



Biotech Daily

Wednesday February 17, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: OPTISCAN UP 16%; IMUGENE DOWN 9%**
- * **PRO MEDICUS H1 REVENUE UP 8% TO \$32m, PROFIT UP 12% TO \$13.5m**
- * **BTC \$19k H1 REVENUE, SPECIALITY UNIT \$3.6m, BTC LOSS \$179k**
- * **VISIONEERING RAISES \$22m, SHARE PLAN FOR \$1m MORE**
- * **CYCLOPHARM 'OVER-SUBSCRIBED' SHARE PLAN RAISES \$3m, TOTAL \$33m**
- * **MESOBLAST: REMESTEMCEL-L-TREATED CHILDREN RECOVER FROM MIS-C**
- * **AMPLIA BEGINS AMP945 MULTIPLE ASCENDING DOSE STUDY**
- * **BIONOMICS, EMPATHBIO MOU FOR BNC210-EMP-01 FOR PTSD**
- * **PROTEOMICS PLEADS SCHULTZ, GOOD NEWS TO ASX 31% PRICE QUERY**
- * **FEDERAL COURT GRANTS CANN GROUP CLEANSING NOTICE EXTENSION**
- * **RESONANCE REQUESTS 'REGULATORY APPROVAL' TRADING HALT**
- * **CREDIT SUISSE TAKES 5% OF BARD1**
- * **CELL CARE REDUCES TO 18.55% OF CRYOSITE**
- * **JIMMY THOMAS, IVY PONNIAH TAKE 8.5% OF LIVING CELL**
- * **BURNET OPENS DIAGNOSTICS INITIATIVE, JENNIFER BARNES DIRECTOR**
- * **STEMCELL APPOINTS DAVID PLATTNER SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.46 percent on Wednesday February 17, 2021, with the ASX200 down 32.1 points to 6,885.2 points. Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell and seven traded unchanged. All three Big Caps were down.

Optiscan was the best, up 2.5 cents or 15.6 percent to 18.5 cents, with 3.3 million shares traded. Oncosil climbed 13.6 percent; Amplia and Dimerix were up more than five percent; Actinogen, Proteomics and Volpara improved more than four percent; Uscom was up 3.1 percent; LBT, Nova Eye and Resonance rose more than two percent; with Medical Developments, Next Science and Telix up by less than one percent.

Imugene led the falls, down one cent or 8.7 percent to 10.5 cents, with 124.8 million shares traded. Osprey lost five percent; Nanosonics and Resmed fell more than four percent; Avita and Patrys were down three percent or more; Antisense, Genetic Signatures, Neuren, Pro Medicus and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Cochlear, CSL, Paradigm, Pharmaxis, Polynovo and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with Cyclopharm, Cynata, Kazia and Opthea down by less than one percent.

PRO MEDICUS

Pro Medicus says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was up 7.85 percent to \$31,587,000 with net profit after tax up 12.4 percent to \$13,541,000.

Pro Medicus revenue came from sales of its Visage 7 imaging platform, picture archiving communications systems and radiology information systems.

The company said that a fully franked interim dividend of 7.0 cents a share for holders at the record date of March 4 would be paid on March 19, 2021, compared to 6.0 cents a share in the previous corresponding period.

Pro Medicus said diluted earnings per share rose 12.2 percent to 12.95 cents, net tangible assets per share was up 46.4 percent to 41 cents and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$50,930,000 at December 31, 2020 compared to \$38,844,000 at December 31, 2019.

Pro Medicus fell 96 cents or 2.1 percent to \$44.69 with 751,813 shares traded.

BTC HEALTH

BTC says it had revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 of \$18,941 with net loss after tax of \$178,942, and BTC Speciality Health revenue of \$3.6 million.

BTC said its revenue was down 89.6 percent compared to the previous corresponding period due to the \$500,000 sale of its accounting subsidiary Bio101 Group Pty Ltd to an undisclosed buyer (BD: July 31, 2020).

The company said that revenue from its wholly-owned subsidiary, BTC Speciality Health, which provided medical devices and consumables to public and private hospitals in Australia and New Zealand, was up 9.1 percent to \$3.6 million, but did not provide profit or loss data for the subsidiary.

BTC said diluted loss per share was down 22.2 percent to seven cents with net tangible asset backing down 1.5 percent to 4.49 cents a share.

The company said it had group net cash of \$2,521,241 at December 31, 2020 compared to \$3,773,007 at December 31, 2019.

BTC fell 0.2 cents or 2.4 percent to eight cents.

VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES

Visioneering says has raised \$22 million in an "over-subscribed" placement at 1.7 cents per Chess depository instrument and hopes to raise \$1 million in a share plan.

Visioneering said the Chess depository interest (CDI) price was a 15 percent discount to the 15-day volume weighted average price to February 12, 2021.

The company said investors would receive one free attaching option for every two CDIs purchased, exercisable at three cents each by February 28, 2024.

Visioneering said Bell Potter Securities and Aurenda acted as joint lead managers to the placement.

The company said it would raise an additional \$120,000 from non-executive directors under the same terms as the placement.

Visioneering said the funds would allow the company to reach or come close to a break-even cash-flow, as well as expand sales, fund clinical trials required for approval in China, provide general working capital.

The company said the share plan had the record date of February 16, would open on March 18 and closing on April 1, 2021.

Visioneering fell 0.1 cents or five percent to 1.9 cents with 9.97 million shares traded.

CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says it has raised \$3 million in a “significantly over-subscribed” share plan at \$2.60 a share, taking the total raised to \$33 million.

Last month, Cyclopharm said it had raised \$30 million in a placement at \$2.60 a share and hoped to raise \$1.5 million in a share plan (BD: Jan 27, 2021).

Today, the company said that following “strong support” from investors it doubled the share plan size, allowing about 44 percent of applicants to receive their full applications. Cyclopharm said the funds would be used to expand sales in the US, develop Technegas use beyond pulmonary embolism, for research and development activities, product and systems enhancement, working capital and placement costs. Cyclopharm fell one cent or 0.4 percent to \$2.80.

MESOBLAST

Mesoblast says that two children treated with remestemcel-L for multi-system inflammatory syndrome associated with Covid-19 have been discharged from hospital. Mesoblast said a case study, on the first two children treated with its mesenchymal stromal cell product, titled ‘Remestemcel-L Therapy for Covid-19-Associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children’ was published in Pediatrics and is available via: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2021/02/11/peds.2020-046573>.

The company said the two children were admitted to the Medical University of South Carolina’s Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital and were the first treated with remestemcel-L for multi-system inflammatory syndrome associated with Covid-19 (MIS-C).

The article said that both children received standard-of-care treatment and although they showed some clinical improvement, “left ventricular ejection fraction remained reduced and inflammatory biomarkers significantly elevated”.

“When treated with two intravenous doses of remestemcel-L separated by 48 hours, rapid normalization of left ventricular ejection fraction, notable reductions in biomarkers of systemic and cardiac inflammation, and improved clinical status occurred,” the article said. “Neither child experienced adverse effects associated with remestemcel-L administration,” the article said.

“This treatment appears promising as a novel immunomodulatory cellular therapy for children with clinically-significant cardiovascular manifestations of MIS-C,” the journal article said.

Mesoblast said that multi-system inflammatory syndrome was “a potentially life-threatening inflammatory condition which involves multiple critical organs and their vasculature” and was associated with prior rather than active Covid-19 infection. The company said it was “thought to be a post-viral auto-immune process where the body’s over-zealous reaction to the virus causes the damage, rather than the virus itself”. Mesoblast said that in about 50 percent of cases the inflammation was associated with significant cardiovascular complications resulting in decreased heart function and the presence of clinically important cardiovascular symptoms.

The company said that the two children were previously exposed to Covid-19 infection and later developed MIS-C.

Mesoblast said that there were no standardized or approved treatments for MIS-C, remestemcel-L held promise as a novel treatment and its existing US investigational new drug application provided physicians with access to remestemcel-L, under its intermediate-size expanded access program in Covid-19-infected children aged between two months and 17 years with MIS-C.

Mesoblast was unchanged at \$2.65 with 3.8 million shares traded.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says it has begun the multiple ascending-dose phase of its 64-subject phase I safety and tolerability study of focal adhesion kinase inhibitor AMP945.

Last year, Amplia said it had dosed the first patient in the single-ascending dose portion of the phase I trial of AMP945 (BD: Oct 8, 2020).

Today, the company said that the single-ascending dose part of the trial was “nearing completion and has not identified any safety or tolerability concerns associated with the administration of ascending single doses of AMP945”.

Amplia said that the multiple ascending dose portion of the trial would administer different doses of AMP945 to three cohorts of subjects for seven days.

The company said that data from the single and multiple ascending dose portions of the trial would be used to establish appropriate doses for phase II trials.

Amplia said the phase I trial would additionally study the impact of food on the absorption of AMP945, determine the pharmacokinetics of the drug and explore the ability of the drug to inhibit the FAK enzyme in the human body.

Amplia chief executive officer John Lambert said the trial had progressed to the multiple ascending dose study “on the basis of the positive data seen so far in the [single ascending dose] study”.

“AMP945 is a very specific inhibitor of the FAK enzyme and has very little off-target activity,” Mr Lambert said.

Amplia was up 1.5 cents or 5.6 percent to 28.5 cents.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics says it will combine BNC210 with Empathbio’s methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA)-derived EMP-01 for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Bionomics said it had a memorandum of understanding with Empathbio, a subsidiary of the Berlin-based Atai Life Sciences, to determine whether the different mechanisms of EMP-01 and BNC210 could be combined to develop a treatment for PTSD.

Bionomics executive chair Dr Errol De Souza said the company thought that EMP-01 “could be a very interesting treatment regimen when combined with BNC210 for the treatment of PTSD”.

In 2018, Bionomics said its 193-patient, phase II trial of BNC210 for post-traumatic stress disorder trial “did not meet [the] primary endpoint”, but following reformulation it was granted US Food and Drug Administration fast-track designation for PTSD and other trauma-related and stress-related disorders (BD: Oct 2, 2018; Jun 26, Nov 4, 2019).

Bionomics was up 4.5 cents or 19.15 percent to 28 cents with 5.1 million shares traded.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

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

The ASX said the company’s share price rose 31.1 percent from 82 cents on February 9 to a high of \$1.075 on February 16, 2021 and noted an increase in trading volumes.

Proteomics said its share price “had similar changes in price and increased volumes” following the release of positive announcements last year”.

Last week, the company said it had filed a pre-submission package to the US Food and Drug Administration for Promarkerd for diabetic kidney disease (BD: Feb 8, 2021).

Proteomics was up a further five cents or 4.8 percent to \$1.10.

CANN GROUP

Cann says the Federal Court has extended the cleansing notice submission date for 306,846 shares issued to an investor on 28 January 2021 to February 18, 2021. Yesterday, Cann requested a trading halt pending “an application to the Federal Court ... in relation to [its] inadvertent failure to lodge a cleansing notice” (BD: Feb 16, 2021). Today, the company said the shares were granted to the investors following the exercise of options and a cleansing notice was not filed within the requisite five business days due to “an inadvertent administrative oversight”. Cann said the issue “was identified by the company and was reported to both the ASX and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission” and it would release an Appendix 2A new share issue notice and a cleansing notice. Cann Group fell 4.5 cents or 5.8 percent to 73 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

RESONANCE

Resonance has requested a trading halt pending the release of an “announcement in relation to a regulatory approval”. Trading will resume on February 19, 2021 or on an earlier announcement. Resonance last traded up half a cent or 2.6 percent to 19.5 cents.

BARD1 LIFESCIENCES

Credit Suisse Holdings says it has become a substantial shareholder in Bard1 with 4,295,414 shares or 5.38 percent of the company. Sydney’s Credit Suisse said that between October 21, 2020 and February 12, 2021 it bought, sold and borrowed shares with the single largest purchase 1,635,600 shares on February 12, 2020 for \$3,005,913 or \$1.84 a share. Bard1 fell 52 cents or 14.05 percent to \$3.18 with 4.2 million shares traded.

CRYOSITE

Cell Care Australia says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Cryosite from 9,229,995 shares (19.69%) to 8,695,000 shares (18.55%). The Melbourne-based Cell Care said that between November 25, 2015 and February 16, 2021 it sold shares at prices ranging from 20.15 cents to 40 cents. Cryosite fell five cents or 19.2 percent to 21 cents.

LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Jimmy Thomas and Ivy Ruth Ponniah say they have increased their substantial holding in Living Cell from 43,573,386 shares (7.625%) to 48,573,386 shares (8.5%). The Melbourne-based Mr Thomas and Ms Ponniah said that on February 15, 2021 they bought 5,000,000 shares for \$115,032 or 2.3 cents a share. Living Cell fell 0.1 cents or 4.55 percent to 2.1 cents with 1.15 million shares traded.

THE BURNET INSTITUTE

The Burnet Institute says it has appointed Jennifer Barnes as the inaugural director of the Burnet Diagnostics Initiative, with Prof David Anderson as chief scientist.

The Burnet said Prof Anderson pioneered the Institute's work in point-of-care diagnostics. The Institute said Ms Barnes was formerly Junofem chief executive officer and previously worked for Roche Asia-Pacific for 12 years.

The Burnet said the Diagnostics Initiative was a multi-disciplinary team that would continue its engagement with the point-of-care in-vitro diagnostics (IVD) industry, having developed point-of-care immunoassay products, as well as laboratory-based tests. Burnet Institute director Prof Brendan Crabb said new institute “underscored the ... commitment to further invest in novel ways to solve the most challenging global health problems”.

Prof Crabb said that the new institute would translate existing and new technologies to practical health products, “and maximize their accessibility to vulnerable populations especially in the Asia-Pacific region”.

“Before Covid-19, diagnostics was an undervalued science,” Ms Barnes said.

“The world now appreciates the need for fast, affordable diagnostic tests,” Ms Barnes said. “Translational research is very rewarding; there is nothing better than seeing an [in-vitro diagnostic] leave the lab and be in the hands of a commercial testing facility or a patient to support positive health outcomes.”

The Burnet Institute said that Ms Barnes held a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from the Corvallis-based Oregon State University.

STEMCELL UNITED

Stemcell United says it has appointed “environmental entrepreneur” David Plattner as a strategic advisor to advise on sustainable development initiatives.

Stemcell said that Mr Plattner had “a long-standing career in sustainable investments and community development ... [and was] responsible for a number of large-scale projects that have provided conservation of threatened lands and mass job creation for local communities”.

The company said Mr Plattner was a co-founder of the Social Venture Network and Businesses for Social Responsibility and in 2004, founded the private Raintrust to assist agriculture and industrial programs in South and Central, Africa and Asia and developed projects in several other countries.

Last year, Stemcell said it would acquire 50.1 percent of China’s Shenzhen Lantene Dingzhi Biotechnology Co for *Caulerpa Lentillifera* or sea grapes (BD: Oct 14, 20, 2020).

In May, the company appointed Alan Dronkers as a strategic advisor to assist the growth and development of its marijuana business (BD: May 7, 2020).

A month earlier, Stemcell said it had appointed Dr Kevin Yee Chang as an advisor on traditional herbal medicine and business development (BD: April 15, 2020).

In 2017, Stemcell’s share price rocketed from 1.2 cents to \$1.085 on appointing marijuana consultant Nevil Schoenmakers, but he quit five months later (BD: Sep 29, 2017).

In 2015, Stemcell said it would extract resins from *Daemonorops draco* blume (dragon’s blood) and “whether or not [traditional Chinese medicine] is believed, studies have shown that Chinese herbal medicine can be successful in treating a range of disorders”.

Stemcell was unchanged at 2.7 cents with 27.5 million shares traded.