



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday May 18, 2022

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS UP 14%  
- ACTINOGEN, ORTHOCELL DOWN 5%**
- \* **BURNET, MODERNA PARTNER FOR mRNA VACCINES**
- \* **CSIRO PSYCHEDELIC LICENCE**
- \* **VIBURNUM UNDERWRITES \$20m UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS RIGHTS OFFER**
- \* **EMVISION FEDERAL \$5m MATCHED FUNDING GRANT**
- \* **IMUGENE DOSES 1<sup>st</sup> PHASE I VAXINIA TUMOR TRIAL PATIENT**
- \* **STARPHARMA VIRALEZE SPL7013 'KILLS INFLUENZA A, B', IN-VITRO**
- \* **ANTEO REGISTERS EURO MULTIPLE SAMPLE RAPID COVID TEST**
- \* **CARDIEX: FDA DEEMS CONNEQT 'DATA SYSTEM, NOT ACCESSORY'**
- \* **ANALYTICA: EURO PERICOACH PATENT**
- \* **TELIX AGM: 15% OPPOSE DIRECTOR SHARES**
- \* **JM REDUCES TO 7.4% OF UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS**
- \* **IMMUTEP APPOINTS 4 ONCOLOGISTS TO ADVISORY BOARD**
- \* **RACE APPOINTS DR GUY BREITENBUCHER ADVISER**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.99 percent on Wednesday May 18, 2022, with the ASX200 up 70.2 points to 7,182.7 points. Twenty-one of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, three traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Universal Biosensors was the best, up 6.5 cents or 14.0 percent to 53 cents, with 1.1 million shares traded. Cynata climbed 8.6 percent; Emvision improved 7.8 percent; Immuteq was up 5.3 percent; Atomo, Kazia and Proteomics were up more than four percent; Avita, Cyclopharm, Imugene and Opthea were up more than three percent; Antisense, Cochlear, Genetic Signatures, Mesoblast and Paradigm rose two percent or more; Impedimed, Nanosonics, Pharmaxis and Telix were up more than one percent; with Pro Medicus and Volpara up by less than one percent.

Actinogen and Orthocell led the falls, both down 5.3 percent to 7.2 cents and 36 cents, respectively, with 1.4 million shares and 203,992 shares traded, respectively. Patrys and Polynovo fell more than four percent; Alcidion, Dimerix, Next Science and Prescient were down three percent or more; Micro-X shed 2.8 percent; Clinuvel, Neuren, Oncosil and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with CSL, Medical Developments and Resmed down by less than one percent.

## BURNET INSTITUTE

The Burnet Institute says it will partner with Moderna to develop new mRNA vaccines for a range of emerging and neglected infectious diseases.

The Burnet said that under Moderna's mRNA Access program the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna would provide expertise in designing mRNA vaccines for Burnet's validated novel candidates in malaria, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) and hepatitis C.

The Institute said the Covid-19 pandemic showed the role of mRNA vaccines, and innovative thinking was needed to tackle other high-burden infectious diseases, including malaria which was responsible for half a million deaths, mostly children, each year.

The Burnet said its Vaccine Initiative team would provide vaccine antigens to be modified and optimized by Moderna and returned as mRNA candidates for pre-clinical testing.

The Institute said that if the results were promising Moderna would consider extending the partnership to help progress the drug candidates through clinical trials.

Burnet director and chief executive officer Prof Brendan Crabb said the partnership with Moderna's mRNA Access program was "a potential game-changer for communities needing vaccines to prevent the devastating impact of infectious diseases".

"When the world looked to science to address the pandemic threat of Covid-19, the success of mRNA and other COVID-19 vaccine platforms undoubtedly saved tens of millions of lives," Prof Crabb said.

Prof Crabb said that mRNA technology might help find high-efficacy malaria and hepatitis C vaccines, as well as improving the understanding of the Sars-Cov-2 virus.

## COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

The CSIRO says it has a licence extension allowing it to work with local medical technology companies "to improve existing psychedelic products and develop new ones".

The CSIRO said that its scheduled poisons licence extension meant that it could legally make the raw material to further research and develop psychedelic molecules with a view to progress new drugs to clinical trials.

The organization said it would that it would work with local bio-medical companies to extract, synthesize, improve and then develop manufacturing processes for up to 15 different psychedelic compounds, both natural and synthetic.

The CSIRO said that psychedelics such as 3,4 methylene-dioxy-meth-amphetamine (MDMA) or psilocybin, derived from certain species of mushrooms, were being tested "in strictly controlled clinical settings to see if they could be an effective treatment alongside psychotherapy for mental health related illnesses".

The organization said that "results have been promising".

The CSIRO said one in five people would suffer a mental illness each year, with research suggesting that more than a third of sufferers might not respond to existing treatments.

CSIRO botanical pharmaceuticals team leader Prof Peter Duggan said the organization was "well-placed to contribute to this emerging area of research, which could lead to life-changing advancements in mental health".

"Clinical trials both here and internationally have been using known psychedelics - usually MDMA or psilocybin ... with impressive results, but there's still much to be learnt about how these drugs work and how improvements to their chemical composition could enhance patient outcomes," Prof Duggan said.

The CSIRO said one of the first companies to work with the organization on psychedelics was Melbourne's Natural Medtech, funded through the CSIRO Kick-Start program, which was exploring the psychoactive properties of plants and fungi for medical use.

## UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says the Nedlands, Western Australia-based Viburnum Funds will fully underwrite its \$20 million entitlement offer.

In April, Universal Biosensors said it would seek to raise \$25 million in a \$20 million one-for-6.85 entitlement offer, closing on May 20, and a \$5 million placement, both at 77 cents per Chess depositary interest (BD: April 20, 2022).

Universal Biosensors was up 6.5 cents or 14.0 percent to 53 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

## EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it has been awarded a \$5 million matched funding grant under the Federal Government's Modern Manufacturing Initiative.

Emvision said the grant had been awarded by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources under the Modern Manufacturing Initiative's translation stream. There will be a Federal election this Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Emvision was up 13.5 cents or 7.8 percent to \$1.865.

## IMUGENE

Imugene says it has dosed the first of 100 patients in its phase I trial of its CF33-hNIS Vaxinia oncolytic virotherapy for advanced solid tumors.

In March, Imugene said it had US approval for a phase I, dose-escalation trial of Vaxinia for metastatic or advanced solid tumors in up to 10 patients (BD: Mar 23, 2022).

Today, the company said the first patient was dosed at the Duarte, California City of Hope hospital and once patients had been treated with the lowest doses to establish safety and tolerability, new patients would receive Vaxinia with pembrolizumab, an engineered antibody which improved the immune system's ability to fight cancer-causing cells.

Imugene managing-director Leslie Chong said that dosing the first patient was "a significant milestone".

Imugene was up half a cent or three percent to 17 cents with 20.3 million shares traded.

## STARPHARMA

Starpharma says its Viraleze SPL7013, nasal spray reduces influenza A and B by 95.0 percent and 99.4 percent, respectively, in-vitro.

Last year, Starpharma said Viraleze showed "potent" anti-viral activity against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (Sars-Cov-2) reducing viral load by more than 99.9 percent in mice (BD: Jun 1, Aug 23, 2021).

Today, Starpharma said that a one-minute incubation of SPL7013, or astodrimer sodium, the same active ingredient in its condom coatings and Vivagel for bacterial vaginosis, achieved a reduction of 92.1 percent in influenza A, and 99.4 percent in influenza B when compared to untreated virus.

The company said that after 30 minutes, SPL7013 achieved a reduction of 95.0 percent in influenza A and 99.4 percent in influenza B.

Starpharma said hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose and iota-carrageenan were two "anti-viral agents used in marketed nasal sprays ... [but] neither ... demonstrated virucidal activity".

Starpharma chief executive officer Jacki Fairley said that influenza was "one of the most common respiratory infections globally, resulting in high rates of morbidity and mortality".

Starpharma fell one cent or 1.25 percent to 79 cents.

## ANTEOTECH

Anteo says it has registered an updated, multiple sampling method Eugeni Covid-19 rapid antigen test in Europe under the in-vitro diagnostic directive.

Anteo said the new registration was for the same core severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) Ag Rapid Diagnostic Test, but covered multiple sampling method use claims, including combined nose and throat sampling and nasal mid-turbinate sampling.

The company said it completed analytical and clinical performance evaluations in the US and the UK to establish the foundation for the new use claims, focusing on validating the test's effectiveness in detecting the Omicron variant of Sars-Cov-2.

Anteo said that as it received orders for the updated multiple-use claim test kits, the original nasopharyngeal test would be phased out.

Anteo was up 3.6 cents or 38.3 percent to 13 cents with 37.2 million shares traded.

## CARDIEX

Cardiex says the US Food and Drug Administration has classified its Conneqt application as a medical device data system and not a class II medical device accessory.

Cardiex said the classification would allow it to launch the application once the FDA had cleared the Conneqt Pulse Dual blood pressure monitor.

Cardiex was up one cents or 3.2 percent to 32 cents.

## ANALYTICA

Analytica says the Europe Patent Office has granted a patent for its Pericoach intra-vaginal pelvic floor exercise device.

Analytica said the patent, titled 'Intra vaginal device to aid in training and determining muscle strength', protected the arrangement of the force sensors that allowed Pericoach to train specific muscles within the pelvic floor, until January 9, 2032.

Analytica was up 0.05 cents or 50 percent to 0.15 cents with two million shares traded.

## TELEX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telex says its annual general meeting voted more than 15 percent opposition to the issue of 52,070 share appreciation rights to director Tiffany Olson.

In April, Telex said the meeting would vote to issue Ms Olson 52,070 share appreciation rights, exercisable at \$4.95 over four years, vesting three years from the grant date with no performance hurdles, as well as 139,672 rights to managing-director Dr Christian Behrenbruch contingent on performance (BD: Apr 14, 2022).

Today, the company said that 15,511,045 votes (15.16%) opposed the issue of rights to Ms Olson, with 86,800,776 votes (84.84%) in favor.

Telex said that Dr Behrenbruch's rights, the remuneration report, the re-election of director Jann Skinner, the equity incentive plan, the issue of placement shares, the issue of share rights to employees, and amendments to the constitution, all passed more easily.

According to its most recent filing, the company has 312,245,400 shares on issue, meaning that the opposition to Ms Olson's rights amounted to 4.97 percent of the company, not sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Telex was up five cents or 1.2 percent to \$4.20 with 1.1 million shares traded.

## UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

JM Financial says it has reduced its substantial holding in Universal Biosensors from 15,402,835 shares (8.65%) to 13,731,464 shares (7.39%).

The Melbourne-based JM said that between March 10 and May 2, 2022, it sold shares, with the single largest sale 1,000,000 shares for \$650,000 or 65 cents a share.

## IMMUTEP

Immutep says it has appointed Prof Scott Antonia, Prof Leisha Emens, Prof Martin Forster and Prof Hans Wildiers to its clinical advisory board.

Immutep said that Prof Antonia was currently the director of the Duke Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Immunotherapy.

The company said that Prof Emens was a professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Clinic Hillman Cancer Center.

Immutep said Prof Forster was an associate professor at University College London and a consultant medical oncologist at University College Hospital.

The company said Prof Wildiers was a breast cancer researcher and medical oncologist at the University Hospital Leuven, Belgium.

Immutep chief scientific officer Dr Frederic Triebel said "In the coming months, we expect the [clinical advisory board] will particularly focus on our programs addressing metastatic breast and non-small cell lung carcinomas."

Immutep was up two cents or 5.3 percent to 40 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

## RACE ONCOLOGY

Race says it has appointed medicinal chemist Dr Guy Breitenbucher to its scientific advisory board.

Race said Dr Breitenbucher was currently San Diego's Libra Therapeutics head of chemistry and previously was Convelo Therapeutics head of chemistry, and led multiple pain and central nervous system drug development programs while at Johnson & Johnson.

The company said Dr Breitenbucher holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of California, Riverside.

Race fell nine cents or 5.0 percent to \$1.72.