



Biotech Daily

Tuesday March 28, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: RESONANCE UP 19%; ONCOSIL DOWN 8%**
- * **QUEENSLAND UNI SEPSIS STUDY FOR ANTIBIOTICS TARGETS**
- * **TGA APPROVES IDT TO MANUFACTURE INJECTABLE TRIAL DRUGS**
- * **PHARMAUST: 1 MND MONEPANTEL PATIENT 'STABLE' AT 6 MONTHS**
- * **NOXOPHARM, HUDSON WORK ON SOF-VAC mRNA VACCINE ENHANCER**
- * **RADIOPHARM RECEIVES \$1.6m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**
- * **RTL INCREASES, DILUTED TO 10.5% IN ANATARA**
- * **STARFISH DILUTED TO 9% IN DORSAVI**
- * **RESONANCE APPOINTS AARON BRINKWORTH DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.04 percent on Tuesday March 28, 2023, with the ASX200 up 72.1 points to 7,034.1 points.

Ten of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, 12 traded unchanged and three were untraded.

Resonance was the best, up 0.8 cents or 19.05 percent to five cents, with 96,462 shares traded. Compumedics climbed 10.7 percent; Proteomics was up 7.3 percent; Avita improved 5.1 percent; Dimerix was up 4.35 percent; Antisense and Medical Developments were up more than three percent; with Clinuvel, Cochlear, Nanosonics, Pro Medicus and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Oncosil led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 8.3 percent to 1.1 cents, with 4.6 million shares traded. Alcidion and Cynata lost more than seven percent; Pharmaxis was down 6.4 percent; Nova Eye shed 5.1 percent; both Micro-X and Patrys fell 4.55 percent; Telix was down 3.1 percent; CSL, Emvision, Mesoblast, Opthea and Orthocell were down more than one percent; with Neuren, Polynovo and Volpara down by less than one percent.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland says a national study on the four main bacteria that cause sepsis has provided new targets for developing antibiotics.

The University said that Prof Mark Walker and Prof Mark Schembri from its Institute for Molecular Bioscience, with the University of Melbourne's Dr Andre Mu and teams from 23 Australian research organizations around Australia, set up experiments to mimic what happens to bacteria when they enter the bloodstream during infection.

Prof Walker said the research team set out to find responses common to all four types of bacteria that cause sepsis and discover more about how bacteria survive in the body.

The research, titled 'Integrative omics identifies conserved and pathogen-specific responses of sepsis-causing bacteria' was published in Nature Communications and the full text is at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-37200-w>.

The University said that sepsis caused 20 percent of deaths worldwide, killing more people than heart attacks, stroke, or cancers of the prostate, breast or colon.

The University of Queensland said that sepsis was characterized by infection-associated organ failure, leaving survivors with physical, cognitive and psychological side effects that can persist for the rest of their lives.

"Currently when someone goes to hospital with sepsis they are immediately treated with antibiotics, which may have to be adjusted once the type of bacteria has been identified," Prof Walker said.

"This study allowed us to identify potential new targets for antibiotics that target all sepsis-causing bacteria," Prof Walker said.

"We have been able to characterize bacterial genes, RNA, proteins and metabolites from [Escherichia] coli, group A Streptococcus, Klebsiella pneumoniae and Staphylococcus aureus and integrated the data to get a complete picture of how different species respond when grown in human blood serum," Prof Walker said.

The University said that the study "brought together the Australian bacterial-pathogen research and biological sciences communities and generated a wealth of data", which was publicly available.

"Researchers around the world will be able to mine this dataset to drive antibiotic discovery and development, which is critical given the rapid increase in antibiotic resistance seen globally," Prof Schembri said.

IDT AUSTRALIA

IDT says the Therapeutic Goods Administration has upgraded its manufacturing licence, allowing it to produce injectable medicines for clinical trials.

IDT said the licence covered its aseptic sterile processing facility and which already included oral and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The company said the upgraded licence could help it become a "key partner" for companies developing new therapies, particularly given the local and international shortage of aseptic sterile processing facilities that manufacture advanced therapies.

IDT chief executive officer Paul McDonald said the upgraded licence would "enable us to play a crucial role in supporting Australia's sovereign manufacturing capabilities and the translation of research to address unmet medical needs".

"We have the opportunity to become the 'go to' partner for clinical trials and expect to attract international pharmaceutical companies and researchers to undertake trials on Australian soil, which will contribute enormously to the growth of the Australia biotech industry," Mr McDonald said.

IDT was up 0.9 cents or 15.5 percent to 6.7 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says one patient in the first cohort of its 12-patient, phase I/II trial of monepantel for motor neurone disease (MND) was “stable” after six months of dosing. Pharmaust said it would move the patient to cohort 2, which would have an increased dose of monepantel, and expected to later move the patient to cohort 4 with the rest of the cohort, subject to safety committee approval.

In October, the company said it had begun dosing the first of 12 patients in the trial to assess the safety and tolerability of monepantel in patients living with motor neurone disease and, with concurrent animal studies, would determine whether monepantel should proceed to larger phase II studies (BD: Oct 3, 2022).

Pharmaust executive chair Dr Roger Aston said that “the absence of any material adverse events in cohort 1 to date is highly encouraging as is the potential stability associated with the patient being transferred to cohort 2”.

Pharmaust was up 1.2 cents or 14.3 percent to 9.6 cents with one million shares traded.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it has selected a pre-clinical, lead candidate based on mRNA technology as part of its Sofra pre-clinical platform.

According to Noxopharm’s website, the company, with its Pharmorage subsidiary, licenced a technology from Melbourne’s Hudson Institute of Medical Research to develop the Sofra technology platform, based on short nucleic acid sequences, known as oligo-nucleotides.

The company said that the oligo-nucleotides provided “a novel treatment approach, acting on specific cells to modulate inflammation at its source” with potential applications for excessive inflammatory responses following viral or bacterial infections and in autoimmune diseases, as well as the potential to limit the inflammatory side effects associated with mRNA therapeutics and vaccines.

Noxopharm’s website said it had also developed the Chroma technology platform of drug candidates based on a scaffold structure of functionalized benzopyrans.

In an announcement to the ASX, the company said its Sof-Vac had the “potential to make mRNA vaccines safer, better tolerated by patients and more cost-effective to manufacture”.

Noxopharm said the Sof-Vac was the “smallest molecule of its type to have demonstrated strong activity against inflammation”.

The company said that Sof-Vac aimed “to make a broad range of mRNA vaccines safer by reducing inflammation associated with mRNA vaccines ... [with] the potential to support more cost-effective mRNA vaccine manufacturing.

Noxopharm said that Sof-Vac had shown “strong in-vitro and in-vivo activity against inflammation”.

The company said that the Victoria Government provided \$1.45 million to the Hudson Institute in June 2022 to fund the joint development of novel anti-inflammatory compounds with Pharmorage.

Noxopharm chief executive officer Dr Gisela Mautner said the collaboration with the Hudson was “delivering promising results in the lab, and we aim to build on those and generate interest in our assets”.

Noxopharm was up 0.3 cents or 3.2 percent to 9.8 cents.

[RADIOPHARM THERANOSTICS](#)

Radiopharm says it has received \$1,555,196 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Radiopharm said the rebate related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2022.

Radiopharm fell 1.5 cents or 8.6 percent to 16 cents.

[ANATARA LIFE SCIENCES](#)

RTL Group Investments says it has increased, but been diluted in, Anatarra from 5,350,000 shares (11%) to 12,542,857 shares (10.46%).

The Sydney-based RTL said it acquired 7,142,857 shares for \$250,000 or 3.5 cents a share through a placement on October 28, 2022 as well as 50,000 shares through a purchase on March 30, 2020 but did not disclose a price, as required under the Corporations Act 2001.

Anatarra was untraded at three cents.

[DORSAVI](#)

Starfish, Perpetual, HV Lodge and Mantra says their 48,763,230 share-holding in Dorsavi has been diluted from 10.30 percent to 9.00 percent.

Earlier this month, Dorsavi said it had commitments to raise \$750,000 in a placement at 1.10 cents a share (BD: Mar 15, 2023).

Today, Melbourne's Starfish Technology Fund, Sydney's Perpetual Trustee, the Delaware-based HV Lodge and the Luxemburg-based Mantra Secondary Opportunities said the reduction was due to the "allotment of 68,181,818 new ordinary shares on [March 24, 2023] from the institutional share placement".

Dorsavi was up 0.1 cents or 7.1 percent to 1.5 cents.

[RESONANCE HEALTH](#)

Resonance says it has appointed Aaron Brinkworth as an independent, non-executive director, effective from March 27, 2023.

Resonance said Mr Brinkworth had worked for the San Francisco Bay Area's Gilead Sciences for 22 years, including as an executive director and leader of Asia Pacific commercial operations.

The company said Mr Brinkworth held a Bachelor of Science from Perth's Edith Cowan University.

Resonance was up 0.8 cents or 19.05 percent to five cents.