



Biotech Daily

Monday May 15, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: CYCLOPHARM UP 7%; AVITA DOWN 19%**
- * **CHIMERIC \$1m BOARD, MANAGEMENT PLACEMENT; PLAN FOR \$5m**
- * **CSIRO 'INNOVATE TO GROW' APPLICATIONS OPEN**
- * **TOUCH: TGA ADDS RSV TO 'COMBO' RAPID ANTIGEN TEST**
- * **ARGENICA: ARG-007 'SAFE, TOLERABLE AT ALL DOSES'**
- * **CRESO: GOTRO SINGAPORE RANGE; 1st STH KOREA MARIJUANA SALE**
- * **RESPIRI REQUESTS 'EQUITY RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- * **ONE FUNDS, SAVILLE TAKE 14.1% OF BLUECHIIP**
- * **THORNEY, TIGA TAKE 7.2% OF MICROBA**
- * **CHAIR OTTO BUTTULA TAKES 11.1% OF RHYTHM**
- * **PRESCIENT APPOINTS DR ELLEN FEIGAL US DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.14 percent on Monday May 15, 2023, with the ASX200 up 10.4 points to 7,267.1 points. Twenty of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 10 fell, eight traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Cyclopharm was the best, up 14 cents or seven percent to \$2.14, with 12,617 shares traded. Proteomics climbed 4.7 percent; Volpara was up 3.3 percent; Antisense and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; Alcidion, Dimerix and Neuren were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Genetic Signatures and Next Science up by less than one percent.

Avita led the falls, down 89 cents or 19.6 percent to \$3.65, with 1.5 million shares traded. Nanosonics lost 8.9 percent; Patrys fell 7.7 percent; Cynata was down 6.45 percent; Amplia, Imugene and Prescient fell four percent or more; Medical Developments was down 3.1 percent; Atomo, Immutep, Opthea, Paradigm, Polynovo and Telix shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Emvision, Pharmaxis, Pro Medicus and Starpharma were down one percent or more; with Mesoblast and Resmed down by less than one percent.

CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says it has commitments from board and management to raise \$1.04 million in a placement at 4.6 cents a share with a share plan for a further \$5.25 million.

Chimeric said the share plan would be at the lower of 4.0 cents a share or a five percent discount to the 5-day volume-weighted average price to the closing date of the share plan. The company said the share plan record date was May 12, it would open on May 22 and close on June 2, 2023.

Chimeric said the funds would be used to develop its portfolio of cell therapy programs. The company said Bell Potter Securities Ltd was the lead manager to the capital raising. Chimeric fell 0.6 cents or 13 percent to four cents with 4.7 million shares traded.

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

CSIRO says it has launched its Innovate to Grow program supporting small and medium health and medical technology companies to develop new products and services.

CSIRO said the 10-week program provided companies with “the knowledge and tools to better identify and understand their research and development opportunities, plus develop actionable business plans to advance their innovative idea”.

The Organisation said eligible sub-sectors included: health and nutrition; digital health; botanical pharmaceuticals and food additives; diagnostics, bio-sensors and bio-medical devices; biopharmaceuticals; drug discovery; and vaccines and biologic therapeutics.

CSIRO biomedical manufacturing research director Dr Susie Nilsson said the health and medical technologies sectors had “a pivotal role” in Australia’s economy due to its aging population and disruptive technologies, as well as Covid-19 driving local manufacturing. “Australia is home to more than 1,000 companies working in the [medical technology] and pharmaceutical sector alone, and many of these are small and medium enterprises who we know can sometimes struggle with the transition from [research and development] to a viable product,” Dr Nilsson said.

“Supporting these businesses as they pursue new treatments and technologies boosts, not only our economy, but most importantly helps people live healthier and more productive lives,” Dr Nilsson said.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow coordinator Michelle Armistead said the program included assistance from experienced researchers and innovation experts and after finishing the program eligible companies could be able to access dollar-matched funding.

The Organisation said applications would close on June 12, 2023.

For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.csiro.au/innovatetogrow>.

TOUCH BIOTECHNOLOGY PTY LTD

Touch says the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the addition of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to its rapid antigen, single-swab self-test.

Last year, Touch said the TGA approved its ‘Combo’ severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2), influenza A and B rapid antigen test (BD: Nov 30, 2022).

Today, the company said RSV could cause breathing and lung problems similar to bronchiolitis and pneumonia, was highly infectious and largely affected the elderly with vulnerable immune systems and children under three years at risk of serious illness.

Touch said the nasal swab test had an accuracy rate of more than 98 percent for all four viruses and undisclosed sensitivity and specificity rates and allowed users to obtain results within 15 minutes.

Touch Biotechnology is a private company.

ARGENICA THERAPEUTICS

Argenica says its 32-subject, phase I, ascending dose trial shows that ARG-007 is safe and well tolerated in healthy patients at all doses from 0.03mg/kg to 0.30mg/kg.

Last year, Argenica said the trial was “designed to assess the safety and tolerability of ARG-007 across four cohorts of healthy adult volunteers, with each cohort receiving an ascending dose of ARG-007” (BD: Nov 25, 2022).

Today, the company said the trial report concluded that single intravascular doses of ARG-007 at 0.03mg/kg, 0.10mg/kg, 0.20mg/kg and 0.30mg/kg were safe and well tolerated with no dose related findings noted for any of the safety parameters.

Argenica said it would use the results from its phase I trial to progress to a phase II trial in ischaemic stroke patients and continue to generate data in other neurological conditions, including traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer’s disease.

Argenica was unchanged at 42 cents.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso says it has expanded its product agreement with Gotro Global to include its entire Green Goo animal care range and has its first South Korean order for Anibidiol.

Last year, Creso said the Singapore-based Gotro would market its Sierra Sage Herbs animal healthcare products in Singapore under a non-binding, non-exclusive heads of agreement (BD: Jul 7, 2022).

Today, the company said it also received a \$217,400 purchase order for its marijuana-based Anibidiol pet products from South Korean distributor Providence Animal Health Korea with product registration for its Green Goo Animal First Aid range in South Korea underway.

Creso chief executive officer and managing director William Lay said the expanded distribution partnerships gave the company a “unique operating platform” to drive further sales in 2023.

Creso fell 0.3 cents or 15 percent to 1.7 cents with 21.0 million shares traded.

RESPIRI

Respiri says it has requested a trading halt “to finalize an equity raising to support the company’s continued US expansion program and a strategic acquisition”.

Trading will resume May 17, 2023, or on an earlier announcement.

Respiri last traded at 3.8 cents.

BLUECHIIP

One Funds Management Ltd says it has increased its substantial holding in Bluechiip from 75,000,000 shares (12.54%) to 96,000,000 shares (14.06%).

The Sydney-based One Funds said as trustee for Saville Capital Emerging Companies Fund between October 28, 2022 and May 5, 2023 it bought 21,000,000 shares for \$554,371, or 2.6 cents a share, including 16,000,000 shares for \$400,000 on May 8, for 2.5 cents a share.

Earlier this month, Bluechiip said it had raised \$2.2 million through a placement at 2.5 cents a share and hoped to raise an additional \$300,000 through a share purchase plan (BD: May 5, 2022).

Bluechiip fell 0.1 cents or 3.7 percent to 2.6 cents.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Thorney Investment Group and Tiga Trading say they have increased their substantial holding in Microba from 20,157,931 shares (5.88%) to 24,660,153 shares (7.17%).

The Melbourne-based Thorney and Tiga said that, with Jasforce Pty Ltd, between March 24, 2023 and May 10, 2023 they bought 4,502,222 shares with the single largest purchase on May 10 of 1,837,500 shares for \$551,250, or 30 cents a share.

Microba fell half a cent or 1.5 percent to 32 cents.

RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm chair Otto Buttula says he has increased his substantial shareholding in the company from 23,427,501 shares (10.82%) to 24,111,396 shares (11.10%).

The Brisbane-based Mr Buttula said that through Newfound Investments Pty Ltd and Webinvest Pty Ltd, on May 10, 2023 he bought 272 shares for \$97, or 36.0 cents a share, on May 11, 2023, he bought 549,729 shares for \$200,185, or 36.4 cents a share and on May 12, 2023 he bought 133,894 shares for \$47,962, or 35.8 cents a share.

Rhythm fell two cents or 5.6 percent to 34 cents.

PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient says it has appointed Dr Ellen Feigal as a US-based, independent, non-executive director, effective from May 15, 2023.

Prescient said Dr Feigal was currently a NDA Partners LLC partner and head of biologics practice and was previously the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine head of research and development and Amgen's executive medical director.

The company said Dr Feigal held a Doctor of Medicine from the University of California Davis.

Prescient fell 0.4 cents or 4.5 percent to 8.5 cents.