



Biotech Daily

Tuesday February 23, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PROTEOMICS UP 9%; OPTHEA DOWN 7%**
- * **SOMNOMED H1 REVENUE DOWN 7% TO \$31m, PROFIT DOWN 36% TO \$491k**
- * **POLYNOVO H1 REVENUE UP 24% TO \$13m, LOSS UP 46% TO \$3.5m**
- * **IDT H1 REVENUE DOWN 19% TO \$5.8m, LOSS TO \$1.1m PROFIT**
- * **NUHEARA H1 REVENUE UP 406% TO \$7m, LOSS DOWN 85% TO \$842k**
- * **ATOMO H1 REVENUE UP 389% TO \$4.6m, LOSS UP 13% TO \$2.5m**
- * **DORSAVI H1 REVENUE UP 35% TO \$2m, LOSS DOWN 94% TO \$326k**
- * **PARADIGM RECEIVES \$3.4m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **EUROPE OKAYS STARPHARMA VIRALEZE ANTI-VIRAL NASAL SPRAY**
- * **RACE: BISANTRENE BEATS OVARIAN STANDARD-OF-CARE, IN-VITRO**
- * **CONTROL BIONICS TO RELEASE 15m VOLUNTARY ESCROW SHARES**
- * **CHIMERIC: DR ELIOT BOURK BUSINESS, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT**
- * **PYC APPOINTS DR GLENN NORONHA CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.86 percent on Tuesday February 23, 2021, with the ASX200 up 58.3 points to 6,839.2 points. Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell and seven traded unchanged.

Proteomics was the best, up 11.5 cents or 9.4 percent to \$1.34, with 957,086 shares traded. Next Science and Optiscan climbed more than six percent; Imugene improved five percent; Volpara was up 4.1 percent; Patrys and Uscom were up more than three percent; Pharmaxis and Resonance rose more than two percent; Compumedics and Mesoblast were up more than one percent; with CSL, Polynovo, Resmed and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Opthea led the falls, down 13 cents or 7.1 percent to \$1.69, with 1.85 million shares traded. Cyclopharm, Immutep, Medical Developments and Neuren lost five percent or more; Actinogen, Genetic Signatures, LBT, Nanosonics and Nova Eye fell four percent or more; Impedimed, Paradigm, Pro Medicus and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Cynata and Telix shed more than two percent; Cochlear and Kazia were down more than one percent; with Avita, Clinuvel and Orthocell down by less than one percent.

SOMNOMED

Somnomed says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was down 7.3 percent to \$30,841,729, with net profit after tax down 36 percent to \$491,571.

Somnomed says revenue not including government grants came mainly from the sales of its Somnodent oral appliance and its net profit after tax included a loss of \$111,237 from the discontinued operation of Renew Sleep Solutions.

The company said its revenue from North America sales fell 23.0 percent to \$9,497,000, Europe was up 1.7 percent to \$18,582,000 and the Asia Pacific region was up 1.4 percent to \$2,745,000.

Somnomed said diluted earnings per share from continuing operations was down 44.3 percent from 1.31 cents in the previous year to 0.73 cents in the six months to December 31, 2020.

The company said that net tangible asset backing per share was up 189.3 percent to 20.08 cents, with cash and cash equivalents of \$25,075,589 at December 31, 2020, compared to \$8,897,005 at December 31, 2019.

Somnomed fell seven cents or 3.7 percent to \$1.83.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was up 23.8 percent to \$12,603,977 with net loss after tax up 46.3 percent to \$3,537,743.

Polynovo said revenue included \$11.25 million from sales of its Novosorb biodegradable temporizing matrix (BTM) for burns and \$1.35 million from the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) clinical trial program.

The company said US sales were up 23.8 percent to \$10,349,607, with Australia and New Zealand sales down 5.6 percent to \$1,634,920 and other regions improved 624.2 percent to \$619,450.

The company said diluted loss per share was up 46.0 percent to 54 cents, with net tangible asset backing per share up 27.0 percent to 4.7 cents.

Polynovo said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$7,661,682 at December 31, 2020 compared to \$8,144,298 at December 31, 2019.

Polynovo was up two cents or 0.8 percent to \$2.43 with 4.1 million shares traded.

IDT AUSTRALIA

IDT says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 fell 19.3 percent to \$5,782,000 with last year's loss turned to a profit after tax of \$1,124,000.

IDT said revenue was primarily from drug manufacturing and provision of pharmaceutical services as well as "an adjustment of \$1.90 million relating to an accrual reversal".

"Excluding the accrual reversal, the loss for the half-year was \$780,000, representing a \$410,000 improvement over the previous half in 2019," the company said.

IDT said that last year's diluted loss per share of 0.5 cents turned to a diluted earnings per share of 0.5 cents.

The company said that it had cash and cash equivalents of \$7,321,000 at December 31, 2020 compared \$6,716,000 at December 31, 2019.

IDT was unchanged at 21 cents.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was up 405.8 percent to \$6,909,566 with net loss after tax down 85.3 percent to \$842,166.

Nuheara chief executive officer Justin Miller said the increased revenue for its sound filtering and hearing ear-buds was due to “the record sales ... [of] our newly-launched flagship Iqbuds2 Max product”.

“Securing a three-year manufacturing and supply agreement with [Hewlett Packard] has further validated our unique technology and global opportunity,” Mr Miller said

The company said diluted loss per share was down 89.1 percent from 0.55 cents in the previous year to 0.06 cents in the six months to December 31, 2020, with net tangible asset backing per share down 33.3 percent to 0.2 cents and cash and cash equivalents of \$2,395,864 at December 31, 2020, compared to \$3,541,540 at December 31, 2019.

Nuheara was up 0.4 cents or 9.5 percent to 4.6 cents with 9.5 million shares traded.

[ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Atomo says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was up 388.5 percent to \$4,578,620 with net loss after tax up 12.8 percent to \$2,549,912.

Atomo said revenue included \$2,611,151 from sales of its Covid-19 rapid diagnostic test, \$771,350 from sales of its HIV blood test, \$1,112,598 revenue from other original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and \$83,522 from sales of other products.

Atomo managing director John Kelly told Biotech Daily that the OEM revenues “come from sales of our fully integrated Pascal platform to Lumos USA for viral versus bacterial infection and NG Biotech France for ultra-sensitive blood-based pregnancy”.

The company said diluted loss per share was down 42.3 percent to 0.45 cents, with net tangible asset backing per share was 5.38 cents compared to last year’s negative 3.08 cents.

Atomo said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$24,690,790 at December 31, 2020 compared to \$12,440,269 at December 31, 2019.

Atomo fell two cents or 7.3 percent to 25.5 cents with 5.3 million shares traded.

[DORSAVI](#)

Dorsavi says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2020 was up 35.0 percent to \$1,842,681 with net loss after tax down 94.4 percent to \$326,913.

Dorsavi said its revenue came mainly from the sales of its wearable sensors for movement monitoring and patient assessments.

The company said that diluted loss per share fell 95.5 percent from 2.86 cents to 0.13 cents, net tangible asset backing per share was constant at 1.0 cents, and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$2,946,289 at December 31, 2020 compared to \$2,562,480 at December 31, 2019.

Dorsavi was up 0.1 cents or three percent to 3.4 cents with 2.4 million shares traded.

[PARADIGM BIOPHARMA](#)

Paradigm says it has received \$3,380,777 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Paradigm said the rebate related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2020.

Paradigm fell eight cents or 3.1 percent to \$2.48 with 607,182 shares traded.

STARPHARMA

Starpharma says its Viraleze anti-viral nasal spray has been registered for sale in Europe, including in the UK.

Starpharma said that the Viraleze topical anti-viral spray complemented other prevention measures and had relevance where social distancing was not possible such as crowded environments and certain workplaces.

The company said that the “easy to use antiviral nasal spray” contained SPL7013, or astodimer sodium, which had been shown in laboratory studies “to inactivate a broad spectrum of respiratory viruses, including more than 99.9 percent of [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2] ... the virus that causes Covid-19”, could be stored at room temperature and did not require cold storage or specialized transport.

Starpharma said the European launch was expected to be available for sale online, direct to European and UK consumers in March, with sales to European pharmacies planned, along with ongoing discussions with aged care, health care and travel providers.

The company said the European registration and regulatory dossier would be used as for further marketing approvals in other countries, including in Australia.

Starpharma chief executive officer Dr Jackie Fairley said the company was “pleased to have successfully developed a product that has the potential to assist with the fight against the global Covid-19 pandemic”.

“We are delighted to have completed registration of Viraleze in the UK and Europe ahead of our original schedule and acknowledge the support of local and international specialist laboratories who have assisted Starpharma with the development of Viraleze,” she said.

“The spray is easy to use and convenient and works rapidly, without being absorbed into the bloodstream,” Dr Fairley said.

Dr Fairley said it could be used in supermarkets public transport, elevators, planes, bars and restaurants.

Starpharma was up one cent or 0.45 percent to \$2.21 with 3.6 million shares traded.

RACE ONCOLOGY

Race says an in-vitro cell-line trial found Bisantrene to be more effective for ovarian cancer than the standard-of-care drugs.

Race said that the research program at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales explored Bisantrene efficacy in ovarian cancer cell lines and found that “Bisantrene was able to kill these cancer cells that were resistant to the current standard of care ovarian drugs, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil and chlorambucil”.

The company said that in the 1980s Bisantrene trials showed that it “was able to induce a clinical response in heavily pre-treated ovarian cancer patients, including those resistant to doxorubicin and other standard of care drugs of the period”.

Race’s chief scientific officer Dr Daniel Tillett said the initial results showed “Bisantrene’s potential use in ovarian cancer patients as a safer alternative to the commonly used anthracyclines which can be very dangerous to the hearts of patients”. “It is highly encouraging that Bisantrene is able to kill ovarian cancer cells resistant to currently used treatments and these findings support further exploration of the use of Bisantrene in ovarian cancer patients,” Dr Tillett said.

The company said Bisantrene was compared to doxorubicin, epirubicin and cisplatin as a single agent in two ovarian cancer cell lines and found that Bisantrene showed better cytotoxic, or cell killing, effects than anthracycline, doxorubicin or epirubicin, when compared to the maximum tolerated dose.

Race was up eight cents or 2.7 percent to \$3.08 with 2.25 million shares traded.

CONTROL BIONICS

Control Bionics says that 14,956,528 shares held in voluntary escrow will be released on March 5, 2021.

According to the company's most recent Appendix 2A application for quotation of securities, the company had 50,118,680 shares on issue and a further 33,301,960 shares held in ASX escrow.

Control Bionics fell four cents or 5.1 percent to 74 cents.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says it has appointed Dr Eliot Bourk as its head of business and corporate development.

Chimeric said Dr Bourk was previously with Kite Pharmaceuticals where he led commercial strategy, optimization of early-stage cell therapy pipeline assets and guided business development strategies and transactions.

The company said Dr Bourk was a founding member of the cell therapy commercial team at Celgene Corp and commercial lead for the development of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (Car-T) platform.

Chimeric fell one cent or 3.1 percent to 31 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

PYC THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PHYLOGICA)

PYC says it has appointed Dr Glenn Noronha as its chief development officer.

PYC said that Dr Noronha would "oversee the company's translational clinical development, regulatory, manufacturing and preclinical development activities".

The company said that Dr Noronha had 20 years' experience in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, including development of ophthalmology drug candidates, at Bridgebio Pharma, Clearside Biomedical and Alcon, and had been involved with eight investigational new drug applications, and three new drug applications with the US Food and Drug Administration.

PYC was unchanged at 13.5 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.