



Biotech Daily

Thursday July 8, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: ACTINOGEN UP 25%;
- IMMUTEP, NEUREN DOWN 4%**
- * **AUSTRALIA APPROVES QBIOTICS STELFONTA FOR DOG CANCER**
- * **BRANDON \$13m FOR AMAROQ LONG NON-CODING RNA CANCER TRIAL**
- * **IMEX EXPECTS H1 ANNUAL RECURRING REVENUE UP 12% TO \$1.1m**
- * **IMMURON ACQUISITION SUSPENSION**
- * **CHAIR ADAM BLUMENTHAL REDUCES TO 10% OF CRESO**
- * **AUSBIOTECH TALKS PATENT BOX**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.2 percent on Thursday July 8, 2021, with the ASX200 up 14.5 points to 7,341.4 points.

Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 24 fell and four traded unchanged.

Actinogen was the best, up 2.5 cents or 25.0 percent to 12.5 cents, with 22.9 million shares traded. Optiscan and Prescient climbed more than four percent; Alterity, Amplia, Dimerix, Mesoblast and Nanosonics rose two percent or more; Kazia and LBT were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, Cyclopharm, Next Science and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Immutep and Neuren led the falls, down 3.74 percent and 3.77 percent, respectively, to 51.5 cents and \$1.53, respectively, with 3.5 million shares and 34,249 shares traded, respectively.

Oncosil and Proteomics lost three percent or more; Antisense, Avita, Compumedics, Cynata, Opthea, Pharmaxis, Resonance, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Imugene, Nova Eye, Orthocell, Paradigm, Patrys, Polynovo and Telix were down one percent or more; with CSL, Medical Developments, Pro Medicus and Volpara down by less than one percent.

QBIOTICS GROUP

Qbiotics says the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has approved its Stelfonta for the treatment of non-metastatic mast cell tumors in dogs.

Qbiotics said Stelfonta, or tigilanol tiglate, was indicated as the treatment of non-metastatic, cutaneous mast cell tumors located anywhere on the body, legs or head in dogs, and non-metastatic subcutaneous mast cell tumors located at or distal to the elbow or hock in dogs.

The company said the approval was based on a 123-dog, randomized, blinded, controlled study conducted in the US.

Qbiotics said the study showed a single injection of Stelfonta induced a complete response in 60 of 80 (75%) Stelfonta-treated dogs, with the tumor completely destroyed, compared to the untreated control dogs ($p = 0.001$).

The company said that with two injections 68 of 80 dogs (85%) had a complete response rate, with no tumor recurrence in 89 percent of evaluable cases 12 months after the treatment.

Qbiotics said Stelfonta would be available to Australian veterinarians in October this year through its marketing and distribution partner, Virbac.

Qbiotics said it had marketing authorisation for Stelfonta from the US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the United Kingdom and Swissmedic.

Qbiotics managing-director Dr Victoria Gordon said the approval of Stelfonta “marks an important milestone for Qbiotics”.

“The company is also currently investigating tigilanol tiglate, the active pharmaceutical ingredient in Stelfonta, in a series of human phase I and phase II clinical trials targeting head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma as both a monotherapy and in combination with pembrolizumab, an immune checkpoint inhibitor,” Dr Gordon said.

“Results from tigilanol tiglate canine studies not only underpinned the registration of a new veterinary anti-cancer product, they also inform our human clinical program,” Dr Gordon said. “In addition, revenue from sales of Stelfonta financially supports our human product development.”

Qbiotics said the Australian approval followed US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate and Swissmedic approvals.

Qbiotics is a public unlisted company.

BRANDON CAPITAL, AMAROQ THERAPEUTICS

Brandon Capital says it has led a NZ\$14 million (\$A13.1 million) capital raise for Amaroq for a study of long non-coding RNA therapy for cancer.

Brandon said that Otago Innovation, NZ Innovation Booster and Cure Kids Ventures participated in the capital raising.

The company said that Amaroq was spun-out from the Dunedin -based University of Otago.

Brandon said that the study would be led by founder Dr Sarah Diermeier to explore the use of long non-coding RNA molecules as therapeutic targets and diagnostic markers in cancer treatment.

The company said Amaroq was the first recipient of a Callaghan Innovation Repayable Grant, administered by Brandon Capital which manages the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund.

Amaroq is a private company.

IMEX HEALTH SERVICES

Imex expects its annual recurring revenue for the six months to June 30, 2021 to be up 11.65 percent to \$1.055 million compared to the six months to December 31, 2020.

Imex said strong sales were generated from the sale of its remote tele-radiology product Aquila in the Cloud which was launched in May 2020.

The company said Aquila in the Cloud had a total of 84 contracts, with 43 contracts in the six months to June 30, 2021 compared to 41 contracts in the six months to December 31, 2020, including three contracts each from the US and Australia.

Imex chief executive officer Dr Germán Arango said that “a lot has been achieved over the past 12 months since we sold our first Aquila in the Cloud”.

The company said that Aquila provided “small and medium-sized enterprises with an affordable and accessible [radiology information systems and picture archiving and communication systems] product”.

Imex was up 17 cents or 10.2 percent to \$1.83.

IMMURON

Immuron says it has lodged an in-principle advice application with the ASX regarding a “proposed major transaction” in relation to the Listing Rules and Guidance Note 12.

Immuron said the ASX was considering the application “in connection with Immuron’s suitability for admission to the official list of [the] ASX ... as an ASX Listing under ASX Listing Rules 1.1 condition 1 and 1.19”.

The ASX Listing Rules said that Condition 1 related to “the entity’s structure and operations must be appropriate for a listed entity”.

The ASX said that Condition 19 required that “the entity must have a trading policy that complies with Rule 12.9” relating to closed periods and trading restrictions.

In May, Immuron requested a trading halt pending an announcement relating to “a planned acquisition” followed by a request for a suspension (BD: May 27, 31, 2021).

Last month, the company said the ASX was considering a submission it had requested in relation to ASX Listing Rule 11.1 and 11.2 and Guidance Note 12 (BD: Jun 8, 2021).

Listing Rules 11.1 and 11.2 and Guidance Note 12 refer to “significant changes of activities” including “proposed change to nature or scale of activities”.

Since 2008, as the then Anadis, Immuron has been attempting to commercialize its cow colostrum-based treatments for a range of indications including traveller’s diarrhoea, for which it is marketing the over-the-counter Travelan, as well as irritable bowel disease, fatty liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, liver fibrosis, colitis, influenza, HIV, shigella, Clostridium difficile and Covid-19 (BD: Jul 22, 2008).

Immuron last traded at 16 cents.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso chair Adam Blumenthal says he has reduced his shareholding and was diluted from 146,498,766 shares (16.24%) to 113,665,433 shares (10.31%).

In a separate director’s interest notice, Mr Blumenthal said he sold 32,833,333 shares through Anglo Australasia Holdings and Atlantic Capital Holdings at prices 13.585 cents and 14.058 cents a share, along with 87,811,977 listed CPHOA options at nine cents each.

Creso was unchanged at 13.5 cents with 21.3 million shares traded.

[AUSBIOTECH](#)

Ausbiotech says it will hold an online information session on the proposed Australian patent box.

In his Budget speech, Federal Treasurer Joshua Frydenberg said that a new 'patent box' system would start on July 1, 2022 with a 17 percent tax rate for eligible profits on Australian patents (BD: May 11, 2021).

Today, Ausbiotech said a consultation paper outlined four design features, including the definition of medical and biotechnology and how the patents would be identified; eligible intellectual property; eligible profits or revenue; and the requirement of majority of research and development to be conducted in Australia.

Ausbiotech said that "a well-designed patent box will help bridge the gap to commercialization, and support companies to keep the development of their [intellectual property] and the value they create from it".

The organization said the online meeting would be on July 20, 2021 at 2pm.

To register, go to: <https://bit.ly/3xtlbPq>.