



Biotech Daily

Thursday November 25, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: PROTEOMICS HAT-TRICK - UP 13%; ACTINOGEN DOWN 9%**
- * **RADIOPHARM DOWN 35% ON 'OVERSUBSCRIBED' \$50m IPO**
- * **AROA H1 REVENUE UP 95% TO \$17m, LOSS DOWN 62% TO \$5m**
- * **PACIFIC EDGE H1 REVENUE UP 62% TO \$5m, LOSS UP 27% TO \$8.6m**
- * **ACTINOGEN RAISES \$12m; PLAN FOR \$3m MORE; XANAMEM FOR DEPRESSION**
- * **CRESO ASIC QUERY; RAIDED CHAIR ADAM BLUMENTHAL STANDS ASIDE**
- * **BIOTRON 'BIT225 KILLS SARS-COV-2 IN MICE - GAME-CHANGER'**
- * **STARPHARMA: 'POSITIVE INTERIM RESULTS' FOR DEP-CABAZITAXEL**
- * **NUHEARA COMPLETES CLINICAL TRIAL RECRUITMENT**
- * **IMAGION: MERCER UNDERWRITES \$808k OPTIONS**
- * **NOVA EYE AGM: 45% OPPOSE 700k M-D TOM SPURLING OPTIONS**
- * **MGC AVOIDS 2nd STRIKE, 25% OPPOSE DIRECTOR FEE POOL HIKE**
- * **REGAL FUNDS REDUCES TO 6.6% IN MICRO-X**
- * **JASON CARROL TAKES 9% OF ISLAND**
- * **PYC 1-YEAR US CEO SAHM NASSERI, STEPS DOWN AS DIRECTOR**
- * **MEDADVISOR LOSES DIRECTOR PETER BENNETTO**
- * **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR BIO-MELBOURNE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP GONGS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.11 percent on Thursday November 25, 2021, with the ASX200 up 7.9 points to 7,407.3 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, eight traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Proteomics was the best for the third day in a row (a BDI-40 first), up 14.5 cents or 13.1 percent to \$1.255, with 561,374 shares traded. Alterity climbed eight percent; Immutep, Neuren and Starpharma improved four percent or more; Medical Developments and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Nanosonics, Patrys and Polynovo rose two percent or more; Avita, Imugene, Orthocell, Mesoblast and Resmed were up one percent or more; with Clinuvel, Cochlear, Genetic Signatures and Opthea up by less than one percent.

Actinogen led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 14.5 cents, with 12.2 million shares traded. LBT, Nova and Volpara fell five percent or more; Cynata, Pharmaxis, Resonance and Uscom lost more than four percent; Compumedics was down 3.6 percent; Amplia, Next Science and Telix shed more than two percent; Paradigm and Universal Biosensors were down more than one percent; with CSL down 0.1 percent.

RADIOPHARM THERANOSTICS

Radiopharm fell as much as 35 percent following its \$50 million initial public offer at 60 cents to list on the ASX to develop diagnostic and therapeutic radio-pharmaceuticals. Radiopharm opened at 47 cents on the ASX under the code RAD following an “over-subscribed” offer at 60 cents, fell as low as 39 cents and recovered as high as 49.5 cents. In August, Radiopharm raised \$20 million through convertible notes ahead of the initial public offer (BD: Aug 16, 2021).

The company said it had a portfolio of four platforms, including peptides, small molecules and monoclonal antibodies that addressed about 75 percent of the causes of death from cancer, with five phase II clinical trials and two phase I trials underway, and 133 patients dosed across three of the four assets to date.

Radiopharm said that the offer funds would be used for licence fees, clinical trials and manufacturing costs, milestone fees and employment of staff.

The company said its chair was Paul Hopper with Riccardo Canevari appointed chief executive officer Prof David Mozley as its chief medical officer and Dr Thom Tulip as its chief technical officer.

Bell Potter Securities and Baker Young were joint lead managers to the offer.

Radiopharm closed its first day’s trading down 20 cents or 33.3 percent at 40 cents with 27.2 million shares traded.

AROA BIOSURGERY

Aroa says its total revenue for the six months to September 30, 2021, was up 94.5 percent to \$NZ17,852,000 (\$A17,051,695) with net loss after tax down 62.3 percent to \$NZ5,089,000 (\$A4,860,860).

Aroa said revenue was primarily from sales of its sheep-stomach based Myriad products for soft tissue repair and Symphony for wound closure with \$NZ191,000 in revenue from project fees.

The company said its diluted loss per share was down 86.32 percent to 1.6 NZ cents, net tangible assets per security was up 91.67 percent to 23 NZ cents and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$NZ45,291,000 for the six months to September 30, 2021 compared to \$NZ65,291,000 at September 30, 2020.

Aroa was unchanged at \$1.15.

PACIFIC EDGE

Pacific Edge says its revenue for the six months to September 30, 2021, was up 61.7 percent to \$NZ5,378,000 (\$A5,136,904) with net loss after tax up 26.9 percent to \$NZ8,985,000 (\$A8,575,200).

Pacific Edge said its revenue was primarily from the sales of its Cxbladder urine test for bladder cancer with \$NZ4,982,000 of revenue from the US and \$NZ396,000 from the rest of the world.

The company said its diluted loss per share was up 20 percent to 1.2 NZ cents, net tangible assets per share was up from 4.2 NZ cents to 11.8 NZ cents and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$NZ80,081,000 at September 30, 2021 compared to \$NZ6,283,000 in the previous corresponding period.

Pacific Edge fell five cents or 3.8 percent to \$1.27.

ACTINOGEN

Actinogen says it has commitments for a \$12 million oversubscribed placement at 13.5 cents a share and hopes to raise a further \$3 million through a share plan.

Actinogen said its previously undisclosed third Xanamem program was for major depressive disorder (MDD) with a fully-funded phase II trial to begin next years.

The company said the placement and share plan price was a 15.6 percent discount to the closing price on November 22, 2021.

Actinogen said the share plan had a record date of November 24, would open on November 29 and close on December 13, 2021, and the share plan was not underwritten.

Actinogen said Bell Potter Securities was the lead manager.

The company said that major depressive disorder was selected “significant clinical and scientific interest in evaluating Xanamem across a range of medical conditions associated with chronically dysregulated cortisol”.

Actinogen fell 1.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 14.5 cents with 12.2 million shares traded.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso says the Australian Securities and Investments Commission has required documents, chair Adam Blumenthal has stood aside and James Ellingford is interim chair. Last week, Creso told the ASX that although it was “aware of two articles ... which reported that the Australian Federal Police were executing a search warrant at the Sydney offices of Everblu Capital ... it has not been served with any notices from any regulatory body in connection with the matter ... and the company does not consider there to be any basis for it to make public announcement in relation to this matter” (BD: Nov 17, 2021).

As ASIC spokesperson told Biotech Daily that the Australian Federal Police had raided the offices of Everblu, whose chair Adam Blumenthal is the chair of Creso and a total of five locations in Sydney, one in Brisbane and one in Queensland’s Gold Coast in relation to “certain market activities, among other things”.

Today, in an announcement titled ‘Update on Price and Volume Query Response’ Creso said that on Monday November 22, 2021 it “was served with a notice issued by ASIC under Section 33 of the ASIC Act, requiring it to produce certain documents to ASIC in connection with an ASIC investigation”.

The company said that the notice “identified for the first time that ASIC’s investigation includes suspected contraventions by the company, its officers, agents, employees and representatives in relation to trading in its securities”.

“The notice confirmed that it should not be construed as an indication by ASIC that a contravention of the law has occurred, nor should it be considered a reflection upon any person or entity,” Creso said.

The company said that it “takes its legal obligations seriously and is treating this matter accordingly, including to comply with ASIC’s notice”.

“Creso Pharma appears to have become involved in the ASIC investigation because of common directorships between it and its corporate adviser, Everblu Capital,” it said.

“In order to distance Creso Pharma’s operations and governance from the ASIC investigation, Mr Blumenthal has today offered to stand aside from his role as chairman of Creso Pharma” with executive director Mr Ellingford as interim chair.

The company said it a subcommittee comprising Mr Ellingford and director Boaz Wachtel would address and respond to the ASIC notice and cooperate with the investigation”.

Creso said its operations in Canada and Switzerland were managed by in-country executives, quarantined from the matter.

Creso fell half a cent or five percent to 9.5 cents with 23.7 million shares traded.

[BIOTRON](#)

Biotron says that BIT225 has shown “substantial and clinically meaningful efficacy” against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) in mice.

Biotron said that the mouse and cell-based studies were performed at La Jolla, California-based Scripps Research Institute in mice engineered to be infectable by Sars-Cov-2 which produced a range of pathologies including pulmonary disease.

The company said that the model was used to assess the ability of drugs to target Sars-Cov-2 and treat Covid-19 disease.

Biotron said that oral BIT225 “significantly reduced virus load in the lungs of treated mice when compared with control mice and there was a reduction in virus in the blood, with the reduction in virus dose-dependent.

Biotron chief executive officer Dr Michelle Miller told Biotech Daily that the data showed “statistically and clinically relevant read outs”.

“This is a game changer for us,” Dr Miller said. “The drug has been through several human trials over extended periods, and currently is in two phase II studies for HIV-1.”

“With its well-documented safety and pharmaco-kinetic profile, solid anti-viral data against Sars-Cov-2, and as luck would have it having recently completed another manufacturing campaign with several kilos of drug on hand, we are now aiming to progress into human Covid studies as soon as possible,” Dr Miller said.

Biotron said BIT225 protected against severe disease, indicated by the significant prevention of body weight loss in mice treated with BIT225 compared to controls.

The company said that pro-inflammatory cytokines were also significantly reduced in the lungs and blood of BIT225 treated animals compared with controls, with eliminating the cytokine storm essential for successful treatment.

Biotron was up 4.9 cents or 96.1 percent to 10 cents with 230.1 million shares traded.

[STARPHARMA](#)

Starpharma says that it has “encouraging efficacy signals” from interim results of its phase II trial of dendrimer enhanced product (DEP) cabazitaxel for prostate cancer.

Starpharma said of the 25 enrolled patients with prostate cancer, 22 were evaluable.

The company said that of the patients with soft tissue prostate tumors, nine of 14 patients had “prolonged disease control” including stable or reduced tumor size “for periods, to date, of up to 36 weeks”.

Starpharma said 19 of 21 patients with elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA) had a reduction in PSA levels, with 11 of 21 having a reduction greater than 50 percent.

The company said 15 of 18 patients with secondary bone disease exhibited either no progression or an improvement in these lesions.

Starpharma said the interim results were “particularly significant” given the patients had late-stage prostate cancer, and had failed multiple therapies, including taxanes, prior to entering the DEP-cabazitaxel trial.

Starpharma was up 4.5 cents or four percent to \$1.165 with 1.2 million shares traded.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara says it has recruited the 50 candidates for its trial conducted by Sydney's National Acoustics Laboratory to support regulatory approval for its hearing aids.

Nuheara said it had engaged the Toledo, Ohio-based North American Science Associates Inc to conduct cytotoxicity, irritation and sensitization testing.

Nuheara was unchanged at 1.9 cents with 3.8 million shares traded.

IMAGION BIOSYSTEMS

Imagion says Mercer Street Global Opportunity Fund LLC has underwritten 16,161,610 unlisted options exercisable at five cents by November 26, 2021.

Imagion said the options would raise \$808,081 from the Rohnert Park, California-based Mercer Street with a four percent fee payable to Los Angeles broker Brighton Capital. Imagion was unchanged at 8.1 cents with 8.9 million shares traded.

NOVA EYE

Nova Eye says that up to 45 percent of its annual general meeting opposed the issue of 700,000 options to managing-director Tom Spurling.

Nova Eye said the resolution to issue the options to Mr Spurling was opposed by 28,511,422 votes (44.63%) with 35,368,087 votes (55.37%) in favor.

Yesterday, the company said it withdrew resolutions to issue 2,250,000 options to five directors and director Alex Sundich resigned (BD: Nov 24, 2021).

Today, Nova Eye said the remuneration report, the re-election of directors Mike Southard and the amendment of the constitution were passed overwhelmingly.

According to its most recent filing, Nova Eye had 145,553,791 shares on offer meaning that the votes against the issue of options to Mr Spurling amounted to 19.6 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Nova Eye fell two cents or 5.4 percent to 35 cents.

MGC PHARMACEUTICALS

MGC says it avoided a second-strike remuneration report vote with the spill resolution withdrawn and faced up to 25 percent dissent against the increase in director fee pool. MGC said the resolution to increase the total aggregate remuneration for non-executive directors by 100 percent to \$500,000 a year was opposed by 62,990,279 votes (25.06%) with 188,318,324 votes (74.94%) in favor.

The company said the remuneration report avoided a potential second strike with 50,900,206 votes (20.20%) against and 201,106,228 votes (79.80%) in favor, following last year's 35.28 percent opposition to 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.

MGC said the re-election of directors Nativ Segev and Dr Ross Walker and the 10 percent placement capacity faced about 13 percent opposition with the ratification of the prior issue of shares for the acquisition of Medicanl passed easily.

According to its most recent filing, MGC had 2,404,895,855 shares on offer meaning that the opposition to the increased director fee pool amounted to 2.6 percent of the company, not sufficient to requisition extraordinary meetings.

MGC fell 0.1 cents or 2.2 percent to 4.4 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

MICRO-X

Sydney's Regal Funds Management says it has reduced its holding in Micro-X from 35,943,205 shares (7.82%) to 30,574,027 shares (6.64%).

Regal Funds said it bought and sold shares between September 28 and November 22, 2021 with the single largest sale 2,000,000 shares for \$610,000 or 30.5 cents a share.

Micro-X was unchanged at 30 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

ISLAND PHARMACEUTICALS

Jason Alan Carroll says he has increased his shareholding in Island Pharmaceuticals from 5,675,000 shares (7.0%) to 7,300,000 shares (9.0%).

The Melbourne-based Mr Carrol said that between October 25 and November 25, 2021, he bought 1,625,000 shares for \$440,132 or 27.1 cents a share.

Island fell half a cent or 1.9 percent to 26 cents.

PYC THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PHYLOGICA)

In an Appendix 3Z final director's interest notice, PYC says that US chief executive officer Sahm Nasserri ceased to be a director on November 18, 2021.

Last year, PYC said it appointed Mr Nasserri as chief executive officer of US operations and a director, starting on \$US495,000 (\$A662,657) a year (BD: Dec 10, 2020).

In 2017, the then Phylogica said it had appointed Mr Nasserri as a non-executive director and in 2019 Mr Nasserri resigned (BD: Oct 24, 2017; Feb 11, 2019).

Biotech Daily understands that Mr Nasserri continues as its US chief executive officer for the time being.

PYC was up half a cent or 3.6 percent to 14.5 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says director and former chair Peter Benetto has resigned effective from November 26, 2021.

Medadvisor said Mr Benetto was appointed a director in 2013 and was the company chair from November 2013 to February 2020.

Medadvisor was up 1.5 cents or 3.9 percent to 40 cents.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network says nominations for the 2022 Women in Leadership Award have opened.

The Network said the awards were launched in 2015 to "recognize and champion women at different stages of their careers who have made outstanding contributions across our industry and inspire greater numbers of women to pursue leadership roles".

The Network said there were three award categories: the emerging leadership award; the inspiring leadership award; and the distinguished leadership award.

Nominate at: <https://biomelbourne.org/women-in-leadership-awards/2022-awards/>.