



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday March 24, 2021

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PATRYS UP 7%; OPTISCAN DOWN 10%**
- \* **FEDERAL \$3.2m FOR MEDICAL DEVICES**
- \* **CLINUVEL EXPANDS SCENESSE TO XERODERMA PIGMENTOSA-VARIANT**
- \* **ALCIDION \$2.2m EAST LANCASHIRE NHS PATIENTRACK DEAL**
- \* **DIMERIX: DMX-200 COMBINATION INHIBITS INFLAMMATION IN-VITRO**
- \* **TRUSCREEN CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING 'COVID-19 SAFE'**
- \* **CRESO REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- \* **ONE FUNDS TAKES 6% OF IDT**
- \* **ACTINOGEN CEO DR STEVEN GOURLAY APPOINTED M-D**
- \* **VALE BIONOMICS JACK MOSCHAKIS; ADRIAN HINTON INTERIM CO SEC**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.5 percent on Wednesday March 24, 2021, with the ASX200 up 33.4 points to 6,778.8 points. Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 21 fell and four traded unchanged. All three Big Caps were up.

Patrys was the best, up 0.2 cents or 6.9 percent to 3.1 cents, with 22.5 million shares traded. Resonance rose 5.1 percent; Genetic Signatures, Next Science and Prescient improved more than four percent; Cochlear and Resmed were up more than three percent; Opthea, Osprey, Pro Medicus and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; CSL, Dimerix, Kazia and Polynovo were up more than one percent; with Nanosonics, Neuren and Volpara up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 10.9 percent best, Optiscan, led the falls, down 2.5 cents or 9.8 percent to 23 cents, with 1.05 million shares traded. Antisense lost seven percent; Paradigm was down 5.1 percent; Immutep, Impedimed, Imugene, Medical Developments and Telix fell more than four percent; Avita, Compumedics, Cynata and Mesoblast were down more than three percent; Alterity, Clinuvel, Oncosil and Pharmaxis shed more than two percent; Amplia, Orthocell and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with Cyclopharm and Proteomics down by less than one percent.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, MTP CONNECT

The Federal Government says up-to four projects can apply for a total of \$3.2 million for early-stage manufacturing and human trials of innovative new medical devices.

MTP Connect said it would provide the funds through the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund and its \$45 million Biomed Tech Horizons program.

A media release from the Minister for Health Greg Hunt said the funding was the “fourth and final round of the \$45 million Biomed Tech Horizons (BMTH) program, which has been successful in bringing cutting edge medical devices to market”.

Mr Hunt said the funding was available for well-developed projects that could be completed within a year and would progress the devices towards commercialization.

The media release said that the BMTH program had proven to be successful, with previous funding recipient Wearoptimo securing a manufacturing deal for its micro wearable sensor health for dehydration and cardiac health monitoring.

Mr Hunt said the program improved health outcomes for Australians, and supported employment and business growth in the biomedical and medical technology sector.

MTP Connect managing-director Dr Dan Grant said that Horizons program supported “new medical technologies to reach proof-of-concept, or beyond, so they are attractive for private capital investment and commercialization”.

Dr Grant said that companies “must control or have the legal right to access and use the patents, trademarks or other intellectual property necessary to undertake the proposed activities and matched funding is required”.

MTP Connect said that expressions of interest close on April 19, 2021 and applications can be submitted at: <https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/programs/biomedtechhorizons>.

## CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS

Clinuvel says it will expand its study of Scenesse for DNA repair in xeroderma pigmentosa to patients diagnosed with xeroderma pigmentosa-variant (XP-V).

Last year, Clinuvel said that it had began trialling Scenesse, or afamelanotide 16mg, for DNA regeneration of ultraviolet (UV)-damaged skin in xeroderma pigmentosum group C (XP-C) patients (BD: Sep 10, 15, 2020).

Today, the company said that XP-C patients had a defect in the DNA nucleotide excision repair mechanism directly which led to skin cancer, while XP-V patients had a defect of the POHL gene which led to increased mutations, phototoxicity and risk of skin carcinomas.

Clinuvel chief scientific officer Dr Dennis Wright said that “XP patients are at extreme risk of skin cancer, up-to 10,000 times that of the general population, due to their inability to repair damage caused by UV and sunlight, known as photodamage”.

“Afamelanotide has been shown to protect skin from UV and light, and repair photodamage,” Dr Wright said.

Clinuvel clinical operations manager Dr Pilar Bilbao said that the company had “identified that both XP-C and XP-V patients are most likely to benefit from the hormonal therapy we have developed”.

“The drug’s benefit will be analyzed by observing these patients’ skin reactions to UV light and by analyzing markers in skin samples such as pyrimidine dimers, which really are indicators of the inability to repair damaged strands of DNA,” Dr Bilbao said.

Dr Wright said the company expected trial results in 2021 “pending the Covid-19 pandemic”.

Clinuvel fell 73 cents or 2.55 percent to \$27.91 with 110,175 shares traded.

## ALCIDION GROUP

Alcidion says East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust will pay \$2.2 million over five years for its Patientrack and Smartpage systems.

Alcidion said the NHS East Lancashire contract covered the use of Patientrack observations and monitoring system, as well as its Smartpage secure messaging system for hospital communication and task management, at five hospital sites.

The company said Patientrack would be used by nurses for patient observations, integrating directly with devices used at the bedside to capture patients' vital signs, automatically calculating a patient's early warning score.

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust chief information officer Mark Johnson said that "Patientrack, which has delivered impressive results for patient safety in dozens of other NHS hospitals, accompanied by Smartpage, will be an important part of that digital roadmap and the deployment of our local [electronic patient record]".

Alcidion said the contract brought to 21 the number of NHS Trusts it had as customers.

Alcidion was up five cents or 17.9 percent to 33 cents with 5.5 million shares traded.

## DIMERIX

Dimerix says in-vitro studies of its DMX-200 combined with endothelin-A inhibitors show a reduction of signalling receptors of inflammatory and respiratory diseases.

Dimerix said that DMX-200, a human chemokine receptor 2 (CCR2) inhibitor, combined with endothelin-A inhibitors sparsentan or atrasentan showed "a significantly greater inhibition of key receptor activation in human kidney cells than either compound alone".

The company said it had evidence that that simultaneous inhibition of CCR2 and endothelin A receptor was required to fully stop signalling of either receptors, which suggested that DMX-200 would "provide greater potency and efficacy" for endothelin-A inhibitors such as sparsentan and atrasentan.

Dimerix said sparsentan was in phase III development for the focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, caused by some kidney diseases and obesity, and atrasentan was a phase II endothelin receptor blocker.

Dimerix was up 0.5 cents or 1.9 percent to 26.5 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.

## TRUSCREEN

Truscreen says its cervical cancer screening device is suitable for use during Covid-19 as it reduces doctor-patient interaction and does not require laboratory screening.

Truscreen said that China-based research showed that human papillomavirus (HPV) testing and colposcopy examinations were limited by Covid-19 as laboratory infrastructure and hospital clinics were refocused to manage the pandemic.

The company said that its Truscreen cervical cancer screening device was portable and could be used outside hospital settings and did not required long doctor-patient interaction or handling of tissue samples, reducing the possibility of Covid-19 infection.

Truscreen was unchanged at nine cents.

## CRESO PHARMA

Creso has requested a trading halt as it "considers, plans and executes a capital raising".

Trading will resume on March 26, 2021 or on an earlier announcement.

Creso last traded at 23 cents.

### IDT AUSTRALIA

The Sydney-based One Funds Management says it has become a substantial shareholder in IDT with 15,000,000 shares or 6.24 percent of the company. One Funds said that between August 29, 2018 and March 19, 2021 it bought and sold shares with the single largest purchase 3,250,000 shares for \$948,330 or 29.2 cents a share.

IDT was up 6.5 cents or 16.9 percent to 45 cents with 6.7 million shares traded.

### ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says chief executive officer Dr Steven Gourlay has been appointed managing-director, with interim executive chair Dr Geoff Brooke reverting to non-executive.

Actinogen said the changes were effective immediately and there was “no change to the key terms of Dr Gourlay’s employment contract” (BD: Mar 15, 2021).

Actinogen was unchanged at 3.5 cents with 25.1 million shares traded.

### BIONOMICS

Bionomics says “with much sadness” it advises that legal counsel and company secretary Jack Moschakis passed away yesterday, March 23, 2021.

Bionomics said it wanted “to acknowledge Jack’s unquestionable commitment, contribution, professionalism and work ethic to Bionomics, its employees and shareholders”.

“Since joining Bionomics in 2015, Jack has been instrumental in the success of many projects,” the company said.

“He was highly respected and an integral part of the Bionomics team who will be deeply missed,” the company said.

“Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Nicole, and their children Natalie, Phillip and extended family,” Bionomics said.

The company said that Adrian Hinton had been appointed as interim company secretary.

Bionomics was up half a cent or 2.3 percent to 22.5 cents with 1.8 million shares traded.