



Biotech Daily

Thursday October 29, 2020

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: USCOM UP 6%; ACTINOGEN DOWN 9%**
- * **AUSBIOTECH, J&J GONGS FOR MONASH, UQ, CSIRO, DOHERTY, ELLUME**
- * **STARPHARMA PLAN RAISES \$3.9m, TOTAL \$48.9m**
- * **MTP CONNECT \$47m FOR DIABETES, HEART DISEASE**
- * **KYOCERA PAYS REGENEUS \$5.6m PROGENZA MILESTONE**
- * **IMPEDIMED: 'BIS L-DEX OUTPERFORMS TAPE FOR LYMPHOEDEMA'**
- * **ATOMO Q1 RECEIPTS UP 65% TO \$3m ON COVID-19 TEST SALES**
- * **PYC: \$126K GRANTS FOR VP-001 FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA TYPE-11**
- * **RESPIRI FILES IMPROVED WHEEZO PATENT APPLICATION**
- * **REGAL FUNDS TAKES 7% OF GENETIC SIGNATURES**
- * **CHAIR ALAN TRIBE, AUSTRALIAN LAND TAKE 31% OF PYC**
- * **NEUROTECH 24m DIRECTOR OPTIONS AGM; TRADING HALT**
- * **STEMCELL 27m DIRECTOR OPTIONS AGM**
- * **NEUROTECH REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING, MARIJUANA RESULTS' HALT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.61 percent on Thursday October 29, 2020, with the ASX200 down 97.4 points to 5,960.3 points. Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 25 fell and five traded unchanged. All three Big Caps were down.

Uscom was the best, up one cent or 6.1 percent to 17.5 cents, with 182,506 shares traded. Compumedics and LBT climbed more than four percent; Oncosil and Universal Biosensors improved more than three percent; Amplia and Pharmaxis rose more than two percent; Cynata and Mesoblast were up more than one percent; with Telix up 0.6 percent.

Actinogen led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 8.7 percent to 2.1 cents, with 4.3 million shares traded. Alterity and Resonance lost more than six percent; Imugene and Proteomics retreated more than five percent; Orthocell fell 4.2 percent; Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Next Science, Paradigm and Prescient were down three percent or more; Clinuvel, Cochlear, Nanosonics, Neuren, Opthea and Volpara shed more than two percent; Avita, CSL, Immutep, Impedimed, Kazia, Nova Eye, Polynovo, Pro Medicus, Resmed and Starpharma were down one percent or more; with Genetic Signatures down 0.75 percent.

[AUSBIOTECH, JOHNSON & JOHNSON INNOVATION](#)

Ausbiotech says the University of Queensland, Monash University, CSIRO, the Doherty Institute and Ellume have won this year's Innovation Excellence Awards.

Ausbiotech said that the awards, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Innovation, were announced at the Ausbiotech and Invest 2020 national on-line conference, which has had more than 700 delegates register, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The industry organization said that the dual Covid-19 Life Science Sector Collaboration Award went to the University of Queensland and Monash University's Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre.

Ausbiotech said that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation health and biosecurity director Dr Rob Grenfell and the Doherty's director Prof Sharon Lewin were joint winners of the Covid-19 Communication Leaders' Award, with Brisbane's Ellume Health winning the Covid-19 Life Science Sector Innovation Award, for its point-of-care severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) antigen test.

Ausbiotech chief executive officer Lorraine Chiroiu said the awards received "a phenomenal number of high-quality nominations".

"The extraordinary achievements that these individuals and companies have delivered in response to Covid-19 has been a truly remarkable illumination of the importance of our sector to the health, well-being and economic security of all Australians within a very difficult year," Ms Chiroiu said.

Johnson & Johnson Innovation head of Australia and New Zealand new ventures Kathy Connell said the awards "recognize the unsung heroes who are making meaningful contributions, or whose achievements or response has significantly impacted patient improvements, to Australian public health and the Australian biotechnology industry's response to the Covid-19 pandemic".

"We are incredibly proud of Australia's biotech and scientific contributions," Ms Connell said.

Monash University said its Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre, at the Parkville Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, had "played an integral role in prioritizing resource allocation to Covid-19-related projects ... including the development of inhaled and intra-nasal formulations to reduce the spread and severity of infection". Innovation Centre director Prof Michelle McIntosh said that in response to the pandemic, the Centre "opened our doors to research institutes and companies to provide support for the development of Covid-related therapies".

A media release from the Centre said that the collaborations to investigate repurposed medications included the Peter Doherty Institute, the University of Melbourne, Monash University, Certara, CSIRO, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and clinicians from Royal Melbourne Hospital, Northern Health and St Vincent's Hospital.

[STARPHARMA](#)

Starpharma says it has raised \$3.9 million of a hoped-for \$5 million in a share plan at \$1.50 a share, taking the total raised to \$48.9 million.

Last month, Starpharma said it raised \$45 million through an "oversubscribed" placement at \$1.50 a share (BD: Sep 30, 2020).

Today, Starpharma chief executive officer Jackie Fairley said the raising had placed the company "in an excellent position to accelerate the development, regulatory, commercialisation and launch activities across our portfolios, including the SPL7013 Covid-19 nasal spray and DEP assets".

Starpharma fell 2.5 cents or 1.7 percent to \$1.43.

MTP CONNECT

MTP Connect says it will provide \$47 million to fund research for the prevention, management and treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Australia. MTP Connect said the funds were through its Targeted Translation Research Accelerator initiative (TTRA), supported by the Federal Government Medical Research Future Fund. The organization said it would open two research centres and the first round of research project funding, focused on unmet clinical and research needs in diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which were leading causes of death and disability in Australia. MTP Connect said it would partner with the Melbourne's Australia National Digital Health, the Adelaide-based Medical Device Partnering Program and Brisbane's Uniquist to provide advice and mentoring for funding recipients. The organization said the TTRA was consulting with researchers, clinicians, consumers and end-users to assess health sector needs in diabetes and cardiovascular disease to find research and clinical gaps not addressed in the sector. MTP Connect said the dates for expressions of interest to establish two research centres and applications for the first round of funding would be announced in November.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says it has received a \$5.6 million milestone from Tokyo's Kyocera as part of an agreement for its stem cell platform Progenza OA for knee osteoarthritis. In August, Regeneus said it had a \$26.4 million licence and collaboration agreement with Kyocera to commercialize Progenza OA in Japan and received a \$1.3 million milestone from Kyocera for the completion of the agreement (BD: Aug 11, 28, 2020). Regeneus fell one cent or 6.9 percent to 13.5 cents.

IMPEDIMED

Impedimed says its bioimpedance spectroscopy L-Dex is preferable to tape measure in detecting breast cancer-related lymphoedema after surgery or radiation. Impedimed said the data came from a two-year sub-analysis of 498 patients in its 'Prevent' trial of bioimpedance spectroscopy L-Dex in breast cancer survivors at risk of developing lymphoedema in one of their arms, with patients randomized to follow-up monitoring for lymphoedema using either L-Dex or tape measure-based volume. Last year, the company said a 508-patient trial showed its bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS) test for post cancer lymphoedema was superior to the standard tape measure assessment in a one-year post surgery analysis (BD: May 3, 2019). Today, Impedimed said that when BIS was used as the monitoring tool, there was clear differentiation of sub-clinical breast cancer-related lymphoedema (sBCRL) incidence by the extent of treatment to the axilla, or the arm pit, and patients who had either extensive axillary surgery or extensive radiotherapy had a higher incidence of sBCRL, while tape measures showed no differentiation based on extent of surgery or radiotherapy. The sub-analysis author Prof John Boyages said that because the risk of sBCRL increased with more extensive treatment, patients having any axillary surgery together with extensive regional nodal irradiation required close surveillance for lymphoedema. The article, titled 'The risk of subclinical breast cancer-related lymphoedema by the extent of axillary surgery and regional node irradiation - a randomized controlled trial' was published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics and is available at [https://www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016\(20\)34440-0/fulltext](https://www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016(20)34440-0/fulltext). Impedimed fell 0.1 cents or 1.1 percent to 8.8 cents with four million shares traded.

ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

Atomo says customer receipts for the three months to September 30, 2020 were up 65.3 percent to \$3,036,000, driven by sales of its Covid-19 antibody test.

Atomo said receipts came from North American, Australian and Indian sales of the rapid Covid-19 antibody test and antigen test, and sales of its HIV diagnostic test, and the comparison was with the three months to June 30, 2020.

The company said it had cash and equivalents of \$26,345,000 at September 30, 2020.

Atomo managing-director John Kelly said the company's "existing business continued to grow throughout the quarter across HIV, Covid-19 and other ... diagnostic tests."

"The agreements executed during the quarter for sizeable markets such as North America and India, with regulatory approvals obtained or pending, add significantly to the revenue potential of the business as we move into the second half of [the year to June 30, 2021]," Mr Kelly said.

Atomo was up half a cent or 1.5 percent to 33 cents with 2.8 million shares traded.

PYC THERAPEUTICS

PYC says it has been granted \$126,200 to fund drug development and clinical trials of its VP-001 for the degenerative eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa type-11.

PYC said it received \$86,200 from Microscopy Australia for high resolution microscopic images of cells from patients with retinitis pigmentosa type-11 to illustrate the impact of VP-001 on the target cells and about \$40,000 from Retina Australia to fund genetic sequencing required to confirm patient eligibility for its upcoming phase I clinical trial.

PYC was unchanged at 16.5 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

RESPIRI

Respiri says it has filed an Australian patent application for its Wheezo respiratory diagnostic, based on improvements to the wheeze detection algorithm.

Respiri said the additional intellectual property would protect the method of processing recordings of patients' breathing through an analysis algorithm which identified sounds characteristic of wheeze in the trachea while eliminating background noise.

The company said the sound processing algorithm delivered "an improved level of detection, [and] a standardized and reproducible measure of wheeze".

Respiri chief executive officer Marjan Mikel said that "the significant improvement in the sensitivity and specificity of our device shown in recent clinical trials highlights the important enhancements made to our algorithm, which we believe confers a distinct commercial advantage worthy of additional [intellectual property] protection".

The company was asked for the patent application title and duration but had not received a reply at the time of publication.

Respiri fell half a cent or 2.9 percent to 17 cents with 2.3 million shares traded.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Regal Funds Management says it has become a substantial shareholder in Genetic Signature with 9,971,771 shares or 6.98 percent of the company.

Sydney's Regal Funds said that between August 5 and October 23, 2020 it bought 7,625,691 shares at prices ranging between \$1.88 and \$2.45 a share.

Genetic Signatures fell 1.5 cents or 0.75 percent to \$1.975.

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

PYC chair Alan Tribe said his company Australian Land has increased its substantial shareholding from 882,563,760 shares (30.11%) to 970,820,136 shares (30.93%).

The Perth-based Mr Tribe and Australian Land said they acquired 88,256,376 shares in PYC's rights offer on October 28, 2020 for \$15,003,584 or 17 cents a share.

Last week, PYC said it had raised \$35.2 million in a one-for-10 entitlement offer and institutional placement at 17 cents a share and hoped to raise a further \$19.6 million in a retail rights offer (BD: Oct 22, 2020).

[NEUROTECH](#)

Neurotech says its annual general meeting will vote to issue 24,000,000 options to chair Mark Davies and directors Winton Willesee and Brian Leedman.

Neurotech said it proposed to issue 20,000,000 options to Mr Leedman, with half exercisable at 1.5 cents and the balance exercisable at 2.0 cents each, expiring on October 31, 2023.

The company said it proposed to issue 2,000,000 options each to Mr Davies and Mr Willesee, exercisable at a 135 percent premium to the five-day volume weighted average price to November 30, 2020, expiring on November 30, 2023.

Neurotech said shareholders would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect directors Mr Willesee and Mr Leedman, approve the prior issue of shares to Dolce Cann Global, and approve a 10 percent placement capacity.

The meeting will be held at Suite 5 CPC, 145 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, Western Australia on November 30, 2020 at 4pm (AWST).

Separately, Neurotech requested a trading halt "pending the release of initial results of the in-vitro cell studies of its cannabis strains and a capital raising".

Trading will resume on November 4, 2020 or on an earlier announcement.

Neurotech last traded at 2.6 cents.

[STEMCELL UNITED](#)

Stemcell United says shareholders will vote to issue 27,000,000 incentive options to directors and 810,203 remuneration shares to director Paul Stephenson.

Stemcell United said it proposed to issue 15,000,000 options to chief executive officer Gu Huan Qing, 6,000,000 options to director Yanhua Huang, 5,000,000 options to director Qi Lu, and 500,000 options each to directors Chow-Yee Koh and Mr Stephenson.

The company said the options were exercisable at one cent each, expiring in five years from the grant date, while the remuneration shares for Mr Stephenson were valued at \$14,000 and would be issued in lieu of cash.

Stem Cell said the meeting would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect directors Mr Huang, Mr Lu and Mr Stephenson, approve a 10 percent placement capacity, adopt the employee incentive plan and ratify 30,000,000 previously issued shares.

The meeting will be held 224 Grote Street, Adelaide, South Australia on November 30, 2020 at 4pm (ACDT).

Stemcell United fell 0.1 cents or 6.25 percent to 1.5 cents with 2.85 million shares traded.