



Biotech Daily

Thursday September 8, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: AMPLIA UP 9.5%; PHARMAXIS DOWN 4%**
- * **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ARC MID-CAREER INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIPS**
- * **RESAPP PFIZER SCHEME MEETING PASSES RESOLUTIONS**
- * **NUHEARA RAISES \$2.5m FROM REALTEK**
- * **ZELIRA RECEIVES \$400k FROM HEALTH HOUSE; EXTENDS LOAN**
- * **IMUGENE DOSES 1st HER-VAXX COMBO GASTRIC CANCER PATIENT**
- * **INVION: PHOTOSOFT 99% EFFECTIVE AGAINST ZIKA VIRUS, IN VITRO**
- * **QUEST BELOW 5% IN KAZIA**
- * **LYN SWINBURNE REPLACES RHINOMED DIRECTOR DR ERIC KNIGHT**
- * **MICROBA APPOINTS JACQUELINE FERNLEY DIRECTOR**
- * **CHIMERIC: DR STEPHANIE ASTROW TRANSLATION SCIENCES HEAD**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.77 percent on Thursday September 8, with the ASX200 up 119.4 points to 6,848.7 points. Twenty-four of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 10 fell, five traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps rose.

Amplia was the best, up one cent or 9.5 percent to 11.5 cents, with 965 shares traded. Clinuvel climbed 7.4 percent; Imugene improved 6.8 percent; Next Science, Polynovo and Telix were up five percent or more; Mesoblast and Patrys improved more than four percent; Avita, Dimerix, Nanosonics and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Cochlear, CSL, Cyclopharm, Prescient and Resmed rose more than two percent; Actinogen, Cynata, Immutep, Medical Developments, Paradigm, Proteomics, Resonance, Universal Biosensors and Volpara were up more than one percent; with Emvision up by 0.3 percent.

Pharmaxis led the falls, down 0.3 cents or 3.95 percent to 7.3 cents, with 843,649 shares traded. Alcidion and Antisense lost more than three percent; Kazia shed 2.2 percent; Compumedics, Impedimed, Opthea and Orthocell were down more than one percent; with Genetic Signatures and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Australian Research Council says applications have opened for its Mid-Career Industry Fellowship.

The Australian Research Council said the fellowship was part of the \$215 million, four-year Industry Fellowships Program, which will allow early, mid- and senior researchers explore career opportunities in both industry and academia for research collaboration, translation, and commercialization.

The ARC said that “building networks and understanding different perspectives is expected to influence innovation on both sides and support the adoption and translation of research over time”.

The Council said the fellowship was open to researchers who wanted “to build industry connections and tackle a new industry problem, or professionals who are looking to strengthen university connections and research skills”.

ARC chief executive officer Judi Zielke said that Industry Fellowships supported researchers from either academia or industry to gain experience “working in difference environments and to help researchers from both sides learn to build networks across universities and industry”.

Applications close on October 20, 2022. To apply, go to: <https://bit.ly/3RPonyR>.

RESAPP HEALTH

Resapp says the two scheme resolutions to accept the Pfizer \$179 million offer for the company were passed with more than 82 percent of votes at yesterday’s meeting.

Last month, Pfizer raised its original 11.5 cents a share offer valuing the company at \$100 million to 20.8 cents a share (BD: Aug 3, 2022).

In June, following a confirmation trial not meeting a Pfizer data condition for its respiratory monitor algorithm to measure Covid-19, Resapp was offered 14.6 cents a share, valuing it at about \$125 million (BD: Jun 14, 2022).

After the market closed last night, Resapp said that the scheme amendment was passed by 485,235,323 votes (83.69%) with 94,598,182 votes (16.31%) against, with 980 shareholders (65.16%) in favor and 515 investors (34.24% against).

The company said that the scheme arrangement resolution was passed by 476,842,850 votes (82.21%) with 103,189,935 votes (17.79%) against, with 934 shareholders (62.10%) in favor and 564 investors (37.50%) against.

Resapp chief executive officer Dr Tony Keating told Biotech Daily that the first resolution, the amending resolution, required a 50 percent headcount to pass, while the second resolution, the scheme resolution, required 50 percent of shareholders and 75 percent of shares to be passed.

Biotech Daily has been aware that some shareholders were unhappy with the amount that Pfizer was willing to pay for the company, despite the technology being in the early stages of commercialization.

Last month, Resapp said that it had its first significant revenue of \$2,512,411 and the majority related to Pfizer’s pending acquisition, with the remaining revenue from contracts for its Resappdx smartphone-based cough-diagnostic test (BD: Aug 30, 2022)

For the six months to December 31, 2021, Resapp said that revenue amounted to \$80,900 and for the year to June 30, 2021 revenue was \$69,731.

Resapp said the next steps would be a Supreme Court of New South Wales on September 13, with the scheme effective and Resapp shares no longer trading from September 14, with the implementation and payment date September 23, 2022.

Resapp was unchanged at 20.5 cents with 9.1 million shares traded.

[NUHEARA](#)

Nuheara says it has raised \$2.5 million from Hsinchu, Taiwan-based Realtek Semiconductor Corp, issuing 2,500,000 convertible notes at \$1 each.

Nuheara said the notes had a conversion price of 16 cents each, an interest rate of eight percent a year, and would be convertible by September 7, 2024.

In July, the company said Realtek had subscribed for \$1.7 million in a \$2.05 million placement at 12 cents a share. (BD: Jul 1, 2022)

Today, Nuheara said the funds would be used for product research and development, hearing aid market and regulatory development, and working capital.

Nuheara managing-director Justin Miller said the recent US Food and Drug Administration publication of over-the-counter hearing aid regulations had “drawn significantly more attention to our hearing related technology and our subsequent market opportunities”.

Nuheara fell four cents or 16.7 percent to 20 cents.

[ZELIRA THERAPEUTICS](#)

Zelira says it has received \$400,000 from the Perth-based Health House, and has extended the term of the balance of its loan to October 31, 2022

In February, Zelira said it would buy medical marijuana distributor Health House for 19.45 percent of the expanded company’s scrip calculated to be 399,400,517 shares valued at \$7,721,210 and lend Health House \$1.5 million (BD: Feb 24, 2022).

In June, the company said it had terminated the proposed acquisition due to “the substantial change in market conditions” (BD: Jun 22, 2022).

In August, Creso said it had a non-binding agreement to buy Health House for up to \$4,630,388 in shares and options (BD: Aug 1, 2022).

Today, Zelira said that in return for Health House paying \$400,000 immediately, it had extended the loan term to October 31, 2022.

Zelira was up 10 cents or 6.85 percent to \$1.56.

[IMUGENE](#)

Imugene says it has dosed the first of 30 patients in its Nextherizon phase II trial of HER-vaxx with pembrolizumab or chemotherapy for HER-2 gastric cancer.

Imugene said the trial’s primary endpoints were safety and response rate, with secondary endpoints including duration of response, progression free survival, overall survival, and biomarker evaluation.

The company said the trial was designed to assess the safety and efficacy of Her-vaxx in combination with chemotherapy or pembrolizumab in patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER-2) metastatic gastric or gastro-esophageal junction adenocarcinomas who had previously progressed on trastuzumab.

Imugene said it expected to open additional study sites in Australia and the US.

Imugene managing-director Leslie Chong said that the evidence to date had “shown the potential to overcome resistance to immune-therapy within [gastro-intestinal] cancers by increasing cytotoxic and effector immune cells within the tumor micro-environment”.

“Immunotherapies such as HER-Vaxx, particularly in combination with immune checkpoint inhibitors such as pembrolizumab, may hold the solution,” Ms Chong said.

“With the promising results we’ve seen from HER-Vaxx thus far, we’re particularly eager to take the next step in its development with this trial and ideally improve outcomes for patients with this difficult to treat cancer,” Ms Chong said.

Imugene was up 1.5 cents or 6.8 percent to 23.5 cents with 16.8 million shares traded.

INVION

Invion says its Photosoft light therapy showed a more than 99 percent inhibition of Zika virus, in vitro.

Invion said the study showed Photosoft compounds to be effective against the virus and more than “100 times the activity” of the antibiotic monensin, which, though active against Zika virus, could not be used in humans due to its toxicity.

The company said that “Photosoft compounds were found to have a therapeutic index over 190 times higher than the control monensin” as well as low levels of cytotoxicity.

Invion executive chair Thian Chew said it was the first set of studies using Photosoft compounds on infectious diseases.

“We are very excited by not only the positive results, but by the potential for the technology in an era where the next global pandemic could be lurking around the corner,” Mr Chew said.

“With the continued emergence of new viral diseases in recent years, it is important that companies like Invion continue to focus on developing new innovative treatments,” Mr Chew said. “We are also exploring other viral indications to determine the potential for other viruses of interest.”

Invion fell 0.1 cents or 7.7 percent to 1.2 cents with 23.1 million shares traded.

KAZIA THERAPEUTICS

Quest Asset Partners says it has ceased to be substantial in Kazia Therapeutics.

The Sydney-based Quest said that between August 20 and September 1, 2022, it sold 869,873 shares in Kazia for \$213,802, or 24.6 cents a share.

In August, Quest said it reduced its substantial holding in Kazia from 9,366,195 shares (6.72%) to 8,346,656 shares (5.58%) (BD: Aug 24, 2022).

Kazia fell half a cent or 2.2 percent to 22 cents.

RHINOMED

Rhinomed says Lyn Swinburne will replace Dr Eric Knight as a non-executive director.

Rhinomed said Ms Swinburne was the founder of Breast Cancer Network Australia, and was the chair of Melbourne’s Royal Women’s Hospital for nine years and was an experienced non-executive director.

The company said Dr Eric Knight had announced his intention to retire after more than eight years as a Rhinomed director, effective from September 30, 2022.

Rhinomed chair Ron Dewhurst said thanked Dr Knight “for his great contribution to Rhinomed over the last eight years as Rhinomed has expanded into international markets and diversified its technology platform”.

Rhinomed was unchanged at 16 cents.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says it has appointed Jacqueline Fernley as an independent non-executive director, effective immediately.

Microba said Ms Fernley currently was Mason Stevens chief investment officer and previously she was JB Were’s head of equities and Wilson HTM head of research.

The company said that Ms Fernley held a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce from the Gold Coast Queensland-based Bond University.

Microba was up 2.5 cents or 11.9 percent to 23.5 cents.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric Therapeutics says it has appointed Dr Stephanie Astrow as its head of translational sciences

Chimeric said Dr Astrow had more than 20 years' experience in cell therapy and biotechnology and previously worked at Kite Pharma, Fate Therapeutics and Response Genetics, where she was head of research and development, and that prior to Response, worked for Quest Diagnostics, Pathway Diagnostics and Impath Inc.

The company said Dr Astrow held a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, a Masters of Business Administration from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Chimeric was up half a cent or five percent to 10.5 cents.