



Biotech Daily

Friday November 19, 2021

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

VALE BIOSHARES DAVID BLAKE (1.3.1962 – 18.11. 2021)

Bioshares co-founder, David Blake died yesterday afternoon.

David Ronald Blake was born in Gympie, Queensland but having moved to Melbourne he became a tireless advocate for the biotechnology industry, co-founding Bioshares with Mark Pachacz in 1998.

When I started Biotech Daily in 2005, he had no hesitation in helping devise the original Top 40 for the BDI-40 Index and knew that the greater the focus on the sector, the better for the sector.

Unwittingly, we caused much confusion when Marc Sinatra joined Biotech Daily, with two Melbourne biotechnology publications run by David and Mark; and David and Marc.

Then I took my eldest son to his first parent teacher night at his new high school (University High) and ran into David.

"What are you doing here?" I asked in surprise.

"My daughter, Alethea, goes to this school," he said - a little indignantly.

We lived just a kilometre or two from each other.

In private conversations, David did not suffer fools gladly. He was very concerned with a few companies and their characters, that he thought were not helping the industry. But he championed the rest.

The strength of Bioshares, in maintaining a leadership role for our industry, cannot be under-estimated, and especially the Bioshares annual skiing conferences, which unfortunately I was unable to attend.

David was a stalwart of the Australian biotechnology industry. We shall all miss him.

David is survived by his wife Sonya and daughter Alethea.

David Langsam

David was the voice of conscience of the sector.

Strongly passionate, highly knowledgeable and supportive, and openly and immediately critical when needed.

He was unwavering in his dedication to this sector.

And his friendship was a constant for 21 years.

Thank you, David, for all of this.

And especially for all the fun we had along the way...

Mark Pachacz, Bioshares

David has been a friend since the very early days of biotech in Australia, a true friend. We talked often and we had the greatest respect for each other.

I have missed his good counsel over the recent times due to his illness and I will continue to miss our chats, our lunches and our views over the future years.

David gave his time to many in the industry and this has also been reflected by the tributes coming in.

Leon Serry

In our constellation, occasionally we detect a light so bright for outshining others, for energy so kinetic heating those he encounters, for thoughts so lucid enlightening us all.

David is so inquisitive, engaging and aspirational that he continuously leaves one wondering about oneself.

Such a luminary simply radiates on.

Dr Philippe Wolgen, CEO, Clinuvel

David was generous in his support to all and freely shared his informed and considered advice if asked. He treated everyone with interest and respect.

He would readily make introductions he thought would help and encouraged everyone to 'give it a go', and make the most of their skills and talents.

At the heart of his work was a belief in the ability of Australia's biotech and medical technology sector to improve the world through innovation and knew that medical technology innovation and research in Australia was equal to, or better, than anything produced in Europe and the US.

David was unfailingly polite and courteous, even to individuals and companies he was never going to cover, when he knew there were governance and credibility issues.

His analysis delivered original and sometimes surprising insights informed by a deep understanding of the science and a genuine commitment and concern for the viability and growth of the sector in Australia.

Andrew Geddes

David's leadership was unique and special because he truly cared about telling the stories of our sector.

He invested into what inspired him, and that made Bioshares - the publication and the annual event - personal; this passion is what has resonated with me, and with our community.

The publication gives invaluable and unique data to the sector, and the conference has grown into a go-to event that galvanized the sector with discussion and debate.

It is an event that everyone looks forward to, and where friendships are formed. David's commitment to seeing the sector flourish will be missed."

The biotechnology, science and investment communities have experienced a great loss with the passing of David Blake, and his impact will remain in the companies, people, and in the industry that he worked tirelessly to promote.

Ausbiotech sends its condolences to David's family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time.

Lorraine Chiroiu, CEO, Ausbiotech