



Biotech Daily

Tuesday October 26, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * ASX FLAT, BIOTECH UP: ACTINOGEN UP 12%; ANTISENSE DOWN 6%
- * AUSBIOTECH CONFERENCE 2021, BIOTECH INVEST OPEN
- * VICTORIA \$16m FOR BRAIN CANCER CENTRE
- * VOLPARA H1 RECEIPTS UP 40% TO \$13m
- * NOVA EYE \$1.42m US PAYCHECK LOAN FORGIVEN
- * ATOMO: TGA BROADENS HIV SELF-TEST SALES, ADVERTISING
- * RESAPP EXPANDS INDIA SARS-COV-2 COUGH DIAGNOSTIC TRIAL
- * BLUECHIIP SIGNS FUJIFILM IRVINE IVF CONTRACT
- * NOXOPHARM DOSES 1ST PATIENT IN VEYONDA, NIVOLUMAB TUMOR STUDY
- * STARPHARMA: VIETNAM VIRALEZE DISTRIBUTOR; 100k UNIT ORDER
- * LIVING CELL: NZENO AUCKLAND ISLAND PIGS FOR PARKINSON'S TRIAL
- * POLYNOVO AGM AVOIDS SPILL BY 1.7%, 29% OPPOSE M-D INCENTIVES
- * MGC POTENTIAL 2ND STRIKE SPILL; 100% DIRECTORS' PAY POOL HIKE AGM
- * HYDRIX 5.25m GAVIN COOTE RIGHTS AGM, PAUL LEWIS DIRECTOR
- * IMMUTEP 3.6m CEO MARC VOIGT PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AGM
- * MEDADVISOR: 1.5m M-D ROBERT READ OPTIONS AGM
- * PROTEOMICS TO LOSE 7-YEAR CHAIR TERRY SWEET
- * ANTEOTECH APPOINTS TIM PRITCHARD CFO, CO SEC; 2 EXECUTIVES
- * AMPLIA APPOINTS DR JOSÉ IGLESIAS CLINICAL ADVISOR

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.03 percent on Tuesday October 26, 2021, with the ASX200 up 2.4 points to 7,443.4 points. Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, 11 traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Actinogen was the best for the second day in a row, up 1.5 cents or 12 percent to 14 cents, with 18.3 million shares traded. Nanosonics climbed 9.35 percent; Patrys and Polynovo improved five percent or more; Immuteq, Kazia, Medical Developments, Telix and Uscom were up more than three percent; Amplia, Cynata and Oncosil rose two percent or more; Next Science and Paradigm were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Genetic Signatures and Osprey up by less than one percent.

Antisense led the falls, down two cents or 6.0 percent to 31.5 cents, with 2.4 million shares traded. Cyclopharm lost 5.8 percent, LBT and Nova Eye fell more than four percent; Orthocell, Proteomics and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; Mesoblast, Pro Medicus and Volpara were down more than one percent; with Avita, Clinuvel and Resmed down less than one percent.

AUSBIOTECH

Ausbiotech says that more than 900 life science personnel are attending the virtual Biotech Invest & Partnering 2021 and Ausbiotech Conference which started today. Ausbiotech said that the two conferences would “lift the profile of the Australian biotechnology industry, share new and ground-breaking knowledge, connect companies, and create access to greater funding sources for companies to develop world-class science into therapies, diagnostics and medical devices”.

The industry organization said that the five-day program included more than 100 speakers from 25 countries, in about 30 sessions.

Ausbiotech said that the keynote speakers included Moderna’s severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) -19 vaccine co-developer Dr Barney Graham, Johnson & Johnson chief scientific officer Dr Paul Stoffels, Doherty Institute director Prof Sharon Lewin, Siemens Pharmaceutical’s Howard Sachs, Abbvie Inc head of technology search and evaluation Dr Niels Emmerich, Microba co-founder Prof Philip Hugenholtz and Qbiotics chief executive officer Dr Victoria Gordon.

The organization said that the Ausbiotech and Johnson & Johnson Innovation Industry Excellence Awards 2021 would recognize life science personnel for Industry Leadership, Company of the Year and Emerging Company of the Year.

Ausbiotech said there would be a focus on regenerative medicine and the conference would launch its ‘Biotechnology Blueprint’ a framework for the sector.

The organization said that the conference would feature the Early-Stage Investment Forum, with quick-pitch presentations on early-stage technologies and projects.

The organization said that the Victoria Government was supporting the conference and registration was open at: <https://www.ausbiotechnc.org/register2021>.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says it has contributed \$16 million towards the \$36 million Brain Cancer Centre for research to improve treatments and outcomes for patients.

A media release from Victoria Premier Dan Andrews said that brain cancer killed “more children in Australia than any other disease and has the lowest survival rates of almost any cancer, with four out of every five patients dying within five years of diagnosis”.

A spokesperson for Mr Andrews said that the Brain Cancer Centre had been established in Melbourne’s Parkville bio-medical precinct, which was home to the University of Melbourne, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

The State Government said that the Brain Cancer Centre was founded by Carrie’s Beanies 4 Brain Cancer in partnership with the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and would “bring together a multidisciplinary team of experts whose sole focus is to make rapid progress in the diagnosis and treatment of brain cancer”.

The media release said that the funding would help deliver the ‘Brain perioperative clinical trial program’ to improve brain cancer diagnosis and prognosis for paediatric, adolescent and adult patients.

The State Government said that the trial would take four years, providing hope for those diagnosed with primary brain cancer and brain metastases.

Mr Andrews said that “for patients and their families, we simply must find more effective treatments for brain cancers - that’s what this new centre is all about”.

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute director Prof Doug Hilton said that the Brain Cancer Centre would help “attract the best and brightest talent and build our local capabilities in brain cancer research to make the discoveries that will have a real impact on brain cancer patients, now and in the future”.

[VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Volpara says that receipts from customers for the six months to September 30, 2021 were up 40.4 percent to \$NZ13,542,000 (\$A12,928,886).

Volpara said that for the three months to September 30, 2021, receipts from customers increased 51.9 percent to \$NZ7,111,000, compared to the previous corresponding period. The company said that at September 30, 2021 it had cash and cash equivalents of \$NZ25,030,000, or an estimated 8.3 quarters of funding, compared to \$NZ64,293,000, at September 30, 2020.

Volpara fell two cents or 1.6 percent to \$1.26.

[NOVA EYE MEDICAL](#)

Nova eye says that its \$US1,068,000 (\$A1,423,241) Covid-19 Paycheck Protection Program loan has been forgiven by the US Government.

Nova Eye said the loan under US Small Business Administration Covid-19 stimulus program and the full liability amount would be reversed and added as other income to its year to 2022 annual accounts.

Nova Eye said that the loan was “spent on payroll costs and other eligible expenses to maintain employee and compensation levels during the period, despite Covid-impacted trading conditions”.

Nova Eye fell two cents or 4.8 percent to 40 cents.

[ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Atomo says the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration has broadened the customer base for its HIV Self-Test and advertising restrictions.

Atomo said that the TGA had varied the conditions on the HIV Self-Test entry in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (BD: Dec 4, 2018).

The company said that it would be allowed to sell the test “to any business, organization or institution, including a pharmacy, that employs or engages individuals who have received appropriate training” including pharmacy websites.

Atomo said that advertisements on HIV tests would be allowed in any form or media, and allow it to market the HIV Self-Test in Australia.

“Prior to these advertising changes, Atomo was unable to advertise or promote its HIV Self-Test website or the HIV Self-Test product itself,” the company said.

Atomo managing-director John Kelly said the company was “delighted that Atomo, and its partners, can now actively promote HIV Self-Testing, expand much needed awareness as to the availability of our TGA-approved, rapid, HIV self-test and work with pharmacy groups to ensure that the HIV self-test is widely available in stores and online”.

“As leaders in the design of easy-to-use rapid diagnostic test platforms, we are pleased to see the long-term resistance to rapid and home-based testing here in Australia across infectious disease applications such as HIV and Covid-19 softening and welcome the arrival of rapid testing to the Australian market,” Mr Kelly said.

Atomo thanked the Australian Federation of Aids Organisations, “who were instrumental in their engagement with TGA, consistent with their goal of seeking to improve the rates of HIV testing in Australia by broadening access to HIV self-testing” as well as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Atomo fell 2.5 cents or 7.25 percent to 32 cents with 2.5 million shares traded.

[RESAPP HEALTH](#)

Resapp says its India Covid-19 clinical trial has completed recruitment of more than 100 Sars-Cov-2 positive patients ahead of time, and will recruit a further 100 patients.

In August, Resapp says it had expanded its severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SarsCov-2) program including longitudinal data on Covid-19 positive patients and would work with New Delhi's Triomics clinical trials company to recruit 100 Covid-19 positive and 100 Covid-19 negative patients (BD: Aug 9, 2021).

Today, the company said it expected to complete recruitment by the end of November 2021, which would "provide for greater robustness and certainty in evaluating Covid-19 screening test algorithm candidates to give Resapp the highest chance of developing a truly accurate algorithm for Covid-19 screening".

Resapp said it was recruiting patients in two US clinical studies, with enrolment expected to be completed in mid-December.

Resapp managing-director Dr Tony Keating said the company would begin analyzing the India and US data "and performing specific algorithm training and validation to build on the foundational algorithm work we've undertaken over the past few months".

"The development of an instant smartphone-based screening test for Covid-19 could revolutionize the way the world manages the virus," Dr Keating said.

Resapp was up 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.5 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.

[BLUECHIIP](#)

Bluechiip says it has a two-year contract with the Santa Ana, California-based Fujifilm Irvine Scientific for its in-vitro fertilization (IVF), or assisted reproductive, technologies. Bluechiip said that Fujifilm would pay fees of an undisclosed value in return for Bluechiip developing technologies customized for the assisted reproduction market.

The company has developed wireless tracking chips, readers and software.

Bluechiip said it would "negotiate and seek to agree a supply agreement for the sale and distribution of the customized Bluechiip-enabled products including minimum volumes, pricing and detailed commercial terms".

Bluechiip Managing-Director Andrew McLellan said the agreement with Fujifilm Irvine Scientific would "make some contribution to our revenues by way of licence and development fees over the next 18 to 24 months, but most importantly this agreement provides Bluechiip a solid foothold in a lucrative worldwide market, with a strong international partner".

"With more than 2.5 million IVF cycles performed globally each year, the total potential market for a new [Fujifilm Irvine] system incorporating Bluechiip-enabled technology is attractive and is expected to result in significant business growth," Mr McLellan said.

Bluechiip was up two cents or 66.7 percent to five cents with 116.4 million shares traded.

[NOXOPHARM](#)

Noxopharm says it has dosed the first of 30 patients in a phase I combination study of Veyonda and nivolumab (Opvido) for a range of tumor types.

In March, Noxopharm said it would begin recruitment of two trial cohorts of patients with breast, ovarian, prostate and sarcoma cancers for the study (BD: Mar 19, 2021).

Today, the company said the first patient had been dosed, and that the aim of the study was to increase the activity of nivolumab by using its Veyonda "to overcome tumor resistance to [immune checkpoint inhibitor] therapy".

Noxopharm fell two cents or 3.6 percent to 53 cents.

STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says Healthco Australia and Truong Bao Land International Investment Co will distribute its Viraleze anti-viral spray in Vietnam, with a first order for 100,000 units. Starpharma said the 100,000 units was part of the three-month agreement, with further orders expected on signing an ongoing distribution agreement currently being finalized. In February, the company said Viraleze had been registered for sale in Europe and the UK and contained SPL7013, or astodrimmer sodium, the same active ingredient in its condom coatings and Vivagel for bacterial vaginosis (BD: Feb 23, 2021)

Today, Starpharma said Viraleze registration in Vietnam was “well-advanced”.

Starpharma chief executive officer Dr Jackie Fairley said the company was “very pleased to be able to make Viraleze available to Vietnamese consumers and frontline workers next month, especially given the current Delta outbreak and vaccination rates in Vietnam”.

“This supply contract is one of a number of international commercial arrangements for Viraleze being negotiated by Starpharma and we look forward to making further announcements about those soon,” Dr Fairley said.

Starpharma was unchanged at \$1.08.

LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Living Cell says it has a non-binding agreement with Auckland’s NZeno to breed and maintain pigs to provide brain tissue for its third trial of NTCCell in Parkinson’s disease.

Living Cell said that NZeno maintained the only herd derived from designated pathogen-free pigs, which were found on New Zealand’s sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands.

NZeno’s chief executive officer is Dr Paul Tan who was formerly a chief executive officer of Living Cell, and the herd previously belonged to Living Cell.

Today, the company said that pigs from the herd provided the choroid plexus tissue for the previous clinical trials of NTCCell, as well as the encapsulated pancreatic islets of Langerhans for previous type 1 diabetes trials.

Living Cell executive chair Bernie Tuch said “that securing access to NZeno’s [designated pathogen-free] herd is a critical milestone” as the company progressed the next clinical trial of NTCCell in Parkinson’s disease.

Living Cell was unchanged at 0.9 cents with 22.4 million shares traded.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says it narrowly avoided a second-strike remuneration report vote with 59,929,150 votes (23.33%) against and 196,905,385 votes (76.67%) in favor.

Last year, Polynovo said its remuneration report recorded a first strike with 50.30 percent of votes against (BD: Nov 16, 2020).

Under the Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Director and Executive Remuneration) Act 2011 any company sustaining a vote of 25 percent or more against the remuneration report in two successive annual meetings must vote on a board spill.

Today, Polynovo said that a resolution to amend managing-director Paul Brennan’s long-term incentive plan was passed, but with 83,064,715 votes (29.42%) against and 199,241,309 votes (70.85%) in favor, while directors Bruce Rathie and Andrew Lumsden were elected overwhelmingly.

Polynovo’s annual report said the company had 661,388,044 shares on issue, meaning that the opposition to Mr Brennan’s incentives amounted to 12.6 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Polynovo was up 10 cents or 5.5 percent to \$1.92 with 4.1 million shares traded.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says its annual general meeting will vote on a potential second-strike remuneration report and to raise the non-executive directors' pay pool 100 percent to \$500,000 a year. Last year, MGC voted 35.28 percent against the remuneration report (BD: Nov 5, 2020). Under the Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Director and Executive Remuneration) Act 2011 any company sustaining a vote of 25 percent or more against the remuneration report in two successive annual meetings must vote on a board spill.

Today, the company said the meeting would vote on the election of directors Nativ Segev and Dr Ross Walker, the ratification of prior issue of shares and deferred consideration shares for the acquisition of Medicanl, and the 10 percent placement capacity.

The meeting will be held at 1202 Hay Street, West Perth, on November 24, 2021 at 4pm (AWST).

MGC was unchanged at five cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

HYDRIX

Hydrix says shareholders will vote to grant chair Gavin Coote 5,250,000 performance rights, and elect Paul Lewis as a director.

Hydrix said it would grant Mr Coote \$787,500 worth of performance rights, with vesting conditional on meeting business objectives including approval and sales milestones of its Angelmed compression garments, as well as share price growth targets.

The company said it appointed Mr Lewis as a director effective from October 28, 2021.

Hydrix said Mr Lewis had worked for Mobil Oil, ICL, PA Consulting and since retiring as an executive had held director and advisory roles for more than 15 years and was currently a director of Volt Bank, Grassrootz and the Australian British Chamber of Commerce.

The company said shareholders would vote on the remuneration report, the election of directors Paul Wright and Paul Lewis, the issue of 4,500,000 shares to Jasper Capital, the 10 percent placement capacity, and the amendment of the company's constitution.

The virtual meeting will take place on November 24, 2021 at 11.30 am (AEDT) and will be available at <https://web.lumiagm.com/388267412>.

Hydrix was unchanged at 13 cents.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says its annual general meeting will vote to grant chief executive officer Marc Voigt 3,600,000 performance rights and 339,621 rights to chair Dr Russell Howard.

Immutep said that Mr Voigt's rights were worth 52 cents each meaning that the entirety of the grant would be worth \$1,872,000, and that the package would vest in three equal tranches conditional on his meeting trial milestones, ensuring the company had sufficient cash funds, and successfully managing Immutep's ASX and NASDAQ listings.

The company said that Dr Howard's performance rights were in lieu of cash remuneration for directors' fees, with the number based on three years of directors' fees at \$60,000 a year, and the package vesting in three equal tranches annually conditional on his remaining a director of the company.

Immutep said investors would vote on the remuneration report, the election of Dr Howard as a director, the ratification of a previous share issue, the approval of the executive incentive plan, an amendment to its constitution, and the proportional takeover provisions.

The virtual meeting will be held on November 26, 2021 at 10am (AEDT) and will be available at: at <https://web.lumiagm.com/301-696-625>.

Immutep was up two cents or 3.3 percent to 62.5 cents with 2.7 million shares traded.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says its annual general meeting will vote to grant managing-director Robert Reid 1,500,000 options and 750,000 options for director Lucas Merrow.

Medadvisor said that Mr Reid's options would be exercisable at 30 cents by December 31, 2024, with 250,000 vesting should the company's 30-day volume-weighted average price exceed 60 cents, 500,000 vesting at 80 cents, and 750,000 vesting at \$1.003, with Mr Merrow's options exercisable at 40 cents by October 30, 2024.

Medadvisor said shareholders would vote on the remuneration report, the re-election of directors Peter Bennetto, Sandra Hook and Mr Merrow, the approval of the 10 percent placement capacity, the ratification of a prior placement, the approval of an amended long-term incentive plan, and the renewal of takeover bid provisions.

The virtual meeting will be held on November 26, 2021 at 9am (AEDT) and will be available at <https://medadvisor.verovoting.com.au/>.

Medadvisor was up two cents or 5.6 percent to 38 cents.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics says Terry Sweet will retire as chair following the conclusion of its annual general meeting on November 25, 2021.

Proteomics said that Mr Sweet had been the chair since its incorporation in 2014.

Proteomics managing-director Dr Richard Lipscombe said Mr Sweet was "instrumental in taking our company through its initial public listing as an [research and development] focused \$10 million dollar enterprise to the commercially driven \$100 million business we are today".

"We thank Terry wholeheartedly for his service and look forward to building on his pragmatic leadership," Dr Lipscombe said.

Proteomics said it had begun the search for a new chair and intended to appoint new directors in due course.

Proteomics fell 2.5 cents or 2.8 percent to 87.5 cents.

ANTEOTECH

Anteotech says it has appointed three executives including Tim Pritchard as chief financial officer and company secretary.

Anteo said that Mr Pritchard would start work on November 1, 2021, replacing Duncan Cornish in both roles.

The company said that Mr Pritchard had 25 years' experience in finance, accounting, consulting and was previously Leaf Resources chief financial officer and company secretary.

According to his LinkedIn page, Mr Pritchard held a Bachelor of Accounting and Business Computing, a Master of Commerce and a Master of Information Technology from Queensland University of Technology.

The company said that it would also appoint Pierre Nathie as head of life sciences product and services from November 8, 2020 and Mr Nathie had more than 25 years' experience in international in-vitro diagnostic launch strategies, with senior positions at BD Diagnostics in both Paris and the UK.

Anteo also said it would appoint Ian Steinhardt as head of life sciences market operations from December 6, 2020 and that Mr Steinhardt had more than 30 years' experience in sales and marketing, most recently at Abbott Diagnostics.

Anteotech was unchanged at 25 cents with 5.5 million shares traded.

[AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS](#)

Amplia says it has appointed Dr José Iglesias as a clinical advisor for its development of cancer drugs.

Amplia said that Dr Iglesias had more than 30 years' experience in pharmaceuticals focusing on the development of cancer drugs, and had held senior roles at Eli Lilly, Amgen, Abraxis, and Celgene.

The company said that Dr Iglesias "was responsible for the development of Abraxane which is the cornerstone for the standard of care for pancreatic cancer, the first clinical indication for AMP945".

Amplia managing-director John Lambert said that Dr Iglesias' "extensive experience in the clinical development of new oncology drugs will be invaluable as we run our phase II clinical trial of AMP945 in pancreatic cancer patients starting early next year".

Amplia was up half a cent or 2.6 percent to 20 cents.