



Biotech Daily

Monday September 12, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: PHARMAXIS UP 10%; AMPLIA DOWN 16.5%**

*** STARPHARMA DEP CABAZITAXEL 'ANTI-PROSTATE CANCER ACTIVITY'**

*** ANTISENSE STARTS ATL1102 COMBINATION DUCHENNE MOUSE STUDY**

*** IMUGENE REQUEST 'INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**

*** CLARITY: CHINA PATENT FOR SAR-BIS-PSMA**

*** AMPLIA TO LOSE M-D DR JOHN LAMBERT**

*** CRONOS APPOINTS DR SIMONE SCOVELL, JENELLE FREWEN DIRECTORS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.02 percent on Monday September 12, 2022, with the ASX200 up 70.3 points to 6,964.5 points.

Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell, nine traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Pharmaxis was the best, up 0.7 cents or 9.7 percent to 7.9 cents, with 506,999 shares traded; followed by Antisense up 0.8 cents or 9.2 percent to 9.5 cents with 682,132 shares traded.

Nova Eye climbed 8.3 percent; Mesoblast was up 5.8 percent; Clinuvel and Patrys improved more than four percent; Oncosil was up 3.9 percent; Orthocell, Pro Medicus, Proteomics and Telix rose one percent or more; with Cochlear, Cyclopharm, Nanosonics and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Amplia Therapeutics led the falls, down 1.9 cents or 16.5 percent to 9.6 cents, with 960,597 shares traded.

Resonance lost 11.3 percent; Dimerix and Micro-X were down more than six percent; Universal Biosensors fell 5.1 percent; Neuren was down 3.7 percent; Kazia and Prescient shed more than two percent; Avita, Immutep, Paradigm, Polynovo and Volpara were down one percent or more; with CSL, Medical Developments, Opthea and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

STARPHARMA

Starpharma says its 25-patient, phase II trial of dendrimer enhanced product (DEP) cabazitaxel for prostate cancer shows “highly encouraging anti-tumor activity”.

Starpharma said the interim results came from the study of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients in the UK and Australia, receiving intravenous DEP-cabazitaxel (Jevtana) every 21 days, repeated for up to 12 cycles, with a median time on study of 18.4 weeks.

The company said the data was presented as a poster, titled ‘Efficacy and Safety of Dendrimer-Enhanced (DEP) Cabazitaxel (CTX-SPL9111) in Men with Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer (mCRPC) in a Phase I/II Trial’ at the European Society for Medical Oncology in Paris, France and is at: <https://bit.ly/3BxvqQ1>.

Last year, the company said it had “encouraging efficacy signals” from interim results of the trial, and that nine of 14 patients had prolonged disease control” including stable or reduced tumor size “for periods, to date, of up to 36 weeks” (BD: Nov 25, 2021).

Today, Starpharma said the interim results showed “highly encouraging anti-tumour activity for DEP cabazitaxel” with a partial response for more than 45 weeks, and a stable or improved secondary metastatic bone disease for up to 45 weeks.

Starpharma said that median progression-free survival was 3.9 months, 30 percent longer than previous published data for standard cabazitaxel at the same dose, that all evaluable patients achieve a response in at least one measure of efficacy, and that 90 percent of evaluable patients achieved a reduction in prostate specific antigen, with 52 percent seeing a reduction of 50 percent or more.

The company said that patients had been “heavily pre-treated” before entering the study, including with related chemotherapies, and the level of pre-treatment was important because patients “would not be expected to respond as well to further similar therapies”.

Starpharma said that patients in the study had completed dosing with DEP cabazitaxel and that it was generally well-tolerated.

Starpharma chief executive officer Jackie Fairley said the results showed that “DEP cabazitaxel achieved both a longer duration of progression-free survival and fewer severe side effects compared to published data on Jevtana, illustrating the potential for DEP cabazitaxel to provide better outcomes for [metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer] patients”.

Starpharma fell half a cent or 0.85 percent to 58 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says it has begun dosing in its Duchenne muscular dystrophy mouse study of to assess ATL1102 with dystrophin restoration drugs.

Antisense said that with Melbourne’s Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, it would dose mice with an antisense oligo-nucleotide designed to target CD49d, a mouse equivalent of ATL1102, or control oligo-nucleotide or saline, in combination with a US Food and Drug Administration-approved dystrophin restoration drug.

The company said that the study would assess the effects of antisense inhibition of CD49d in combination with a dystrophin restoration drug on markers of drug activity in the Duchenne muscular dystrophy mouse model, including the potential of the combination to improve dystrophin expression levels beyond that achieved by the dystrophin restoration agent alone.

Antisense said it expected results from the study by the end of 2022.

Antisense was up 0.8 cents or 9.2 percent to 9.5 cents.

IMUGENE

Imugene has requested a trading halt “for the purposes of a planned capital raising to facilitate investment from two new institutional investors”.

Trading will resume on September 14, 2022 or on an earlier announcement.

Imugene last traded at 22.5 cents.

CLARITY PHARMACEUTICALS

Clarity says China’s National Intellectual Property Administration has granted a patent protecting its prostate specific membrane antigen targeting agent SAR-bis-PSMA.

Clarity said the patent, titled ‘Radiopharmaceuticals, radio-imaging agents, and uses thereof’, would protect its intellectual property until June 5, 2038.

The company said that the patent had been granted in the US, Australia and Mexico and an application was under review in other jurisdictions, including Europe and Japan.

Clarity was up 1.5 cents or 2.3 percent to 65.5 cents.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says chief executive officer and managing-director Dr John Lambert will retire in November 2022 “to seek new challenges” but will assist in the transition of his role.

Amplia chair Dr Warwick Tong said the board “would like to thank John for his contributions to Amplia over the last four years and we wish him well with the next stage of his career”.

Dr Lambert said there were “even more exciting times ahead for Amplia but I feel that it is an appropriate time for an executive leadership transition and for me to seek new challenges”.

Amplia said that it would begin a search for a new chief executive officer “immediately”.

Amplia fell 1.9 cents or 16.5 percent to 9.6 cents.

CRONOS AUSTRALIA

Cronos says it has appointed Jenelle Frewen and Dr Simone Scovell as independent non-executive directors, effective from September 12, 2022.

Cronos said that Dr Scovell was the founder and chief executive officer of medical technology and health services company Totium, and a director on several boards.

The company said that the Sydney-based Dr Scovell held a Bachelor of Medical Science, a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Sydney, and a Master of Occupational and Environmental Health from Melbourne’s Monash University.

Cronos said Canberra’s Ms Frewen had more than 20 years’ experience in policy development and implementation, working at all three levels of Australian government.

The company said Ms Frewen was currently the principal consultant with Precision Public Affairs, and held a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Arts from Monash University.

Cronos was up 5.5 cents or 9.2 percent to 65.5 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.