



# Biotech Daily

Monday May 16, 2022

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: ACTINOGEN UP 6%; DIMERIX DOWN 7%**
- \* **4D MEDICAL: XV LVAS 'CAPABLE OF ASSESSING LUNG DEFECTS'**
- \* **FEDERAL \$28.5m FOR DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENTS; ELECTION COMING**
- \* **PHARMAUST RECEIVES MND TRIAL MONEPANTEL TABLETS**
- \* **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES TO ACQUIRE AFFINITY DNA FOR \$985k**
- \* **ANALYTICA: LNP PROMISES \$4.8m MATCHED FUNDS – IF RE-ELECTED**
- \* **EMVISION REQUESTS GOVERNMENT GRANT RESPONSE TRADING HALT**
- \* **BAIYU XU, 'LANDS BETWEEN' TAKE 7% OF EPSILON**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.25 percent on Monday May 16, 2022, with the ASX200 up 17.9 points to 7,093.0 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, six traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Actinogen was the best for the second trading day in a row, up 0.5 cents or 6.3 percent to 8.4 cents, with 2.4 million shares traded.

Antisense and Immutep improved five percent or more; Alcidion, Micro-X, Oncosil, Starpharma and Telix were up more than three percent; Kazia rose 2.8 percent; Avita, Nanosonics and Resmed were up one percent or more; with Clinuvel, Cyclopharm, Mesoblast, Neuren, Opthea and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Dimerix led the falls, down one cent or 6.7 percent to 14 cents, with 323,063 shares traded, followed by Prescient down 6.25 percent to 15 cents, with two million shares traded.

Imugene lost 5.7 percent; Atomo, Compumedics, Patrys and Universal Biosensors fell four percent or more; Emvision, Impedimed, Medical Developments, Paradigm and Polynovo were down three percent or more; Next Science shed 2.8 percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Pharmaxis and Volpara down by more than one percent.

## 4D MEDICAL

4D Medical says its 15-patient study of its XV lung ventilation analysis software (LVAS) showed its capability of assessing regional lung ventilation defects.

Last year, 4D Medical said that the Baltimore, Maryland-based Johns Hopkins School of Medicine had begun recruiting participants for its XV LVAS trial (BD: Jun 29, 2021).

Today, the company said that it studied 15 patients with a varying levels of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease severity who received XV LVAS scans twice during the study, as well as other assessments of lung function including computed tomography.

4D Medical said that the key results of the study were that its XV technology-derived metrics corresponded with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) severity, its XV technology-derived measures of regional lung function in COPD subjects showed reproducible results during repetitive examinations, that patho-physiological insights were identified and had application in both clinical and research settings, and that its XV LVAS scans could assess regional ventilation defects.

4D chief executive officer Dr Andreas Fouras said the trial showed that XV Technology had “significant promise as a tool to phenotype or classify COPD disease, which is critical for optimizing treatment therapies”.

The company said that it presented the study findings at the American Thoracic Society meeting in San Francisco on May 15, 2022.

4D Medical fell three cents or four percent to 72.5 cents.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says it will grant \$25.8 million from the Biomedical Translation Fund for several projects to “improve diagnostic and treatment services”.

A media release from Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said Melbourne’s Occurx would receive about \$8 million, Perth’s Oncores would receive more than \$4.1 million, \$8.9 million would go to the Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) program, and a further \$4.8 million “to explore improvements into the diagnosis and treatment of artery blockages and endometriosis” for Australian universities’ research.

A Federal election will be held this Saturday, May 21, 2022.

## PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says it has received its current good manufacturing practice-grade monepantel for its Melbourne motor neurone disease trial with Fight MND.

In March, Pharmaust said it had manufactured trial-grade monepantel for its motor neuron disease and Covid-19 clinical trials (BD: Mar 15, 2022).

Today, the company said the tablets were “designed with a different shape and size to help swallowing by motor neurone disease patients and to reach specific blood drug levels targeted for this disease”.

Pharmaust said the pre-release technical specifications of the monepantel tablets showed that stability specifications required for the trial were achieved and it was awaiting documentation from the manufacturer.

The company said that preparations for the motor neurone disease trial were “mostly complete” and were expected to be finalized prior to the end of May, but it could not begin recruitment until it had Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration approval.

Pharmaust chief scientific officer Dr Richard Mollard said the company was grateful to Fight MND for \$881,085 funding for the trial and its continued support.

Pharmaust was unchanged at nine cents.

## GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says it will acquire the Brighton, England-based Affinity DNA for GBP555,000 (\$A985,383) on or before May 31, 2022.

Genetic Technologies said that Affinity DNA's revenue came primarily from the online sale of its DNA test kits to customers, which were used for "lifestyle and health and wellbeing tests, and animal testing relating to allergies and tolerances".

The company said that under the terms of the agreement, it would acquire all of Affinity DNA brands and assets for GBP555,000, with a 50 percent upfront payment on completion and, subject to financial milestones, 50 percent on the anniversary of completion.

Genetic Technologies said that it would fund the purchase from its existing cash reserves, and that subject to closing conditions, it anticipated the acquisition to be completed on or before May 31, 2022.

Genetic Technologies chief executive officer Simon Morriss said that "this acquisition is an excellent strategic fit, supporting the ongoing expansion of our testing across our target markets worldwide".

"We are looking forward to working closely with the Affinity DNA team to capitalize on our commercial synergies," Mr Morriss said.

Genetic Technologies was unchanged at 0.3 cents with 7.5 million shares traded.

## ANALYTICA

Analytica says the Liberal Party has promised \$4.8 million in matched funding for manufacturing capability if re-elected.

Analytica said that the funding from the Energy Security and Regional Development Plan would go to export development of its Pericoach intra-vaginal device for stress urinary incontinence at its manufacturing facility in Maryborough, Queensland.

The company said the election promise was made by Federal Defence Minister and Member of the House of Representatives (MHR) for Dickson (Queensland) Peter Dutton, MHR for Wide Bay (Queensland) Lew O'Brien, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and MHR for Lyne (New South Wales) Dr David Gillespie.

Analytica said the grant would assist in-house manufacturing capability and technology, export business development, develop customer and clinician support capacity, and develop women's pelvic floor health programs with State and Federal governments.

The company said the manufacturing capability included injection molding, vibration welding and automated production testing and the facility would be "capable of supplying product globally, excluding our China [joint-venture] territories".

Analytica chief executive officer Geoff Daly said that "assisting the development of export markets, developing in-house manufacturing capability, and being less reliant on external parties aligns with the government's goal to bring manufacturing skills back to Australia".

Analytica chair Dr Michael Monsour said the new facility would be "the start of a new era in health manufacturing in Wide Bay".

Analytica was unchanged at 0.1 cents.

## EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it has requested a trading halt pending an announcement by regarding "a response to a government media release regarding a grant win by the company".

Trading will resume on May 18, 2022 or on an earlier announcement.

Emvision last traded down 5.5 cents or 3.1 percent to \$1.73.

[EPSILON HEALTHCARE \(FORMERLY THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY\)](#)

Baiyu Xu and Lands Between Pty Ltd said they have become substantial in Epsilon with 17,647,059 shares or 7.34 percent.

The Sydney-based, Mr Xu and Lands Between said that on May 3, 2022 they bought 17,647,059 shares for \$600,000 or 3.4 cents a share.

Epsilon was up 0.6 cents or 20.7 percent to 3.5 cents.