requested a trading halt pending an announcement regarding “a potential capital raising”.

Trading will resume on October 16, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Alterity last traded at five cents.

[CANN GROUP](#)

Cann Group says Aurora Cannabis Inc has sold its 11.84 percent shareholding in through off-market trades to a small number of undisclosed buyers.

In August, Aurora said its 31,956,347 share-holding in Cann Group had been diluted from 22.9 percent to 12.29 percent (BD: Aug 25, 2020).

Today, the company said Aurora told the company that the decision was “consistent with [its] current strategic priorities”.

Cann Group said this would not impact its business plans, which remained focused on developing a supply base with business to business customers and expanding its manufacturing capacity.

Cann Group fell four cents or 9.5 percent to 38 cents with 7.8 million shares traded.

[PYC THERAPEUTICS \(FORMERLY PHYLOGICA\)](#)

PYC says chief executive officer Doug Huey will not seek re-election as a director at its annual general meeting on November 6, 2020.

In February, PYC said it had appointed Mr Huey chief executive officer replacing Dr Rohan Hockings on a base salary of \$US600,000 (\$A891,805) a year plus US-based healthcare benefits (BD: Feb 12, 2020).

PYC did not provide any further information about Mr Huey’s departure.

[LIFESPOT HEALTH](#)

Lifespot says it has appointed Matthew Golden as chief executive officer effective immediately, starting on a \$180,000 base salary a year plus superannuation.

Lifespot said Mr Golden had about 20 years’ experience in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Medical Developments International.

The company said Mr Golden held a Bachelor of Science and Master of Marketing from Melbourne’s Monash University.

Lifespot was up one cent or 20.0 percent to six cents with 1.8 million shares traded.