



Biotech Daily

Thursday September 16, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: CYCLOPHARM UP 18%; OSPREY DOWN 13%**
- * **EMVISION \$8m STROKE ALLIANCE DEAL**
- * **VOLPARA, REVEALDX COMBINE FOR LUNG SCREEN; \$341k NOTE**
- * **ANTEO: RAMMA FOR GREECE, CYPRUS EUGENI, SARS-COV-2 TESTS**
- * **NEUREN: BRAZIL TROFINETIDE FOR RETT, AUTISM SPECTRUM PATENT**
- * **MGC: GERMANY APPROVES NATURAL ARTEMIC**
- * **COCHLEAR \$2.4m CEO OPTIONS, RIGHTS AGM**
- * **DR GREG RICE REPLACES BARD1 CSO DR PETER FRENCH**
- * **VGI APPOINTS PROF DARRELL CRAWFORD ADVISOR**
- * **EMYRIA APPOINTS DR JEREMY TANNENBAUM PSYCHEDELIC ADVISER**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.58 percent on Thursday September 16, 2021, with the ASX200 up 43.2 points to 7,460.2 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell and eight traded unchanged.

Cyclopharm was the best, up 29.5 cents or 18.1 percent to \$1.92, with 78,330 shares traded. Impedimed climbed 9.1 percent; LBT was up 7.4 percent; Amplia and Medical Developments improved more than five percent; Imugene, Next Science, Pharmaxis and Starpharma were up more than three percent; Actinogen, Immutep and Telix rose more than two percent; Cochlear, Clinuvel, Compumedics, CSL and Nova Eye were up one percent or more; with Mesoblast and Universal Biosensors up by less than one percent.

Osprey led the falls, following its 100-to-one consolidation, down 13 cents or 12.75 percent to 89 cents, with 75,276 shares traded. Resonance fell 4.8 percent; Cynata, Dimerix and Uscom were down more than three percent; Antisense and Patrys shed more than two percent; Genetic Signatures, Neuren, Polynovo, Proteomics and Resmed were down more than one percent; with Avita, Nanosonics, Opthea and Pro Medicus down by less than one percent.

EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it has an \$8 million agreement with the Australian Stroke Alliance to support the development of its portable brain scanners for stroke.

Emvision said the agreement with the Alliance would provide “clinical connectivity, expertise and advocacy” as well as support from doctors and researchers, including Australian paramedic services and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The company said that funding by the Alliance was milestone-based.

Emvision said that its aim was to have its second generation, lightweight, portable brain imaging device implemented for use in first responder air and road ambulances, enabling early on-scene diagnosis and urgent treatment of stroke.

The company said it retained intellectual property rights and agreed to pay the Alliance two percent of net commercial sales if the scanners were adapted for air or road ambulance use for five years following the full funding being received.

Emvision said the five-year agreement was through Stage 2 of the Federal Government’s Medical Research Future Fund ‘Golden Hour’ program, with the Australian Stroke Alliance awarded \$40 million through the Frontier Health and Medical Research initiative.

Alliance chief executive officer Dr Damien Easton said the Emvision deal had the potential to enable early and accurate stroke diagnosis and transform stroke management.

Emvision was up 11 cents or 3.9 percent to \$2.93.

VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Volpara says it has a strategic relationship for lung cancer screening with the Seattle, Washington-based Precision Medical Ventures, trading as Revealdx.

Volpara said it would invest \$US250,000 (\$A341,440) in Revealdx through a convertible note and have non-exclusive rights to sell the Revealai-Lung product in the US and exclusive rights to sell Revealai-Lung in Australia and New Zealand, as well as the right to appoint an observer to the Revealdx board.

The company said that Revealdx was using its Conformité Européenne (CE) mark-approved Revealai-Lung artificial intelligence product for lung nodule diagnosis and was “working towards” US and Australian regulatory approval.

Volpara said the partnership would enable lung cancer screening programs to access expanded services for patient reporting and tracking through to artificial intelligence for detection and diagnosis, and the market was worth up-to \$US750 million.

Volpara said the agreement with Revealdx followed its agreement with the Miamisburg, Ohio-based lung imaging company Riverain Technologies and provided “a low-risk way to further expand” (BD: Sep 8, 2021).

The company said that Revealdx, formerly Mindshare Medical, hoped to improve lung cancer outcomes through lung cancer decision-support software to determine the optimal treatment on automated analytics of each lung nodule.

Volpara chief executive officer Dr Ralph Highnam said that “despite the clear benefits of screening in reducing mortality, a major issue [existing] programs face is the number of false positive nodules found not just in routine screening but incidentally while scanning for other diseases such as pneumonia”.

“That differentiation of nodules is exactly what Revealdx has been focusing on,” Dr Highnam said. “This is a pivotal moment for lung cancer screening globally, and our involvement in it.”

“The combination of Revealdx and Volpara and other parties will be as compelling in lung as Volpara is in the breast space today,” Dr Highnam said.

Volpara was unchanged at \$1.225.

ANTEOTECH

Anteo says it has appointed Ramma Dental SA its Eugeni Reader platform and Sars-Cov-2 antigen rapid test distributor for Greece and Cyprus, from October 1, 2021.

Anteo said THE Athens-based Ramma Dental had “a strong network of customers across public and private sectors” and the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) diagnostics was for exclusive sales in Greece and Cyprus.

The company said the initial term was three years, renewable for a further two years.

Anteo was up 2.5 cents or 11.9 percent to 23.5 cents with 11.9 million shares traded.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says the Brazil patent office has allowed its first patent in Brazil, covering the treatment of Rett syndrome and autism spectrum disorders using trofinetide.

Neuren said the patent, titled ‘Use of glycy-L-2-methylprolyl-L-glutamic acid and analogues thereof for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders’, protected its intellectual property until January 2032.

The company said that patents originating from the same international application had been issued in the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia, Israel and Brazil.

Neuren fell three cents or 1.4 percent to \$2.10.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says Germany has issued a free trade certificate for Artemic its combination of curcumin, Boswellia serrata, artemisinin and vitamin C.

The company said the approval followed “the successful completion of a phase II, multi-centre clinical trial on the formulation which demonstrated significantly enhanced recovery of hospitalized patients with Covid-19 compared with placebo controls”.

Last year, MGC said its 50-patient, 14-day trial of Artemic for Covid-19 patients in Israel and India “successfully met the primary and secondary endpoints” (BD: Dec 15, 2020).

Today, MGC said the German free trade certificate was “likely to significantly accelerate entry into other markets, both within the EU and elsewhere”.

MGC was up 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.3 cents with 19.15 million shares traded.

COCHLEAR

Cochlear says its annual general meeting will vote to issue chief executive officer Dig Howitt up-to \$2,375,000 in options and performance rights.

Cochlear said Mr Howitt’s fixed pay for the year to June 30, 2022 was \$1,952,799 with a target short-term incentive of \$1,900,000 and a maximum long-term incentive \$2,375,000.

The company said the 21,808 options would be exercisable at \$232.52 each, the 5-day volume-weighted average price following the August 20, 2021 full year results.

On August 20, Cochlear said revenue for the year to June 30, 2021 was up 10.4 percent to \$1,493,300,000 with net loss after tax turned to a profit of \$326,500,000.

The company said the 5,341 performance rights would be exercisable at no cost, but none would vest until after the full year results to June 30, 2025, and pending compound annual growth rate of basic earnings per share and total shareholder ranking over four years.

Cochlear said the meeting would vote to adopt the remuneration report and elect directors Alison Deans, Glen Boreham and Christine McLoughlin.

The meeting will be held virtually on October 19, 2021 at 10am (AEDT).

Cochlear was up \$3.40 or 1.45 percent to \$238.12 with 177,581 shares traded.

[BARD1 LIFE SCIENCES](#)

Bard1 says it has appointed Dr Greg Rice as its chief scientific officer, effective from September 20, 2021, replacing Dr Peter French.

Bard1 said that Dr French would continue as a consultant and strategic technology advisor.

The company said that Dr Rice would lead research and development programs and provide scientific leadership.

Bard1 said that Dr Rice had more than 30 years' experience in oncology, perinatology, exosome-based research, clinical translational research, in-vitro diagnostic development and commercialization.

The company said that Dr Rice was the founding director and chief operating officer of Healthlinx and more recently the chief executive officer of Pregnostica SpA.

Bard1 said that previously Dr Rice held executive positions at the University of Queensland, Melbourne's Baker Heart and Diabetes institute, the University of Melbourne and Melbourne's Monash University.

Bard1 chief executive officer Dr Learne Hinch said the appointment would "advance the company's SubB2M tests for breast and ovarian cancer towards clinical and commercial milestones".

The company said that Dr Rice held a Bachelor of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Western Australia.

Bard1 was up three cents or 2.3 percent to \$1.34.

[VGI HEALTH TECHNOLOGY \(FORMERLY AZURE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY\)](#)

VGI says it has appointed hepatologist Prof Darrell Crawford to its scientific advisory board.

VGI said that Prof Crawford was a professor of medicine at the University of Queensland and Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation director of research.

The company said that Prof Crawford would be the principal investigator for the Gallipoli site in its phase II clinical study in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease/non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

On the National (formerly Newcastle) Stock Exchange, VGI was untraded at 19 cents.

[EMYRIA](#)

Emyria says it has appointed consultant psychiatrist Dr Jeremy Tannenbaum to advise on its psychedelic-assisted research and drug development programs.

Emyria said that Dr Tannenbaum had experience in "the interface between psychiatry and pain medicine as well as the emerging use of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy and other potential uses of psychedelics".

The company said that Dr Tannenbaum would advise on its 3,4-Methylene-dioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA or ecstasy) with psychotherapy trial for post-traumatic stress disorder and approaches for people with complex pain conditions, including cannabinoids. Emyria was up half a cent or 2.1 percent to 24 cents.