



# Biotech Daily

Monday October 4, 2021

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: ALTERITY UP 7%; ACTINOGEN DOWN 8%**
- \* **INCANNEX OPTIONS RAISE \$17.7m**
- \* **VIVELYS TO DISTRIBUTE UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS SENTIA IN FRANCE**
- \* **IMCRC: STRYKER, QUEENSLAND TO BUILD R&D FACILITY**
- \* **AVECHO STARTS PHASE I TPM-MARIJUANA ABSORPTION TRIAL**
- \* **ATOMO REQUESTS 'ACCESS BIO' TRADING HALT**
- \* **TDM TAKES 26.8% OF SOMNOMED**
- \* **ARGENICA TO RELEASE 1.3m ASX ESCROW SHARES**
- \* **ANTISENSE APPOINTS DR GIL PRICE DIRECTOR**
- \* **MAYNE APPOINTS DR CAROLYN MYERS DIRECTOR**
- \* **EXOPHARM APPOINTS DAVID OXLEY, JOHANNES MÜHL EXECUTIVES**
- \* **TROY DI DOMENICO REPLACES DORSAVI CFO DAMIAN CONNELLAN**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.29 percent on Monday October 4, 2021, with the ASX200 up 93.0 points to 7,278.5 points. Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 23 fell, six traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Alterity was the best, up 0.2 cents or 6.9 percent to 3.1 cents, with 891,916 shares traded. Universal Biosensors climbed 3.9 percent; Amplia, Genetic Signatures, Optiscan, Patrys and Proteomics rose more than two percent; Nova Eye was up 1.2 percent; with Avita, Cochlear and Volpara up by less than one percent.

Actinogen led the falls, down one cent or 8.3 percent to 11 cents, with 4.4 million shares traded. Imugene lost 6.3 percent; Resonance retreated 5.5 percent; Dimerix, LBT, Medical Developments, Osprey and Paradigm fell four percent or more; Neuren was down 3.8 percent; Immutep, Kazia, Next Science, Oncosil, Polynovo, Pro Medicus and Starpharma shed two percent or more; Cyclopharm, Cynata, Mesoblast, Resmed and Telix were down by more than one percent; with Clinuvel, CSL, Nanosonics and Opthea down by less than one percent.

### [INCANNEX HEALTHCARE](#)

Incannex says it has raised \$17.7 million, through the exercise of 118 million IHLAH options and 40.99 million IHLAI options.

Incannex said that the IHLAI options were exercised by chief medical officer and director Dr Sud Agarwal at 20 cents each, with the IHLAH options exercisable at eight cents by September 30, 2021.

The company said that Dr Agarwal would hold about 8.88 percent to the company.

Incannex said that following the exercise, company directors signed an agreement to hold the shares in voluntary escrow for six months.

The company said that with the exercise of the options it had \$22.4 million in cash.

Incannex fell half a cent or 1.4 percent to 34.5 cents with 1.9 million shares traded.

### [UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS](#)

Universal Biosensors says it has a non-exclusive, three-year agreement with Vivelys SAS to distribute its Sentia wine sensor in France.

Universal Biosensors said that Vivelys was a subsidiary of the Gironde, France-based Oeneo SA, but did not disclose minimum quantities or the value of the contract.

Universal Biosensors chief executive officer John Sharman said the partnership was “is a significant step in the commercialization of Sentia, globally”.

“Vivelys is part of the Oeneo Group which has more than 10,000 customers worldwide and has a reputation for developing and selling high end products,” Mr Sharman said.

“Vivelys completed several months of diligence on Sentia before committing to this deal,” Mr Sharman said.

“Importantly this partnership extends beyond the simple distribution of Sentia, as Vivelys has expressed a strong desire to participate in the development of other wine testing capabilities to be used on [our] Sentia platform,” Mr Sharman said.

Universal Biosensors was up three cents or 3.9 percent to 80 cents.

### [THE INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE](#)

The Innovative Manufacturing CRC says that work with Stryker Corp led to a Queensland Government co-investment in a Brisbane research and development facility.

The Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) said that it previously worked with the Kalamazoo, Michigan-based Stryker on “just-in-time implant”, as well as with Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the University of Technology Sydney, the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne, and Melbourne St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne.

The CRC said that the \$18 million, five-year collaboration developed just-in-time implants to minimize the invasiveness of tumor and bone cancer treatment.

At the time of publication, the cost of the facility and contributions from the funding bodies had not been disclosed.

The IMCRC said it was a Federal Government-funded research centre, established in 2016 with \$40 million to lead research and business partnerships.

The CRC said its other projects included the Vaxxas needle-free vaccine technology.

The CRC said that Stryker would work with the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology to “bring together researchers, clinicians and advanced manufacturers to accelerate Stryker’s [research and development] initiatives in Australia”.

### [AVECHO BIOTECHNOLOGY \(FORMERLY PHOSPHAGENICS\)](#)

Avecho says it has begun dosing 16 healthy volunteers in a phase I pharmaco-kinetic trial of its 75mg tocopheryl phosphate mixture (TPM) cannabidiol soft-gel capsule.

Avecho said volunteers received their first dose at Adelaide's CMax clinical research unit on October 2, 2021 with no adverse events were reported.

The company said volunteers would receive two separate doses of 75mg and 150mg with second doses beginning on October 9.

Avecho said that blood samples would be analyzed for cannabidiol (CBD) and components of its tocopheryl phosphate mixture, including alpha-tocopheryl phosphate (TP) and di-alpha tocopheryl phosphate (T2P) for their maximum drug concentration in the blood, the time taken to reach the maximum drug concentration and the total drug exposure over time.

Avecho chief executive Dr Paul Gavin said "we are delighted to commence this study and complete the first dose in the cross-over [trial]".

"While we won't have the CBD absorption results until later in the year, it is already good to see the CBD dose was well-tolerated by subjects," Dr Gavin said.

Avecho said results were expected by the end of the year.

Avecho was up 0.2 cents or 11.1 percent to two cents.

### [ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Atomo has requested a trading halt pending an announcement "regarding its commercial arrangements with Access Bio Inc".

In 2018, Atomo said it had partnered with the Somerset, New Jersey-based Access Bio for its HIV test and last year said Access Bio would manufacture and sell its Covid-19 antibody test, while Atomo would sell Access Bio's severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) antigen test (BD: Jan 24, 2018; Jul 28, Sep 29, 2020).

Trading will resume on October 6, 2021, or on an earlier announcement.

Atomo last traded at 33.5 cents.

### [SOMNOMED](#)

TDM Growth Partners says it has increased its substantial holding in Somnomed from 22,127,303 shares (26.74%) to 22,181,065 shares (26.80%).

The Sydney-based TDM Growth Partners said it bought 53,762 shares at \$2.40 a share. Somnomed was up five cents or 2.1 percent to \$2.40.

### [ARGENICA THERAPEUTIC](#)

Argenica says it will release 1,327,500 shares from ASX escrow on October 13, 2021.

According to Argenica's annual report and its admission and commencement of official quotation, the company will have 47,223,998 shares available for trading on the ASX.

The company said a further 25,948,252 shares remained in ASX escrow, with 1,635,000 shares to be released on December 17 and 1,687,500 to be released on December 31, 2021.

Argenica said the remaining 22,625,752 shares would be released on June 11, 2023.

Argenica was up three cents or 8.1 percent to 40 cents.

## ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says it has appointed its consultant medical director Dr Gil Price as a non-executive director to replace William Goolsbee, effective from today.

Antisense said Mr Goolsbee would retire at the company's coming annual general meeting.

The company said that the Champions Gate, Florida-based Dr Price was previously a director of Sarepta Therapeutics with experience in Duchenne muscular dystrophy drug development as a clinical physician.

Antisense said that Dr Price was previously a director of public, private and non-for-profit companies, and had worked as a chief medical officer, chief executive officer and in business and clinical development for pharmaceutical companies.

The company said that Dr Price held a Bachelor of Science from the University of Rio Grande in Ohio and a Doctor of Medicine from Santiago University in Chile.

Antisense was unchanged at 19.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

## MAYNE PHARMA GROUP

Mayne says Dr Carolyn Myers has been appointed a director, representing Mithra Pharmaceuticals SA, effective from today.

Mayne said it had an arrangement with the Liege, Belgium-based Mithra to commercialize the Nextstellis oral contraceptive in the US.

In 2019, the company said it would pay Mithra up to \$US295 million over 20 years to commercialize the Nextstellis combination of 3.0mg drospirenone and 14.2mg oestrol in the US (BD: Oct 2, 2019; Apr 16, 2021).

Mayne said that Dr Myers had 30 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including at Allergan, Forest Labs, Mylan and Pharmacia and was currently the chief executive officer of Fendx Technologies.

Dr Myers LinkedIn page said that she held a Bachelor of Science from Ontario's University of Waterloo, a Master of Business Administration from New Jersey's Rutgers University and a Doctor of Philosophy from Vancouver's University of British Columbia.

Mayne was up 1.5 cents or 5.1 percent to 31 cents with 6.1 million shares traded.

## EXOPHARM

Exopharm says it has appointed Mr David Oxley as head of international strategy and Dr Johannes Mühl as head of finance.

Exopharm said that Mr Oxley had 20 years' experience, including 10 years in the regenerative medicine sector in China.

According to his LinkedIn page Mr Oxley held a Bachelor of Science from Oregon's Portland State University and a Master of Science from the Baltimore, Maryland-based Johns Hopkins University.

The company said that the Zurich-based Dr Mühle was previously Myriad Genetics' head of finance and business insight and worked at Pfizer and Zimmer Biomet.

Exopharm said that Dr Mühle held a Master of Public Health from the University of Zurich and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Edinburgh Napier University.

Exopharm fell half a cent or 0.9 percent to 54 cents.

## DORSAVI

Dorsavi says it has appointed Mr Troy di Domenico as its chief financial officer replacing Damian Connellan, effective from October 4, 2021.

Dorsavi said that previously, Mr di Domenico was Hills Health Solutions head of health operations.

Mr di Domenico's LinkedIn page said that he held a Bachelor of Business from Melbourne's Victoria University.

Dorsavi was unchanged at two cents with 1.2 million shares traded.