



Biotech Daily

Monday March 8, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PROTEOMICS UP 9%; IMPEDIMED DOWN 11%**
- * **MAYNE: E4/DRSP CONTRACEPTIVE 'LESS IMPACT ON OTHER HORMONES'**
- * **NOXOPHARM READY FOR PART 2 OF VEYONDA COVID-19 TRIAL**
- * **'ENGINEERING ISSUE' DELAYS MEMPHASYS FELIX SPERM SEPARATOR**
- * **BIONOMICS 1-FOR-6 RIGHTS FOR \$20m; FOLLOWS \$16m PLACEMENT**
- * **CELLMID 2-FOR-5 RIGHTS ISSUE FOR \$3.8m**
- * **CANNPAL 99.9% VOTE FOR AUSCANN MERGER**
- * **RECCE TO LIST ON FRANKFURT EXCHANGE**
- * **NUHEARA REQUESTS 'REGULATORY PROCESS' TRADING HALT**
- * **ELIXINOL TAKES 'POTENTIAL TRANSACTION' HALT TO SUSPENSION**
- * **ATOMO TO RELEASE 49m ESCROW SHARES**
- * **LAZARD TAKES 6% OF MAYNE**
- * **CELL CARE REDUCES TO 16% OF CRYOSITE**
- * **ACORN CAPITAL TAKES 5% OF CONTROL BIONICS**
- * **EPSILON (THC) LOSES DIRECTOR GARY RADCLIFF**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.43 percent on Monday March 8, 2021, with the ASX200 up 28.8 points to 6,739.6 points. Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell and eight traded unchanged.

Proteomics was the best, up 10.5 cents or 9.4 percent to \$1.225, with 151,908 shares traded. Medical Developments climbed seven percent; Osprey was up 5.9 percent; Antisense, Pro Medicus and Universal Biosensors were up more than three percent; Orthocell, Pharmaxis and Volpara rose more than two cents; Genetic Signatures was down 1.6 percent; with Cochlear, Nanosonics, Neuren, Next Science, Polynovo and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Impedimed led the falls, down 1.2 cents or 10.9 percent to 9.8 cents, with 6.7 million shares traded. Avita lost eight percent; Optiscan fell 7.5 percent; LBT, Resonance and Starpharma were down more than five percent; Nova, Patrys and Telix fell more than four percent; Mesoblast and Opthea shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, CSL, Immutep, Imugene and Kazia were down more than one percent; with Cyclopharm, Cynata and Paradigm down by less than one percent.

MAYNE PHARMA GROUP

Mayne says its Nextstellis contraceptive had limited changes in endocrine markers, and lower increases in hormone-binding globulins, compared with standard contraceptives. Mayne said that data presented at the virtual meeting of International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health from March 5 to 7 showed that its Nextstellis investigational combined oral contraceptive containing oestrol (E4) and drospirenone (DRSP), resulted in limited changes in endocrine markers, including lower increases in hormone binding globulins, compared with combined oral contraceptives based on ethinyl-oestradiol, the synthetic oestrogen used in all but one of the marketed combined oral contraceptives. The company said that the research was delivered in a presentation titled 'Estetrol [sic] Combined with Drospirenone: An Investigational Oral Contraceptive With A Selective Impact on Endocrine Parameters'.

Presenter and co-author of the research, Prof Andrew London of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine said that practitioners prescribing combined oral contraceptives "must have a good understanding of how these therapies may impact other hormones in the body in order to make an informed prescribing decision for their patients".

"Based on our findings, treatment with E4/DRSP has limited effects on some of these endocrine parameters compared to the tested [ethinyl-oestradiol] containing products, giving E4/DRSP a different and potentially favorable endocrine profile," Prof London said. Mayne chief executive officer Scott Richards said that the "new data adds to the solid safety and tolerability profile of Nextstellis and the growing body of clinical evidence that this unique combination with a new form of oestrogen, may be a promising novel oral contraceptive option for women".

Mayne fell half a cent or 1.75 percent to 28 cents with 1.15 million shares traded.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it is ready to begin enrolling up to 15 patients in part 2 of its trial of Nox66, or Veyonda, for Covid-19

In January, Noxopharm said that an independent safety review of 12 patients receiving either 800mg or 1,200mg of Veyonda approved the increased Veyonda dose to 1,800mg (BD: Jan 17, 2021).

Today, the company said that it would recruit a minimum of 10 and up to 15 patients with moderate to severe lung dysfunction and they would be treated for up to 14 days with the 1,800mg dose each day.

Noxopharm said that the Noxcovid-1 trial was studying Veyonda for its ability to block the cytokine release syndrome associated with the immune response to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) and thereby reduce long-term disabilities and death in Covid-19 patients.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Graham Kelly said that "what marks Veyonda as a highly promising drug prospect, where many other drugs have failed in this quest, is its ability to block the release of a wide range of these cytokines".

"Many of these other drugs block individual cytokines," Dr Kelly said.

"In the face of surging levels of large numbers of cytokines, it is rational to think that the more cytokines a treatment can block, the better the outcome is likely to be," Dr Kelly said.

"Moving onto part 2 of the trial represents an important step towards our goal of seeing Veyonda become an effective and safe treatment of septic shock, not just in Covid-19 patients, but as one of the most common causes of human death from infections and severe trauma," Dr Kelly said.

Noxopharm fell one cent or 1.5 percent to 67 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says an engineering flaw in its Felix sperm separation device was found in the validation process and will delay its production and commercial sales.

Memphasys said it was undertaking a verification and validation process on the Felix console and cartridges and hoped to complete the process by the end of March 2021.

The company said that the schedule would need to be extended and “commercial sales of the device will be delayed”.

Memphasys said the Felix kit needed to pass the validation process, which would include additional validation testing by the University of Newcastle and Monash IVF (in-vitro fertilization), with further testing on by key opinion leaders and possibly other potential customers in the initial, low regulatory regime markets.

The company said that an engineering issue had “a solution” and was not an issue with the Felix core technology or science.

Memphasys executive chair Alison Coutts said the company was “clearly disappointed that this issue has arisen, especially as it came so late in the validation process”.

“However, that we were able to uncover the issue is testament to the robustness of our verification and validation process,” Ms Coutts said.

“We are now working on resolving the issue as expeditiously as possible,” Ms Coutts said.

Memphasys fell three cents or 32.6 percent to 6.2 cents with 18.8 million shares traded.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics says it hopes to raise \$20,000,000 through a non-renounceable one-for-six rights issue at 14.5 cents a share.

Bionomics said that the offer price was a 48 percent discount to the closing price on March 5, 2021.

In February, Bionomics said it has commitments to raise \$15,991,634 at 14.5 cents a share in an underwritten placement, for a phase IIb trial of its anti-anxiety drug BNC210 for post-traumatic stress disorder (BD: Feb 9, 2021).

Today the company said that the rights issue was not underwritten.

The company said the record date was March 11, the offer would open on March 16 and close on March 30, 2021.

Bionomics was up 2.5 cents or 8.8 percent to 31 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

CELLMID

Cellmid says it hopes to raise \$3.8 million through a renounceable, two-for-five rights issue at 7.5 cents a share.

Cellmid said the offer price was a 26 percent discount to the 30-day volume-weighted average price and shareholders would receive one attaching option for every two new shares acquired, exercisable at 18 cents within two years.

The company said that the funds would be used to “exploit Chinese distribution agreements, explore new market opportunities for the company’s consumer health products and working capital.

Cellmid said the rights issue was partially underwritten to \$3 million by Mahe Capital Pty Ltd, including sub-underwriting by director Dennis Eck for \$388,878.

The company said the record date would be March 11, the offer would open on March 12 and close on March 26, 2021.

Cellmid was unchanged at nine cents.

[CANNPAL ANIMAL THERAPEUTICS, AUSCANN](#)

Cannpal says its shareholders have voted overwhelmingly (99.91%) in favor of the merger with Auscann.

Cannpal said that the scheme of arrangement was subject to the approval of the Supreme Court of Western Australia at a hearing scheduled for March 10, with the record date for determining entitlements March 15 and implementation on March 18, 2021.

Last year, Auscann said it would acquire Cannpal, paying 1.3 Auscann shares for every one Cannpal share and valuing the company, which produced marijuana products for dogs, at \$17.5 million (BD: Nov 16, 2020).

Auscann fell half a cent or 3.2 percent to 15 cents.

Cannpal was up 1.5 cents or 10 percent to 16.5 cents.

[RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Recce says it expects its shares to dual-listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange at 8am Central European Time today March 8, the trading code R9Q.

Recce said that the dual-listing would see trading on German trading exchanges in Frankfurt, Tradegate, Munich, Stuttgart and Gettex.

The company said that the dual-listing was done without “many of the primary listing procedures, seeing a widening of investor reach with minimal cost”.

Recce said there was no associated capital raising due and no issue of new shares.

Recce was up four cents or 4.1 percent to \$1.02.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara has requested a trading halt pending “an announcement regarding Nuheara’s regulatory medical device establishment process”.

Trading will resume on March 10, 2021 or on an earlier announcement.

Nuheara last traded at 4.4 cents.

[ELIXINOL GLOBAL](#)

Elixinol has requested a voluntary suspension to follow the trading halt requested last week “an announcement in relation to a potential transaction” (BD: Mar 4, 2021).

Elixinol last traded at 19.5 cents.

[ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Atomo says that 49,106,320 shares, related to last year’s initial public offer, will be released from voluntary escrow on April 16, 2021.

According to Atomo’s most recent Appendix 2A new share notice it had 407,890,337 shares available for trading, with a further 156,307,470 shares in ASX escrow.

Atomo was unchanged at 23.5 cents.

[MAYNE PHARMA GROUP](#)

Sydney’s Lazard Asset Management Pacific Co says it has increased its substantial holding in Mayne from 86,044,209 shares (5.13%) to 104,006,124 shares (6.19%).

Lazard said it bought and sold shares between October 13, 2020 and March 3, 2021, with the single largest purchase 4,309,495 shares for \$1,222,950 or 28.4 cents a share.

CRYOSITE

Cell Care Australia says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Cryosite from 8,172,607 shares (17.44) to 7,460,000 shares (15.92%).

The Melbourne-based Cell Care said that between February 23 and March 5, 2021 it sold shares at prices ranging from 18.79 cents to 21.51 cents.

Cryosite fell half a cent or 2.7 percent to 18 cents.

CONTROL BIONICS

Acorn Capital says it has become a substantial shareholder in Control Bionics with 4,422,182 shares or 5.27 percent.

The substantial shareholder notice said that Melbourne's Acorn Capital bought the shares between November 26, 2020 and March 5, 2021, with largest purchase 2,833,334 shares for \$1,700,000 or \$1.67 a share.

Control Bionics fell two cents or three percent to 65 cents.

EPSILON HEALTHCARE (FORMERLY THC, THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY)

Epsilon says that Gary Radcliff has resigned as a non-executive director, effective from March 5, 2021.

Epsilon was up 1.5 cents or 6.4 percent to 25 cents.