



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday August 11, 2021

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: CYNATA UP 9%; PROTEOMICS DOWN 7%**
- \* **RHINOMED: 'NSW ORDERS 1m RHINOSWAB SARS-COV-2 TESTS'**
- \* **VENSTRA RAISES \$2m FOR 'NEXT GEN MINIATURE HEART PUMP'**
- \* **NOXOPHARM ADDS DETAIL TO US NCI COLLABORATION**
- \* **RECCE WINS 2<sup>nd</sup> R327 FEDERAL GRANT OF \$50,000**
- \* **USCOM: CHINA AWARDS 5 BP+ SOFTWARE COPYRIGHTS**
- \* **CRESO: CANADA APPROVES MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENCE**
- \* **DOHERTY'S PROF SHARON LEWIN TO OPEN AUSBIOTECH 2021**
- \* **PERENNIAL BELOW 5% OF ATOMO**
- \* **BCCL REDUCES TO 6.9% OF TALI**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.29 percent on Wednesday August 11, 2021, with the ASX200 up 21.7 points to 7,584.3 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell and seven traded unchanged. All three Big Caps were down.

Cynata was the best, up 4.5 cents or 9.3 percent to 53 cents, with 225,512 shares traded. LBT climbed 6.45 percent; Impedimed, Optiscan and Telix improved more than four percent; Imugene was up 3.5 percent; Dimerix, Genetic Signatures, Nanosonics and Patrys rose more than two percent; Neuren, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors were up more than one percent; with Avita, Clinuvel, Medical Developments and Opthea up by less than one percent.

Proteomics led the falls, down eight cents or 7.1 percent to \$1.045, with 94,706 shares traded. Nova Eye fell 4.8 percent; Actinogen, Paradigm, Pharmaxis and Uscom were down more than three percent; Compumedics, Cyclopharm, Immutep and Pro Medicus shed more than two percent; Mesoblast, Next Science and Resmed were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Kazia, Orthocell, Polynovo and Volpara down by less than one percent.

## RHINOMED

Rhinomed says New South Wales Health Pathology has ordered one million Rhinoswabs for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (Sars-Cov-2) testing.

Rhinomed said it had begun deliveries with orders being filled in the “coming weeks”.

The company said it was scaling-up manufacturing to respond to the growing demand.

Rhinomed said Rhinoswab was “more comfortable and easier to use than the standard nasal swab” and accelerated the sample collection process.

Rhinomed said a 204-sample Netherlands study showed that 89 percent of respondents preferred Rhinoswab to the nasopharyngeal swab, 98 percent felt no pain with Rhinoswab compared with 48 percent with nasopharyngeal swabs and 98 percent needed little or no guidance when using Rhinoswab.

Rhinomed chief executive officer Michael Johnson said the company was “thrilled to receive this support for this Australian innovation”.

“The Rhinoswab can make a meaningful impact on the Sars-Cov-2 testing process and enable more people to be tested quickly and easily,” Mr Johnson said.

Mr Johnson said that about two billion Sars-Cov-2 tests were carried out globally over the last 18 months.

Rhinomed was up 20 cents or 100 percent to 40 cents with 15.0 million shares traded.

## VENSTRA MEDICAL

The Newcastle, New South Wales-based Venstra says it has raised \$2 million from to support development of its small catheter-inserted collapsible heart pump.

Venstra said that investors included Australian Unity Future of Healthcare Fund, the Hunter Angels Group and investors in the US, Sydney and Melbourne.

Venstra said its percutaneous ventricular assist device (PVAD), would provide temporary cardiac support for patients suffering cardiogenic shock brought on by a heart attack.

The company said that its PVAD was “a small blood pump placed at a catheter tip, implanted by a cardiologist into the patient’s heart, to provide temporary cardiac support”.

Venstra said its Sava device was “delivered into the heart ... [with minimally invasive] surgery and was designed to provide rapid, life-sustaining support for patients”.

Venstra co-founder and chief executive officer Dr Martin Cook said the funds would enable the Sava system to enter the next phase of development.

Venstra co-founder, chief medical officer and interventional cardiologist Dr Suku Thambar said that “not only will the device result in lives being saved and decreased cardiovascular morbidity, heart disease interventions also deliver economic benefits such as enabling longer workforce capacity and placing less strain on health systems”.

“The PVAD market is well-established with 20,000 procedures undertaken worldwide annually ... but next generation devices are required to provide full cardiac support,” Dr Thambar said. “Our goal is to develop and commercialize percutaneous circulatory support systems for temporary use by cardiologists in the treatment of patients requiring cardiac support without surgical intervention.”

Venstra said it was supported with funds from the Federal Government Medical Research Future Fund through the Biomedtech Horizons program, delivered by MTP Connect.

Australian Unity’s Future of Healthcare Fund portfolio manager Victor Windeyer said that Venstra was “an obvious investment proposition”.

“We believe the financial returns will follow the clinical benefits, which are hugely significant, considering ischaemic heart disease is the leading cause of death of Australians, costing the economy billions of dollars each year,” Mr Windeyer said.

Venstra is a private company.

## NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm has told the ASX that it will make an undisclosed cash contribution to its brain cancer collaboration with the US National Cancer Institute.

In its announcement of the “market sensitive” collaboration on Monday, Noxopharm did not disclose to the ASX any financial contribution.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Graham Kelly told Biotech Daily that the Institute was “providing the funding and doing the work” with Noxopharm running its own programs in parallel (BD: Aug 9, 2021).

Dr Kelly told Biotech Daily on Monday that the National Cancer Institute had committed to a program of work, with the undisclosed budget the Institute’s responsibility.

“The NCI has committed to a program of work,” Dr Kelly said. “The budget is their business.”

Today, Noxopharm said that at the request of the ASX it was providing further information on the collaboration, which combined “a company cash contribution with in-kind support from the NCI ... [and] the company’s cash contribution forms part of the pre-clinical budget”.

The company said the collaboration was material to Noxopharm as it contributed to the its endeavors “to bring into the clinic a new class of drug designed to tame aggressive brain cancers”.

Noxopharm said the collaboration was intended to help confirm the drug’s mechanisms of anti-cancer actions and its safety in animals.

The company said that each party retained full intellectual property rights to their respective technologies, with Noxopharm retaining full ownership to any patents granted over the test compounds, with molecular structures specifically excluded under the terms of the agreement.

Dr Kelly said that Materials Cooperative Research and Development Agreements were “highly valued because of the access they provide to the expertise and resources within the NCI, the peak cancer research group in the world”.

“In this case, it means working with an eminent group of brain cancer researchers with unique laboratory and animal models,” Dr Kelly said.

“Working with the NCI also carries the potential of them helping future clinical development of what we see as a fresh approach to a long-standing and intractable problem,” Dr Kelly said.

Noxopharm fell two cents or 3.3 percent to 58.5 cents.

## RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce says the Federal Government has awarded a second grant, this time for \$50,000 for R327 for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2).

Recce said the award, through the Entrepreneurs’ Program Innovation Connections scheme, would be used for assessing R327 in the Sars-Cov-2 anti-viral screening program led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

The company said samples of R327 had been received by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness with testing expected to start in September.

Recce said that with the \$50,000, it had received a total of \$87,508 over the course of the program.

Recce chief executive officer James Graham said that “like bacteria, Covid viral cells are mutating at an unprecedented rate, with a significant and growing global need for potential anti-infective treatments”.

Recce fell 2.5 cents or 2.7 percent to 89.5 cents.

## USCOM

Uscom says it has been awarded five new software copyrights covering the performance and function of the Uscom BP+ central blood pressure monitor.

Uscom said the approvals consolidated its intellectual property (IP) in China, taking the number of accepted and submitted patents, copyrights, and trademarks in China to 42.

Uscom executive chair Prof Rob Phillips said that China was “realizing the value of IP in the global technology market place and encouraging the development of IP as a means to protect market interest”.

“Increasingly Chinese IP laws are aligned with international laws and accessible to foreign companies as a means of protecting IP theft,” Prof Phillips said.

“Companies in China are increasingly being actively encouraged to lodge patents, trademarks and copyrights, and Uscom, with its high technology devices, is developing a significant portfolio of Chinese registered IP,” Prof Phillips said.

“These recent awards of BP+ IP will provide us with commercial protection as we develop the substantial Chinese hypertension market with our newly ... approved BP+,” Prof Phillips said.

Uscom fell half a cent or 3.2 percent to 15 cents.

## CRESO PHARMA

Creso says Health Canada has approved subsidiary Mernova Medicinal to sell marijuana products for medical purposes, in addition to the recreational market.

Creso said that new purchase orders of \$C224,580 (\$A242,546) for the sale of Ritual Green and Ritual Sticks highlighted “strong consumer demand”.

The company said the new licence meant that Mernova could have “dedicated medicinal cannabis products, sell or distribute products to other medicinal licence holders, sell or distribute cannabis products that are dried, fresh plants and seeds, and sell and distribute to licenced nurseries and hospital employees ... in connection with their duties”.

Creso was up half a cent or four percent to 13 cents with 23.1 million shares traded.

## AUSBIOTECH

Ausbiotech says Peter Doherty Institute director Prof Sharon Lewin will open this year’s conference with the Prof Nancy Millis Oration.

Ausbiotech said Prof Lewin had spent her career researching infectious diseases and the body’s reaction, and there were parallels with the response to fighting HIV and Covid-19.

The industry organization said the Millis Oration to be would discuss the how the history of the HIV pandemic had emerged with new investment and collaboration to combat and treat Covid-19.

Ausbiotech said its 2021 program would discuss clinical trials, manufacturing, regenerative medicines, intellectual property, early-stage commercialization, digital health, therapeutics and personalized medicines.

The organization said that Siemens Pharmaceutical manager Howard Sachs would discuss mRNA, digital twinning, and accelerating discoveries through to commercialisation.

Ausbiotech said “early bird” registration for the October 25 to 29 conference was available until August 27 at <https://www.ausbiotechnc.org/register2021>.

The organization said that its annual Biotech Invest & Partnering meetings would run concurrently on October 26, 2021, with applications to present be made at:

<https://www.ausbiotechinvestment.com.au/event-details>.

### ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

The Sydney-based Perennial Value Management says it has reduced its holding in Atomo to below the five percent substantial level.

In July, Perennial said it held 42,962,957 shares or 7.56 percent (BD: Jul 2, 2021).

Today, Perennial said that between July 1 and August 9, 2021 it sold shares, with the single largest sale 5,198,679 shares for \$1,115,257 or 21.45 cents a share.

Atomo fell half a cent or 2.1 percent to 23.5 cents with 2.6 million shares traded.

### TALI DIGITAL

BCCL Worldwide says it has reduced its substantial shareholding from 78,801,343 shares (8.45%) to 64,172,583 shares (6.886%).

The Redwood City, California-based BCCL said that on August 1, 2021 it sold 14,628,760 shares for \$US422,332 (\$A575,395), or 3.93 cents a share.

Tali was up 0.2 cents or 4.55 percent to 4.6 cents with 3.0 million shares traded.