



Biotech Daily

Wednesday July 20, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS UP 14.5%;
- DIMERIX DOWN 7%**
- * **BRANDON CAPITAL CUREATOR 1st ROUND \$17m FOR 23 PROJECTS**
- * **MICROBA RECEIPTS UP 24% TO \$4.6m**
- * **PHARMAUST RECEIPTS UP 64% TO \$4m**
- * **CANN GROUP TAKES NAB REVOLVING LOAN FACILITY**
- * **ADHERIUM APPOINTS PERIGON FOR US PATIENT MONITORING**
- * **STARPHARMA: 'VIRALEZE KILLS SARS-COV-2 OMICRON', IN MICE**
- * **CLARITY CU-64 PROSTATE CANCER IMAGING TRIAL RECRUITED**
- * **NYRADA: 'PCSK9i BLOCKS EARLY ATHEROSCLEROSIS', IN-VITRO**
- * **LIFE BIOSCIENCES REDUCES TO 8.9% OF ALTERITY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.65 percent on Wednesday July 20, 2022, with the ASX200 up 109.6 points to 6,759.2 points. Twenty-three Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, eight fell, six traded unchanged and three were untraded. All three Big Caps rose.

Medical Developments was the best, up 28 cents or 14.5 percent to \$2.21, with 183,306 shares traded.

Atomo was up 11.1 percent; Nanosonics rose 10 percent; Kazia climbed nine percent; Pharmaxis and Volpara were up more than eight percent; Antisense and Polynovo were up more than six percent; Pro Medicus was up 5.4 percent; Alcidion, Avita and Paradigm improved four percent or more; Actinogen and Micro-X were up more than three percent; Cynata, Genetic Signatures, Mesoblast, Next Science, Opthea, Resmed and Resonance rose two percent or more; Cochlear, Impedimed, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors were up more than one percent; with CSL up by 0.2 percent.

Dimerix led the falls, down one cent or 6.7 percent to 14 cents, with 460,410 shares traded. Compumedics lost five percent; Patrys and Proteomics fell four percent or more; Orthocell shed 3.8 percent; with Clinuvel, Neuren and Telix down less than one percent.

BRANDON CAPITAL

Brandon Capital says its Cureator program has awarded \$17.4 million to 23 projects. Earlier this month, Brandon Capital said the Cureator was delivered by Brandon Biocatalyst, formerly the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund (BD: Jul 6, 2022). Today, Brandon said the “oversubscription of round one of the three-year incubator [highlighted] both the deficit and demand for early-stage funding and research translation support to nurture the next generation of Australian biomedical discoveries”.

The company awarded \$8.5m to 17 pre-clinical biomedical technologies, including Phrenix Therapeutics which was developing treatments for schizophrenia.

Phrenix chief executive officer Prof Chris Langmead said the Cureator funding was “critical to help getting our technology out of the lab and in front of investors”.

“Having access to not only the funds, but also the support of experts in biotech translation, is a huge boost to us in advancing our therapeutic pipeline along the pathway to market,” Prof Langmead said.

Brandon Capital said it provided \$8.9m to support clinical-stage drug therapies.

Brandon Biocatalyst chief executive officer Dr Chris Nave said “the quality of applications for the first round of funding demonstrated the strength of medical research in Australia and its potential to positively impact global health if the right support is put in place to support translation of this great research into the market place”.

“The level of demand for this program, where grants are provided with the discipline of an investor, clearly demonstrated the need for this type of targeted funding, but also that more needs to be done,” Dr Nave said. “Cureator acts as much more than just funding, with successful applicants having access to expertise from across the industry and with each project structured with clear go/no go milestones and defined outcomes that are directed research translation and commercialization.”

Brandon said expressions of interest for round two of the Cureator grants program opened on July 19, 2022 with an online seminar to be held on July 27, 2022 at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g_ebibHET6uqo3p4fPj1ZQ.

The full list of round one recipients is at: <https://bit.ly/3PjTgdK>.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2022, were up 23.5 percent to \$4,611,000 compared to the prior corresponding period.

In April, Microba listed on the ASX (BD: Apr 5, 2022) and at that time said its revenue for the year to June 30, 2021 was \$3,732,443.

Today, the company said that revenue from its gut health tests for the three months to June 30 was \$1,368,000, it had a cash burn of \$4,401,000, cash and equivalents of \$30,581,000, with 6.9 quarters of funding available.

Microba was up 2.75 cents or 11.5 percent to 26.75 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says that receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2022, were up 64.1 percent to \$4,040,000 compared to the previous corresponding period. Pharmaust that revenue from Epichem subsidiary’s synthetic and medical chemistry and plastic recycling for the three months to June 30 was up 196.5 percent to \$1,195,000.

The company said that for the three months to June 30, 2022 it was \$84,000 cashflow positive, with cash and cash equivalents of \$2,428,000.

Pharmaust was up 0.4 cents or 4.65 percent to nine cents.

CANN GROUP

Cann Group says it has finalized arrangements with National Australia Bank for a loan facility and had amended the terms of its construction drawdown facility.

Cann Group said that it would have a revolving leasing limit of \$750,000 which would decrease when goods were financed but increase when repayments were made.

The company said each financing lease covered under the agreement would have a different rate, determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia's current rate, and the nature of the item being leased.

Cann Group said it would have the ability to repay the lease over a period of 24 to 60 months, and that the facility had an expiry date of June 30, 2023.

Cann Group was unchanged at 31.5 cents.

ADHERIUM

Adherium says it has appointed the Plymouth, Michigan-based Perigon Health 360 as a distributor for its Haillie patient monitoring platform in the US.

Adherium said that under the three-year agreement, the Haillie technology would be incorporated into Perigon's Medesto drug and therapy monitoring platform, enabling patient management and treatment by transmitting data directly to the patient's healthcare provider, and had shipped US orders for both its current and next-generation technology.

Adherium chief executive officer Rick Legleiter said that "given the rapid development of remote patient monitoring and telehealth, particularly accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, this distribution agreement marks a major step in the execution of the commercial strategy for Adherium's Haillie platform in the US".

Adherium was up 0.1 cents or 11.1 percent to one cent.

STARPHARMA

Starpharma says that its Viraleze nasal spray protects against the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) Omicron strain, in mice.

Starpharma has previously said that SPL7013 was the anti-viral agent in its Viraleze nasal spray, as well as Vivagel BV for bacterial vaginosis and condom coatings.

Last year, the company reported that Viraleze reduced the viral load of Sars-Cov-2 by more than 99.9 percent in-vitro and in mice (BD: Jul 27, Aug 23, 2021).

Today, Starpharma said that the study Scripps Research showed that "100 percent of animals treated with Viraleze before and after Omicron virus challenge had no detectable virus in [the] lung, trachea or nasal cavity at up to four days after exposure".

The company said that mice treated with Viraleze after dosing with the Omicron strain of the virus had a more than 99.999 percent reduction in viral load in the lungs and trachea, compared with saline-treated animals, at day seven.

Starpharma chief executive officer Dr Jackie Fairley said world healthcare systems were experiencing "significant strain ... as a result of Omicron outbreaks".

"Viraleze represents an additional tool for use alongside vaccinations in these challenging times," Dr Fairley said.

"These latest findings show Viraleze to be highly effective against Sars-Cov-2 Omicron infection in a well-established and stringent, WHO-recognized challenge model," Dr Fairley said.

"Further, they show that even when used only after exposure to virus, Viraleze has the potential to provide significant benefit," Dr Fairley said.

Starpharma was up one cent or 1.5 percent to 67 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity says it has recruited its 30-patient, phase I trial of copper-64-SAR-bis-PSMA for imaging untreated, confirmed prostate cancer scheduled for radical prostatectomy. Clarity said it expected to report top-line data from the trial “in the coming months”, and that the data would inform a planned US phase III registration trial in patients with untreated, confirmed prostate cancer.

Clarity fell 2.5 cents or 4.1 percent to 58.5 cents.

NYRADA

Nyrada says researchers at the Durham, North Carolina-based Duke University have shown its PCSK9 inhibitor blocks the early stages of atherosclerosis, in-vitro.

Nyrada said that a bio-engineered model of atherosclerosis showed that PCSK9 inhibitor blocked the early stages of atherosclerotic plaque progression by preventing monocyte adhesion and suppressing inflammatory cytokines, both of which it said were key mediators of the disease process.

Nyrada chief scientific officer Dr Benny Evison said the company was “excited by this opportunity to test our PCSK9 inhibitor technology in the novel model developed by Duke researchers that allows the function of PCSK9 to be fully explored beyond its known role in regulating [low density lipoprotein]-cholesterol metabolism in the liver,” Dr Evison said. “This research is important because it advances the understanding of PCSK9 and its function in the body,” Dr Evison said.

“It also broadens our understanding of the mode of action of Nyrada’s drug,” Dr Evison said.

“Given that atherosclerotic plaque build-up is a major cause of cardiovascular disease, the opportunity to therapeutically target this disease in its early stages is highly encouraging,” Dr Evison said.

Nyrada was up half a cent or three percent to 17 cents.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY)

Boston’s Life Biosciences says it has reduced its substantial holding in Alterity from 243,396,873 shares (10.1%) to 213,238,233 shares (8.9%).

In late 2018, Life Biosciences invested \$44.6 million in the then Prana, and in 2019 Prana shareholders voted to approve the Life Biosciences investment for 63 percent of the company and a change the name to Alterity (BD: Jan 20, Mar 6, 2019).

Today, Life Biosciences said that between March 22 and July 18, 2022, it sold shares in Alterity, with the largest sale 105,450 American depository shares (equivalent to 6,327,000 Australian shares) at 64.04 US cents a US share, equivalent to 1.55 cents per Australian share.

Alterity was unchanged at 1.6 cents with two million shares traded.