

Biotech Daily

Wednesday July 28, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ANTISENSE UP 8%; PATRYS DOWN 6%
- * LITTLE GREEN PHARMA RECEIPTS UP 271% TO \$6m
- * MICRO-X RECEIPTS UP 104% TO \$5m
- * IQ3 RECEIPTS DOWN 56% TO \$3.2m
- * PHARMAUST RECEIPTS DOWN 30% TO \$2.5m
- * EMYRIA RECEIPTS UP 110% TO \$2m
- * BLUECHIIP RECEIPTS UP 42% TO \$1.2m
- * ACRUX: US FDA APPROVES GENERIC EMLA LOCAL ANAESTHETIC
- * CLARITY STARTS CU-64/CU-67 SAR-BIS-PSMA PROSTATE CANCER TRIAL
- * ANTEO APPOINTS APACOR UK EUGENI DISTRIBUTOR
- * REGENEUS, KOLLING WORK ON PROGENZA FOR OSTEO-ARTHRITIS, IN MICE
- * BARD1: QUEENSLAND UNI USES EXO-NET FOR OVARIAN CANCER TEST
- * CHIMERIC LICENCES PENNSYLVANIA UNI CAR-T FOR SOLID TUMORS
- * RHYTHM REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' HALT
- * DR CHARMAINE GITTLESON TO REPLACE ANTISENSE CHAIR BOB MOSES
- * STARPHARMA APPOINTS LYNDA CHENG DIRECTOR
- * RESONANCE APPOINTS AJAY NAIR SALES, MARKETING G-M

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.7 percent on Wednesday July 28, 2021, with the ASX200 down 52.1 points to 7,379.3 points. Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, eight traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Antisense was the best, up 1.5 cents or 7.9 percent to 20.5 cents, with 1.3 million shares traded. Resonance climbed 6.7 percent; Amplia, Compumedics, Dimerix, Proteomics and Resmed rose more than two percent; with Alterity, Cyclopharm, Impedimed, Orthocell and Paradigm up one percent or more.

Patrys led the falls, down 0.3 cents or 6.25 percent to 4.5 cents, with 20.8 million shares traded. Polynovo and Starpharma lost more than five percent; LBT fell 4.35 percent; Genetic Signatures, Next Science and Telix were down more than three percent; Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Nanosonics and Volpara shed more than two percent; Avita, Immutep, Opthea, Pharmaxis and Pro Medicus lost more than one percent; with CSL, Kazia and Universal Biosensors down by less than one percent.

LITTLE GREEN PHARMA

Little Green Pharma says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, were up 270.7 percent to \$6,643,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

Little Green said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, primarily from the sales of marijuana products, were up 174.2 percent to \$1,829,000.

The company said it had 13 quarters of funding available.

Little Green was up half a cent or 0.6 percent to 81.5 cents.

MICRO-X

Micro-X says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, was up 104.4 percent to \$5,251,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

Micro-X said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, from sales of its mobile x-ray systems, fell by 53.0 percent 53 percent to \$776,000 primarily.

The company said it had six quarters of funding available.

Micro-X fell one cent or 3.3 percent to 29.5 cents.

IQ3 CORP

IQ3 says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, fell 55.8 percent to \$3,185,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

IQ3 said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, primarily from its life science collaborations and consultancies, fell 76.7 percent to \$374,000.

The company said it had 7.6 quarters of funding available.

IQ3 was untraded at 15.5 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, was down 29.8 percent to \$2,462,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

Pharmaust said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, primarily from its Epichem medicinal chemistry subsidiary, fell by 35.4 percent to \$403,000.

The company said it had 3.8 quarters of funding available.

Pharmaust fell 1.2 cents or 11.4 percent to 9.3 cents with 2.9 million shares traded.

EMYRIA

Emyria says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, was up 110.8 percent to \$1,939,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

Emyria said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, primarily from its marijuana-prescribing clinics and ongoing data deals were up 97.6 percent to \$409,000.

The company said it had 4.5 quarters of funding available.

Emyria was up half a cent or 2.8 percent to 18.5 cents.

BLUECHIIP

Bluechiip says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2021, was up 41.6 percent to \$1,212,000 compared to the previous corresponding period.

Bluechiip said that receipts for the three months to June 30, 2021, from the sale of their wireless tracking chips, readers and software were up from \$77,000 in the prior corresponding period to \$1,134,000.

The company said it had 133 quarters of funding available.

Bluechiip fell 0.1 cents or three percent to 3.2 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

ACRUX

Acrux says the US Food and Drug Administration has approved its generic version of the topical anaesthetic Emla containing lidocaine and prilocaine.

Acrux said the generic Emla (eutectic mixture of local anaesthetics) contained lidocaine 2.5 percent and prilocaine 2.5 percent was used on normal intact skin for local analgesia, genital mucous membranes for superficial minor surgery and as a pre-treatment for infiltration anaesthesia.

The company said that in the US annual sales for Emla was more than \$US21 million for the year to the end of September 2020.

Acrux managing-director Michael Kotsanis said the company was "pleased to receive FDA approval for our third generic product".

"We look forward to announcing the launch of the product in due course," Mr Kotsanis said

Acrux fell one cent or 7.4 percent to 12.5 cents.

CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity says it has opened the first US site for its up-to 44-patient 64-Cu and 67-Cu SAR-bis-PSMA diagnostic and therapy trial for metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer. Clarity said that the first site in the phase I/IIa 'Secure' trial was at the Urology Cancer Center and GU Research Network in Omaha, Nebraska.

Clarity executive chair Dr Alan Taylor said that the company was "very pleased to commence this clinical trial".

Dr Taylor said that the start of the 'Secure' diagnostic and therapy trial followed the initiation of the diagnostic 64-Cu SAR-bis-PSMA 'Propeller' trial (BD: Jul 20, 2021) "Clarity's SAR-bis-PSMA products hold great promise of improving prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment and have the potential to provide multiple benefits in comparison to current products in the market," Dr Taylor said.

Clarity said the trial intended to identify and treat of prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)-expressing metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer using 64-Cu SAR-bis-PSMA for diagnosis and selection of patients and 67-Cu SAR-bis-PSMA for therapy. The company said that the multi-centre, single-arm, dose-escalation study aimed to determine the safety and efficacy of 67-Cu-SAR-bis-PSMA as a therapy.

"There is a high unmet need for early detection and better treatment options for patients with prostate cancer," Dr Taylor said.

Clarity is a public unlisted company undertaking an initial public offer (BD: Jul 20, 2021).

ANTEOTECH

Anteo says it has appointed Apacor as its UK distributor for the Eugeni reader platform and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) rapid test.

Anteo said that the Wokingham, England-based Apacor supplied rapid testing products and the Eugeni reader and sars-Cov-2 antigen rapid test would diversify Apacor products, "by adding the first high sensitivity reader-based [product to its] portfolio".

The company said that the Oxford, England-based Promedt UK was its UK 'responsible person' to register the reader and test with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Anteo said that the Conformité Européenne (CE) mark would be recognized in the UK until June 30, 2023, by which point it would apply for a UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) mark.

The company said that the initial term was one year, extendable by an additional two years on mutual agreement, with standard terms, conditions, and warranties. Anteo did not specify minimum quantities or sales values.

Anteo was up half a cent or 2.2 percent to 23 cents with 11,8 million shares traded.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says it will conduct work with Sydney's Kolling Institute on Progenza for inflammatory and immune responses to post-traumatic osteo-arthritis, in mice. Regeneus said that the collaboration was with Prof Christopher Little at the Kolling Institute at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

The company said the study would explore the disease-modifying effects of Progenza and assess its effect in modulating the inflammatory and immune responses in a mouse model of post-traumatic destabilization of the medial meniscus osteoarthritis.

Regeneus said the study would measure the effect of Progenza against control on progressive pathology, through cartilage and bone structure changes, and on pain.

The company said that it expected to complete the study by April 2022.

Regeneus said the study would support non-clinical work required prior to phase II trials in Japan and the US.

Regeneus was up 0.1 cents or 1.35 percent to 7.5 cents.

BARD1 LIFE SCIENCES (MERGED WITH SIENNA CANCER DIAGNOSTICS)

Bard1 says University of Queensland researchers are using its Exo-net to develop a test for ovarian cancer based on exosomes isolated from the blood of cancer patients. In 2019, the then 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, Bard1 said that the University's Prof Carlos Salomon used its Exo-Net exosome isolation and purification tool "with very positive results".

"Exo-Net provides a simple and rapid exosome capture technology, which has been used with our ovarian cancer test developed at [the University of Queensland] and has great potential for clinical applications," Dr Salomon said in a company video.

Bard1 said that through the University of Queensland's commercialization company Uniquest it had had an exclusive option to licence the ovarian cancer test.

Bard1 chief executive officer Dr Leearne Hinch said the University's exosome-based ovarian cancer test showed "the advantages of Exo-Net and its potential to assist the translation of research discoveries into commercial diagnostic tests".

Bard1 fell 3.5 cents or 2.2 percent to \$1.545 with 752,230 shares traded.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says it has an exclusive licence to a University of Pennsylvania chimeric antigen receptor (Car) T-cell therapy for solid tumors.

Chimeric said that CDH17 Car-T had shown "the complete eradication of tumor cells with no evidence of toxicity in preclinical studies" and a phase I trial was planned for 2022. The company said that the therapy targeted CDH17 an oncogenic factor associated with poor prognosis and metastasis in neuroendocrine tumors as well as the most common gastro-intestinal tumors including colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer and gastric cancer. Chimeric said that the therapy was developed by Dr Xianxin Hua and his team at the University of Pennsylvania.

"The preclinical studies indicate that our CDH17 Car-T marks the recognition of an entirely new class of solid tumor antigen targets, that are highly susceptible to Car-T attack on tumor cells yet masked from attack by the Car-T in normal tissues," Dr Hua said. Chimeric said it would pay the University licence fees, development milestones and royalty payments based on commercial net sales, with upfront fees funded from existing cash reserves.

Chimeric was up 1.5 cents or 4.8 percent to 33 cents with 3.7 million shares traded.

RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm has requested a trading halt pending an announcement "in connection with ... a material capital raising".

Trading will resume on July 30, 2021 or on an earlier announcement.

Rhythm last traded at 97 cents.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says non-executive director Dr Charmaine Gittleson will replace 20-year chair Bob Moses, who will retire at the 2021 annual general meeting.

Antisense said that Mr Moses was the chair of the company since 2001 and he would continue as a consultant, following the meeting.

Antisense chief executive officer Mark Diamond said he "would like to take the opportunity to personally thank Bob for his enormous contribution as chair".

"Words cannot express the appreciation I have for Bob's unwavering support of and commitment to the success of the [Antisense] business and always, without exception, with the best interests of shareholders at heart," Mr Diamond said.

"Simply put, the company would not be where it is today without him and his efforts and for this, he deserves a deep gratitude of thanks," Mr Diamond said.

Mr Diamond said Mr Moses would continue as a non-executive director and following the meeting as a consultant for the company to draw on "his business acumen and depth of real-world company experience".

Mr Moses said "the journey has been long and the setbacks many, but Mark and his team have overcome them all and brought [Antisense] to the threshold of exciting clinical outcomes that I believe will justly reward everyone involved".

The company said it expected further changes to the board "to strengthen resources in preparation for the forthcoming ATL1102 Duchenne muscular dystrophy clinical trial, pipeline development and commercialization initiatives.

Antisense was up 1.5 cents or 7.9 percent to 20.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

STARPHARMA

Starpharma says it has appointed Lynda Cheng as an independent non-executive director, effective from August 1, 2021.

Starpharma said that Ms Cheng had more than 25 years of experience as a finance executive including more than 15 years at Visy Industries and Pratt Holdings and 10 years in investment banking.

The company said that Ms Cheng was currently the Visy Industries-Pratt Holdings corporate development and mergers and acquisitions director and was formerly the group chief financial officer.

Starpharma said that previously Ms Cheng was a lawyer at Blake Dawson, before moving into investment banking with JP Morgan.

The company said that Ms Cheng held a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne.

Starpharma fell 7.5 cents or 5.5 percent to \$1.285 with 1.8 million shares traded.

RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says it has appointed Ajay Nair as its general manager for sales and marketing.

Resonance said that Mr Nair had more than 20 years of medical technology and device sales experience and previously worked for Ethicon, Össur and Leica Biosystems. The company said that Mr Nair was most recently Willow Wood's head of sales and marketing.

Resonance was up one cent or 6.7 percent to 16 cents.