



Biotech Daily

Wednesday April 5, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX FLAT, BIOTECH UP: IMUGENE UP 8%; PARADIGM DOWN 15%**
- * **ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG NSW INDUSTRY, INNOVATION MINISTER**
- * **BOTANIX PLACEMENT RAISES \$10m**
- * **VICTORIA, AND HEALTH \$2.4m CHICC CONNECTED HEALTH CENTRE**
- * **VOLPARA AMENDS AKUMIN CONTRACT TO \$4.1m**
- * **ATOMO: \$1.9m VIATRIS REPLACES STH AFRICA HIV TEST DISTRIBUTOR**
- * **4D SIGNS 1st CONTRACT FOR LUNG X-RAY WITH MIAMI UNIVERSITY**
- * **IMUGENE STARTS 3rd VAXINIA MONOTHERAPY COHORT**
- * **USCOM UNMARKETABLE PARCEL FACILITY BUYS 1.14m SHARES**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.02 percent on Wednesday April 5, 2023, with the ASX200 up 1.2 points to 7,237.2 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, six traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Imugene was the best, up one cent or 7.7 percent to 14 cents, with 14.6 million shares traded. Patrys climbed 6.7 percent; Cyclopharm and Kazia were up five percent or more; Actinogen, Micro-X, Next Science and Telix improved four percent or more; Emvision, Genetic Signatures and Starpharma were up more than three percent; Antisense, Atomo, Orthocell and Proteomics rose more than two percent; Clinuvel, Polynovo and Resmed were up one percent or more; with Avita, Cochlear and CSL up by less than one percent.

Paradigm led the falls, down 20 cents or 14.9 percent to \$1.145, with four million shares traded. Nova Eye lost 13.3 percent; Alcidion shed eight percent; Opthea fell 5.4 percent; Volpara was down 3.2 percent; Immutep and Neuren shed more than two percent; Impedimed, Medical Developments, Resonance and Universal Biosensors were down one percent or more; with Nanosonics down by 0.6 percent.

[NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT](#)

Following the March 25, 2023 New South Wales State election, Premier Chris Minns has formed a minority Labor government and appointed Ministers.

Mr Minns New South Wales Government website said that Anoulack Chanthivong had been appointed as the Minister for Industry and Trade, as well as the Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology

[BOTANIX PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Botanix says it has “firm commitments” for a placement to raise \$10.0 million at nine cents a share, a 10 percent discount to the closing price on March 31, 2023.

Botanix said the funds would be used to prepare for the commercial launch of its sofipironium bromide for primary axillary hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating, which would include a US Food and Drug Administration review, manufacturing costs and satisfying milestone payments.

The company said Jefferies (Australia) Pty Ltd and Euroz Hartleys were joint lead managers and bookrunners for the placement

Botanix was up half a cent or five percent to 10.5 cents with 10.2 million shares traded.

[VICTORIA GOVERNMENT, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE](#)

AND Health says the Victoria Government has opened the Victorian Connected Health Innovation and Commercialisation Centre (CHICC).

AND Health (the Australian National Digital Health Initiative) said that Victoria had invested \$2.4 million towards the centre, in Melbourne’s central business district.

The organization said the centre would engage over 500 participants a year and bring together innovators, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, and investors to collaborate, connect and access free services and support.

AND Health said the launch of the innovation centre was a significant step forward for the State’s digital health ecosystem.

The organization said that two Victorian companies expected to benefit from the centre were Macuject and Atmo Biosciences, who joined the launch to discuss their eye-injection care and gas-sensing capsule products, respectively.

[VOLPARA HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Volpara says it has amended its five-year contract with Akumin for its breast mammography tracking and diagnostics software to \$US2.75 million (\$A4.07 million).

In 2021, Volpara said that it had a \$US2.15 million (then \$A2.96 million) five-year contract with an unnamed Florida-based company for its Patient Hub patient tracking software (BD: Oct 5, 2021).

Today, Volpara named the company as the Plantation, Florida-based Akumin and said that it had extended the contract for a five-year term, effective from April 1, 2023, and changed the total contract value to \$US1.5 million with additional payments of up to \$US1.25 million.

Volpara said that it had agreed to Akumin’s request to replace Patient Hub with Analytics.

Volpara chief executive officer and managing director Teri Thomas said the Analytics product allowed “Akumin’s technologists to deliver top-quality mammograms, further enhancing [their] joint efforts to improve women’s health and well-being.”

Volpara fell 2.5 cents or 3.2 percent to 75.5 cents.

ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

Atomo says it has a 'take-or-pay', \$1.9 million, five-year agreement with Viatris to replace South Africa HIV self-tests distributor Iyeza Health.

Atomo said the agreement was an expansion of an existing partnership with Viatris, which committed to buying an annual minimum quantity of tests for five years, with a total value of \$1.9 million.

Atomo managing-director John Kelly told Biotech Daily that the agreement with the Canonsburg, Pennsylvania-based Viatris Pharmaceuticals covered 130 countries in low to middle income regions, including registration with 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Central America and South America (BD: April 29, 2021).

"In this post-Covid environment we are seeing a return to growth for HIV testing and the emergence of 'consumer-initiated testing' as a key driver of growth in the diagnostic market," Mr Kelly said in a media release to the ASX.

Atomo was up 0.1 cents or 2.6 percent to four cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

4D MEDICAL

4D Medical says it has its first software-as-a-service contract to provide the University of Miami with its XV LVAS x-ray velocimetry lung ventilation analysis software.

4D Medical did not disclose the value of the five-year contract with the Coral Gables, Florida-based University of Miami but said it included "minimum annual fees and represents a significant milestone in the commercialization strategy".

The company said the agreement followed a long-term trial of its lung ventilation imaging systems at the University of Miami.

4D Medical managing-director Prof Andreas Fouras said the first software-as-a-service contract "reflects the attainment of a key milestone".

"The fact this milestone was completed with our clinical trial partners at the University of Miami, who have developed such an extensive understanding of XV Technology, is especially satisfying," Prof Fouras said.

4D Medical was up 20 cents or 63.5 percent to 51.5 cents with 5.8 million shares traded.

IMUGENE

Imugene says it has dosed the first patients in the third cohort of its intra-venous and intra-tumoral arms of the phase I Vaxinia monotherapy dose escalation trial.

Last month, Imugene said it had dosed the first Vaxinia and pembrolizumab combination patients in the study of CF33-hNIS, or Vaxinia, for metastatic advanced solid tumors (Mast) (BD: Mar 3, 2023).

At that time, the company said the monotherapy dose escalation arm of the study would continue to the third intra-venous and intra-tumoral cohorts with three to six patients in each cohort.

Today, Imugene said the phase I dose escalation trial of Vaxinia began in May 2022, was expected to run for two years and dose up-to 100 patients across 10 sites in the US and Australia.

Imugene managing director Leslie Chong said the company was well advanced on amassing the critical data it required to publish the outcomes of the study, and remained "very positive on the potential benefit to patients".

Imugene was up one cent or 7.7 percent to 14 cents with 14.6 million shares traded.

USCOM

Uscom says it has bought 1,138,605 unmarketable parcel shares held by 166 investors, at 4.5 cents a share.

In February, Uscom said it had established an unmarketable parcels facility for holders of shares, worth less than \$500 at the February 10 record date (BD: Feb 13, 2023).

Last year, the company said that it had bought 269,199 unmarketable parcels shares from 121 investors at 8.9 cents a share (BD: Mar 30, 2022)

Today, Uscom said the facility allowed investors with small parcels of shares to sell them without incurring brokerage fees.

Uscom was untraded at 4.5 cents.