



Biotech Daily

Wednesday November 16, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: CYNATA UP 8%; ANTISENSE DOWN 13%**
- * **CENTENARY, SYDNEY UNI DEVELOP SARS-COV-2 NASAL SPRAY VACCINE**
- * **NOVA EYE 4-MONTH REVENUE UP 38% TO \$5.7m**
- * **CYNATA 'CYMERUS CONSISTENCY BEATS TISSUE-DERIVED STEM CELLS'**
- * **NOXOPHARM 1,200mg VEYONDA COMBINATION 'SAFE'**
- * **CARDIEX ACQUIRES BLUMIO FOR \$245k**
- * **IMMURON COMPLETES \$2.6m ATERIA INVESTMENT**
- * **CANADA PATENT FOR ISLAND ISLA-101 FOR DENGUE, VIRUSES**
- * **HEXIMA 51% REMUNERATION REPORT 1st STRIKE**
- * **KAZIA 38% REMUNERATION REPORT 1st STRIKE**
- * **OPTHEA AGM 26% OPPOSE 500k M-D DR MEGAN BALDWIN RIGHTS**
- * **GENETIC SIGNATURES 14.5% OPPOSE 250k DR JOHN MELKI OPTIONS**
- * **PATRY'S APPOINTS DR CHARMAINE GITTLESON CHAIR**
- * **NEUROSCIENTIFIC APPOINTS DR JURGEN LINDNER CONSULTANT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.27 percent on Wednesday November 16, with the ASX200 down 19.4 points to 7,122.2 points. Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, 10 traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Cynata was the best, up 2.5 cents or 7.7 percent to 35 cents, with 131,888 shares traded. Genetic Signatures improved 7.1 percent; Avita climbed 6.6 percent; Nova Eye was up 5.3 percent; Uscom was up 3.8 percent; Opthea, Polynovo and Telix rose more than two percent; with Clinuvel, Emvision, Immutep, Orthocell and Pharmaxis up by one percent or more.

Yesterday's 9.5 percent best, Antisense, led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 13.0 percent to 10 cents, with 506,134 shares traded. Imugene lost 9.5 percent; Oncosil shed six percent; Actinogen fell 4.2 percent; Paradigm and Starpharma were down more than three percent; Kazia, Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Neuren and Universal Biosensors shed two percent or more; Alcidion, Mesoblast, Pro Medicus, Proteomics and Resmed were down more than one percent; with Cochlear and CSL down by less than one percent.

CENTENARY INSTITUTE

Sydney's Centenary Institute says that with the University of Sydney it has developed a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) nasal spray vaccine. Centenary Institute said the vaccine had been tested in mice and induced "potent lung immunity and protection against the Sars-Cov-2 ... [with the potential] for enhancing protection against Covid-19 infection and minimizing ongoing viral spread".

The Centenary Institute said the vaccine comprised the Sars-Cov-2 spike protein and the adjuvant, Pam2Cys, a molecule to stimulate a stronger immune response and inhaled through the nose "it prompted substantial levels of neutralizing antibodies and increased T-cell responses in the lungs and airways of the mice".

The Institute said that the research, titled 'Mucosal TLR2-activating protein-based vaccination induces potent pulmonary immunity and protection against Sars-Cov-2 in mice' was published in the journal Nature Communications and the full article was available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-34297-3>.

University of Sydney researcher and lead author Dr Anneliese Ashhurst said that current Covid-19 vaccines had limitations, including the waning of immunity post-vaccination and infection, combined with the impact of new viral variants.

"Current vaccines against Sars-Cov-2 substantially reduce mortality and severe disease, but protection against infection is less effective," Dr Ashhurst said.

"Vaccinated individuals are still catching Covid-19 and can spread the infection, so breakthrough infections are still occurring," Dr Ashhurst said.

"To stop viral spread and to prevent this virus from mutating we need a new vaccine approach that blocks Covid-19 transmission," Dr Ashhurst said.

The Centenary Institute said the vaccine was delivered nasally, making its way through the respiratory tract, adhering to the tissues of the nasal cavity, airways and lungs.

The Institute said that testing showed "the generation of high levels of protective antibodies in the airways and increased T-cell responses in the lungs".

"None of the vaccinated mice became infected with Covid-19," the Institute said.

"Our vaccine differs from most current Covid-19 vaccines in that it enables generation of an immune response directly in those areas of the body that are likely to be the first point of contact for the virus - the nose, airway and lungs," Dr Ashhurst said.

"This may help explain the vaccine's effectiveness," Dr Ashhurst said.

The Centenary Institute said that adapted versions of the nasal vaccine could be applied to other viral or bacterial respiratory diseases such as influenza, avian flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (Mers).

NOVA EYE

Nova Eye says sales revenue for the four months to October 31, 2022 increased 38 percent to \$US3.82 million (\$A5.66 million), exceeding forecast revenue.

Nova Eye said revenue came from Itrack Advance canaloplasty surgical devices for glaucoma, which it had launched in Europe and Canada, with strong sales in China.

Nova Eye chief executive officer Tom Spurling said "the glaucoma surgical devices market continues to be a burgeoning market."

"Our results for the first four months of the fiscal year show the early signs of success and support our strategy to invest in the market," Mr Spurling said.

Mr Spurling said that the US accounted for the vast majority of the global market at \$US469 million and the planned introduction of the Itrack Advance in the US was expected "to significantly improve the growth trajectory of our business".

Nova Eye was up 1.5 cents or 5.3 percent to 30 cents.

CYNATA THERAPEUTICS

Cynata says a consistency study of batches of its Cymerus mesenchymal stem cells has found they exhibit less variability than tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells.

Cynata said Cymerus stem cells exhibited less variability both between batches and within batches than tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells.

The company said that the study compared the consistency of multiple batches of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), including its Cymerus induced pluripotent stem cell-derived stem cells, in turn derived from blood, as well as tissue-derived stem cells from bone marrow, adipose tissue (or fat) and umbilical cord.

Cynata said that single cell sequencing was used to profile the transcriptome, or gene expression, of the different types of stem cells at the individual cell level and found that Cymerus cells exhibited less batch-to-batch heterogeneity, or variability, than tissue-derived cells and were "significantly less variability within each batch".

The company said tissue source was "the primary driver of MSC variability".

Cynata chief operating officer Dr Kilian Kelly said that "product consistency is a mandatory requirement of healthcare regulatory agencies such as the [US Food and Drug Administration] and so the conclusions from this study further support the utility of the Cymerus platform".

"The study validates the potential of Cymerus [mesenchymal stem cells] as an off-the-shelf cell therapy and provides a better understanding of the sources of [mesenchymal stem cells] variability, with a view to making clinical outcomes more predictable," he said.

Cynata was up 2.5 cents or 7.7 percent to 35 cents.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says a 1,200 mg dose of Veyonda in combination with doxorubicin was safe and well tolerated, and will progress to the next 1,800mg dosing cohort.

Noxopharm said the 1,800mg dose cohort would be the last dose escalation in the study and, if completed satisfactorily, would allow the next step to begin, evaluating the efficacy of Veyonda in combination with doxorubicin in soft tissue sarcoma.

The company said it had added to further trial sites, the Evanston, Illinois-based Northwestern University and the Milwaukee-based Medical College of Wisconsin, in order to speed enrolment.

Noxopharm was up half a cent or 3.6 percent to 14.5 cents.

CARDIEX

Cardiex says it will pay a total of \$US165,100 (\$A244,659) in cash and scrip to acquire San Francisco's Blumio for its wearable sensor technology.

In 2018, Cardiex said it had expanded its Blumio deal to develop sensor technology integrated into wearable devices (BD: Dec 12, 2018).

Today, the company said Blumio's blood pressure monitoring technology would assist its Atcor, Arty, Conneqt pulse and Conneqt band heart health products.

Cardiex said that Blumio co-founder Catherine Liao would be appointed chief strategy officer and head of product and operations, with Steve Braaten US operations director.

Cardiex chief executive officer Craig Cooper said "Blumio brings a suite of capabilities in wearable sensor development, signal processing, and big data analytics expertise that will benefit both of our Atcor and Conneqt brands, especially in relation to the ongoing development activities surrounding our Conneqt Band."

Cardiex fell 2.5 cents or 7.6 percent to 30.5 cents.

IMMURON

Immuron says it has completed its GBP1.48 million (\$A2.6 million) investment for an initial 17.5 percent of London's Ateria Health.

In October, Immuron said it would invest GBP1.48 million in (\$A2.6 million) Ateria Health to target irritable bowel syndrome and strengthen distribution channels of its Travelan travellers' diarrhoea treatment (BD: Oct 13, 2022)

Today, the company said it and Ateria had plans for reciprocal distribution rights, whereby Ateria would market Immuron's Travelan in the UK, and Immuron would market Ateria's Juvia irritable bowel syndrome treatment in Australia and North America.

Immuron said it would retain the option to invest a further GBP1.47 million by July 31, 2023.

Immuron was up 0.7 cents or 9.1 percent to 8.4 cents.

ISLAND PHARMACEUTICALS

Island says the Canadian Intellectual Property Office has granted a patent protecting its ISLA-101 for treating or preventing dengue and other mosquito-borne viruses.

Island said the patent, titled 'Inhibition of flaviviruses or chikungunya viruses using retinoic acid analogues', would protect its intellectual property to April 16, 2034.

The company said that it had licenced the intellectual property portfolio from Melbourne's Monash University.

Island was up three cents or 15.8 percent to 22 cents.

HEXIMA

Hexima says investors voted 50.6 percent against its remuneration report, delivering a first strike, with director options and placement capacity resolutions defeated

Hexima said 18,841,573 votes (50.58%) opposed the adoption of the remuneration report, with 18,412,274 votes (49.42%) in favor.

Under the Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Director and Executive Remuneration) Act 2011 any company sustaining a vote of 25 percent or more against the remuneration report in two successive annual meetings is required to vote on a board spill and if passed by more than 50 percent of votes the directors must stand for reelection at a subsequent meeting within 90 days.

The company said the issue of 224,000 options to director Steve Skala was opposed by 18,844,926 votes (50.68%) and the 10 percent placement facility special resolution, requiring a 75 percent majority to pass, was opposed by 16,375,174 votes (26.86%), with both resolutions defeated.

Hexima said the re-election of Scott Robertson and Michael Aldridge were opposed by about 18.5 million votes (30.5%).

According to its most recent filing, the company had 159,738,751 shares on issue, meaning that the 18,844,926 votes opposing Mr Skala's options amounted to 11.8 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

In July, Hexima said it was winding-up after lead candidate HXP124 failed its nail fungus trial and the share price fell 85 percent to four cents (BD: Jun 24, Jul 11, 2022).

Hexima was up 0.1 cents or 5.9 percent to 1.8 cents.

KAZIA THERAPEUTICS

Kazia says its annual general meeting delivered a 38.0 remuneration report first strike. Kazia said that 11,787,139 votes (37.97%) opposed the remuneration report, with 19,252,815 votes (62.03%) in favor.

Under the Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Director and Executive Remuneration) Act 2011 any company sustaining a vote of 25 percent or more against the remuneration report in two successive annual meetings is required to vote on a board spill and if passed by more than 50 percent of votes the directors must stand for reelection at a subsequent meeting within 90 days.

Kazia said that a resolution to issue managing-director Dr James Garner 3,500,000 options had been withdrawn from its annual general meeting (BD: Nov 3, 2022).

The company said that it faced 9.3 percent to 16.5 percent opposition to all other resolutions, including the re-election of director Steven Coffey, the ratification of at-the-market shares, the approval of additional placement capacity, the adoption of a new constitution and the approval of proportional takeover provisions.

According to its most recent filing, Kazia had 163,408,976 shares on issue, meaning that the 11,787,139 votes opposing the remuneration report amounted to 7.2 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Kazia fell 0.2 cents or two percent to 9.7 cents with 1.75 million shares traded.

OPTHEA

Opthea says shareholders voted 26.14 percent opposition to the issue of 500,000 performance rights to managing-director Dr Megan Baldwin.

Opthea said 56,714,809 votes (26.14%) opposed the grant of the performance rights, with 160,277,312 votes (73.86%) in favor.

The company said resolutions to issue a total of 1,150,000 rights and 8,500,000 options to directors Lawrence Gozlan, Daniel Speigelman, Michael Sistenich and Dr Baldwin, all faced opposition ranging from 21.99 percent to 24.62 percent (BD: Oct 17, 2022).

Opthea said the remuneration report was opposed by 17.78 percent of the meeting, chair Dr Jeremy Levin faced 23.87 percent opposition to his re-election as a director, while Mr Speigelman and Dr Julia Haller were re-elected overwhelmingly.

According to its most recent filing, Opthea had 464,771,608 shares on offer, meaning that the 56,714,809 votes against Dr Baldwin's performance rights amounted to 12.2 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Opthea was up 2.5 cents or 2.6 percent to 99.5 cents.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says its annual general meeting voted 14.5 percent against the issue of 250,000 options to managing-director Dr John Melki.

Genetic Signatures said 11,001,254 votes (14.52%) opposed the options, with 64,777,784 votes (85.48%) in favor.

The company said the adoption of the remuneration report faced 13.41 percent opposition, with the election of directors Dr Anthony Radford and Caroline Waldron, and the equity incentive plan passing overwhelmingly.

According to its most recent filing, Genetic Signatures had 143,385,996 shares on issue, meaning that the 11,001,254 votes against Dr Melki's options amounted to 7.7 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Genetic Signatures was up five cents or 7.1 percent to 75 cents.

PATRYS

Patrys says it has appointed Dr Charmaine Gittleson as its chair, replacing Mike Stork, effective from the conclusion of today's annual general meeting.

In August, Patrys said that non-executive chair and director John Read would retire, effective from August 31, 2022, with Michael Stork as interim chair and later said that company secretary Stefan Ross had been appointed a director (BD: Aug 8, 31, 2022).

Today, the company said that Mr Stork was continue as a director and Stefan Ross would step down as a director to continue as the company secretary.

The company said Dr Gittleson would be issued 8,000,000 options, exercisable at the greater of 4.5 cents or a 43 percent premium to the volume-weighted average price for the five days to date of acquisition, exercisable within four years.

Patrys was unchanged at 1.9 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it has appointed Dr Jurgen Lindner as a consultant for Emtinb's regulatory process, Dr Anton Uvarov stepping down to non-executive director.

Neuroscientific said that Dr Uvarov's new role would begin today.

The company said Dr Lindner would assist the company as it prepared "a new submission for ethics approval for Emtinb in the coming months".

In September, Neuroscientific said that a human research ethics committee has rejected its submission for a phase I trial of Emtinb (BD: Sep 7, 2022).

Neuroscientific was up 1.6 cents or 21.6 percent to nine cents.