



Biotech Daily

Tuesday December 6, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ACTINOGEN UP 9%; COMPUMEDICS DOWN 13%**
- * **VAXXAS RAISES \$34m FOR NEEDLE-FREE VACCINE**
- * **HYDRIX LOYALTY OPTIONS RAISE \$252k IN UP-TO \$13m OFFER**
- * **COGSTATE: ASX NO LONGER REQUIRES QUARTERLY REPORTS**
- * **IMMUTEP IMP761 MANUFACTURING PROCESS COMPLETE**
- * **NOXOPHARM WINS \$50k FEDERAL 'INNOVATION CONNECTIONS' GRANT**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES GENETYPE HEART DISEASE, DIABETES TEST**
- * **CRESO TELLS ASX: 'WE SHALL CONFIRM RELATED PARTIES'**
- * **CARDIEX REQUESTS 'CONTRACT FINALIZATION' TRADING HALT**
- * **THORNEY, TIGA DILUTED TO 5.9% OF MICROBA**
- * **KEFFORD TAKES 7.6% OF VECTUS**
- * **TOTAL BRAIN LOSES DIRECTOR DAVID DAGLIO**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.47 percent on Tuesday December 6, 2022, with the ASX200 down 34.3 points to 7,291.3 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 22 fell, four traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Actinogen was best, up one cent or 9.1 percent to 12 cents, with 1.3 million shares traded. Patrys and Proteomics climbed more than four percent; Clinuvel, Cynata and Nova Eye rose more than three percent; Antisense, Genetic Signatures and Opthea were up more than one percent; with CSL, Kazia, Paradigm and Polynovo up less than one percent.

Compumedics led the falls, down three cents or 13 percent to 20 cents, with 307,295 shares traded. Mesoblast lost 9.6 percent; Dimerix was down 6.1 percent; Amplia and Resonance fell more than five percent; Immuteq, Next Science, Oncosil, Telix and Volpara lost four percent or more; Micro-X, Pharmaxis and Prescient were down more than three percent; Avita and Resmed shed more than two percent; Atomo, Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Neuren, Orthocell and Pro Medicus were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, Emvision and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

VAXXAS

Vaxxas says it has raised \$US23 million (\$A34 million) in a placement led by Sydney's Oneventures and the University of Queensland University's Uniquet Pty Ltd.

Vaxxas said the funds would be used to advance its clinical programs, including its needle-free Covid-19 vaccine and installation of its manufacturing lines.

The company said the funding would be used to leverage committed non-dilutive financial support of more than \$US67 million from US and Australian government bodies, including the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

Vaxxas chief executive officer David Hoey said the financing "from a strong syndicate of experienced life science investors reflects the significant potential of our considerable product pipeline and novel needle-free vaccination technology".

"In the near-term, we will continue to advance our lead Covid-19 vaccine program along with other clinical initiatives and execute our go-to-market strategy of building commercial-scale manufacturing capacity and high throughput production lines," Mr Hoey said.

Oneventures founder and Vaxxas chair Dr Paul Kelly said that the company had made "tremendous progress in building a promising clinical pipeline based on its novel [high-density microarray patch] HD-MAP vaccination platform".

"Vaxxas' needle-free vaccination technology has shown in pre-clinical and clinical studies to have the potential to improve the availability and efficacy of vaccines for a range of serious and prevalent diseases, including COVID-19 and influenza," Dr Kelly said.

Vaxxas is a private company.

HYDRIX

Hydrix says it has raised \$252,329 of its up-to \$13,382,000 one-for-eight "loyalty options" offer, with "piggyback options" yet to be issued.

In October, Hydrix said that it expected to raise between \$252,324 and \$13,382,000 through the issue of "loyalty options" which would have attached "piggyback options" in an underwritten offer (BD: Oct 28, 2022).

At that time, the company said that loyalty options at 0.5 cents each would be exercisable at 12 cents each by December 31, 2023.

Hydrix said that for every two options exercised to shares, it would issue one "piggyback" option exercisable at 28 cents each by April 30, 2025.

Today, Hydrix said that it had applications for \$98,128 under the loyalty option offer with the shortfall of \$154,201 to be issued to underwriters Adelaide's Baker Young and sub-underwriters.

Hydrix was untraded at 5.4 cents.

COGSTATE

Cogstate says the ASX has enabled it to no longer file quarterly reports.

Cogstate has filed four cash-flow positive Appendix 4Cs for the three months to December 31, 2021, March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2022.

The company said that it was required to lodge preliminary final reports, or Appendix 4Es, and half yearly reports, or Appendix 4Ds, within two months of the end of the relevant accounting period, but that it would no longer be required to publish Appendix 4C quarterly cashflow reports.

Cogstate fell 6.5 cents or 3.6 percent to \$1.75.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says Northway Biotech has produced 200 litres of IMP761 for investigational new drug (IND) enabling studies and clinical trials for autoimmune diseases.

Immutep said that the Boston, Massachusetts-based Northway had completed the good manufacturing practice (GMP) compliant process for IMP761.

Immutep chief executive officer Marc Voigt said the company was “pleased to have a GMP process for IMP761 in hand with our manufacturing partner Northway Biotech as we move towards initiating IND-enabling studies in the first half of 2023 and subsequent clinical development”.

“As a first-in-class [lymphocyte activation gene 3] LAG-3 immunosuppressive antibody, IMP761 has been designed to address the root cause of autoimmune diseases by specifically silencing self-reactive exhausted effector T-cells that express LAG-3 and accumulate at disease sites,” Mr Voigt said.

Immutep fell 1.5 cents or 4.05 percent to 35.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it has been awarded \$50,000 from Innovation Connections to partially fund research into therapies for the treatment of inflammatory diseases.

Noxopharm said that Innovation Connections was a service delivered by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation as part of the Federal Governments Entrepreneurs’ Programme.

The company said that the non-diluted funding, alongside its own contribution, would fund the work of Prof Naresh Kumar at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, to synthesize and optimize drug candidates.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Gisela Mautner said “our science-driven strategy means we are constantly exploring new ways to build our drug discovery pipeline and identify new molecules with significant potential for treating life-threatening diseases”.

Noxopharm fell half a cent or three percent to 16 cents.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

Genetic Technologies says it has validation for the polygenic risk scores in its Genetype multi-risk test for cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes.

Genetic Technologies said that the polygenic risk scores “underlie the risk predictions” in its Genetype test.

The company said the research, titled ‘Polygenic risk scores for cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes,’ authored by the University of Melbourne’s Prof John Hopper and Prof Enes Makalic and their teams was published by the US Public Library of Science One, at: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0278764>.

The company said the study, used data from more than 50,000 participants in the UK Biobank, found that its polygenic risk scores used genetic changes “essential to predict risk without sacrificing predictive performance compared with polygenic risk scores that use up to 820 times the number of genetic changes”.

Genetic Technologies chief executive officer Simon Morriss said “implementation of risk assessment tests, such as our Genetype multi-risk test, that accurately predict the risk of a patient developing one of these serious diseases, will enable early intervention with great potential for improved patient outcomes”.

Genetic Technologies was unchanged at 0.3 cents with 30.3 million shares traded.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso has told an ASX aware query that “the board will be specifically asked to confirm that none of the participants are related parties before any securities are issued”.

In October, Creso said it had breached ASX Listing Rule 10.11 by not stating that Alvin Blumenthal’s Suburban Holdings Pty Ltd was a related party to a February \$5 million placement (BD: Feb 25, Oct 25, 2022).

In a series of questions from the ASX to Creso, the ASX asked the company to detail “when and how [it] became aware that the related party shares were issued in breach of Listing Rule 10.11 and an explanation for why the breach was not discovered earlier ... [as well as] the controls that [it] has implemented to ensure such a breach does not occur in the future and why these controls were not implemented before the placement”.

Creso said the breach was not uncovered earlier “because Everblu had managed many placements for the company prior to this, without concern or error, and therefore there was no reason for the company to question the participants in this placement”.

The company said that “while drafting a notice of meeting in relation to the placement, the company became aware that Suburban Holdings Pty Ltd an entity controlled by the parent of former director Adam Blumenthal had participated in the placement”.

Creso said that under the Corporations Act 2001 “a holding controlled by a parent of a director is deemed to be a related party of the company” and Suburban’s participation in the placement required prior shareholder approval under ASX Listing Rule 10.11.

The company said the breach “was the result of an administrative oversight during the direct settlement of the placement between the broker who managed the placement, and the company’s share registry”.

The ASX said that Everblu was controlled by Adam Blumenthal, then a director at Creso, and had been engaged as exclusive lead manager since 2017, with Suburban Holdings previously participating in a capital raising managed by Everblu in November, 2019, for which the company sought shareholder approval.

Creso said that although Adam Blumenthal had been its chair and a director “it was not advised to management or the company secretaries that a related party was intending to participate in the placement and therefore the full board was also not aware”.

The company said its company secretary and board would ensure the company had “an opportunity to review a copy of the allotment schedule before a placement is completed by [delivery versus payment broking system]; and the board will be specifically asked to confirm that none of the participants are related parties before any securities are issued”.

Creso fell 0.1 cents or 4.55 percent to 2.1 cents with 6.1 million shares traded.

CARDIEX

Cardiex has requested a trading halt “pending an announcement to the finalization of a material contract in relation to its clinical trial revenue”.

Trading will resume on December 8, 2022 or on an earlier announcement.

Cardiex last traded at 31 cents.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Thorney and Tiga say their 20,157,931 share-holding in Microba has been diluted from 7.35 percent to 5.88 percent, due to the issue of shares on December 1, 2022.

Last week, Microba said Sonic Healthcare would pay \$17.8 million for a 19.99 percent holding, with a further five percent in options, worth \$7.5 million (BD: Nov 29, 2022).

Microba was up half a cent or 1.7 percent to 29.5 cents.

VECTUS BIOSYSTEMS

Kefford Holdings Pty Ltd says it has increased its substantial holding in Vectus from 2,688,321 shares (5.69%) to 3,948,321 shares (7.62%).

Brisbane's Kefford said that on September 14 it bought 10,000 shares for \$7,526 or 75.26 cents a share and on December 2, 2022 it bought 1,250,000 shares for \$1,000,000 or 80 cents a share.

In November, Vectus said it had "firm commitments" to raise \$3.5 million in an institutional placement at 80 cents a share (BD: Nov 23, 2022).

Vectus was unchanged at 85 cents.

TOTAL BRAIN

Total Brain says David Daglio has resigned as a director, effective today, December 6, 2022.

Total Brain said that "in light of the completion of the sale of substantially all the assets of the business of the company and its subsidiaries to Sondermind Inc announced on November 1, 2022, Mr Daglio considers the company is well served by the continuing directors and it is an appropriate time to step down".

In November, the company said the Denver, Colorado-based telehealth company Sondermind had bought it for \$US10 million (\$A14.4 million), after it gained shareholder approval at the annual general meeting (BD: Nov 1, 2022).

Total Brain was unchanged at four cents.