



# Biotech Daily

Monday June 20, 2022

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PATRYS UP 9.5%; MICRO-X DOWN 12%**
- \* **VICTORIA, FEDERAL \$100m FOR MELANOMA, TRIALS CENTRE**
- \* **TRAJAN RAISES \$29.7m, SHARE PLAN FOR FURTHER \$5m**
- \* **ACRUX, PADAGIS US COMMERCIALIZATION DEAL**
- \* **ANTISENSE ATL1102 FOR LIMB GIRDLE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY**
- \* **OSTEOPORE, LIVINGSTONE BONE, TISSUE COLLABORATION**
- \* **CLARITY TO RELEASE 729k ASX ESCROW SHARES**
- \* **RESAPP REQUESTS 'COVID DATA CONFIRMATION' TRADING HALT**
- \* **ZELIRA REQUESTS 'SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION DEED' TRADING HALT**
- \* **MEDIBIO EXTENDS CAPITAL RAISING SUSPENSION**
- \* **POKIES BRUCE MATHIESON SELLS \$3.1m RESPIRI STAKE**
- \* **HARBOUR TAKES 12% OF VOLPARA**
- \* **MEDADVISOR US M-D RICK RATLIFF STARTS ON \$826k; ANNABELLE GRANT CFO**
- \* **RESPIRI APPOINTS ANGEL MEDICAL CEO BRAD SNOW DIRECTOR**
- \* **ARTRYA: DR JACOB AGRIS CMO, PROF GIRISH DWIVEDI CSO**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.64 percent on Monday June 20, 2022, with the ASX200 down 41.4 points to 6,433.4 points. Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 23 fell, seven traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Patrys was the best, up 0.2 cents or 9.5 percent to 2.3 cents, with 10.2 million shares traded. Nova Eye climbed 8.1 percent; Imugene and Next Science improved more than seven percent; Cochlear, CSL, Mesoblast and Telix rose more than two percent; with Antisense, Nanosonics, Pro Medicus and Resmed up by more than one percent.

Micro-X led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 12.0 percent to 11 cents, with 813,910 shares traded. Impedimed lost 8.8 percent; Prescient and Resonance were down more than five percent; Oncosil and Proteomics fell more than four percent; Dimerix, Emvision and Starpharma were down three percent or more; Actinogen, Clinuvel, Opthea, Paradigm, Pharmaxis, Universal Biosensors and Volpara shed two percent or more; Cyclopharm, Kazia, Medical Developments, Neuren, Polynovo and Uscom were down one percent or more; with Avita down by 0.8 percent.

## VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says it will contribute \$50 million to a \$152 million Victorian Melanoma and Clinical Trials Centre, next to Melbourne's Alfred Hospital.

A media release from Victoria Premier Dan Andrews said that the Federal Government had provided \$50 million towards the facility, which was expected to be operational in 2024.

The Victoria Government said that construction had begun on the centre which would "bring together specialist researchers, clinical care and cancer patient treatment facilities under one roof and will drive innovation in cancer research and provide comprehensive skin cancer care services".

The State Government said that the centre would be home to the Victorian Melanoma Service, Alfred Cancer Services and the Australian Clinical Trials Centre.

The media release said the centre would be known as the Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre "named after philanthropist Paula Fox who has a personal connection to melanoma research and treatment".

The Government said that the centre was part of Alfred Health's Trial Hub program, connecting rural and regional Victorians to clinical trial opportunities and would have the capacity for about 300 patients a day across 25 clinic rooms and 49 chemotherapy treatment chairs, for patient screening, assessment and treatment.

Mr Andrews said that "with a great partner in Canberra, we'll deliver a world-class Melanoma Centre in St Kilda to prevent, detect and treat skin cancers – as we continue to put patients first".

"This specialist centre will enhance cancer care and expand clinical trials, so every Victorian patient can get the care they need, close to home," Mr Andrews said.

The Victoria Government said that melanoma was one of the five most common cancers in Victoria, with an average of 3,000 people diagnosed every year.

## TRAJAN GROUP

Trajan says it has raised about \$29.7 million its fully underwritten institutional placement at \$2.00 a share.

Last week, Trajan said that it would raise \$29.7 million and borrow \$20 million to acquire the Louisville, Kentucky-based Chromatography Research Supplies for \$US43.3 million (\$A61.6 million) (BD: Jun 17, 2022).

Today, the company said that it hoped to raise \$5 million in a non-underwritten share purchase plan.

Trajan fell 28 cents or 12.4 percent to \$1.97.

## ACRUX

Acrux says it has an exclusive agreement with the Minneapolis, Minnesota-based Padagis for the us commercialization of an undisclosed product.

Acrux said that Padagis would be responsible for the sales, distribution and coordination of manufacturing of the product, and that it would share profits generated from sales of the products.

The company said that the product and plans for its launch were "commercially sensitive" and therefore "unable to be revealed at this time" but was expected to launch during the second half of 2022.

Acrux was up 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.5 cents.

## ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says a mouse study has led it to nominating limb girdle muscular dystrophy R2 (LGMDR2), or dysferlinopathy, as a target for ATL1102.

Antisense said the study of ATL1102 was the first on an antisense compound to CD49d in the LGMDR2 mouse model was with Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Seattle, Washington-based Jain Foundation.

The company said that LGMDR2 was a rare genetic muscle disease caused by a mutation in the dysferlin gene, leading to significant reduction or absence of dysferlin protein levels in muscle fibres.

Antisense said that in the study, mice were treated with an antisense oligo-nucleotide (ASO) to CD49d at three dose levels, 5mg/kg, 10mg/kg and 20mg/kg once weekly for six weeks, with untreated and healthy mice as controls, and that 5mg/kg a week dose, the RNA levels of CD49d, and CD8 T-cells and F4/80 macrophage cells in the quadricep muscle were significantly decreased by 42 percent, 86 percent and 70 percent respectively, compared to levels observed in the mice dosed at the 5mg/kg a week dose level of the control oligo-nucleotide ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Antisense said the study showed that the use of a low dose of the drug reduced the target, CD49d, and key immune cell (F4/80 macrophage and CD8+ T-cells) RNA in the muscle. The company said that it would move forward with a second phase of the program to "test the potential of the low dose to reduce adipose (fat) levels, muscle loss and damage" planned for later this year.

Antisense managing-director Mark Diamond said it was "exciting for the company to be announcing a successful scientific exploration into a new muscle disease indication for ATL1102".

"The results achieved in this first LGMDR2 animal study are showing the requisite effects on targeted immune cells," Mr Diamond said.

"Having demonstrated target activity in a dysferlin animal model gives us confidence to advance the program in LGMDR2 and consider other muscle diseases with immune cell involvement as the data continues to point to the broader potential of ATL1102 as a treatment for such conditions," Mr Diamond said.

Antisense was up 0.1 cents or 1.2 percent to 8.5 cents.

## OSTEOPORE

Osteopore says it will work with Singapore's Livingstone Health to jointly develop products for regenerating bone and tissue using its bioresorbable implants.

Osteopore did not disclose the commercial terms of the three-year collaboration agreement.

The company said Livingstone Health had 14 medical clinics in Singapore and would use its Osteomesh scaffold and its "synthetic fibular strut graft" for orthopaedic procedures.

Osteopore said that the collaboration would allow it to develop new products as well as expand the potential applications of its existing implants but did not have minimum sales thresholds or material sales fees.

Osteopore executive chair Mark Leong said that "we are pleased to be collaborating with the Livingstone Health orthopaedic team and leverage their expertise to bring our proven tissue regeneration technology to their patients".

"We look forward to entering the orthopaedic space in Singapore having already successfully conducted several world-first orthopaedic surgeries in Australia, where our scaffolds helped regenerate a 36cm shin bone," Mr Leong said.

Osteopore fell one cent or 7.4 percent to 12.5 cents.

### CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity says it will release 728,572 shares from ASX escrow on June 29, 2022. According to its most recent filing, Clarity would have 180,587,838 shares available for trading, with a further 77,244,708 shares held in ASX escrow. Clarity was up half a cent or 1.15 percent to 44 cents.

### RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp has requested a trading halt “pending the release of an announcement regarding the results of its Covid-19 data confirmation study”. Last week, Resapp said that Pfizer Australia had increased its offer to buy the company, offering up to \$178 million if its Covid-19 study met a confirmatory data readout condition, and \$125 million if it was not met (BD: Jun 14, 2022). Trading will resume on June 22, 2022 or on an earlier announcement. Resapp last traded at 17.5 cents.

### ZELIRA (FORMERLY ZELDA) THERAPEUTICS

Zelira says it has requested a trading halt pending an announcement “in relation to its [Health House International] scheme implementation deed”. In February, Zelira said it would acquire Health House in scrip for 19.45 percent of the expanded company or 399,400,517 shares, valued at that time at approximately \$9,585,612, but \$7,721,210 after allowing for the dilution, pending due diligence and a formal scheme implementation deed (BD: Feb 24, 2022). In April, Zelira said its extraordinary general meeting approved a 175-to-one consolidation, leaving 9,572,011 shares on issue at the time (BD: Apr 12, 2022). Trading will resume on June 22, 2022 or on an earlier announcement. Zelira last traded at \$1.00.

### MEDIBIO

Medibio has requested its suspension for an announcement “regarding a capital raising” continue until the start of trade, tomorrow June 21 (BD: Jun 16, 2022). Last week, Medibio requested the suspension remain in place until June 20, 2022 or on an earlier announcement. Today, Medibio said that it “expects to make an announcement in relation to the capital raising before the commencement of trading on June 21, 2022”, requesting that the suspension continues until the announcement is made. Medibio last traded at 0.3 cents.

### RESPIRI

Investment Holdings Pty Ltd says it has sold 66,504,827 Respiro shares (9.205%) for \$3,114,598 or 4.68 cents a share. Last year, Investment Holdings said it had increased and been diluted in Respiro from 65,541,554 shares (10.05%) to 66,504,827 shares (9.20%) (BD: May 27, 2021). Respiro said that major investor Bruce Mathieson was a director of Investments Holdings and the ALH (Australian Leisure and Hospitality) Group, the operator of multiple venues and poker machines. Respiro was up half a cent or 14.7 percent to 3.9 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

## [VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Harbour Asset Management says it has increased its substantial share-holding in Volpara from 27,796,124 shares (11.033%) to 30,521,369 shares (12.115%).

The Wellington, New Zealand-based Harbour said between March 23 and June 17, 2022 it bought 3,266,525 shares for \$2,225,201 or an average of 68.12 cents a share, and sold 541,280 shares for \$458,706 or an average of 84.7 cents a share.

Volpara fell one cent or 2.1 percent to 47 cents.

## [MEDADVISOR](#)

Medadvisor says it has appointed Rick Ratliff as its US-based managing-director with Annabelle Grant an interim replacement for chief financial officer Simon Glover.

Medadvisor said that Mr Glover would resign on July 15, 2022 to “pursue other career opportunities” with finance general-manager Annabelle Grant appointed as the interim chief financial officer while it conducted a search for a replacement.

The company said that the current managing-director and chief executive officer Robert Read would remain as an executive director and would transition his responsibilities in July when Mr Ratliff started.

Medadvisor said that Mr Ratliff had more than 30 years of experience in the healthcare and pharmaceutical technology sectors, working for Connectiverx as head of network services and chief commercial officer.

Medadvisor said that previously Mr Ratliff was Surescripts chief executive officer and Accenture managing-director.

The company said that Mr Ratliff held a Bachelor of Science from the University of Oklahoma in Norman and a Master of Business Administration of the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Medadvisor said that Mr Ratliff would receive a salary of \$US475,000 (\$A682,200) a year, with an annual target bonus of 50 percent of the base salary, based on achievement of objectives, as well as a bonus for his employment to December 31, 2022 of \$US100,000.

Medadvisor said that Mr Ratliff would receive a sign-on bonus of \$US100,000 (\$A143,620) and would be granted options in Medadvisor equivalent to 3.5 percent of the fully-diluted shares in Medadvisor exercisable at the price of shares at the close on the trading day before his start date, vesting in four equal tranches on each anniversary of his start date, with an expiry date of seven years after the granting date.

Medadvisor was up half a cent or 3.6 percent to 14.5 cents.

## [RESPIRI](#)

Respiri says it has appointed Angel Medical chief executive officer Brad Snow as a non-executive director of Respiri, effective from today.

Respiri said that Mr Snow had 25 years of business experience in life sciences industries, primarily in the US.

The company said that Mr Snow was currently Angel Medical Systems Inc chief executive officer and a director and was previously Sonacare Medical, LLC chief executive officer and a director, and a co-founder of Disruptrxtech.com, an artificial intelligence healthcare information technology company.

## ARTRYA

Artrya says it has appointed the New York-based Dr Jacob Agris as chief medical officer with Prof Girish Dwivedi continuing as chief scientific officer, effective from today.

Artrya said that Dr Agris was previously Convatec's chief medical and innovation officer, was an executive at Bayer and held academic positions at Saint Vincent Hospital System in Erie, Pennsylvania and at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center.

The company said that Dr Agris held a Bachelor of Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, a Doctor of Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and a Doctor of Philosophy from Rice University in Houston.

Artrya said that Prof Dwivedi was formerly its chief medical officer and would take over as chief scientific officer.

Artrya was up 2.5 cents or 5.4 percent to 48.5 cents.