



Biotech Daily

Thursday June 26, 2008

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECHS UP: AGENIX UP 18%, CATHRX DOWN 18%**
- * **LIVING CELL AWAITS NZ XENOTRANSPLANT TRIAL APPROVAL**
- * **KARMELSONIX TO SELL PULMOTRACK IN PHARMACIES**
- * **ANTISENSE REQUESTS CLINICAL TRIAL TRADING HALT**
- * **BONE MEDICAL REQUESTS PLACEMENT TRADING HALT**
- * **PORTLAND REQUESTS FUNDING TRADING HALT**
- * **EVA SKIRA LEAVES ADVANCED OCULAR**
- * **ANZ DECREASES TO 9.5% OF BIOPROSPECT**
- * **IM MEDICAL TO RELEASE LAST 62m SHARES FROM ESCROW**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 1.1 percent on Thursday June 26, 2008 with the All Ordinaries up 58.4 points to 5,421.5 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell, five traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Agenix was best, up 0.6 cents or 17.65 percent to four cents on strong volumes, followed by Acrux up 11 cents or 11.11 percent to \$1.10 and Avexa up three cents or 10.71 percent to 31 cents with 2,237,333 shares traded.

Universal Biosensors climbed 7.56 percent; Peplin and Psivida were up more than six percent; Progen and Ventracor rose more than four percent; Resmed was up 3.13 percent; Cellestis, Circadian and Mesoblast were up more than two percent; with Alchemia, Benitec, Cochlear, Sirtex and Starpharma up more than one percent.

Cathrx led the falls, down 15 cents or 17.65 percent to 70 cents on small volumes, followed by Sunshine Heart down 16 percent to 4.2 cents and Living Cell down 10 percent to 27 cents.

Prana lost 7.32 percent; Heartware and Phylogica were down more than five percent; Optiscan, Proteome and Tissue Therapies fell four percent or more; Clinuvel and CSL were down more than three percent; Cytopia and Genetic Technologies shed more than two percent; with Biota and Pharmaxis down more than one percent.

LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES

Living Cell expects New Zealand's National Health Committee to report to the Health Minister on its planned xenotransplant trial by August 8, 2008.

The company said the New Zealand Minister of Health, David Cunliffe, had sought independent advice from the committee regarding the phase I/IIa clinical trial with its Diabecell encapsulated porcine cells for type 1 diabetes.

Living Cell has obtained approvals from the Regional Ethics Committee, the Gene Technology Advisory Committee, International Accreditation New Zealand and Medsafe, the regulatory body that approved the manufacture for human use of the encapsulated porcine Islets of Langerhans cells.

Living Cell's chief executive officer Dr Paul Tan said he was "pleased with the stated time frame".

"Living Cell Technology sees this as a step forward for its efforts to include New Zealand in the company's international clinical trials program," Dr Tan said.

Living Cell fell three cents or 10.0 percent to 27 cents.

KARMELSONIX

Karmelsonix said it has reached agreement with its first pharmacy group to promote the Pulmotrack and the "wheeze rate paradigm" across Australia.

The company said the promotion through the unnamed pharmacy group would supplement the promotion in the medical sector.

The value of the deal was undisclosed.

Karmelsonix said it would train selected pharmacies in its acoustic diagnostic devices, particularly the Personal Wheezeometer due to be released in 2009.

Under the agreement the pharmacies will buy the Pulmotrack unit for use in selected pharmacies and in conjunction with selected medical clinics.

Karmelsonix said it will see Karmelsonix introduce its technology at the professional or clinical level and also at the domestic retail level.

Karmelsonix chairman Peter Marks said the company recognized the value of having the pharmacy sector on board early, "particularly in terms of educating the sector in this new wheeze rate technology".

Mr Marks said having the pharmacy sector should assist with the uptake of Karmelsonix technologies in the medical sector.

Karmelsonix focuses on supplying non-invasive acoustic tools for disease management of asthma and related pulmonary disorders.

The company said the acoustic asthma management system could be used to monitor asthmatic patients of all ages, including the very young, very old and others who cannot perform available tests.

Karmelsonix said the technology can be used for continuous monitoring of patients at home, in intensive care units and during sleep.

Karmelsonix was up 0.6 cents or 7.32 percent to 8.8 cents.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense has requested a trading halt pending an announcement regarding clinical trial results.

Trading will resume on June 30, 2008 or on an earlier announcement.

Antisense last traded at six cents.

BONE MEDICAL

Bone Medical has requested a trading halt pending an announcement by the company regarding "a private placement".

Trading will resume on June 30, 2008 or on an earlier announcement.

Bone Medical last traded at 24 cents.

PORTLAND

Portland Orthopaedics has requested a trading halt pending an announcement by the company regarding "significant funding".

Trading will resume on June 30, 2008 or on an earlier announcement.

Portland last traded at 2.6 cents.

ADVANCED OCULAR SYSTEMS

Advance Ocular says chairman Eva Skira has retired and relinquished her directorship effective from today, June 26, 2008.

The company said Ms Skira's retirement was "due to an increased work load in her other corporate activities".

Advanced Ocular said John Yeudall had been appointed chairman and Vlado Bosanac would join the board as a director.

Advanced Ocular fell 0.1 cents or 10 percent to 0.9 cents.

BIOPROSPECT

The ANZ Bank has reduced its substantial shareholding in Biopropect shares acquired from the Opes Prime Stockbroking collapse from 52,698,656 shares (10.82%) to 46,240,086 shares (9.49%).

Biopropect fell 0.1 cents or 5.25 percent to 1.8 cents.

IM MEDICAL

IM Medical will release 62,427,273 shares from voluntary escrow on June 30, 2008.

With the release there will be 1,206,908,303 shares available for trading on the ASX.

IM Medical was unchanged at 1.6 cents.