



Biotech Daily

Tuesday December 20, 2022

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: PARADIGM UP 6%; NEXT SCIENCE DOWN 10%**
- * **BRANDON, TENMILE \$30m FOR ARAVAX PEANUT ALLERGY TRIAL**
- * **CANNASOUTH TO BUY EQALIS FOR \$46.2m SCRIP**
- * **MACH7: NUVODIA PLACES \$2.5m PACS ORDER**
- * **LBT: THERMO FISHER \$601k FOR APAS AI**
- * **WOKE, CURTIN UNI TRIAL PSILOCYBIN WP002 FOR CHRONIC PAIN**
- * **AVECHO, PERRIGO TO DEVELOP IBUPROFEN-TPM GEL**
- * **AROVELLA NORTH CAROLINA UNI CYTOKINE OPTION**
- * **PHARMAUST: MONEPANTEL PARTIAL RESPONSE IN 2 DOGS**
- * **REGENEUS RECEIVES \$1.1m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **IMUGENE CHAIR PAUL HOPPER DILUTED BELOW 5%**
- * **NIGHTINGALE TAKES 15.8% IN CONTROL BIONICS**
- * **CONTROL BIONICS CEO PETER FORD REDUCES TO 22%**
- * **DOHERTY APPOINTS MARTYN MYER CHAIR**
- * **KATHLEEN MILLER REPLACES VISIONEERING DIRECTOR JEAN FRANCHI**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.54 percent on Tuesday December 20, 2022, with the ASX200 down 109.6 points to 7,024.3 points. Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell, 10 traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Paradigm was the best, up eight cents or 5.9 percent to \$1.43, with 675,852 shares traded; followed by Antisense up 5.8 percent to 9.1 cents with 338,629 shares traded. Actinogen and Prescient climbed four percent or more; Dimerix was up 3.45 percent; with Medical Developments, Oncosil, Proteomics and Volpara up by more than one percent.

Next Science led the falls, down seven cents or 10 percent to 63 cents, with 38,187 shares traded. Emvision, Patrys and Universal Biosensors lost more than seven percent; Alcidion shed 6.7 percent; Polynovo was down 5.5 percent; Impedimed fell 4.8 percent; Imugene, Micro-X, Nanosonics, Pharmaxis, Pro Medicus and Telix were down more than three percent; Avita, Cochlear and Uscom shed two percent or more; Clinuvel, Cynata, Resmed and Starpharma were down more than one percent; with CSL and Cyclopharm down by less than one percent.

ARAVAX PTY LTD

Aravax says it has raised \$30 million in series B funding with Brandon Capital and Tattarang's Tenmile for a phase II trial of PVX108 peanut allergy immunotherapy. In 2019, Melbourne's Aravax said that its 48-patient, phase I, dose-escalation PVX108 trial showed "a highly favorable safety profile, even in patients with severe peanut allergies" (BD: Feb 26, 2019).

Today, the company said that Melbourne's-based Brandon Capital and the Perth-based and Dr Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest-owned Tenmile had provided its latest round of funding. Aravax said it had approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for its investigational new drug application and had a clinical trial notification in place with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, allowing phase II trials to begin "soon". The company said it would seek further funding to accelerate the clinical trial process towards a phase III trial.

Aravax chief executive officer Dr Pascal Hickey said the "support from our industry-leading investors is a great show of confidence as we progress PVX108 into phase II development".

"PVX108 has revolutionary potential because we have engineered out the safety risks associated with current approaches," Dr Hickey said.

"Furthermore, the precise action of PVX108 affords a vaccine-like dosing regimen which is expected to be more convenient than the daily dosing required for other therapies, likely resulting in better adherence," Dr Hickey said.

Tenmile executive chair Dr Steve Burnell said that PVX108 was a "novel peptide immunology for treating peanut allergy".

"We are particularly excited about Aravax's novel platform technology which has potential application against other allergens," Dr Burnell said.

Aravax is a private company.

CANNASOUTH

Cannasouth says it will buy medical marijuana company Equis for 147,891,069 Cannasouth shares valued at \$NZ48.8 million (\$A46.2 million) and raise \$NZ9 million. In an email, the Hamilton East-based Cannasouth chair Tony Ho told Bitoech Daily that the merger with the Tauranga North Island-based Equis would "form the largest medicinal cannabis company in New Zealand".

On its website, Cannasouth said that as part of the agreement, its Mark Lucas would continue as chief executive officer of the merged companies, with Equis chief executive officer Greg Misson to be appointed chief innovation officer.

Cannasouth chief executive officer Mark Lucas said "Both Cannasouth and Equis share the same values when it comes to delivering positive health outcomes to patients."

"Through collaboration, we can speed up the advancement of technology to bring medicines to market faster," Mr Lucas said.

Equis chief executive officer Greg Misson said Cannasouth and Equis would jointly raise about \$NZ9 million "to accelerate growth and the advancement of technologies which will bring costs down for patients".

"We know the most significant barrier to medicinal cannabis for many Kiwis is affordability," Mr Misson said. "As a combined entity, we're investing in diversification and eliminating duplication to lower the price of medicinal cannabis for patients."

On the New Zealand Stock Exchange, Cannasouth was unchanged at 28 New Zealand cents or 26.6 Australian cents.

MACH7 TECHNOLOGIES

Mach7 says the Spokane Valley, Washington-based Nuvodia has placed a \$2.5 million sales order for its enterprise imaging platform.

Mach7 said the five-year contract included its Vendor Neutral Archive (VNA), Eunity Diagnostic Viewer and Workflow applications providing an enterprise-wide picture archiving and communication system (Pacs) product.

Mach7 managing-director Mike Lampron said the licence allowed Nuvodia “to install Mach7’s software in its [internet] cloud infrastructure enabling the resale and deployment of our products to Nuvodia’s existing and new customers, creating ongoing sales and service opportunities for Mach7”.

Mach7 was up one cent or 1.8 percent to 57 cents.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says Thermo Fisher will invest \$US400,000 (\$A601,100) to develop of its automated plate assessment system (Apas) Pharma artificial intelligence (AI) module.

LBT said that the Waltham, Massachusetts-based Thermo Fisher would accelerate development of an Apas Pharma module which “specifically supports Thermo Fisher’s culture plate media for use in microbial quality control applications”.

LBT was up 0.8 cents or 16 percent to 5.8 cents.

WOKE PHARMACEUTICALS

Woke says Curtin University will run a 50-patient, phase II trial of 25mg psilocybin WP002 tablet with psychotherapy for chronic primary musculo-skeletal pain.

Woke said that under a letter of intent, it had agreed to support the trial financially, and through the provision of WP002 and placebo.

The company said Curtin University psychologist Dr Rob Schütze would conduct the trial which would examine safety, tolerability and proof-of-concept efficacy.

Woke chief executive officer Nick Woolf said the trial would be “the fourth clinical setting that we are evaluating with WP002”.

Woke is a private company.

AVECHO (FORMERLY PHOSPHAGENICS)

Avecho says it will work with the Dublin-based Perrigo Co PLC to develop a tocopheryl phosphate mixture (TPM)-based ibuprofen gel for “a pain-related indication”.

In 2009, the then Phosphagenics said that a 12-patient, phase Ib trial of the inflammatory pain drug diclofenac (Voltaren) showed that its tocopheryl phosphate mixture increased deep absorption by 380 percent (BD: Sep 10, 2009).

In 2013, Phosphagenics said that commercial partner Themis Medicare would supply TPM-diclofenac gel to Novartis India to distribute and sell (BD: Apr 15, 2013).

Today, the company said that Perrigo would conduct a clinical trial of the gel for a pain-related indication in 2023, with positive results triggering an agreement under which it would license its TPM technology to Perrigo, which would continue development towards registration with the US Food and Drug Administration.

Avecho chief executive officer Dr Paul Gavin said that the company had “previous experience developing topical diclofenac for clinical trials and commercialization and look forward to including these learnings in the new ibuprofen product”.

Avecho was up 0.1 cents or 10 percent to 1.1 cents with 4.3 million shares traded.

AROVELLA

Arovella says it has an option with the University of North Carolina Cancer Centre to licence cytokine technology for its invariant natural killer cell platform.

Arovella that payment for the option was “not a material amount” and the term was 15 months.

The company said the technology had the potential to make invariant natural killer T-cells persist longer and grow in greater numbers, which could in turn strengthen its own invariant natural killer T-cell (iNKT) technology.

Arovella managing-director Dr Michael Baker said the option agreement “future-proofs our iNKT platform by working with ... [the University] and Prof Gianpietro Dotti”.

“This new relationship increases our potential to develop a best-in-class therapeutic for solid tumor cancers,” Dr Baker said.

“I look forward to seeing the outcome of this novel technology when tested in conjunction with Imugene’s Oncarlytics platform,” Dr Baker said.

Arovella fell 0.1 cents or four percent to 2.4 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says two dogs in its trial of monepantel in canine B-cell lymphoma have exhibited a partial response, as assessed by administering veterinarians.

Pharmaust said it required 18 out of 46 dogs to exhibit overall clinical benefit to meet its statistical endpoint.

The company said that 33 dogs had been treated with monepantel, excluding four dogs removed from the study.

Pharmaust fell 0.2 cents or three percent to 6.5 cents.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says it has received \$1,050,303 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Regeneus said the rebate related to expenditure for the year to June 30, 2022.

Regeneus was untraded at 4.8 cents.

IMUGENE

Imugene chair Paul Hopper says he has ceased to be a substantial holder in the company after his holding was diluted below five percent.

Mr Hopper said that on December 2, 2022, he was diluted below five percent in the company as a result of the “exercise of options by others”.

Imugene fell half a cent or 3.3 percent to 14.5 cents with 38.4 million shares traded.

CONTROL BIONICS

The Sydney-based Nightingale Partners says it has become substantial in Control Bionics with 9,117,123 shares or 10.94 percent.

In an initial substantial shareholder notice signed by Lindsay Phillips, Nightingale said that it bought 9,117,123 shares in Control Bionics for \$2,063,979, or 22.6 cents a share, on “various” undisclosed dates.

Nightingale said that it became a Control Bionics substantial holder on December 7, 2020.

Control Bionics was up half a cent or 3.3 percent to 15.5 cents.

[CONTROL BIONICS](#)

Nightingale says it has increased its substantial holding in Control Bionics from 9,117,123 shares (10.94%) to 14,319,863 shares (15.83%).

Nightingale said that it bought 5,202,740 shares for \$780,411, or 15 cents a share, via an off-market transfer today.

[CONTROL BIONICS](#)

Control Bionics chief executive officer Peter Ford says he has reduced his substantial holding from 24,826,173 shares (27.43%) to 19,623,433 shares (21.69%).

The Sydney-based Mr Ford said that he divested 5,202,740 shares today via an off-market transfer for \$780,411, or 15 cents a share.

[DOHERTY INSTITUTE](#)

The Doherty Institute says it has appointed Martyn Myer of the Myer Foundation its inaugural independent chair.

The Doherty Institute said Mr Myer was currently chair of Cogstate and had previously been chair of the Howard Florey Institute for Neuroscience.

Doherty Institute director Prof Sharon Lewin said “Martyn’s leadership and success in a range of ambitious development programs will be invaluable to the Doherty Institute realizing our strategic objectives in the next five years.”

“His expertise in strategy, governance, complex stakeholder engagement and philanthropy will play a vital role in facilitating the Doherty Institute’s bold vision to improve human health globally,” Prof Lewin said.

According to his LinkedIn page Mr Myer holds a Bachelor of mechanical Engineering from Swinburne University of Technology, a Master of Engineering from Monash University and a Master of Business Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

According to the Myer Foundation website, Mr Myer is a life governor of the Foundation.

[VISIONEERING TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Visioneering says it has appointed Kathleen Miller as an independent non-executive director, replacing Jean Franchi.

Visioneering said Ms Miller was previously Nitro Software’s chief financial officer and Ncourt LLC’s chief financial and operations officer.

The company said Ms Miller held a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from New York’s Alfred University, and a Master of Law from New York’s Fordham University.

Visioneering was untraded at 42 cents.