



Biotech Daily

Monday April 26, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: OPTISCAN UP 21%; PARADIGM DOWN 6%**
- * **FDA APPROVES NEXT SCIENCE XPERIENCE NO RINSE ANTI-MICROBIAL**
- * **PARADIGM: FURTHER US FDA PPS OSTEOARTHRITIS TRIAL QUESTIONS**
- * **UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS: VICARD SENTIA SOUTH AFRICA DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **ANTEO BATTERY LINK COMMERCIALIZATION; CAPITAL RAISE HALT**
- * **MACKINNON, ISLE OF WIGHT DILUTED TO 6.8% OF ALCIDION**
- * **CALEDONIA, MKMS BELOW 5% OF ALCIDION**
- * **RACE FOUNDER DR WILLIAM GARNER REDUCES TO 7.4%**
- * **REGAL BELOW 5% OF ALTERITY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.21 percent on Monday April 26, 2021, with the ASX200 down 15.1 points to 7,045.6 points.

Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell and six traded unchanged. All three Big Caps fell.

Optiscan was the best, up eight cents or 21.05 percent to 46 cents, with 3.6 million shares traded. Next Science climbed 14.4 percent; Actinogen was up 5.45 percent; Impedimed improved 4.2 percent; Prescient was up 3.2 percent; Amplia, Clinuvel, Dimerix and Oncosil rose two percent or more; Cyclopharm and Universal Biosensors were up more than one percent; with Genetic Signatures, Opthea, Proteomics and Starpharma up by less than one percent.

Paradigm led the falls, down 16 cents or 6.3 percent to \$2.39, with 1.2 million shares traded. Uscom lost 6.1 percent; Polynovo fell 4.1 percent; Nova Eye and Pharmaxis were down more than three percent; Avita, Compumedics, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Nanosonics, Orthocell, Pro Medicus, Resonance, Telix and Volpara shed two percent or more; Cynata, LBT and Neuren were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Kazia and Resmed down by less than one percent.

NEXT SCIENCE

Next Science says it has US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance to sell its Xperience no rinse anti-microbial solution as a medical device in the US.

Next Science said that Xperience was “a single step application” with residual solution remaining in the surgical site after closure to “defend against pathogens for several hours, giving surgeons a simple and effective adjunct to help prevent surgical site and post-operative infections”, with sales to begin immediately through a third-party distribution network of more than 300 commission agents it managed.

The company said that Xperience was designed for use in “virtually every open surgery case” with an initial focus on shoulder, hip, knee, trauma and podiatry surgery.

Next Science managing-director Judith Mitchell said that Xperience had “market leading performance in pathogen reduction” and was able to eliminate methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or golden staph, to less than one bacterium in a hundred million. “We expect the product will become a first choice in the battle to reduce surgical site infection,” Ms Mitchell said.

Next Science said that surgical site infections were the second largest cause of hospital acquired infection in the US and a major cause of surgical complications, contributing up to \$US10 billion to the cost of healthcare, in the US alone.

The company said Xperience could help prevent hospital re-admissions and the initial sales focus would be the US orthopaedic surgery market of 5.3 million surgeries a year, with its network covering more than 90 percent of the US.

Next Science said it would begin clinical studies to provide additional evidence “to drive widespread adoption in the surgical community”.

Next Science climbed 20.5 cents or 14.4 percent to \$1.625 with five million shares traded.

PARADIGM BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Paradigm says the US Food and Drug Administration has asked more questions about its application to begin a pivotal trial of pentosan polysulphate sodium for osteoarthritis.

Paradigm said that it had submitted a more than 30,000-page investigational new drug application (IND) application to the FDA and had “received few questions from the FDA during the current 30-day IND review period” which it answered within 48 hours of receipt.

The company said that last Friday, April 23, it received a verbal indication from the FDA that the regulator would put further questions outside the 30-day period.

Paradigm said that the FDA was unable to provide all questions within the initial review period and advised it would submit them to Paradigm within the next 30 days.

The company said that many of the questions were related to newly submitted non-clinical data as part of the IND application and once in receipt of its responses, the FDA would review within 30 days.

Paradigm fell 16 cents or 6.3 percent to \$2.39 with 1.2 million shares traded.

UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says it has appointed Capetown’s Vicard SA as a non-exclusive distributor of its Sentia wine testing device in South Africa.

Universal Biosensors said the distribution agreement is for a three-year term and contains standard renewal and termination options available to both parties.

Universal Biosensors chief executive officer John Sharman said that “securing distribution in South Africa is another step forward in the commercialization of Sentia”.

Universal Biosensors was up one cent or 1.35 percent to 75 cents.

[ANTEOTECH](#)

Anteo says that collaborations have led to a commercialization path for its Anteox cross-linked binder for batteries, and it has requested a capital raising trading halt.

Anteo director Dr Geoffrey Cumming told Biotech Daily that Anteox was “a cross-linked binder, enhancing the performance of lithium-ion batteries”.

Previously, Anteo focused on its molecular bindings, in particular for diagnostic tests, but in 2015 began work on nanometer thin coatings for batteries (BD: Apr 21, 2015).

Today, the company said that “Collaborator 8” was a northern Asian diversified electronics manufacturer and confirmed “the enhanced electro-chemical performance resulting from the application of Anteox ... in a high silicon content lithium-ion anode”.

Anteo said that “Collaborator 5” was a Central European silicon-focused chemical company which undertook several tests of binder formulations using Anteox as an additive and demonstrated an up to 16 percent improvement in cycle life, when tested in full cells against commercial cathode materials.

The company said that Collaborator 9 was a Northern Asian battery manufacturer and found that Anteox perform stably in half cells with further studies required.

Separately, Anteo requested a trading halt “pending an announcement ... concerning a capital raising”.

Trading will resume on April 28, 2021 or on an earlier announcement.

Anteo last traded at 41.5 cents.

[ALCIDION GROUP](#)

Colin Mackinnon and Isle of Wight say their 70,563,015 shares-holding in Alcidion has been diluted from 7.83 percent to 6.79 percent.

The substantial shareholder notice said that MKMS was one of the registered holders of the shares (see below) and both companies gave their address as care of Gamsey Partners, Level 13, 139 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Earlier this month, Alcidion said it had raised \$15.4 million in a placement at 32 cents a share and hoped to raise a further \$2.5 million in a share plan (BD: Apr 15, 2021).

Alcidion was up four cents or 11 percent to 40.5 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

[ALCIDION GROUP](#)

Caledonia Nominees and MKMS investment say their 50,702,358 share-holding in Alcidion has been reduced below the five percent substantial level.

Last year, Caledonia and MKMS said they were reduced and been diluted to 65,802,358 shares (6.64%).

Today, the Sydney-based Caledonia did not explain the missing 15,100,000 shares but said it was diluted in a placement (see above).

[RACE ONCOLOGY](#)

Race founder Dr William James Garner says he has reduced his substantial holding in from 11,723,911 shares (8.47%) to 10,445,089 shares (7.40%).

The San Juan, Puerto Rico-based Dr Garner said that between March 15 and April 23, 2021 he sold 1,277,882 shares for \$4,806,558 or an average of \$3.76 a share.

Mr Garner said that the shares were being held directly, by Citicorp Nominees and his spouse Ya Zou, and he was diluted in the exercise of options.

Race was unchanged at \$3.25.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

The Sydney-based Regal Funds Management says it has reduced its holding in Alterity to below the five percent substantial level.

In March, Regal said it had reduced from 158,030,555 shares (7.58%) to 136,945,316 shares (6.57%) (BD: Mar 16, 2021).

Today, Regal Funds said it sold shares between March 12 and April 21, 2021 with the single largest sale 40,900,000 shares for \$1,623,730 or 3.97 cents a share.

Alterity was unchanged at 3.3 cents with 22.6 million shares traded.