



# Biotech Daily

Thursday July 15, 2021

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ALTERITY UP 18%; POLYNOVO DOWN 9%**
- \* **VICTORIA \$643k EXTENDS J&J MONASH OFFICE 2 YEARS**
- \* **VOLPARA: EURO PATENT FOR BREAST CARE PLATFORM**
- \* **ACTINOGEN ENROLS 1st XANAMIA TRIAL PATIENT**
- \* **BOD MARIJUANA CUSTOMER RECEIPTS UP 82% TO \$6.6m**
- \* **TOTAL BRAIN, EASTMAN \$250k MENTAL HEALTH CONTRACT**
- \* **CRESO COMPLETES HALUCENEX ACQUISITION**
- \* **ANTERIS AGM 12% OPPOSE DIRECTOR DR WENYI GU**
- \* **RHYTHM DIRECTOR DAVID WHITE JOINS US SUBSIDIARY ICHORDX**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.26 percent on Thursday July 15, 2021, with the ASX200 down 18.8 points to 7,335.9 points. Eleven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 25 fell, three traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Alterity was the best on publication of previously reported mouse data, up 0.6 cents or 17.65 percent to four cents, with 47.6 million shares traded. Impedimed climbed five percent; Imugene, Next Science, Nova Eye and Oncosil were up more than three percent; Amplia and Genetic Signatures rose more than two percent; Paradigm was up one percent; with Cyclopharm and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Polynovo led the falls, down 20 cents or 8.7 percent to \$2.10, with 8.1 million shares traded. Immutep and Uscom lost more than five percent; Avita, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Nanosonics, Opthea and Volpara were down more than three percent; Antisense, Compumedics, Dimerix, Neuren, Optiscan, Pharmaxis, Prescient, Resonance and Starpharma shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Cochlear, CSL, Cynata, Kazia, Patrys and Telix were down one percent or more; with Orthocell, Resmed and Universal Biosensors down by less than one percent.

## [VICTORIA GOVERNMENT, JOHNSON AND JOHNSON, MONASH UNIVERSITY](#)

The Victoria Government says it will provide \$643,000 to extend the Johnson and Johnson Innovation Partnering Office at Melbourne's Monash University.

A media release from Victoria's Minister for Innovation Jaala Pulford said the Office was established in 2018 and was one of only three such Offices (BD: Feb 15, 2018).

A spokesperson for the Victoria Government told Biotech Daily that the Government had contributed \$643,000 for the two-year extension, taking the total investment by the State to \$1.4 million.

Monash University pro-vice-chancellor for enterprise Sarah Newton told Biotech Daily the University had made both "in-kind and infrastructure contributions" to the Office.

Ms Pulford's media release said that the Partnering Office worked with emerging pharmaceutical, medical device, healthcare companies and academic researchers to provide commercialization training and networking support at no cost, to accelerate life-science research towards commercialization.

The media release said that the Office had provided a platform for collaborative projects, including a multi-year Alzheimer's disease research collaboration between St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research and Janssen Pharmaceuticals and the Quickfire Challenge competition, providing opportunities for local medical technology entrepreneurs, sponsored by the State Government and Johnson & Johnson Innovation LLC.

The Government said the Innovation Partnering Office had hosted research collaborations between Monash and Janssen Biotech exploring methods of diagnosis and treatment for Coeliac disease and with Janssen Pharmaceutica advancing clinical development of inhaled oxytocin for the prevention of postpartum haemorrhage in developing countries.

In a separate announcement, Johnson and Johnson said the joint initiative would be extended to June 30, 2023 and would allow its office to continue connecting with the State Government for research, product development and create local jobs.

Janssen-Cilag senior director Kathy Connell said that "several high impact Victorian healthcare collaborations have been signed since our launch, including those novel medical technologies and treatments for neuro-degenerative and auto-immune conditions, and solutions for significant unmet needs in global public health including maternal mortality and infectious diseases".

Monash University deputy vice-chancellor and head of enterprise and governance Prof Ken Sloan said the partnership was "helping to bridge the gap between academic research and industry application by driving cross-industry conversations, leading to project innovations and investment".

## [VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Volpara says that the European Patent Office has granted a patent covering its breast x-ray quality control systems, bringing its total number of granted patents to 98.

Volpara said that the patent, titled 'Method for Quantification of Images', would be effective across 25 European countries protecting its intellectual property until 2035.

The company said it had patents effective in 27 countries including most of Europe, US and China.

Volpara chief executive officer Dr Ralph Highnam said that "securing our 98th patent is another major step forward for the company, reaffirming our position as a leading innovator in the medical imaging space, and a testament to our [research and development] team who are constantly pushing the boundaries in novel and important directions, ever seeking to improve the early detection of cancer".

Volpara fell four cents or 3.3 percent to \$1.16.

### ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says the first of 105 older healthy volunteers have been enrolled in part A of its two-part trial of Xanamem for mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease. Actinogen said part A of the 'Xanamia' trial would be conducted over six weeks at four outpatient sites in Australia and would use the Cogstate neurological test battery, including the digit symbol substitution test, which was an US Food and Drug Administration-approved endpoint for cognition. The company said that the dose-ranging part A would assess the efficacy of 5mg and 10mg doses of Xanamem in patients with biomarker-positive Alzheimer's disease and part B would measure the effects of Xanamem on biomarkers of the disease and on cognition. Actinogen was unchanged at 11.5 cents with 16.2 million shares traded.

### BOD AUSTRALIA

Bod says customer receipts from marijuana products for the year to June 30, 2021 were up 82.3 percent to \$6,626,000 compared to the previous corresponding period. Bod said customer receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021 fell 3.65 percent to \$2,246,000 compared to \$2,331,000 for the three months to June 30, 2020. The company said its unaudited revenue for the year to June 30, 2021 was up 23 percent to \$7.4 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Bod fell half a cent or 1.5 percent to 33 cents.

### TOTAL BRAIN

Total Brain says it has a three-year, renewable contract with Eastman Chemical Co, worth \$250,000 in annual recurring revenue for its mental health software product. Total Brain said the mental health self-monitoring and self-care software would be made available to about 10,500 US employees and their spouses or partners of the Kingsport, Tennessee-based Eastman. The company said Eastman was formerly part of Kodak, was included in the US Fortune 500 list of companies and had customers in more than 100 countries. Total Brain fell two cents or 6.45 percent to 29 cents.

### CRESO PHARMA

Creso says it has completed the acquisition of the Windsor, Nova Scotia-based Halucenex Life Sciences providing access to psychedelic-assisted psycho-therapy. In March, Creso said it would buy Halucenex for \$500,000 in cash, 29,251,795 shares and 17,551,077 performance shares for its psilocybin 'magic' mushroom compounds for post-traumatic stress disorder (BD: Mar 15, 2021). Today, the company said the acquisition was "an important milestone" and would be "one of the few" companies that worked in cannabis and psychedelic research and development, therapies and treatments. Creso chair Adam Blumenthal said that completing the acquisition was "a major milestone for the company and we will now pursue a number of near-term value creation strategies through the subsidiary and in preparation of the proposed merger with Red Light Holland." Creso was up half a cent or 3.85 percent to 13.5 cents with 55.5 million shares traded.

## [ANTERIS TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Anteris says all annual general meeting resolutions were passed, but with 12.09 percent of votes opposed to the re-election of director Dr Wenyi Gu.

Anteris said there were 278,744 votes (12.09%) against the re-election of director Dr Gu, with 2,026,644 votes (87.91%) in favor.

The company said the approval of the future issue of attaching options to institutional investors was opposed by 48,159 votes (8.41%), with 524,621 votes (91.59%) in favor.

Anteris said there were 89,628 votes (3.92%) against the remuneration report, with 2,198,629 votes (96.08%) in favor, with all other resolutions passed more easily.

According to the company's most recent Appendix 2A new issue announcement, the company had 6,935,466 shares on issue, meaning the votes against the re-election of director Dr Gu amounted to 4.0 percent of the company, not sufficient to call extraordinary general meetings.

Anteris was up 21 cents or 2.6 percent to \$8.31.

## [RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES](#)

Rhythm says it has incorporated the Carson City, Nevada-based Ichordx as a subsidiary with director David White resigning from Rhythm to join Ichordx's board.

Rhythm said its wholly-owned US entity Ichordx would enable expansion activities for its Colostat blood test for colorectal cancer to US which had an "addressable market of over 94 million people".

The company said it has appointed non-executive chair Otto Buttula as head of Ichordx, chief executive officer Glenn Gilbert as Ichordx's vice president and secretary and the Chicago-based Mr White as a non-executive director.

Rhythm chief executive officer Mr Gilbert said that the establishment of Ichordx shows "our commitment to accelerate our international expansion plans, offer additional optionality to our corporate structure and aim to create a global footprint for the company's transformative cancer detection technology".

"The reality is that the global need for a simple and accurate mass screening blood test for colorectal cancer is growing," Mr Gilbert said.

"This first step to enter the US market moves Rhythm closer to meeting this need," Mr Gilbert said.

Rhythm was up 4.5 cents or 5.3 percent to 89.5 cents.