



Biotech Daily

Tuesday July 5, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: RESONANCE UP 17%; ORTHOCELL DOWN 5%**
- * **INFENSA \$23m FOR QUEENSLAND UNI SPIDER VENOM MOLECULE**
- * **PAINCHEK: WESTERN AUSTRALIA \$393k FOR NON-VERBAL KIDS**
- * **IMRICOR APPLIES FOR 2nd VISION-MR ABLATION CATHETER CE MARK**
- * **VGI BEGINS VB001 NAFLD, NASH STUDY RECRUITMENT**
- * **NOXOPHARM: 3 MORE US VEYONDA SARCOMA TRIAL SITES**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES TAKES EASYDNA TO INDIA, EUROPE**
- * **US PATENT FOR PRESCIENT OMNICAR CELL THERAPY**
- * **RESAPP JAPAN, AUSTRALIA PATENTS FOR COUGH DETECTION**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES LOSES CFO, CO SEC MICHAEL TONROE**
- * **CHIMERIC: CASSANDRA HARRISON CLINICAL OPS, DATA HEAD**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.25 percent on Tuesday July 5, 2022, with the ASX200 up 16.7 points to 6,629.3 points. Twenty of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 10 fell, six traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Resonance was the best, up one cent or 16.7 percent to seven cents, with 158,872 shares traded. Cyclopharm and Emvision climbed more than 14 percent; Polynovo rose 10.1 percent; Prescient was up 9.1 percent; Alcidion and Paradigm were up more than eight percent; Avita and Micro-X improved more than seven percent; Oncosil was up 6.4 percent; Antisense, Mesoblast and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Imugene and Neuren rose more than two percent; Actinogen, CSL, Kazia and Telix were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear, Nanosonics and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Orthocell led the falls, down two cents or 4.9 percent to 39 cents, with 493,212 shares traded. Atomo and Patrys fell more than four percent; Dimerix was down 3.45 percent; Immunet, Imugene, Medical Developments, Proteomics and Starpharma shed more than one percent; with Next Science down by 0.6 cents.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, INFENSA BIOSCIENCE

The University of Queensland says that Infensa has raised \$23 million to develop IB001, a spider venom molecule to prevent heart damage licenced from Uniquist.

In a media release, the University said the molecule found in the venom of the K'gari, or Fraser Island, funnel web spider could "potentially prevent damage caused by heart attacks and stroke".

The University of Queensland said that its Uniquist commercialization arm licenced the IB001 drug candidate to Brisbane's Infensa Bioscience.

University of Queensland researcher and Infensa chief executive officer Prof Mark Smythe told Biotech Daily that the funds were raised from "Australian high net worth individuals".

In the media release Prof Smythe said there were no drugs in clinical use that prevented damage caused by heart attack, which is the leading cause of death worldwide.

"The heart can't regenerate muscle cells that die during a heart attack, which is why these injuries cause permanent damage and can lead to heart failure, disability and reduced quality of life," Dr Smythe said.

"IB001 blocks the signals that causes heart cells to die, and when given immediately to heart attack victims could reduce damage to the heart and significantly improve outcomes for people with heart disease, particularly in rural and remote regions," Dr Smythe said.

A research article relating to the molecule and its mode of action, titled 'Therapeutic Inhibition of Acid-Sensing Ion Channel 1a Recovers Heart Function After Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury' was published in the journal Circulation and is available at:

<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.121.054360>.

The University said that Prof Glenn King and Prof Nathan Palpant at its Institute for Molecular Bioscience discovered that the drug candidate "prevented cell death caused by loss of oxygen to the heart and brain during heart attacks and stroke".

The media release said that the drug candidate was developed in collaboration with the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and Monash University.

"Infensa Bioscience hopes to start phase I clinical trials as a heart attack treatment in Queensland next year," Dr Smythe said.

Uniquist chief executive officer Dr Dean Moss said it was encouraging to see early-stage university technology attract Australian private investment.

The University said the company planned to raise additional funds to development drugs to treat stroke and extend the life of donor hearts used for organ transplants.

Infensa is a private company.

PAINCHEK

Painchek says the Western Australian Government has granted \$392,820 to develop its Painchek pain test for non-verbal children with disabilities.

Painchek said its application used artificial intelligence and facial recognition to detect pain in patients who were unable to self-report.

The company said the project, titled 'Detecting pain in kids who can't tell you it hurts: Painchek for children with disabilities' would be led by the Telethon Kids Institute Prof Jenny Downs, with Painchek chief scientific officer Prof Jeff Hughes.

Prof Hughes said that pain among children with disability was "common and can have a significant negative impact on their quality of life".

"For those caring for these children, knowing when they are in pain can be challenging," Prof Hughes said. "This project aims to create a tool that will allow rapid and accurate detection of pain, thus improving pain management."

Painchek was up 0.4 cents or 12.1 percent to 3.7 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

IMRICOR MEDICAL SYSTEMS

Imricor says it has applied for Conformité Européenne (CE) mark for its second-generation Vision-MR ablation catheter.

Imricor said the second-generation catheter was designed to support current ablations for atrial flutter as well as future indications including ventricular tachycardia.

The company said its second-generation catheter was submitted for the initial indication of treating type one atrial flutter and would rely on the previous clinical trial results from its first-generation catheter, and expected a 12-month review period for the application.

Imricor said it would apply for European approval for a clinical study for ventricular tachycardia indications aimed at demonstrating the safety and efficacy of its products for ventricular tachycardia ablations, and expected to begin a ventricular tachycardia clinical trial "later this year".

The company said it expected its second-generation catheter to replace its first-generation catheter, following approvals.

Imricor executive chair Steve Wedan said "nothing is more important to our business" than delivering [invasive cardiovascular magnetic resonance-guided ventricular tachycardia] ablations to the clinical world".

Mr Wedan said the company expected the Vision-MR Ablation Catheter "to be the catheter of the future" for atrial flutter, ventricular tachycardia and atrial fibrillation.

Imricor was up one cent or 3.7 percent to 28 cents.

VGI HEALTH TECHNOLOGY (FORMERLY AZURE HEALTH, INVICTUS)

VGI says subsidiary Invictus Ops Pty Ltd has begun recruiting its 80-patient, phase II study of IVB001 for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

VGI said the randomized, placebo-controlled trial would examine the efficacy and safety of IVB001 for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and steatohepatitis (NASH).

The company said that IVB001 was based on the non-invasive and direct delivery of tocotrienols using its transmucosal delivery platform.

VGI said the study would be at eight Australian sites, with recruitment started at Brisbane's Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

VGI said it expected addition sites to begin recruitment "shortly".

Gallipoli research director Prof Darrell Crawford said that NAFLD and NASH were difficult and intractable diseases to treat, with no approved treatments in Australia or the US.

Prof Crawford said IVB001 had the potential to address several aspects of the disease including the steatosis, or gathering of fat in liver cells, the inflammation caused by the steatosis and the fibrosis, or scarring caused by collagen, resulting from the inflammation.

On the National (formerly Newcastle) Stock Exchange VGI was untraded at three cents.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it has three more US sites for its 30-patient, 'CEP-2' trial of Veyonda, or NOX66, for sarcoma at Washington University and the Mayo Clinic.

Noxopharm said the phase I, open-label, dose-escalation and expansion study of Veyonda in combination with doxorubicin, for the treatment of metastatic soft tissue sarcoma, had treated the first of 30 patients at the Duarte, California City of Hope Cancer Centre in February (BD: Feb 28, 2022).

The company said the study would be conducted at the Washington University in St Louis in Missouri and the Mayo Clinic's Florida and Minnesota sites.

Noxopharm was up one cent or 4.55 percent to 23 cents.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says its subsidiary Easydna has expanded the availability of its testing products to India and Europe.

Genetic Technologies said its carrier testing and non-invasive prenatal tests were available on its websites in Europe, which it said had demand for more informed choices regarding fertility and pregnancy.

The company said Easydna India had partnered with stud farms which had provided it with “reliable, independent and comprehensive chain of custody for equine paternity testing”.

Genetic Technologies said it had received initial samples from the stud farms and had begun testing, with the results to be included in the Indian Stud Book.

The company said it had the capability to store DNA in its approved facility.

Genetic Technologies chief executive officer Simon Morriss said “these incremental growth initiatives being undertaken by the Easydna team are exciting and expand the company’s direct-to-consumer offering to new markets and channels ensuring [our] continuous revenue growth”.

Genetic Technologies was up 0.05 cents or 16.7 percent to 0.35 cents with 8.9 million shares traded.

PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient says the US Patent and Trademark Office has granted it a patent for the molecules it is developing for use in its Omnicar for cancer treatment.

Prescient said that the patent, titled ‘SpyCatcher and SpyTag: Universal Immune Receptor For T-Cells’ would provide intellectual property protection until at least 2039.

The company said Omnicar was a universal immune receptor platform which produced “controllable, flexible and adaptable” cell therapies.

The company said that Omnicar used “a two-part covalent binding system called Spytag and Spycatcher, that were developed by and licenced from Oxford University” which allowed for modularity.

Prescient said Philadelphia’s University of Pennsylvania applied the binding system to cell therapy, described in the patent, and had been licenced exclusively to Prescient.

The company said its Omnicar covalent binding of universal immune receptors had “several important advantages over other approaches that rely on weaker, temporary binding, including greater efficacy, control and the ability to pre-arm T-cells”.

Prescient managing-director Steven Yatomi-Clarke said the company was progressing “three ... Omnicar programs through pre-clinical development and towards the clinic”.

Prescient was up 1.5 cents or 9.1 percent to 18 cents.

RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp says Japan and Australia have granted patents for machine learning audio processing techniques for detecting cough sounds with background noise.

Resapp said the patents, titled ‘Methods and apparatus for cough detection in background noise environments’ covered the technology used in its Resappdx smartphone-based respiratory diagnostic test and its cough counting software Resappcc, and would provide intellectual property cover until February 1, 2037.

Resapp said that Europe had granted it the same patent, and that it had patent applications covering “similar subject matter” pending in China, India and the US.

Resapp was up half a cent or 3.85 percent to 13.5 cents with 2.3 million shares traded.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says Michael Tonroe has resigned as chief financial officer and company secretary "to pursue other opportunities".

In April last year, Genetic Technologies said it had appointed Mr Tonroe as its chief financial officer and in August, said Mr Tonroe had replaced Justyn Stedwell as company secretary (BD: Apr 12, Aug 3, 2021).

Today, the company said it would begin a search for a chief financial officer and company secretary who had dual ASX and Nasdaq-listed company expertise.

Genetic Technologies said Mr Tonroe would continue in his roles until an interim or permanent replacement was found.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says it has appointed Cassandra Harrison as head of clinical operations and data management.

Chimeric said Ms Harrison had more than 10 years of experience in clinical operations, compliance and data management, and most recently was Immunogenesis head of clinical operations and data management at.

The company said Ms Harrison had worked at Bellicum Pharmaceuticals.

Chimeric said that Ms Harrison held a Master of Business Administration from Aspen University in Denver, Colorado, and a Master of Public Health from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Chimeric was up 0.2 cents or two percent to 10 cents.