



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday February 22, 2023

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: AMPLIA UP 8.5%; EMVISION, PHARMAXIS DOWN 7%**
- \* **AUSTCO H1 REVENUE UP 29% TO \$20.5m, PROFIT DOWN 8.7% TO \$1.4m**
- \* **GENETIC SIGS H1 REVENUE DOWN 52% TO \$10m; PROFIT TO \$6.5m LOSS**
- \* **ANATARA SHORTFALL RAISES \$308k; TOTAL \$1.7m**
- \* **ARGENICA \$350k DONATION FOR ARG-007 ALZHEIMER STUDIES**
- \* **AUDEARA, CLINICO DEVELOP EAR BUDS FOR CHINA, TAIWAN**
- \* **ALLEGRA SR-HT-GAHNITE BONE PROMOTES BONE HEALING, IN SHEEP**
- \* **AVECHO, LAMBERT EXPAND SOFT-GEL MARIJUANA TRIALS**
- \* **ANTEO, TRINSEO COMBINE ANTEOX, VOLTABOND FOR BATTERIES**
- \* **HYPERION BELOW 5% IN FISHER & PAYKEL**
- \* **LUMOS CONVERTS \$8m LIND, SBC DRAW-DOWN FACILITY NOTES**
- \* **PLANET INNOVATION DILUTED TO 28% OF LUMOS**
- \* **GZ FAMILY TAKES 6.5% OF LUMOS**
- \* **KATE HILL REPLACES ARTRYA DIRECTOR JOHN KONSTANTOPOULOS**
- \* **EBR APPOINTS DR RICK KUNTZ CONSULTING CSO**
- \* **MARIA CLEMENTE REPLACES ATOMO CO SEC THARUN KUPPANDA**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.3 percent on Wednesday February 22, 2023, with the ASX200 down 21.8 points to 7,314.5 points. Seven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, 13 traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Amplia was the best, up 0.7 cents or 8.5 percent to 8.9 cents, with 8,900 shares traded. Dimerix, Oncosil and Orthocell improved more than two percent; Genetic Signatures, Opthea and Resonance rose more than one percent; with Cochlear up 0.8 percent.

Emvision and Pharmaxis led the falls, both down 7.4 percent to \$1.375 and five cents, respectively, with 223,971 shares and 827,767 shares traded, respectively. Nanosonics, Neuren, Polynovo, Prescient and Volpara lost more than three percent; Actinogen, Atomo, Immutep, Medical Developments and Paradigm shed two percent or more; Mesoblast, Next Science, Pro Medicus and Proteomics were down more than one percent; with Avita, Clinuvel, CSL, Resmed and Telix down by less than one percent.

### AUSTCO HEALTHCARE (FORMERLY AZURE HEALTHCARE)

Austco says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2022 was up 28.8 percent to \$20,542,000 with net profit after tax down 8.7 percent \$1,379,000.

Austco said its revenue came from sales of its Tacera, Pulse and Medicom branded healthcare communications and caregiver clinical workflow systems.

The company said that while “supply chain issues remain and are expected to remain throughout calendar 2023, we noted improvements, especially during the second quarter”. Austco said it had declared a fully franked dividend of 0.175 cents a share for holders on the record date of March 3, to be paid on April 5, 2023.

The company said diluted earnings per share fell 9.3 percent to 0.478 cents and net tangible assets per share rose 9.0 percent to 6.06 cents.

Austco said that it had cash and cash equivalents of \$6,979,000 at December 31, 2022 compared to \$7,074,000 at December 31, 2021.

Austco was up one cent or 8.3 percent to 13 cents.

### GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2022 fell 52.3 percent to \$10,405 with last year’s \$4,701,000 profit after tax turned to a loss of \$6,480,000.

Genetic Signatures said revenue came from sales of its Easyscreen diagnostics for sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), gut microbial infections, sexually transmitted infections and respiratory disease.

The company said that the fall in revenue reflected “the anticipated decline in molecular testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) as a result of changes to testing guidelines and public health initiatives that came into effect in late 2021-’22”.

“Despite this expected decline, sales are up over four-fold from pre-pandemic levels equating to a compound annual growth rate of approximately 61 percent,” Genetic Signatures said.

The company said that it “benefitted significantly from the high demand for Sars-CoV-2 molecular tests during 2020-’21 and 2021-’22 which has provided [it] with a strong balance sheet that is able to support investment in its key growth initiatives”.

The company said that last year’s diluted profit per share of 3.20 cents was turned to a diluted loss per share of 4.52 cents, and net tangible assets per security fell 19.4 percent to 30.8 cents.

Genetic Signatures said that it had cash and cash equivalents of \$26,849,000 at December 31, 2022, compared to \$37,496,000 at December 31, 2021.

Genetic Signatures was up 1.25 cents or 1.6 percent to 81 cents.

### ANATARA LIFE SCIENCES

Anatara says it has raised \$307,792 at 3.5 cents a share, by placing its rights offer shortfall, and taking the total raised to \$1,697,482.

In 2022, Anatara said it raised \$865,000 in an institutional placement with a further \$524,691 of a hoped for \$832,482 in its one-for-three, rights offer, taking the then total to \$1,389,691 (BD: Oct 21, Nov 25, 2022).

At that time, Anatara said that participants in the raising would receive one attaching option for two new shares, exercisable at seven cents by December 11, 2025.

Anatara was up 0.1 cents or 3.2 percent to 3.2 cents.

## ARGENICA THERAPEUTICS

Argenica says it has received \$350,000 from the McCusker Charitable Foundation and Jim Litis for further in-vivo studies to assess ARG-007 for Alzheimer's disease.

Argenica said that the \$250,000 of philanthropic funding from the Perth-based McCusker Charitable Foundation and \$100,000 from Mr Litis, followed the results of pre-clinical data which showed ARG-007 "significantly inhibited the aggregation of human recombinant amyloid-beta" in-vitro (BD: Feb 9, 2023).

The company said the grants would cover the cost of further pre-clinical studies to assess the efficacy of ARG-007 for Alzheimer's disease in mice, with results expected this year. Argenica was up 2.5 cents or 5.6 percent to 47 cents.

## AUDEARA

Audera says it has a co-operation agreement with the Taipei, Taiwan-based hearing aid retailer Clinico Inc to develop earbuds for China and Taiwan.

Audera did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement but said that Clinico would have exclusive distribution rights in Taiwan and China and would "place Audera branded products as a priority to sell and promote".

The company said that the development of the branded products, in conjunction with Clinico, was expected to be completed "within the next 18 months".

In 2022, Audera said it raised \$2.8 million at 10 cents a share in a placement to Clinico Inc chief executive officer David Lin (BD: Nov 22, 2022).

Audera was untraded at seven cents.

## ALLEGRA ORTHOPAEDICS

Allegra says its Sr-Ht-Gahnite spinal cage device showed a bone healing response "indicative of a fused spinal level" as well as biocompatibility, in sheep.

Allegra previously said Sr-Ht-gahnite was composed of strontium, hardystonite (a calcium-zinc-silicate) and gahnite, a zinc-aluminium-oxide (BD: Jun 8, 2016).

In 2022, the company said that all animals in its sheep study had the Sr-Ht-Gahnite spinal cage device "implanted successfully" (BD: Jan 31, 2022).

Later that year, Allegra said it has met a milestone after an article was published showing the "systemic safety" of its Sr-Ht-Gahnite cervical fusion cage following the implantation of the spinal cage in sheep (BD: Mar 14, 2022).

Today, Allegra said that the bone healing response demonstrated that the spinal cage "achieved bone growth indicative of a fused spinal level [and] induced no local tissue response, therefore demonstrating biocompatibility".

The company said that the spinal cage induced no adverse effects on the animals, which were evaluated at the 13-week and 26-week endpoints.

Allegra said there were "no significant differences" in the sheep blood or organ analyses between its spinal cage and the US Food and Drug Administration-cleared control device. Allegra said that "due to the anatomical differences between the sheep and human spines, contact of the cages with plates and screws was observed in some cases, resulting in minor chipping" but that it did not expect this to occur in humans, as the plate and screws were intended for human use.

The company said that the "positive findings demonstrated safety and performance outcomes equivalent to an FDA-cleared product" and would support its 510(k) submission, expected by the end of March 2023.

Allegra fell 0.1 cents or 1.8 percent to 5.5 cents.

## [AVECHO BIOTECHNOLOGY](#)

Avecho says the Lambert Initiative at the University of Sydney will use its oral cannabidiol (CBD) 'soft-gel' capsule in its trials for new undisclosed indications.

Avecho said that it would provide its tocopheryl phosphate mixture (TPM) enhanced marijuana-based CBD capsule to the Lambert Initiative for use in two trials which would examine novel indications "not previously associated with CBD therapy".

The company said that the undisclosed candidate indications "emerged from pre-clinical and early-stage clinical studies conducted by Lambert Initiative researchers and ... [were] attractive indications for future CBD products registered as over-the-counter medicines with the Therapeutic Goods Administration".

Previously, Avecho said that a 15-patient, phase IIa study conducted with the Lambert Initiative showed that tocopheryl phosphate mixture-marijuana-derived cannabidiol had a "highly significant" osteoarthritis pain reduction (BD: Mar 29, 2022).

Today, Avecho said the first trial to be conducted by the Lambert Initiative would begin dosing in "the middle of the year" with the second study to start dosing by October 2023.

Avecho chief executive officer Dr Paul Gavin said the company was focused on its planned phase III trial of the cannabidiol soft-gel capsule for insomnia but always intended "to allow others to examine further clinical applications of our formulations in other indications of value and interest".

"The Lambert Initiative ... decision to use Avecho's CBD product in their own studies is testament to the clinical relevance of the work we've conducted over the last three years on product development in the cannabinoid space," Dr Gavin said.

Avecho was up 0.2 cents or 22.2 percent to 1.1 cents.

## [ANTEOTECH](#)

Anteo says it has an agreement with Trinseo Europe GmbH to develop its drop-in, cross-linker additive, Anteox, for Voltabond latex binders for batteries.

According to its website, the Wayne, Pennsylvania-based Trinseo said that Voltabond latex binders were used in the anode coating formulations critical to the production of high-efficiency lithium-ion batteries.

Anteo said that if it met "mutually agreed deliverables" including pairing of Trinseo's Voltabond latex binder chemistry with its Anteox binder additive for performance improvements, as well as improvements to anode chemistries that contain silicon in the range of up-to 35 percent, it would result in a commercial agreement with Trinseo.

Anteo was up 0.1 cents or 2.1 percent to 4.8 cents with 6.7 million shares traded.

## [FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE](#)

Hyperion Asset Management says it has ceased its substantial holding in Fisher & Paykel, reducing from 28,932,079 shares (5.012%) to 28,740,329 shares (4.962%).

The Brisbane-based Hyperion said that between May 18, 2022 and February 17, 2023, it bought, sold and transferred shares, with the single largest sale on December 1, 2022 of 853,579 shares for \$21,087,323 or \$24.705 a share.

Fisher & Paykel fell 15 cents or 0.6 percent to \$23.50 with 339,114 shares traded.

### LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Lumos says it has issued shares “in respect of conversion of the convertible notes” to the New York-based Lind Partners and Melbourne’s SBC Global Investment Fund.

In November 2022, Lumos said it had an \$8 million, two-year, convertible note facility from Lind Partners and SBC Global Investment Fund (BD: Nov 21, 2022).

At that time, Lumos said it would receive an initial \$4 million tranche, with a second \$4 million tranche subject to mutual agreement.

Lumos was up 0.2 cents or 4.65 percent to 4.5 cents with 1.65 million shares traded.

### LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Melbourne’s Planet Innovation says its 68,021,060 share-holding in Lumos has been diluted from 30.64 percent to 28.42 percent.

Planet Innovation said that on February 20, 2023, shares were issued “in respect of conversion of the convertible notes” to the New York’s Lind Partners and Melbourne’s SBC Global Investment Fund (see above).

### LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

GZ Family Holdings Pty Ltd says it has become substantial and increased its holdings in Lumos to 14,430,614 shares (6.50%).

The Sydney-based GZ Family Holdings said that it became substantial in Lumos on January 31, 2023 with 11,930,614 shares (5.37%), having bought shares between August 11, 2022 and January 31, 2023, with the single largest purchase on November 2, 2022 of 1,828,829 shares for \$91,507 or 5.0 cents a share.

GZ Family Holdings said that it had bought a further 2,500,000 shares “on market” between February 2 and 10, 2023 for \$73,055 or an average of 2.9 cents a share.

### ARTRYA

Artrya says it has appointed the Sydney-based Kate Hill as an independent, non-executive director, replacing co-founder and executive director John Konstantopoulos.

Artrya said that Mr Konstantopoulos had resigned from the board but remained with the company.

Artrya said that Ms Hill had experience at board level with technology, biotechnology and medical devices companies as well as the US Nasdaq and London’s Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Ms Hill is currently Kazia Therapeutics company secretary.

The company said that Ms Hill worked as an audit partner at Deloitte for more than 20 years and had assisted with initial public offers, capital raising and general compliance, as well as operating in an audit environment.

Artrya said that Ms Hill was currently the chair of Seeing Machines and a director of Countplus was previously a director of Elmo Software.

The company said that Ms Hill held a Bachelor of Science from England’s University of Bristol.

### EBR SYSTEM

EBR says it has appointed Dr Rick Kuntz as its consulting chief scientific officer. EBR said that Dr Kuntz had expertise in different areas of healthcare, including as head and chief medical and scientific officer at Medtronic, as well as being the founder and chief scientific officer of the Harvard Research Institute. The company said that Dr Kuntz had directed “numerous multi-centre clinical trials” and had authored more than 250 original publications. EBR said that Dr Kuntz graduated from Miami University and held a Doctor of Medicine from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio and a Master of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. EBR was unchanged at 54 cents.

### ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

Atomo says Boardroom Pty Ltd’s Maria Clemente will replace Boardroom’s Tharun Kuppanda as company secretary, effective from March 1, 2023. Atomo fell 0.1 cents or two percent to 4.9 cents.