



Biotech Daily

Thursday February 17, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: CSL UP 5%; USCOM DOWN 10%**
- * **SDI H1 REVENUE UP 26% TO \$46.3m; LOSS DOWN 41% TO \$2.7m**
- * **NOVA EYE H1 REVENUE DOWN 1.5% TO \$6.5m; LOSS UP 92% TO \$3.1m**
- * **CANN GROUP H1 REVENUE UP 186% TO \$3m, LOSS DOWN 12% TO \$8m**
- * **AMPLIA: AMP945 UPS CHEMO 33% FOR PANCREATIC CANCER, IN MICE**
- * **ANATARA READY FOR 3FDC FOR DEPRESSION TRIAL**
- * **FIREBRICK: US PATENT FOR NASODINE COVID-19 NASAL SPRAY**
- * **PYC TAKES 93.5% OF VISION PHARMA**
- * **CANN GROUP LOSES DIRECTOR GEOFF PEARCE**
- * **MEDIBIO APPOINTS STEPHEN MITCHLEY DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.16 percent on Thursday February 17, 2022, with the ASX200 up 11.3 points to 7,296.2 points. Three of the Biotech Daily Top 40 (BDI-40) stocks were up, 24 fell, 10 traded unchanged and three were untraded.

CSL, which is not included in the BDI-40, was the best on yesterday's record half-year revenue, up \$13.31 or 5.05 percent to \$277.00, with 2.5 million shares traded. Alcidion and Prescient climbed more than two percent; with Emvision up 0.5 percent.

Uscom led the falls, down 1.1 cents or 10 percent to 9.9 cents, with 17,078 shares traded.

Kazia lost 9.2 percent; Pro Medicus was down six percent; Nova Eye and Paradigm fell more than five percent; Micro-X, Nanosonics and Proteomics were down more than four percent; Neuren and Resonance retreated more than three percent; Dimerix, Immutep, Oncosil, Pharmaxis, Polynovo, Telix and Volpara shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Opthea, Resmed, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors were down one percent or more; with Avita and Cochlear down by less than one percent.

[SDI \(FORMERLY SOUTHERN DENTAL INDUSTRIES\)](#)

SDI says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2021 was up 26.0 percent to \$46,328,000 with net profit after tax down 41.2 percent to \$2,690,000.

SDI said that the revenue came from its dental products, with whitening products revenue up by 18.7 percent, equipment sales up 16.5 percent, amalgam sales up 40.3 percent and aesthetics products revenue was up 28.7 percent.

SDI chief executive officer Samantha Cheetham said that increased freight costs “was a significant factor, with delays and cost inflation continuing to be a challenge for us and many other companies”.

SDI said that an unchanged interim fully-franked dividend of 1.5 cents a share for holders at the record date of April 8 would be paid on April 22, 2022.

SDI said diluted earnings per share fell 41.3 percent to 2.26 cents.

The company said that net tangible assets per ordinary security was up 7.5 percent to 46.96 cents.

SDI said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$6,523,000 at December 31, 2021 compared to \$11,059,000 at December 31, 2020.

SDI fell one cent or 1.1 percent to 91.5 cents.

[NOVA EYE MEDICAL](#)

Nova Eye says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2021 was down 1.54 percent to \$6,542,000 with net loss after tax up 91.8 percent to \$3,078,000.

Nova Eye said revenue was primarily from its glaucoma surgical devices.

The company said that the expansion of the commercial team in Germany and investment in marketing for a new product launch by July 2022 had resulted in an increased loss in the current period.

Nova Eye said that diluted loss per share was up 90.2 percent to 2.13 cents, with net tangible asset backing per share was down 38.9 percent to 11 cents.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$13,445,000 at December 31, 2021 compared to \$29,476,000 at December 30, 2020.

Nova Eye fell 1.5 cents or 5.6 percent to 25.5 cents.

[CANN GROUP](#)

Cann Group says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2021 was up 186.3 percent to \$3,172,000 with net loss after tax down 11.9 percent to \$8,279,000.

Cann Group said that the revenue came for the sale of marijuana products including high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) dried flower products and oil products.

The company said its Melbourne Southern facility had “a substantial upgrade during the half year ... [allowing it] to produce active pharmaceutical ingredient and medicinal cannabis products including dried flower under [clinical good manufacturing practice] conditions”.

Cann Group said its Mildura facility was “nearly complete” and commissioning was either finalized or underway, which would provide fully integrated manufacturing capabilities, covering all of the stages required to produce finished medicines.

The company said that its diluted earnings per share was down 44.4 percent to 2.77 cents, net tangible assets per share fell 24.0 percent to 28.89 cents and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$10,680,000 at December 31, 2021 compared to \$27,651,000 at December 31, 2020.

Cann Group was up half a cent or 1.85 percent to 27.5 cents.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says the Garvan Institute has shown that oral AMP945 improves the effectiveness of gemcitabine (Abraxane) by 33 percent for pancreatic cancer, in mice.

Last year, Amplia said that pre-treatment with AMP945 to the standard chemotherapy gemcitabine resulted in a 27 percent improvement in survival in the aggressive KPC mouse model of pancreatic cancer (BD: Jun 2, 2021).

Today, the company said that cancer cells from a human pancreas cancer were transplanted into the pancreas of laboratory mice and once the pancreatic tumors were established, the mice were treated either with gemcitabine or AMP945 in combination with gemcitabine.

Amplia said that when intermittent oral doses of AMP945 were added to gemcitabine, survival increased by 33 percent compared to gemcitabine alone.

The Garvan Institute's Prof Paul Timpson said that previously, researchers had run the model using different focal adhesion kinase (FAK) inhibitors and had tried AMP945.

"This result clearly shows that AMP945 increases survival in this model and is likely superior to other FAK inhibitors we have tested," Prof Timpson said.

Amplia said that the median survival time of untreated mice was 68 days, while mice treated with gemcitabine alone exhibited a median survival time of 122 days.

The company said that mice treated with a combination of AMP945 and gemcitabine had a median survival time of 163 days, representing a statistically significant 33 percent increase in median survival ($p \leq 0.05$), relative to gemcitabine alone.

Amplia chief executive officer John Lambert said that with the Garvan Institute, "we have shown that AMP945 can improve the current standard-of-care in a second model of pancreatic cancer and provide further validation of the approach we will use in our phase II clinical trial that is expected to start early in the second quarter".

"These data are particularly compelling as AMP945 has been used to treat tumors that have formed from human pancreatic cancer cells," Mr Lambert said.

"Aside from actually running the clinical trial, this is the most compelling translational evidence we could have to support the approach we are taking," Mr Lambert said.

Amplia was unchanged at 16.5 cents.

ANATARA LIFESCIENCES

Anatara says it will start a 100-participant, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 3FDC in adults with moderate anxiety, stress and depression.

Anatara said recruitment for the trial would begin on February 21, 2022, and be conducted by the Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organisation at its Nutrition and Health Research Clinic in Adelaide.

The company said that 3FDC included several components of its gastro-intestinal reprogramming (Garp) over-the-counter complementary medicine.

Anatara said the components were "coated for targeted release predominately beyond the small intestine to allow delivery and influence in the large intestine".

The company said that the 3FDC components were expected "to have direct and indirect effects including assisting the homeostasis of a healthy microbiome ... considered important for gut-brain axis balance".

Anatara said the 3FDC components were "selected to explore their effect on depression, anxiety and stress symptoms in otherwise healthy individuals".

The company said that participants would receive 3FDC or placebo twice a day for six weeks, with the interim report expected by August 2022, with the final report in 2023.

Anatara was untraded at 11.5 cents.

[FIREBRICK PHARMA](#)

Firebrick says the US Patent and Trademark Office has granted a patent covering the use of Nasodine nasal spray for Covid-19.

Firebrick said that the patent, titled 'Prevention of infection by highly pathogenic viruses using topical application of povidone-iodine on mucous membranes,' would protect its intellectual property until 2040.

Firebrick executive chairman Dr Peter Molloy said the patent "covers the use of any povidone-iodine (Betadine) formulation in the nose for reducing the viral load of Sars-Cov-2, the virus that causes Covid-19".

"Any person or company promoting or selling a povidone-iodine nasal spray in the US for this or a related purpose is most likely infringing our patent," Dr Molloy said.

Firebrick was up 3.5 cents or 7.45 percent to 50.5 cents.

[PYC THERAPEUTICS](#)

PYC says it has increased its stake in Perth-based subsidiary Vision Pharma from 90 percent to 93.5 percent.

PYC says it invested a further \$10 million in Vision Pharma and the remaining 6.5 percent of Vision was owned by the Perth-based Lions Eye Institute.

PYC said the funds would allow Vision to progress a disease-modifying therapeutic candidate for patients with retinitis pigmentosa type 11 into clinical trials.

PYC was up half a cent or 4.35 percent to 12 cents with 6.2 million shares traded.

[CANN GROUP](#)

In an Appendix 3Z final director's interest notice, Geoff Pearce said he was no longer a non-executive director of Cann Group, effective from today.

Mr Pearce was appointed a director in 2016.

[MEDIBIO](#)

Medibio says it has appointed the New York-based Stephen Mitchley a non-executive director, effective from today.

Medibio said that Mr Mitchely was currently the head of Vitality Group's digital and partner arms.

The company said that Vitality was a subsidiary of the Johannesburg, South Africa-based Discovery Holdings.

Medibio was unchanged at 0.45 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.