



Biotech Daily

Wednesday May 11, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: OPHEA UP 14%; RESONANCE DOWN 9.5%**
- * **CSL WINS RIGHT TO CHALLENGE US 'MEXICAN PLASMA BAN'**
- * **NEXT SCIENCE: 'XPERIENCE KILLS FREE-FLOATING, BIOFILM BACTERIA'**
- * **IMMURON: US NAVY FILES IND FOR 2 TRAVELAN TRIALS**
- * **NEUROSCIENTIFIC APPLIES FOR EMTINB CLINICAL TRIAL**
- * **PHARMAUST TAKES DOG LYMPHOMA TRIAL TO THE US**
- * **MONASH'S PROF JAMIE ROSSJOHN ELECTED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.19 percent on Wednesday May 11, 2022, with the ASX200 up 13.5 points to 7,064.7 points.

Twenty-two of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 11 fell, five traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Opthea was the best, up 14.5 cents or 13.7 percent to \$1.205, with 964,822 shares traded.

Orthocell climbed 9.2 percent; Dimerix was up eight percent; Nova Eye improved seven percent; Nanosonics climbed 5.4 percent; Avita, Immutep, Paradigm, Polynovo and Proteomics were up more than four percent; Imugene, Prescient and Telix were up more than three percent; CSL, Emvision, Next Science, Oncosil, Resmed and Volpara rose two percent or more; with Actinogen, Cochlear, Mesoblast, Neuren, Pro Medicus and Starpharma up by more than one percent.

Resonance led the falls, down one cent or 9.5 percent to 9.5 cents, with 25,789 shares traded. Amplia lost 8.7 percent; Kazia was down 6.25 percent; Impedimed and Patrys fell more than four percent; Alcideon and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Compumedics shed 2.3 percent; Pharmaxis fell 1.1 percent; with Cyclopharm and Medical Developments down by less than one percent.

CSL

CSL says it has won the right to challenge the US Customs and Border Protection ban on plasma donation by certain Mexican nationals.

In an announcement on its website, but not posted on the ASX, CSL announced the ruling by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

The company said the statement was attributable to CSL group general counsel and head of legal affairs Greg Boss.

“We are encouraged by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit’s ruling that plasma companies have the legal right to challenge the Customs and Border Protection ban on plasma donation by Mexican nationals entering the country on a B1/B2 visa,” Mr Boss said.

“We are also pleased that the Court of Appeals’ decision acknowledges the importance of Mexican plasma donors in providing this critical resource necessary to manufacture life-saving, plasma-derived therapies,” Mr Boss said.

“We await further instruction from the United States District Court and will continue to challenge the plasma ban and secure a more stable plasma supply for the hundreds of thousands of patients dependent on plasma-derived therapies,” Mr Boss said.

CSL was up \$5.57 or 2.1 percent to \$276.22 with 896,963 shares traded.

NEXT SCIENCE

Next Science says its Xperience no-rinse post-surgical anti-microbial is effective against both free-floating and biofilm bacteria, in-vitro.

In a media release not published on the ASX platform, Next Science said the study showed that Xperience inhibited biofilm formation for up to five hours after application.

The company said the research study, titled ‘A Novel Irrigant to Eliminate Planktonic Bacteria and Eradicate Biofilm Superstructure With Persistent Effect During Total Hip Arthroplasty’ was published in the Journal of Arthroplasty, with the article available at: [https://www.arthroplastyjournal.org/article/S0883-5403\(22\)00062-6/fulltext](https://www.arthroplastyjournal.org/article/S0883-5403(22)00062-6/fulltext).

The study concluded that Xperience demonstrated “a reduction in planktonic bioburden and biofilm formation” and did not require additional irrigation with normal saline after application.

Next Science said the study found that Xperience produced minimal cytotoxic effects to human tissue, allowing the solution to remain in the body without need for subsequent rinse.

The company said the study found Xperience showed higher antimicrobial efficacy than three other commercially available adjuvants, when the application times in their respective instructions for use were followed.

Next Science said future research using large in-vivo datasets would be necessary to establish the irrigant’s efficacy in reducing primary and recurrent surgical site infections.

The study’s lead author Dr Ravi Bashyal said that the minimum standard-of-care for irrigation in orthopedic surgical cases included normal saline “but an increasing amount of literature in recent years has suggested that different solutions or additives may be needed to prevent [prosthetic joint infection]”.

“Combatting planktonic bacteria and the formation of biofilm is especially important given the high negative consequence of developing a [prosthetic joint infection] in the total joint arthroplasty setting,” Dr Bashyal said.

Last year, Next Science said the US Food and Drug Administration approved Xperience for sale as a medical device in the US (BD: Apr 26, 2022).

Next Science was up two cents or 2.35 percent to 87 cents.

IMMURON

Immuron says the US Navy has applied for two 30-volunteer trials of Travelan for campylobacteriosis and enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli-induced diarrhoea.

In January, Immuron said it received \$6.2m from the US Department of Defence for the development of a military dosing regimen of Travelan for diarrhoea (BD: Jan 16, 2022).

Today, Immuron said the US Naval Medical Research Centre had filed an investigational new drug application to the US Food and Drug Administration, which included plans for two II trials, with one examining the ability of its cow colostrum-based Travelan to protect volunteers against entero-toxigenic Escherichia coli infections, and the second trial would study its ability to protect against moderate to severe campylobacteriosis.

Immuron was up 1.2 cents or 12.2 percent to 11 cents.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it has submitted an application for ethics approval of an early phase clinical trial of its Emtinb in 30 healthy participants.

In March, Neuroscientific said Emtinb significantly reduced inflammatory cytokines associated with progressive loss of neurons in multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease and multiple auto-immune diseases, in-vitro (BD: Mar 11, 2021).

Today, Neuroscientific said the submission confirmed it was "on schedule to complete the significant milestone of commencing clinical development of Emtinb [by July 2022]".

The company said the planned study would assess biomarkers to indicate proof of the mechanism-of-activity of Emtinb in humans and to guide efficacy outcomes in future trials. Neuroscientific managing-director Matt Liddelow said the company was "one step closer to bringing a much-needed therapeutic option with disease-modifying potential to patients with Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis".

"Neuroscientific has officially transitioned from being a preclinical to a clinical stage company," Mr Liddelow said.

Neuroscientific was unchanged at 22 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says it will expand its trial of monepantel for B-cell dog lymphoma to treat 10 dogs at the Bound Rock-based Heart of Texas Veterinary clinic.

Last year, Pharmaust said that one dog of 24 with naïve B-cell lymphoma had a partial response to monepantel treatment (BD: Oct 18, 2021).

In November, the company said it would expand its dog lymphoma trial to New Zealand in preparation of a pivotal trial it expected to begin in May this year (BD: Nov 15, 2021).

Today, Pharmaust said it would send enough monepantel for the treatment of up to 10 dogs according to US Food and Drug Administration pilot program guidelines.

The company said that in New Zealand it had completed its first 28-day treatment of a dog with B-cell lymphoma "for a successful trial outcome".

Pharmaust said it was "preparing for a successful [trial] completion and the commencement of a subsequent registration trial".

The company said that in addition to the monepantel monotherapy trial, eight dogs had been treated post-trial with a combination of monepantel and prednisolone.

Pharmaust said the combination provided median and average survival of about 20 weeks, compared to eight to nine weeks expected for dogs with B-cell lymphoma treated with prednisolone alone.

Pharmaust was up 0.4 cents or 4.4 percent to 9.4 cents.

[MONASH UNIVERSITY](#)

Melbourne's Monash University says the Biomedicine Discovery Institute's Prof Jamie Rossjohn has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Monash University said that the London-based Royal Society was "one of the world's most prestigious scientific bodies" and recognized Prof Rossjohn's "transformative contributions to science".

The University said that Prof Rossjohn was one of 62 scientists awarded a Fellowships to the Society.

Monash University said that Prof Rossjohn's citation from the Royal Society said the he was "principally known for his contributions to the understanding of disease and the vertebrate host response, both from the aspect of protective and deleterious immunity".

"He has used structural biology to understand how T-cell receptors recognize peptides, lipids and metabolites," Monash University quoted the Society as saying.

"Specifically, he has unearthed structural mechanisms of major histocompatibility complex polymorphism impacting on viral immunity, drug and food hypersensitivities and T-cell mediated autoimmunity," the University reported.

"Rossjohn has pioneered our molecular understanding of how T-cells bind lipid-based antigens presented by the CD1 family," Monash University quoted the citation.

"He has elucidated the structural basis of how vitamin B metabolites are presented by the [major histocompatibility complex] class I related protein, MR1; this revealed an entirely new class of antigen for T-cells," the University said.

Monash University said that Prof Rossjohn would be formally admitted as a fellow of the Royal Society at a ceremony in London in July.