



Biotech Daily

Tuesday March 21, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: NOVA EYE UP 18%; COMPUMEDICS DOWN 7%**
- * **BRANDON, ANDHEALTH \$50m FEDERAL PROGRAM**
- * **TRUSCREEN RIGHTS RAISE \$940k; TOTAL \$1.5m**
- * **MEDLAB ASSETS FOR SALE, JOINT-VENTURE OR MERGER**
- * **FIREBRICK RESUMES PHASE III NASODINE COLD TRIAL**
- * **GOLD COAST HOSPITAL TO TRIAL HERAMED HERACARE**
- * **CHIMERIC FDA PRE-IND CHM2101 TUMOR TRIAL MEETING**
- * **ELLERSTON BELOW 5% IN ATOMO**
- * **CITIGROUP REDUCES TO 30% OF BIONOMICS**
- * **GENETIC SIGNATURES LOSES CFO, CO SEC PETER MANLEY**
- * **ONE WEEK TO BIO-MELBOURNE, VICTORIA MANUFACTURING SEMINARS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.82 percent on Tuesday March 21, 2023, with the ASX200 up 56.9 points to 6,955.4 points. Nineteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, one traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps rose.

Nova Eye was the best, up four cents or 18.2 percent to 26 cents, with 874,893 shares traded. Micro-X climbed 15 percent; Atomo was up 9.3 percent; Kazia rose 7.7 percent; Neuren was up five percent; Alcidion, Imugene, Orthocell and Patrys improved four percent or more; Antisense, Immutep and Pro Medicus were up more than three percent; Genetic Signatures rose two percent; Actinogen, Avita, Clinuvel, Nanosonics, Paradigm and Resmed were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL and Telix up by less than one percent.

Compumedics led the falls, down one cent or 6.9 percent to 13.5 cents, with 45,000 shares traded. Resonance retreated 6.7 percent; Oncosil, Starpharma and Volpara were down more than five percent; Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Emvision, Medical Developments and Prescient fell four percent or more; Cynata, Proteomics and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Mesoblast, Next Science, Pharmaxis and Polynovo shed more than two percent; with Amplia and Opthea down by more than one percent.

BRANDON CAPITAL

Brandon Capital says its Biocatalyst fund in partnership with AND Health will deliver a Federal Government-funded \$50 million Biomedtech Incubator program.

Brandon Capital said the investment substantially increased the grant funding available through the existing Brandon Biocatalyst (formerly the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund) with AND Health (Australia's National Digital Health Initiative) programs to more than \$115 million.

The company said the Biomedtech Incubator program would allow companies to access up-to \$5 million in non-dilutive funding over a five-year period for the commercial development of their bio-medical and digital health technologies.

Brandon Capital said as well as funding the grant provided "support to progress Australian innovations to the point where they are commercially attractive to investors or partners".

Brandon said the Biomedtech Incubator program would begin later this year and speed up the commercialization of Australian biomedical and digital health discoveries, leading to new jobs, private capital, and a positive impact for patients.

The company said the partnership with AND Health provided expertise from early-stage drug development through to medical devices and evidence-based digital health technologies.

Brandon Biocatalyst chief executive officer Dr Chris Nave said he applauded "the Federal Government for trailblazing a new model for how innovation and translation are supported in this country".

"In under two years, they have provided funding to establish a national incubator of global scale, accessible to any researcher or innovator in the health and medical arena wanting to develop products that have the potential to transform patient outcomes," Dr Nave said.

"Australia sits in the top handful of countries for our biomedical capabilities and discoveries, but we have traditionally performed poorly at translating this research into new medicines to improve patient health," Dr Nave said.

"Under this new Government-supported model, this collaborative program will provide grant funding like an investor, providing expertise and hands-on support, setting clear development milestones that must be met to receive subsequent funding tranches," Dr Nave said.

"This is a powerful new way to fund research translation and if successful, may become an important component of how we fund research in Australia," Dr Nave said.

AND Health chief executive officer Bronwyn Le Grice said access to finance and digital health domain expertise remained "some of the most pressing challenges for our innovators and entrepreneurs".

"Non-dilutive funding [...] can be critical in supporting companies to navigate the viability gap and succeed in getting their product into the hands of patients and healthcare providers," Ms Le Grice said.

TRUSCREEN

Truscreen says its one-for-five, renounceable rights offer, at 3.0 New Zealand cents (2.9 Australian cents) has raised \$NZ1 million (\$A940,000).

Truscreen said that, combined with the (\$NZ600,000) placement earlier this month, it had raised a combined \$NZ1,600,000 (\$A1,486,000) (BD: Mar 3, 2023).

In February, the company said that CM Partners was acting as its adviser for the rights issue, but did not state the purpose of the capital raised (BD: Feb 17, 2023).

Truscreen was untraded at 2.9 cents.

MEDLAB CLINICAL

Medlab says it will either sell its intellectual property and pharmaceutical inventory, merge, court a major investor, start a joint venture or sell its corporate shell.

Earlier this month, Medlab said it had retrenched 78 percent of its staff and Hall Chadwick had been appointed to assist with a “restructure of the company’s financial affairs” with four directors resigning and two directors appointed (BD: Mar 7, 16, 2023).

Today, the company said Hall Chadwick was undertaking a marketing campaign to either sell the company’s properties, merge Medlab with one or more companies, source and engage a cornerstone investor, establish a joint venture or strategic partnership, or sell its corporate shell.

Medlab said it could sell its listed corporate entity, its Nanocelle platform and associated products and patents, research and development ventures, food additive products, intellectual property and intangible assets, and ongoing licence agreements.

The company said expressions of interest opened on March 8 and both due diligence and final binding offer submission would conclude on April 10, 2023.

Medlab said interested parties would be furnished with an information memorandum detailing its assets and technology, with a view to finalize a transaction by late April 2023. Medlab was in a suspension and last traded at \$6.60.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick says it will resume recruiting for its up-to 450 adults, confirmatory, phase III clinical trial of its Nasodine nasal spray for the common cold, beginning next week.

Last year, Firebrick said it had recruited 224 adults for its trial but would pause until March 2023, to allow summer to pass and the new cold season to begin (BD: Nov 1, 2022).

Today, the company said two clinical sites in Australia and were open for recruitment, with three sites in South Africa to open next week.

Firebrick said the primary endpoint population for the trial was 196 adults with confirmed viral colds, with 100 enrolled in 2022, leaving 96 subjects to be recruited.

Firebrick executive chairman Dr Peter Molloy said that because the common cold season started in Autumn, the company expected “to see recruitment escalate over the next several months and continue through the winter, with trial completion expected in July”.

Firebrick was up 1.5 cents or 7.9 percent to 20.5 cents.

HERAMED

Heramed says Queensland’s Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service will trial its Heracare platform for up-to 90 pregnancies for six to nine months.

Heramed said the Gold Coast Hospital would trial the Heracare platform, including the Herabeat foetal heart-rate monitor, as the new standard-of-care for its Women Newborn and Children services.

The company said Gold Coast Hospital managed more than 5,000 pregnancies each year, and would evaluate the platform for its clinical usability, patient satisfaction, value for money and perform an economic analysis.

Heramed said it would work with the Hospital on a study to assess several uses for the platform, including acceptance, cost effective analysis and clinical outcomes.

Heramed chief executive officer David Groberman said the deal was “a significant milestone for Heramed and an important validation of our technology and business model and is our first major win with a government establishment on the Australian East Coast.”

Heramed was up half a cent or 4.55 percent to 11.5 cents.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says the US Food and Drug Administration has given guidance for its proposed phase I trial of CHM2101 for gastro-intestinal and neuro-endocrine tumors.

Chimeric said the meeting with the FDA for its investigational new drug (IND) application for CHM2101 included questions regarding the clinical development plan and technical operations of the trial and a drug product manufacturing and quality release plan.

The company said the FDA provided a “clear path to an IND submission” for its chimeric antigen receptor t-cell (CAR T-cell) CHM2101 cancer drug.

Chimeric chief executive officer Jennifer Chow said the feedback “was encouraging and aligns clearly with our development plan for CHM2101”.

“We are highly appreciative of the FDA’s support and guidance as this brings us closer to potentially transforming the lives of patients with gastro-intestinal and neuro-endocrine tumors,” Ms Chow said.

Chimeric was up 0.4 cents or 7.1 percent to six cents.

ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

Sydney’s Ellerston Capital says it has ceased its substantial share-holding in Atomo, selling 10,503,514 shares.

Last year, Ellerston said it had 36,728,678 Atomo shares (6.43%) (BD: Jul 15, 2022).

Today, Ellerston said between July 15, 2022 and March 20, 2023 it sold the 10,503,514 shares in 13 separate transactions, with the single largest sale on February 28 of 2,202,235 shares for \$103,505, or 4.7 cents a share.

Atomo was up 0.4 cents or 9.3 percent to 4.7 cents.

BIONOMICS

Citigroup says it has reduced its substantial holding in Bionomics from 457,816,320 shares (31.1708%) to 441,640,080 shares (30.0694%).

The New York-based Citigroup said that on March 16, 2023 it disposed of 16,176,240 Bionomics shares under the American depository receipts program, but did not disclose the price of the shares as required under the Corporations Act 2001.

Bionomics fell 0.1 cents or four percent to 2.4 cents with 4.5 million shares traded.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says chief financial officer and company secretary Peter Manley will resign, effective from March 24 as he “transitions to semi-retirement”.

Genetic Signatures said Anthony Rule has been appointed interim chief financial officer and company secretary, effective from March 27, 2023.

The company said Mr Manly had been its chief financial officer and company secretary since October 2018.

Genetic Signatures chief executive officer Dr John Melki said Mr Manley had “played an important role across our business during a period of rapid workforce expansion and revenue growth”.

Genetic Signatures chairman Dr Nick Sharman thanked Mr Manly for “his financial leadership and also the oversight he provided through the significant periods of growth and development we have experienced”.

Genetic Signatures was up 1.5 cents or two percent to 76.5 cents.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network says its four seminars supporting the Victorian medical technology manufacturing sector will begin next week.

The Network said that with the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre it would host the seminars titled 'Leaders at the forefront: Charting the course for Victorian Medtech Manufacturing'.

The industry organization said that the event would showcase Australian manufacturing capabilities and talent, and discuss the future of Victorian manufacturing and its impact on the local economy.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said it would feature speakers from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Invetech, SDI and Zip Diagnostics.

The Network said the event would be at Cliftons Freshwater on Southbank, Level 18/2 Southbank Boulevard, and online, on March 28, 2023 from 7:20am to 9:30pm (AEST).

For registration, go to: <https://biomelbourne.org/event/medtech-manufacturing-series/>.