



Biotech Daily

Wednesday December 7, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: NEXT SCIENCE UP 4%; MICRO-X DOWN 11%**
- * **CSL BEHRING OPENS \$900m BROADMEADOWS RECOMBINANT FACILITY**
- * **REDHILL RAISES \$12m**
- * **MODERNA STARTS WORK ON VICTORIA, MONASH mRNA LABORATORY**
- * **UK COCHLEAR OTICON PURCHASE 'COMPETITION CONCERNS'**
- * **VISIONEERING ENROLS NATURALVUE TRIAL**
- * **CRESO'S HALUCENEX DOSES 1st PSILOCYBIN PTSD PATIENT**
- * **MICRO-X RECEIVES \$3.9m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **RESPIRI: CONYERS MEDICAL CENTER ADOPTS WHEEZO**
- * **POLYNOVO PLACEMENT, VIRTUAL MEETINGS EGM**
- * **RECCE REQUESTS 'R327 PHASE II TRIAL APPROVAL' TRADING HALT**
- * **PLATINUM TAKES 7.6% OF PHARMAXIS**
- * **NICK HASLAM REPLACES ANATARA DIRECTOR SUE MACLEMAN**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.85 percent on Wednesday December 7, 2022, with the ASX200 down 61.9 points to 7,229.4 points. Just six of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 24 fell, nine traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Next Science was the best of the six, up 2.5 cents or 3.9 percent to 67 cents, with 6,808 shares traded. Genetic Signatures climbed 3.1 percent; Volpara rose 2.5 percent; with Emvision, Neuren and Orthocell up by more than one percent.

Micro-X led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 11.1 percent to 12 cents, with 1.3 million shares traded. Cynata lost six percent; Actinogen, Mesoblast, Paradigm and Patrys fell more than four percent; Alcidion, Medical Developments, Opthea and Pro Medicus were down more than three percent; Compumedics, Polynovo, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors shed more than two percent; Avita, Clinuvel, Cyclopharm, Immutep, Impedimed, Pharmaxis, Resonance and Telix were down one percent or more; with Cochlear, CSL, Kazia and Nanosonics down by less than one percent.

CSL

CSL says its recombinant arm, CSL Behring, has opened a \$900 million plasma fractionation facility in Broadmeadows, in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

CSL said the facility would allow a nine-fold increase in plasma fractionation, producing up to 9.2 million plasma equivalent litres per annum, was the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and was part of about \$2 billion invested in its Broadmeadows manufacturing facility over the last decade.

CSL said the \$900 million investment was part of a larger \$2 billion investment in its Melbourne sites, including a vaccine manufacturing facility for CSL Seqirus at Tullamarine and CSL's new headquarters and research and development facilities in Parkville.

CSL managing-director Paul Perreault said: "Today is a great day for patients, CSL and for biopharma manufacturing in Australia."

"This new facility builds on our long and proud Australian heritage and represents a bright future for our CSL Broadmeadows site," Mr Perreault said.

"It also ensures we are developing the skills and expertise locally to support advanced manufacturing in Australia," Mr Perreault said.

Mr Perreault said the processing plant would meet the increasing demand for plasma bio-therapies "not only in Australia, but also for our patients worldwide".

CSL fell \$1.60 or 0.5 percent to \$299.19 with 595,265 shares traded.

REDHILL BIOPHARMA

Redhill says it has raised \$US8.0 million (\$A11.96 million) through an underwritten offer of American depositary shares at 25.0 US cents (37 Australian cents) a share.

In 2010, Israel's Redhill bought Myoconda (RHB-104), Heliconda (RHB-105) and Picoconda (RHB-106) from Sydney's Giaconda (BD: Aug 17, 2010).

In 2019, the company said the US Food and Drug Administration had approved Talicia (previously Heliconda) for Helicobacter pylori infection (BD: Nov 5, 2019).

Today, Redhill said it intended to use the proceeds for working capital, acquisitions, and general corporate purposes, and New York's Aegis Capital Corp was the sole book running manager for the capital raising.

On the Nasdaq, Redhill fell 2.7 US cents or 10.11 percent to 24.01 US cents (35.92 Australian cents) with 4,912,723 shares traded.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT, MONASH UNIVERSITY, MODERNA

The Victoria Government says construction has begun on Moderna's mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility at Monash University's Clayton campus.

Last year, Victoria says it had an agreement with the Federal Government and Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna to establish a manufacturing plant capable of producing up to 25 million vaccine doses a year from 2024, with the capacity to scale up to 100 million doses a year to combat future pandemics (BD: Dec 14, 2021).

Today, a media release from Victoria Treasurer Tim Pallas said the State had "led on mRNA because we know the advantage it will provide in the event of future pandemics, and as researchers develop brilliant new ways to treat diseases".

The media release said the construction phase would support 500 jobs, with another 500 medical manufacturing and research roles created once the facility was operational.

The Victorian Government said the facility would improve its capability to manufacture mRNA vaccines "in population and pandemic-scale quantities, something only previously possible in the US and Europe".

COCHLEAR

Cochlear says the UK Competition and Markets Authority will review its acquisition of Oticon due to “competition concerns” about bone conduction product supplies.

Cochlear said the UK Competition and Markets Authority would refer the case to a further review unless it Oticon’s parent Demant could “offer acceptable undertakings to address their concerns” by December 13, 2022.

Last week, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said that it had “significant preliminary competition concerns with Cochlear’s proposed acquisition of Oticon” (BD: Dec 1, 2022).

In April, Cochlear said it would acquire the Smørum, Denmark-based Oticon Medical for DKK850 million (\$A170 million) from parent company Demant AS, who said it would exit the hearing implant market (BD: Apr 28, 2022).

Cochlear chief executive officer Dig Howitt said that the company was “driven by our mission to innovate and help more people to hear”.

“Cochlear remains committed to the proposed acquisition so that Oticon Medical’s recipients will have access to our innovative technologies and ongoing support for a lifetime of hearing outcomes,” Mr Howitt said.

Cochlear fell \$1.27 or 0.6 percent to \$210.64 with 138,518 shares traded.

VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES

Visioneering says it has completed enrolment of its 144-patient trial evaluating the efficacy Naturalvue multi-focal lenses for slowing the progression of myopia in children.

In January, Visioneering said it had enrolled its first patient in the trial aiming to demonstrate and quantify the efficacy of the lenses, and expected to complete enrolment by September, 2022 (BD: Jan 24, 2022).

Today, the company said that there had been no safety concerns and it expected interim one-year data by January 2024.

Visioneering said that “in previous myopia control trials of this type, one-year follow-up data has been shown to be a strong predictor of overall trial outcomes”.

The company said the trial was taking place in Canada, Singapore, the US and Hong Kong, with primary outcomes determined by changes over time in refractive error progression and eye length.

Visioneering was untraded at 40.5 cents.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso says subsidiary Halucenex Life Sciences has dosed the first of 20 subjects in a trial of its Lucenex synthetic psilocybin for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Creso said the administration of two separate doses of both Lucenex 10mg and Lucenex 25mg had been carried out with no adverse side effects observed.

The company said it expected the trial to be completed by July 2023.

Creso said Halucenex would seek to amend its Health Canada clinical trial protocol to include sleep disruption, which it said was one of the most harmful facets of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Creso was unchanged at 2.1 cents with 4.8 million shares traded.

MICRO-X

Micro-X says it has received \$3,884,863 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Micro-X said the rebate related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2022.

Micro-X fell 1.5 cents or 11.1 percent to 12 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

RESPIRI

Respiri says the Atlanta, Georgia-based Medical Center of Conyers will use its Wheezo for remote patient monitoring of asthma patients.

Respiri said first patients had begun using the Wheezo monitor, allowing current procedural terminology claims to be processed in the next two months.

The company said it had healthcare customers in five US states.

Respiri chief executive officer Marjan Mikel said that “respiratory specialists remain our key targets for Wheezo [remote patient monitoring, but], the fact remains that family medical practitioners are heavily involved in the management of patients with asthma and [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease].”

Respiri was up 0.2 cents or 5.6 percent to 3.8 cents.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says it an extraordinary general meeting will vote to approve a placement and a resolution to amend its constitution allowing virtual only meetings.

Polynovo said the constitution had been amended to include provisions allowing physical general meetings, as well as meetings “using virtual meeting technology only”.

Last month, a number of companies reported strong votes against amendments in relation to virtual meetings, with some companies withdrawing the resolutions prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be held at Minter Ellison, Level 20, 447 Collins Street, Melbourne on January 17, 2023 at 10am (AEDT) and virtually.

Polynovo fell four cents or 2.1 percent to \$1.90 with 2.2 million shares traded.

RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce has requested a trading halt pending an announcement relating to approval of its phase II study of R327 as a topical anti-infective therapy for diabetic foot infections.

Trading will resume on December 9, 2022, or on an earlier announcement.

Recce last traded down one cent or 1.5 percent to 64.5 cents.

PHARMAXIS

Platinum Asset Management says it has increased its substantial holding in Pharmaxis from 31,949,941 shares (5.06%) to 54,866,384 shares (7.63%).

The Sydney-based Platinum said that between November 2 and December 5, 2022, it bought Pharmaxis shares, with the largest acquisition 21,383,392 shares for \$1,283,004 shares, or 6.0 cents a share.

In October, Pharmaxis said it had raised \$10 million in a two-tranche placement at six cents a share (BD: Oct 19, 2022).

Pharmaxis fell 0.1 cents or 1.6 percent to 6.2 cents.

[ANATARA LIFESCIENCES](#)

Anatara says Nick Haslam will replace chair Sue MacLeman as a non-executive director, effective from December 7, 2022.

Anatara said Mr Haslam was currently the chief executive officer of Plasma Shield and had held executive roles at medical device and injury prevention business Kangatech.

Anatara executive chair Dr David Brookes thanked Ms MacLeman “for her contribution ... and wish her well with her many interests and for future endeavors”.

Anatara was untraded at 3.8 cents.