



Biotech Daily

Tuesday May 18, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: LBT UP 10%; AVITA DOWN 10%**
- * **LBT SELLS 2 APAS INDEPENDENCE UNITS TO UK**
- * **AUDEARA OPENS DOWN 5% ON \$7m SPECIALIST HEADPHONES IPO**
- * **IMUGENE, CITY OF HOPE DEAL FOR CD19 CAR-T-CELL TUMOR THERAPY**
- * **BIOCURATE, MONASH LAUNCH PIO FOR CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY**
- * **PROTEOMICS, AVANCE PK TESTING CONTRACT**
- * **TELEX APPOINTS ECKERT ZIEGLER GERMAN ILLUCIX DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **BARD1 LAUNCHES EXONET AT EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES MEETING**
- * **PYC: UNNAMED DRUG CANDIDATE 2nd FOR ADOA**
- * **BOD LAUNCHES MARIJUANA CANNABIGEROL CBG50 IN UK**
- * **MGC APPLIES FOR 'CIMETRA' SLOVENIAN PATENT**
- * **EMYRIA 1.5m CONSULTANT OPTIONS, PLACEMENT EGM**
- * **CEO KATE QUIRKE BELOW 5% IN ALCIDION**
- * **COLE MACKINNON, ISLE OF WIGHT DILUTED TO 5.6% OF ALCIDION**
- * **RESAPP RE-APPOINTS BRIAN LEEDMAN EXEC DIRECTOR ON \$187k**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.6 percent on Tuesday May 18, 2021, with the ASX200 up 42.4 points to 7,066.0 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 13 fell and 10 traded unchanged.

LBT was the best, up 0.7 cents or 9.9 percent to 7.8 cents, with 2.5 million shares traded. Antisense climbed 5.7 percent; Actinogen, Impedimed and Prescient improved more than four percent; Genetic Signatures and Universal Biosensors were up more than three percent; Clinuvel, Next Science, Telix and Volpara rose more than two percent; Cynata, Immutep, Kazia and Starpharma were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Opthea and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Avita led the falls, down 52 cents or 10.3 percent to \$4.54, with 1.3 million shares traded. Amplia lost more than 6.25 percent; Polynovo fell 3.8 percent; Cyclopharm and Medical Developments shed two percent or more; Mesoblast, Nanosonics, Nova Eye, Oncosil, Orthocell and Paradigm were down more than one percent; with Neuren, Proteomics and Resmed down by less than one percent.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says it has sold two APAS Independence instruments and modules to Sonic Healthcare's London subsidiary Health Services Laboratory.

Last year, LBT sold its first automated plate assessment system (APAS) Independence and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) analysis module to Germany's Limbach Group (BD: Oct 12, 2020).

Today, LBT chief executive officer Brent Barnes told Biotech Daily that the standard retail price per unit was \$US300,000 (\$A385,000) with a further \$US20,000 (\$A25,666) per year licence fee, but that varied with each deal.

In a media release, the company said the sales were completed by Clever Culture Systems, its 50 percent joint venture with Hettich AG Switzerland.

LBT said that the two APAS instruments would be installed at the Health Services Laboratory Halo facility.

The company said the sale included the MRSA and Urine analysis modules to perform screening of the high-volume urine and MRSA specimens and would "sit alongside" the already installed Franklin Lakes, New Jersey-based Becton, Dickinson and Co Kiestra total lab automation (TLA) product.

LBT said it was the first installation combining TLA with the APAS automation and was an example of how both products could provide benefits within the one laboratory.

The company said that Halo laboratory was part of a public-private partnership and a "flagship UK laboratory and centre of excellence for the Doctors Laboratory, a subsidiary of Sonic Healthcare" in a partnership between the Doctors Laboratory, Royal Free London National Health Service Foundation Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

LBT said that the data generated from the clinical evaluation of the APAS MRSA module by Health Services Laboratory had been accepted as a poster presentation for the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases meeting in July 2021, one of five publications showcasing the APAS technology at the conference.

Health Services Laboratory head of infection sciences Alan Spratt said his company was "really excited to be bringing the APAS Independence into our lab".

"The performance that has been achieved during the evaluations of both the MRSA and Urine analysis modules exceeded our expectations and will enable us to better manage our culture plate workflow," Mr Spratt said.

Mr Barnes said that following the successful trial of the MRSA analysis module, the laboratory extended the scope of the study for their Urine workflow as well, presenting the opportunity for the sale of multiple instruments.

"This is a demonstration of the positive experience we have consistently seen from laboratories who have trialled our technology," Mr Barnes said.

LBT was up 0.7 cents or 9.9 percent to 7.8 cents with 2.5 million shares traded.

AUDEARA

Audeara (AUA) opened down five percent at 19 cents, having raised \$7 million at 20 cents a share for its "full-fidelity headphones with a built-in hearing test" (BD: May 10, 2021).

Audeara said it was founded in 2015 by Brisbane doctors and engineers, Dr James Fielding, Dr Chris Jeffery and Alex Afflick, its products were manufactured in Shenzhen, China, and it generated \$965,000 in revenue for the year to December 31, 2020.

Audeara said the \$7 million raising would value the company at \$21,000,000.

Audeara climbed as high as 20.5 cents, before closing the day down three cents or 15 percent at 17 cents with 6.8 million shares traded.

IMUGENE

Imugene says it has a licencing agreement with the City of Hope for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy with a CD19-expressing oncolytic virus, targeting solid tumors.

In 2019, Imugene said that through Vaxinia, it would acquire the Los Angeles-based City of Hope CF33 oncolytic virus technology to kill tumor cells (BD: Jul 15, 2019).

Today, Imugene said the licence covered the therapy, including CF33-CD19, known as Oncarlytics, that tagged cancer cells for chimeric antigen receptor (Car) T-cell destruction, and it had acquired exclusive global rights to develop and commercialize the patents.

The company said it would pay the City of Hope undisclosed upfront and annual maintenance fees creditable against future royalty payments, performance-based consideration, as well as sales-based single digit royalty payments and sub-licencing fees.

Imugene said the City of Hope scientists had genetically engineered an oncolytic virus to enter tumor cells and express CD19 on its cell surface which would enable CD19 directed Car-T-cells to recognize and attack the solid tumors.

The company said the CD19 Car-T-cell therapy had been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat certain types of blood cancers which included B cell lymphomas and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Imugene managing-director Leslie Chong said that the platform opened “the entire field of use to cellular therapy for the CF33 [oncolytic virus]”.

“Supercharging CF33 with CD19 is a revolutionary new paradigm in combination therapy with any CD19-binding therapies to include bi-specifics, antibody drug conjugates and Car-T-cell therapy for solid tumors,” Ms Chong said. “The Car-T-cell field currently only treats [about] 10 percent of all cancers such as blood or liquid tumors, whereas this technology has the potential to open up the solid tumor market.”

Imugene was unchanged at 33 cents with 57.4 million shares traded.

BIOCURATE, MONASH UNIVERSITY, PIO THERAPEUTICS

Biocurate says that with Monash University it has launched of Pio Therapeutics to develop targeted medicines for cancer, targeting endogenous anti-tumor immunity.

Biocurate said that Pio would develop its agonist antibody PIO-001 to improve the “rate and quality of responses in a variety of solid tumors”, one of the “challenges associated with immunotherapy”.

The company said that PIO-001 was discovered and characterized at Monash University’s Biomedicine Discovery Institute.

Biocurate acting chief executive officer and Pio managing-director Dr Damien Bates said the new company was the “culmination of many months of hard work by a highly dedicated and collaborative team”.

Dr Bates told Biotech Daily that the interleukin-21 (IL-21) cytokine was expressed in the tumor environment and sites of inflammation and was the target for PIO-001.

Dr Bates said that IL-21 was attempting to activate immune cells to turn tumors from ‘cold’ to ‘hot’ and further improve the efficacy of existing therapies like checkpoint inhibitors.

Dr Bates said that previous work with systemically-delivered IL-21 showed promise in the clinic but had some safety concerns.

By targeting IL-21 in the specific location of the tumor with the PIO-001 agonist antibody, the company hoped to unlock the benefits of IL-21 without the side effects previously observed, Dr Bates said.

The media release said that Dr George Morstyn had been appointed Pio’s chair, with Monash Innovation senior director Dr Alastair Hick appointed a Pio director.

Pio Therapeutics is a private company.

[PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES](#)

Proteomics says it has a contract with the Thebarton, South Australia-based Avance Clinical for pharmaco-kinetic testing of a drug for lysosomal storage disorder.

Proteomics said the analytical services contract with Avance Clinical was valued at \$243,000 and would study the rate at which the drug was absorbed, distributed, metabolized and excreted after it enters the body.

The company said the contract was part of a phase I trial conducted on behalf of an unnamed US pharmaceutical company to investigate the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of the lysosomal storage drug over the next three months.

Proteomics managing director Dr Richard Lipscombe said the company's "pharmacokinetic testing business continues to strengthen, boosting our analytical services revenue, which in turn helps offset our diagnostic [research and development] and commercialization expenditure".

Proteomics fell half a cent or 0.4 percent to \$1.14.

[TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Telix says it has appointed Eckert & Ziegler Strahlen und Medizintechnik AG as the German distributor for its Illucix prostate cancer imaging kit.

Telix said the Berlin-based Eckert and Ziegler Strahlen und Medizintechnik AG would be the exclusive commercial distributor of Illucix following German marketing authorization, which was expected to be "in late 2021".

The company said that about 68,000 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in men in Germany in 2020, with more than 15,000 men dying from the cancer and more than 290,000 German men estimated to be living with prostate cancer in 2020.

Telix was up 11 cents or 2.65 percent to \$4.26 with 998,053 shares traded.

[BARD1 LIFE SCIENCES \(MERGED WITH SIENNA CANCER DIAGNOSTICS\)](#)

Bard1 says it will launch a research-use-only version of its Exo-net exosome capture technology at the International Society of Extracellular Vesicles annual meeting.

In 2019, Sienna said its Exo-net technology was able to capture exosomes, small particles released by cells that aided inter-cell communication (BD: Nov 8, 2019).

Today, the company said its Exo-net technology would be launched at the meeting between May 18 and 21, 2021 and would be available for sale to academia and the research industry.

Bard1 chief scientific officer Dr Peter French said "Exo-net solves the sample preparation problems encountered using traditional exosome capture methods by providing fast, accurate and scalable capture of exosomes from any liquid sample".

"The potential of this technology is largely untapped, as only Exo-net can be customized for the capture of target exosome sub-populations for a range of commercial diagnostic and therapeutic applications," Dr French said.

Bard1 chief executive officer Dr Leearne Hinch said that the launch of research-use-only Exo-net was the first step in the commercialization of its exosome-based product portfolio and the company intended to "leverage its next-generation Exo-net technology to build a pipeline of exosome-based diagnostics for multiple indications."

Bard1 fell two cents or 0.8 percent to \$2.46 with 413,107 shares traded.

PYC THERAPEUTICS

PYC says it has a second drug candidate that “restores the levels of the target protein OPA1 towards normal” in autosomal dominant optic atrophy (ADOA), in vitro.

PYC said the unnamed drug would be assessed models “to determine whether the increase in OPA1 protein successfully rescues the behavioral deficits seen in cells from [autosomal dominant optic atrophy] patients that lead to loss of vision”.

The company said the target cells for OPA1 program were the retinal ganglion cells within the retina which make up the optic nerve that enabled the transmission of visual signals from the retina to the brain.

PYC was up one cent or 6.9 percent to 15.5 cents.

BOD AUSTRALIA

Bod says it will launch a non-intoxicating marijuana compound, cannabigerol, under its Medicabilis brand as CBG50 in the UK for unidentified therapeutic use.

Bod said preliminary research found that cannabigerol had “potential to address alternative therapeutic areas” to tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol and had a different chemical structure that would bind to specific cell receptors for different therapeutic targets, but did not identify any indications.

Bod was unchanged at 40 cents.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office has accepted its patent application for Cimetra for multiple therapeutic applications.

MGC previously said the artemisinin, curcumin, Boswellia serrata and vitamin C-based Artemic (Cimetra backwards) was safe and could prevent the deterioration of Covid-19 patients and achieve faster clinical improvement, based on a 50-patient, phase II clinical trial (BD: Dec 15, 2020).

Today, the company said the patent was expected to be issued within the next 12 months. MGC fell 0.2 cents or 3.8 percent to 5.1 cents with 25.3 million shares traded.

EMYRIA

Emyria says its extraordinary general meeting will vote to issue consultant Dr Karen Smith 1,500,000 options and approve the recent placement.

Emyria said Dr Smith’s options were exercisable at 26.8 cents by February 22, 2024 and were in consideration for past and future clinical consulting services.

In April, Emyria said it had raised \$5 million in a placement at 17.5 cents a share, with \$800,000 corner-stoned by lead manager Sixty Two Capital (BD: Apr 21, 2021).

Today, the company said the meeting would vote to ratify the prior issue of shares and options, as well as grant Sixty Two Capital 5,000,000 options exercisable at 35 cents by April 28, 2023.

Emyria said the meeting would be held at D2, 661 Newcastle Street, Leederville, Western Australia, on June 18, 2021 at 10am (AWST).

Emyria was up 0.5 cents or 2.4 percent to 21.5 cents.

ALCIDION GROUP

Alcidion chief executive officer Katrina Doyle, known as Kate Quirke, says she has bought and sold shares and been diluted below five percent in her company.

The Melbourne-based Ms Quirke told Biotech Daily that the MKMS Investment Pty Ltd partnership had been dissolved, requiring the sale of the Alcidion shares acquired in the 2018 takeover of MKM and Patientrack (BD: Apr 24, 2018).

In her substantial shareholder notice, Ms Quirke said that MKMS sold 11,481,273 shares for \$3,903,633 or 34 cents a share, with her holding of 1,497,557 yielding \$509,169.

The notice said that on March 11, 2020, Ms Quirke bought 1,000,000 shares for \$137,500 or 13.75 cents a share and on November 11, 2019, and between April 23 and May 11, 2021 her holding was diluted through the issue of shares.

Earlier this month, Alcidion said it had raised \$3 million in an "oversubscribed" share plan at 32 cents a share taking the total raised to \$18.4 million. (BD: May 5, 2021).

Alcidion was up half a cent or 1.4 percent to 36.5 cents with one million shares traded.

ALCIDION GROUP

Colin Mackinnon and Isle of Wight say they have reduced from 70,563,015 shares (6.79%) to 59,081,742 (5.64%).

The substantial shareholder notice said that they were parties to the MKMS Investment Pty Ltd partnership which was dissolved (see above) with their 3,244,708 shares yielding \$1,103,201.

Earlier this month, Alcidion said it had raised \$3 million in an "oversubscribed" share plan at 32 cents a share taking the total raised to \$18.4 million. (BD: May 5, 2021).

RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp says it has re-appointed co-founder Brian Leedman as executive director of corporate affairs.

In 2017, Resapp said it had appointed Nathan Buzza as a non-executive director, replacing co-founder Brian Leedman (BD: Jan 21, 2018).

Mr Buzza resigned last year (BD: Mar 30, 2020)

Today, the company said Mr Leedman would continue to manage its investor relations and would be paid a base annual salary of \$187,000 including superannuation.

Resapp was up 0.4 cents or 7.8 percent to 5.5 cents with 2.7 million shares traded.