



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday April 20, 2022

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH UP: PARADIGM UP 14%; MICRO-X DOWN 15%**
- \* **UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS TO RAISE \$25m**
- \* **AROVELLA: QIMR TO MANUFACTURE ALA-101**
- \* **MEDLAB, CULTECH NRGBIOTIC DISTRIBUTION DEAL**
- \* **AUSTRALIAN SUPER TAKES 5% OF NANOSONICS, AGAIN**
- \* **RESPIRI LOSES DIRECTOR DR THOMAS DUTHY**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.05 percent on Wednesday April 20, 2022, with the ASX200 up 4.0 points to 7,569.2 points.

Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, 10 traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Paradigm was the best on no news, up 18.5 cents or 14.1 percent to \$1.50, with 1.5 million shares traded.

Pharmaxis and Pro Medicus climbed five percent or more; Atomo and Patrys improved more than four percent; Cyclopharm and Next Science were up more than three percent; Actinogen, Opthea, Proteomics and Resmed rose two percent or more; Cochlear, Emvision, Kazia, Immutep, Nanosonics and Volpara were up more than one percent; with Avita, CSL and Neuren up by less than one percent.

Micro-X led the falls, down 3.5 cents or 15.2 percent to 19.5 cents, with one million shares traded.

Uscom lost 10.5 percent; Resonance retreated eight percent; Nova Eye shed 7.1 percent; Amplia, Orthocell and Telix fell more than three percent; Clinuvel and Imugene shed more than two percent; with Medical Developments and Mesoblast down by less than one percent.

## UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says it hopes to raise \$20 million in an underwritten one-for-6.85 rights offer and \$5 million placement at 77 cents per Chess depository instrument.

Universal Biosensors said the institutional placement was not underwritten.

The company said the offer price was a two percent discount to the last closing price and a five percent discount to the 5-day volume-weighted average price to April 14, 2022.

Universal Biosensors said that shareholders who took up their full entitlement would be able to apply for up to 100 percent of their entitlement under a top up facility.

The company said the proceeds would be used to support new product development and additional investment in manufacturing capability, as well as working capital.

Universal Biosensors said that the record date for the rights issue would be April 27, with the offer opening on April 29 and closing on May 20, 2022.

The company said that Perth's Viburnum Funds Pty Ltd was the sole underwriter to the entitlement offer and Sydney's Petra Capital Pty Ltd was the sole lead manager and bookrunner to the placement.

Universal Biosensors remained in a trading halt at 78.5 cents.

## AROVELLA THERAPEUTICS

Arovella says the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer will manufacture its ALA-101 invariant natural killer T-cell therapy "for later stage clinical trials".

Arovella said that under the agreement, QIMR's cell therapy manufacturing arm, Q-Gen therapeutics, would manufacture off-the-shelf ALA-101 to treat CD19-producing leukaemias and lymphomas.

The company said the agreement was expected to conclude by July 2022, and it would hold any intellectual property developed under the agreement.

Arovella said that Q-Gen was accredited by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration as a good manufacturing practice facility.

The company said that its cells were being developed to be used off-the-shelf, meaning that the therapy could be manufactured from a healthy donor, frozen and given to patients when needed, without any delay unlike the US Food and Drug Administration-approved autologous chimeric antigen receptor-T (CAR-T) cell therapies.

Arovella said it expected "to make the therapy potentially more readily available, more affordable and will enable it to reach more cancer patients".

Arovella was up 0.1 cents or 2.5 percent to 4.1 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

## MEDLAB CLINICAL

Medlab says the Port Talbot, Wales-based Cultech will supply its NRGbiotic probiotic for depression in the UK over the next three years.

Medlab said that it had developed and patented NRGbiotic which Cultech manufactured and would be sold under Cultech's Pro-ven Biotics range through pharmacy and health food shops.

The company said it would receive royalties on sales and the agreement had an option to encompass Europe and the US.

Medlab chief executive officer Dr Sean Hall said the contract was the "first global nutraceutical deal since the divestment of the Australia-only licence to Pharmicare".

Medlab was up 1.3 cents or 13.4 percent to 11 cents with 3.5 million shares traded.

## NANOSONICS

Melbourne's Australian Super says it has become substantial in Nova Eye, with 15,097,196 shares, or 5.00 percent of the company, again.

Two weeks ago, Australian Super said that it had become substantial in Nanosonics and a week ago said it had ceased to be substantial (BD: Apr 6, Apr 13, 2022).

Today, the company said that between January 13 and April 13, 2020, it bought and sold shares in Nanosonics at prices ranging from \$3.72 to \$5.85.

Nanosonics was up six cents or 1.5 percent to \$3.96 with 658,750 shares traded.

## RESPIRI

Respiri says Dr Thomas Duthy has resigned as a director reflecting "the expansion in executive director responsibilities at an alternate company".

According to Commsec data, Dr Duthy is currently an executive director at Invex Therapeutics and works in investor relations for Nova Eye and Osprey Medical, and formerly Sirtex Medical.

Respiri said Dr Duthy had been a director of the company for two and a half years.

Respiri fell 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.2 cents.