Biotech Daily

Monday December 19, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: NOVA EYE UP 24%; DIMERIX DOWN 15%**

*** ANOTHER YEAR IN THE GRASS – BY PETER OLSZEWSKI (JJ McROACH)**

*** CSL: 'POSITIVE EU OPINION' FOR HEMGENIX FOR HAEMOPHILIA B**

*** ALCIDION: $8.4m LEIDOS, ADF CONTRACT EXTENSION; TOTAL $31.7m**

*** BIOXYNE TO MERGE WITH BREATHE LIFE SCIENCES FOR $37m IN SHARES**

*** BIONOMICS: BNC210 MISSES ANXIETY PRIMARY ENDPOINTS**

*** THERMO FISHER REPLACES LBT EURO DISTRIBUTOR BECKMAN COULTER**

*** AVITA FILES US FDA RECELL VITILIGO APPLICATION**

*** TRUSCREEN VIETNAM, RUSSIA, ZIMBABWE, POLAND ORDERS**

*** VGI DOSES 10 NAFLD/NASH IVB001PATIENTS**

*** NEUROTECH TREATS 1st MARIJUANA NTI164 CHILD AUTISM PATIENT**

*** WOKE, QIMR AGREE WP002 PSILOCYBIN 'PROLONGED GRIEF' TRIAL**

*** ANTISENSE FILES EUROPEAN ATL1102 DMD TRIAL APPLICATIONS**

*** OSTEOPORE REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISE' TRADING HALT**

*** DMX BELOW 5% IN CRYOSITE**

*** VAREX TAKES 9.9% OF MICRO-X**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.21 percent on Monday December 19, 2022, with the ASX200 down 14.8 points to 7,133.9 points. Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 21 fell, two traded unchanged and three were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Nova Eye was the best on no news, up six cents or 24 percent to 31 cents, with 92,324 shares traded. Alcidion climbed 7.1 percent; Starpharma was up five percent; Paradigm improved 4.25 percent; Amplia, Cynata and Micro-X were up more than three percent; Emvision, Genetic Signatures, Pharmaxis and Proteomics rose more than one percent; with Atomo, Neuren and Next Science up by less than one percent.

Dimerix led the falls, down 2.5 cents or 14.7 percent to 15.5 cents, with 282,482 shares traded. Imugene lost 11.8 percent; Oncosil, Patrys and Polynovo shed six percent or more; Actinogen, Kazia and Volpara fell more than four percent; Avita, Clinuvel, Immutep, Orthocell and Universal Biosensors were down three percent or more; Compumedics, Impedimed and Mesoblast shed more than two percent; Cochlear, CSL and Opthea were down more than one percent; with Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Pro Medicus, Resmed and Telix down by less than one percent.

ANOTHER YEAR IN THE GRASS

By PETER OLSZEWSKI

(AKA Jay Jerilderie McRoach, former Nation Review Marijuana Columnist)

Prescient words from Harvard Health Publishing in December last year when, while discussing the cannabidiol (CBD) phenomena, it conjectured: “The only thing that is clear at this point: The marketing has gone way ahead of the science and the law when it comes to CBD products.”

On November 28, the ‘Pharmacy and Clinical Pharmacology’ published Swedish research suggesting media coverage could influence cannabis clinical trial outcomes, especially when coverage appeared positive when there were no actual positive outcomes.

Or as the study’s first author Filip Gedin said “We see that cannabis studies are often described in positive terms in the media regardless of their results.”

Meanwhile in Australia in March, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) headlined: “Medicinal cannabis being used by tens of thousands of Australians.”
It reported Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration figures that showed medical marijuana prescriptions doubled from 2020 to 2021, to 122,000 prescriptions. This - the ABC did not note - equates to a minuscule 0.03875 percent of the 314,800,000 million medical prescriptions written in 2021.

Marijuana might not be good medicine

The ABC repeatedly reports that medical marijuana is good medicine without revealing what it can actually cure. Not that that’s a problem – the ABC experts suggests that with medical marijuana, the “cure” is not necessarily the cure all.

In the March piece, it highlighted the case of ‘David’ diagnosed with fibromyalgia. When he began using prescribed cannabis oils he found they helped "mask the symptoms” of fibromyalgia and improve his sleep. But masking symptoms simply means the root cause is not being treated and healing is mostly not aided.

Melbourne general practitioner Dr Vicki Kotsirilos is the first authorized prescriber of medical cannabis in Australia and, according to the ABC, she said “medicinal cannabis isn't a ‘cure’, but can improve quality of life.”

Australian Centre for Cannabinoid Clinical and Research Excellence director Dr Jennifer Martin told the ABC that most prescriptions were written for chronic pain and anxiety-related conditions that were not “satiated by biochemicals” alone and usually required psychological therapy and environmental changes to help address “underlying issues”.

Dr Martin said: “It may just be that [medicinal cannabis] is getting them through their current situation. It's not a problem in the sense that people often use chemicals in the short-term to cope with things.”

In other words, people may not be cured but they may feel good, a condition referred to by mainly western hippy tribes that spread across the globe last century as “getting stoned” and by Noble Laureate Bob Dylan recommending that “Everyone must get stoned.”

Not that Biotech Daily wants to put the mozz on medical cannabis and the problems the sector faces, not the least being the results of the first high quality study, a trial led by the Mater hospital and the University of Queensland, looking at the impact of cannabidiol oil on palliative care patients with advanced cancer.

Lead author Prof Janet Hardy reported, “The trial found there was no detectable effect of CBD on change in physical or emotional functioning, overall quality of life, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, pain, dyspnoea or appetite loss.”

As the Guardian, which reported the trial, noted: “Palliative care is one of the conditions for which medicinal cannabis has been approved in Australia.”

Nor investment

And not that Biotech Daily wants to challenge the Daily Mail Australia’s claim in August that “Aussies are getting super rich investing in marijuana.”

While medical marijuana may not be doing much medical healing, it urgently needs to heal investor anxiety. The Australian publication Cannabiz hopes so. Noting that a slew of cannabis companies had gone back to the market for more cash this year, it said 2023 may be the “year of delivery,” with investors seeing returns on investment.

US newsletter MJ Biz Daily reported last month that American entrepreneurs and investors were “exhausted and eager to catch a break after a difficult year of declining sales, tumbling prices and vanishing capital”.

In Canada, analysts cut hundreds of millions of dollars from this year’s sales forecast for three major companies: New York-based Tilray, Ontario’s Canopy Growth and Alberta-headquartered Aurora Cannabis, which all have Australian connections.

Revenue as high as a kite

But despite setbacks, the usual flurry of global and Australian forward projections talk it up. Clever Leaves Holdings tipped that by 2027 the “rapidly expanding Australian medical cannabis market” would be valued at $US1.2 billion and would be “the fifth largest in the world”.

Future Market Insights said Australia’s “legal cannabis market” could reach a market valuation of $US67.39 million this year, with a “moderate” compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 30.1 percent over 2022-’32 to a $US936.22 million by 2032.

In the US, pot sales - recreational and medical - will jump from $US25 billion ($A36.9 billion) in 2021 to $US42 billion in 2026, comprising 75 percent of global sales, according to marijuana analytics firm BDSA.

Street legal is a worry

BDSA noted that a decline of medical marijuana sales was because adult-use legalization was an emergent trend in most US states with the main exception Colorado, which went adult-use legal in 2014. BDSA projected global cannabis sales - recreational and medical - will increase from $US30 billion last year to $US57 billion in 2026, a 13 percent CAGR.

The usual flurry of projections resulted in the usual rash of contradictory estimates:

* Statista valued the global cannabis market (GCM) at $US22 billion, to reach $US33 billion by 2025.
* Allied Market Research said the GCM generated $US25.7 billion in 2021 and will reach $148.9 billion by 2031 with CAGR of 20.1.
* Imarc Group claimed the GCM would reach $US52.1 billion by 2027, with CAGR of 10.4 percent.
* Insight Partners said the GCM would reach $US147.4 billion by 2027 from $US14.3 billion in 2019, a CAGR of 29.1 percent.

Profit? Did someone say profit?

But nobody bothered to project profit, possibly because there isn't any. Or hardly any.

So little in fact that in August, news that an Australian company had actually made a profit created the giddy aforementioned excitement at the Daily Mail newspaper which made its "super-rich" declaration on news that Cronos had tripled its revenue and was the first ASX-listed medical marijuana company to pay a dividend, the dividend being fully-franked at 1.0 cent a share.

It was also noted that Cronos was possibly the world's first medical marijuana company to pay a dividend, although this is challenged in Canada, when in November MJ Biz Daily reported that Toronto's Sensi Brands chief executive officer Tony Giorgi claimed the "capital-light" company became "one of the only profitable cannabis producers in Canada" in 2021, ostensibly turning a profit last year.

But for most medical marijuana companies, profits and dividends are still the stuff of the dream time, especially when viewed through real-time data, rather than a $2 kaleidoscope.

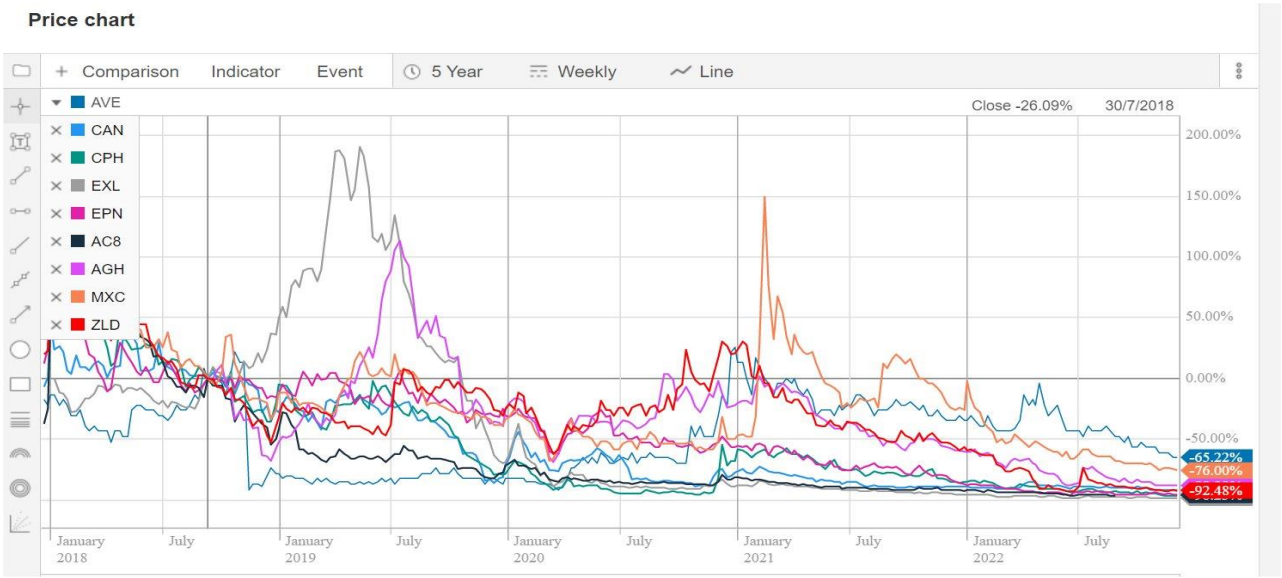
Cannabis Corner more snakes than ladders

To this end, Biotech Daily charted the course of eight medical marijuana companies in its Cannabis Corner collection that are not traveling well, as opposed to the two or three companies doing well.

According to Commsec data, of the losers over a five-year period, Elixinol (which was one of the 11 removed to the agriculture sector) fell 97.7 percent; Creso dropped 97.6 percent; Epsilon – formerly The Hydroponics Co (96.8%), Auscann (94.1%); Zelira (93.8%), Cann Group (91.6%), MGC (86.25%), Althea (82.7%) and Avecho (52.6%) (see chart below).

Gasping for the oxygen of publicity

MGC made history on February 10 last year as London Stock Exchange's first medicinal cannabis company. Since its debut at 2.38 Great British Pence, it sunk to 0.675 of a penny in mid-December, basking in the glory of being less-than a penny-dreadful. On the same day, its ASX price was 1.2 cents matching its 0.675 of a Great British Pfennig.



Despite such figures, Cannabis Corner showed a slight improvement year-on-year, but it was shored up by the one or two top performers.

Cronos continued as the star by announcing on December 5 that it had sold its one millionth unit of medical marijuana through the Canview platform, which was launched in June 2020 and claims the majority of cannabis medications available in Australia. Cronos said November was a $10.7 million "record month" of unaudited revenue, and forecast that the three months to December 31 will be another "record quarter."

While it was a year of Cannabis Corner finances faring poorly, it was also a case of companies behaving badly. In September, the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced that three licenced medical marijuana companies were fined almost $1 million for "alleged unlawful advertising".
Little Green Pharma was fined $372,960 for 28 notices, MGC Pharmaceuticals was fined $306,360 for 23 notices and Cannatrek was fined $293,040 for 22 notices.

The TGA accused the companies of allegedly promoting unapproved medicines, unlawfully advertising, and including unapproved references to treating serious conditions, including cancer and epilepsy.

Then there was "the vulgar world of Creso Pharma" as the Australian Financial Review put it.

On Friday November 25 the Southport Magistrate's Court bailed Creso director James Ellingford on six charges: two counts of contravention of a domestic violence order; one of unlawful stalking; and three of "improper use of emergency call services, vexatious".

Four days later, the AFR derided Ellingford as “a social media starlet” regarding his “nauseating displays on Tiktok,” where he had been documenting his volatile relationship with a woman 35 years his junior, including included outbursts about Chinese people.

The AFR commented that: “Ellingford may be behaving extremely erratically and have filmed his vile rants in full view of dime bags of white powder, but the good doctor confirmed he had not been taking illicit drugs.

“He says these were actually bags of flour. What an exceptional piece of physical comedy.”

Creso dumped Ellingford, and he was later removed from another Everblu and Adam Blumenthal-related company, the Israeli agriculture equipment manufacturer Roots Sustainable.

Outlook 2023 - or is that ‘Look out!’

So, what’s the prognosis for Australian medical marijuana for 2023?

Companies that invested in cultivation assets and sunk big bucks into glasshouse grow centres, like the “20-tonne capacity cultivation facility” earmarked to commence construction in regional Victoria next year, may realize that, like their Canadian and US counterparts, they have over-invested, especially if they are stuck with marijuana they can’t move, given the glut that’s emerged overseas.

But unlike some Western sector counterparts, the local medical marijuana market may be advantaged by Australia now becoming one of the more restrictive countries in the sector regarding the legalization of recreational cannabis.

This may prove a boon because the trend internationally in many markets is that recreational legalization ushers in lower weed prices overall and diminishes medical marijuana sales - an irony because many internationally argue that the uptake of medical marijuana softened marijuana’s image and helped open the door to legal recreational use.

With one or two major growers, such as Cann Group in its top-secret Mildura plant known to locals as ‘The Pink Glow’ after someone left the shutters open, and the planned Cannatrek Shepparton operation, along with the Cronos distribution of around 200 different marijuana flowers, capsules, oil and drops, there doesn’t look like much room for anyone else.

And as Lewis Carroll didn’t quite say: “If there’s not much room, try mushrooms.”

But that’s a story for next year.

The writer was the co-founder of the Australian Marijuana Party and stood as Senate candidate JJ McRoach in the 1977 Australian Federal Election. Biotech Daily editor David Langsam was his campaign director.

CSL

CSL says it has a “positive opinion” from the European Medicines Agency for its Hemgenix, or etranacogene dezaparvovec, gene therapy for haemophilia B.
In 2021, CSL said it had a $US450 million ($A583 million) commercialization agreement with Uniqure for its AMT-061 gene therapy program for haemophilia-B (BD: May 6, 2021).
In November, the company said the US Food and Drug Administration had approved its Hemgenix as the first gene therapy for haemophilia B (BD: Nov 23, 2022).
At that time, CSL said the FDA’s approval of Hemgenix had been based on data from Uniqure’s Hope-B trial showing that factor IX activity increased 39 percent at six months post-treatment and remained stable at 36.7 percent at 24 months post-infusion.
Today, a CSL spokesperson told Biotech Daily the list price of Hemgenix in the US would be $US3.5 million a course, but said no decision had been made for European pricing.
The company said that it expected European of Hemgenix in February, which would be the first gene therapy for haemophilia B in the European Union.
CSL’s head of regulatory affairs Dr Emmanuelle Lecomte Brisset said that the CHMP “positive opinion moves us one step closer to bringing this ground-breaking innovation to haemophilia B patients in Europe”.
“Getting a new medicine to this stage of the regulatory process takes the support of many, including clinical trial participants, the haemophilia community in general, investigators, clinicians, regulatory agencies, our people, and our partners at Uniqure,” she said.
CSL fell $3.27 or 1.1 percent to $288.41 with 453,844 shares traded.

ALCIDION GROUP

Alcidion says it has an extended $8.4 million contract with Leidos Australia to deliver a health knowledge management system for the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
According to its website, the Melbourne-based Leidos Australia was a subsidiary of the Washington, Virginia-based Leidos, and provided information technology projects, intelligence, defence mission systems and information technology services to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Government.
In 2021, Alcidion said that through a consortium led by Leidos Australia, it had a $23 million, six-year Miya Precision contract for the Federal Government (BD: Dec 3, 2021).
At that time, the company said it would provide longitudinal health records through its Miya Precision, aggregating data from the consortium partners and other systems to establish a consolidated view of every participant’s health status and history.
Previously, Alcidion said it was part of a consortium in a contract for stage one of two stages of the Australian Defence Department Healthcare Knowledge Management project, providing its Miya platform to collect data (BD: Apr 15, 2021).
Today, Alcidion said that the up-to 15 years extension would increase the total contract value to about $31.7 million, and that the extension would increase the number of Miya Precision modules used, including its Miya Observations and Assessments which had licences for use in strategic and tactical aero-medical evacuation.
The company said that the additional capability would “ensure that critical, relevant medical information can be shared between Defence and its allies in the treatment of ADF members and that a consistent longitudinal health record is available to clinicians regardless of the setting in which they are operating”.
Alcidion managing-director Kate Quirke said “we are proud to see Miya Precision play an increasingly crucial role in supporting the health outcomes of ADF personnel through the provision of consistent longitudinal health data for clinicians across varied care settings”.
Alcidion was up one cent or 7.1 percent to 15 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.

BIOXYNE

Bioxyne says it expects to merge with Breathe Life Sciences Pty Ltd for 1,230,000,000 shares at three cents each, worth $36,900,000 and 64.9 percent of the company.
Bioxyne said that Brisbane's Breathe Life chief executive officer Sam Watson would be appointed joint chief executive officer.
According to its most recent filing, Bioxyne had 665,645,398 shares on issue, implying that following the merger, Breath Life would hold 64.9 percent of the combined company.
The company said that Breathe Life manufactured and sold "plant-based wellness products and supplements, including cannabidiol, vitamins, manuka honey and mushroom complexes" and operated in Australia, the UK, Japan, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, with four factories and more than 40 employees.
Bioxyne said the Breath Life shares would be escrowed for 12 months and the merger subject to due diligence as well as shareholder and regulatory approvals.
Bioxyne chair Tony Ho said the acquisition was "a natural fit [and] this combination of two complementary businesses and geographies will transform the company and we are excited about the prospect to welcome Breathe Life Sciences into the Bioxyne family".
Bioxyne was up 0.1 cents or 3.85 percent to 2.7 cents.

BIONOMICS

Bionomics says BNC210 did not meet the primary endpoints in its 151-patient, phase II study for social anxiety disorder but "exhibited trends towards improvements".
In 2012, the company said the Cambridge Massachusetts-based Ironwood Pharmaceuticals had licenced BNC210 for anxiety disorders, paying a $2.9 million upfront fee in a deal worth up to $US345 million (BD: Jan 22, 2012).
In 2014, Bionomics said it had taken back BNC210 from Ironwood (BD: Nov 11, 2014).
In 2018, Bionomics fell 69 percent when its 193-patient, phase II trial of BNC210 for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), missed its primary endpoint (BD: Oct 2, 2018).
In 2019, the company said its phase II trial of BNC210 for agitation "did not differentiate from placebo on the primary and secondary efficacy end points" (BD: Jun 26, 2019).
In 2021, Bionomics said it had begun a phase IIb trial about 200-patients trial to evaluate the tablet formulation of its BNC210 in patients with PTSD (BD: Jul 6, 2021).
In January, the company said it had begun the 151-patient, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging study of BNC-210 for acute treatment of social anxiety disorder, with top-line results expected by the end of 2022 (BD: Jan 16, 2022).
Today, Bionomics said that study participants were treated with a single oral dose of either placebo or 225mg BNC210 or 675mg BNC210, which was followed by a public speaking challenge consisting of a two-minute preparation period and a five-minute speech, which was self-assessed using the subjective units of distress scale (Suds).
Bionomics said the primary endpoint of the change in Suds scores, was not met in the BNC210-treated patients compared to placebo, but the findings indicated a "consistent trend toward improvements across primary and secondary endpoints".
The company said it was assessing next steps for BNC210 in social anxiety disorder.
Bionomics chair Dr Errol De Souza said that while the study "did not statistically meet its primary endpoint, we have noted the consistent trends in improvement of endpoints in the BNC210-treated patients and continued strong safety and tolerability profile of BNC210 across the 13 clinical trials conducted to date".
"We remain committed to the ongoing phase IIb Attune Study in PTSD with top-line data expected mid-2023," Dr De Souza said.
Bionomics fell 1.2 cents or 21.05 percent to 4.5 cents with 6.6 million shares traded.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says it has appointed the Waltham, Massachusetts Thermo Fisher Scientific its Apas Independence distributor in Europe and terminated the contract with Beckman Coulter.
In 2020, LBT said that then joint venture Clever Culture Systems had a three-year agreement with the Brea, California-based Beckman Coulter to market its automated plate assessment system (Apas) Independence in Europe (BD: Jul 7, 2020).
In 2021, LBT said that Clever Culture Systems appointed Thermo Fisher Scientific the exclusive US distributor for its Apas Independence (BD: Sep 27, 2021).
Today, the company did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement, but said that the Thermo Fisher appointment was an expansion on its existing US distribution agreement for Apas Independence, to countries in Western and Eastern Europe and it expected the transition and a product launch to be completed by March 2023.
LBT managing-director Brent Barnes said the experience in the US showed the benefit of a full distribution partner “with the brand reputation and sales reach of Thermo Fisher”.
LBT was unchanged at five cents.

AVITA MEDICAL

Avita says it has submitted a pre-market approval application to the US Food and Drug Administration for its Recell spray-on skin to include stable vitiligo.
Earlier this month, Avita said it had submitted a pre-market approval supplement to the FDA for its Recell spray-on skin to include soft tissue repair (BD: Dec 12, 2022).
At that time, the company said that the supplement included the recent results from the soft tissue repair trial and followed the FDA pre-market application supplement approval of Recell for acute thermal burns, as well as breakthrough device designation for soft tissue repair and vitiligo in November (BD: Feb 18, Nov 4, 2022).
Today, Avita said the pre-market approval application had a 180-day review timeline.
Avita chief executive officer Jim Corbett said Recell had a “first-in-class repigmentation of vitiligo lesions … [and] once approved, this indication will dramatically expand our reach in a huge market with limited treatment options”.
“We anticipate a full launch of this treatment option in January 2025,” Mr Corbett said.
Avita fell 7.5 cents or 3.6 percent to $1.985.

TRUSCREEN GROUP

Truscreen says Vietnam has ordered eight of its Truscreen Ultra device for cervical cancer screening, as well as 1,800 disposable single use sensors for the device.
Truscreen said the Vietnam orders came from a recent demonstration of its devices and it expected the order to be completed in early 2023.
In November, the company said that four Truscreen Ultra devices, which “detect pre-cancerous and cancerous cervical changes in real-time via optical and electrical measurements” and circumvent the need for cytology, would be installed in two hospitals in Vietnam (BD: Nov 2, 2022).
Today, Truscreen said Russia distributor JSC Imsystems had extended to Kazakhstan and had ordered five devices and 6,120 sensors for Russia and surrounding countries.
The company said Zimbabwe had ordered a further 10,800 single use sensors, expected by early 2023, for use with the 16 devices operation in the region.
Truscreen said it was in discussion with a network of medical clinics in Poland, to roll out the Truscreen cervical cancer screening device to a private network of medical clinics.
Truscreen was untraded at 3.8 cents.

VGI HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

VGI says subsidiary, Invictus Ops Pty Ltd, has dosed 10 of 80 patients in its phase II trial of IVB001 for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis.
In September, VGI said it had dosed its first patient in the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to analyze the efficacy and safety of IVB001 for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis (NASH) (BD: Sep 14, 2022).
Today, the company said that the study was recruiting at six sites in Australia.
On the National Stock Exchange, VGI was untraded at three cents.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Neurotech says it has treated the first patient in its 54-patient phase II/III trial of its marijuana-based NTI164 for children with autism spectrum disorder.
Last month, Neurotech said the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration had cleared it's the NTI164 trial for paediatric autism spectrum disorder (BD: Nov 17, 2022).
At that time, the company said the 18-week, phase II/III clinical trial, at Melbourne's Monash Medical Centre would evaluate the efficacy and safety of NTI164 compared to placebo, with the primary endpoint clinical global impression-severity.
Today, Neurotech said the primary endpoint of the trial was to assess the severity of illness after eight weeks of treatment with NTI164, its low delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol combination drug, followed by a 10-week maintenance and wash-out period.
Neurotech said that secondary endpoints of the trial were to assess changes in behavior, social responsiveness and change in anxiety, depression and mood scores, as well as safety of the drug.
The company said it expected recruitment to be finalized by the end of 2023.
Neurotech fell 0.3 cents or 4.1 percent to seven cents.

WOKE PHARMACEUTICALS

Woke says the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer will conduct a 15-patient, phase II trial of its 25mg psilocybin WP002 for "prolonged grief".
In August, Woke said that the Brisbane-based Institute would conduct a 15-patient, open-label trial, titled 'Psilocybin-assisted supportive psychotherapy in the treatment of prolonged grief' or 'parting' to show recruitment feasibility, intervention acceptability and the safety and proof-of-concept efficacy of WP002 tablets (BD: Aug 12, 2022).
Today, the company said that "bereaved carers of people with cancer who meet the criteria for prolonged grief disorder will be invited to take part" and that participants would undergo "three reparatory psychotherapy sessions, one psilocybin dosing session and six post-experience psychotherapy integration sessions".
Woke said it would provide WP002 and funding for the study, which was matched by a grant from the Institute, and it expected recruitment to begin by July 2023.
Woke chief executive officer Nick Woolf said that prolonged grief "affects a vast number of people with limited treatment options… [and] we believe that WP002 psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy could offer a new treatment option and durable benefit to people with this condition".
Woke is a private company.

ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

Antisense says it has submitted trial applications to the UK, Bulgaria and Turkey for a 45-patient, phase IIb trial of ATL1102 for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.
Antisense said the double-blind, placebo-controlled trial would study the effects of ATL1102, its antisense inhibitor of the CD49d receptor, on 45 non-ambulant boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in multiple sites across Europe and Australia.
The company said that it intended to submit a trial application in Australia "following the holiday period … for review early in the new year".
Antisense said the trial would treat the boys for six-months with either placebo, 25mg ATL1102, or 50mg ATL1102, once weekly, with a further six-month open-label treatment period.
Antisense said that approvals for the European country applications were expected in in early 2023 with results by July 2024.
Antisense was unchanged at 8.6 cents.

OSTEOPORE

Osteopore has requested a trading halt "pending the release of an announcement in relation to a proposed capital raising".
Trading will resume on December 21, 2022 or on an earlier announcement.
Osteopore last traded at 20 cents.

CRYOSITE

DMX Asset Management says it has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in Cryosite.
In 2021, the Sydney-based DMX said it had become a substantial shareholder in Cryosite with 2,770,973 shares or 5.91 percent of the company.
Today, the company said that between May 17, 2021 and December 15, 2022, it bought and sold shares, with the single largest sale on May 17, 2021 of 400,000 shares for $143,604 or 35.9 cents a share.
Cryosite fell 2.5 cents or 3.6 percent to 66.5 cents.

MICRO-X

Varex Imaging Corporation says it has become substantial in Micro-X with 50,709,000 shares or 9.9 percent.
Varex said it had acquired the shares on September 19 and December 15, 2022 for 14.7 cents a share.
In September, Micro-X said it had a $7.5 million collaboration with the Salt Lake City, Utah-based Varex to licence its Nex multi-beam x-ray tubes, as well as a $7.5 million placement at 14.7 cents to Varex for a 9.9 percent holding (BD: Sep 19, 2022).
Micro-X was up half a cent or 3.85 percent to 13.5 cents.