



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday August 16, 2023

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ATOMO UP 16%; GENETIC SIGNATURES DOWN 6%**
- \* **IMUGENE UP-TO \$352m FOR PRECISION CD19 CAR-T; TRADING HALT**
- \* **CHIMERIC WINS IMUGENE \$4.4m PRECISION 'INTRODUCTION FEE'**
- \* **IMRICOR RAISES \$2.8m**
- \* **IMEX \$2.1m COLOMBIA HOSPITAL CONTRACT**
- \* **BIOTRON COMPLETES PHASE II BIT225 COVID-19 TRIAL DOSING**
- \* **LUMOS: HENRY SCHEIN TAKES FEBRIDX TO THE NETHERLANDS**
- \* **LUMOS EURO, JAPAN PATENTS FOR IVD CAMERA TECHNOLOGY**
- \* **IMPEDIMED BOARD SPILL EGM**
- \* **ALLAN GRAY REDUCES TO 13.8% OF STARPHARMA**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 1.5 percent on Wednesday August 16, 2023, with the ASX200 down 109.8 points to 7,195.2 points.

Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 18 fell, six traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Atomo was the best, up 0.5 cents or 15.6 percent to 3.7 cents, with 19.9 million shares traded. Opthea and Patrys climbed more than 11 percent; Mesoblast and Pharmaxis were up more than nine percent; Impedimed improved 5.1 percent; Micro-X rose 4.55 percent; Proteomics was up 3.45 percent; 4D Medical climbed 2.9 percent; Antisense, Dimerix, Polynovo and SDI were up more than one percent; with Clinuvel and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Genetic Signatures led the falls, down 3.5 cents or 6.2 percent to 53 cents, with 632,000 shares traded. Next Science and Starpharma lost more than five percent; Alcidion and Amplia fell more than four percent; Pro Medicus and Telix were down three percent or more; Avita, Cyclopharm, Emvision, Neuren and Prescient shed more than two percent; Immutep, Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Paradigm and Universal Biosensors were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL and Volpara down by less than one percent.

## IMUGENE

Imugene says it will pay Precision Biosciences up to \$US227 million (\$A352 million) for its allogeneic "azer-cel" CD19 Car T-cell therapy for blood cancers.

Imugene said it had acquired a worldwide exclusive licence from the Durham, North Carolina-based Precision Biosciences for its allogeneic CD19 Car T-cell therapy program, azercabtagene zarpreleucel or "azer-cel" as well as its extensive data packages.

The company said it would pay Precision \$US8 million cash up-front and \$US13 million in deferred consideration on closing, with a term of 12 months and possible conversion to equity at Imugene's election, as well as \$US8 million, potentially payable in shares, on completion of a phase Ib trial, due to begin "shortly".

Imugene said it would pay Precision up to \$US198 million in performance-based payments, linked to development milestones, including approval in multiple indications and sales in the US and European Union as well as industry standard royalties on sales.

The company said it would complete an ongoing, 84-patient, phase Ib study of azer-cel for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and acute lymphocytic leukaemia.

Imugene said azer-cel had an overall response rate in 15 or 18 patients (83.3%) assessed, with 11 patients (61.1%) having a complete response, and 10 patients (55.6%) having a "durable response great than or equal to six months".

Imugene said that "a positive meeting was held with the [US Food and Drug Administration] in June 2023 to seek guidance for entering a phase II registration study".

The company said it would acquire the lease to a 32,800 square foot (3047.2square metres) facility in North Carolina, drug material for completion of the phase Ib trial and a cell therapy and manufacturing team of about 50 personnel.

Imugene said it would pay an introduction fee of \$US3 million to Chimeric Therapeutics in connection with the transaction.

Imugene chief executive officer Dr Leslie Chong said that "by adding azer-cel to the Imugene pipeline, our Oncarlytics program will form the foundation of a novel and broadened approach to cell therapy".

"CD19 is a well validated clinical target in blood cancers," Ms Chong said.

"Oncarlytics can enhance the expression of CD19 on solid tumors," Ms Chong said.

"Azer-cel is a super-charged allogeneic T-cell designed to identify and kill malignant cells expressing CD19," Ms Choong said.

"We are thrilled about the potential benefit for patients from the combination of these two technologies," Ms Chong said.

Separately, Imugene requested a trading halt "pending an announcement in relation to a proposed capital raising" with trading to resume on August 18 or an earlier announcement. Imugene last traded at 9.4 cents.

## CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS

Chimeric says Imugene is obliged to pay a \$US3 million (\$A4.4 million) introduction fee on definitive documentation with Precision Biosciences for its azer-cel technology.

Chimeric said the introduction was payable in cash within 30 days.

Chimeric managing-director Jennifer Chow said her company was "pleased to have played an essential role in the introduction of Imugene to Precision, which is testament to our industry leading team of cell therapy experts".

"The \$US3 million payment will be applied to advancing Chimeric's own transformational cell therapy portfolio, with its current priority focus on advancing its clinical stage programs," Ms Chow said.

Chimeric was up 0.4 cents or 10.5 percent to 4.2 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

## IMRICOR MEDICAL SYSTEMS

Imricor says it has raised \$2.84 million in a placement to US, Australian and New Zealand investors at 39 US cents (61 Australian cents) a share.

Imricor said investors received 10-year warrants to buy US shares and CDIs exercisable at 60 US cents or \$1.00 each, with the funds raised going to sales and marketing, clinical development and working capital.

Imricor was up 14 cents or 21.2 percent to 80 cents.

## IMEX HEALTH SERVICES

Imex says it has a \$2.1 million, five-year deal with the Bogota, Colombia-based Grupo Avidanti-Zentri to use its medical imaging software at its hospitals.

Imex said its software would be implemented at the Barranquilla, Colombia-based Organizacion Clinica General del Norte, with the first contract expected to contribute about \$430,000 in annual recurring revenue.

The company said Organizacion Clinica General del Norte had 12 sites, with a further six groups of Colombian hospitals, up-to 17 sites, under negotiation and expected to contribute a further \$360,000 in annual recurring revenue.

Imex said it would begin installing its software immediately and expected to complete the installation by August 31, 2023 with data migration and integration expected to be completed by January 2024.

The company said that it would provide its fully internet cloud-based, vendor neutral enterprise imaging product to optimize the group's radiology and pathology departments. Imex said its enterprise software would provide the client with a centralized medical imaging platform across its network, replacing "numerous legacy systems, integrate with over five hospital information systems and will migrate over 170 terabytes of information". Imex chief executive officer Dr Germán Arango said the company was "very pleased that Grupo Avidanti-Zentria has selected Imex as its enterprise imaging provider".

"This is the company's largest cloud-based software contract," Dr Arango said.

"This April we announced our first radiology services contract with Grupo Avidanti so we are very excited to once again partner and provide them with our enterprise imaging solution across their entire network," Dr Arango said.

"This is an important contract for Imex," Dr Arango said.

Imex fell two cents or 3.3 percent to 58 cents.

## BIOTRON

Biotron says it has completed dosing in its up-to 60-patient, phase II trial of BIT225 for Covid-19.

Biotron said the trial aimed to determine whether seven days of treatment with BIT225 within three days of onset of Covid-19 symptoms resulted in a reduction in severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) viral load, clinically favorable changes in viral, inflammatory and immune activation markers, and reduced Covid-19 symptoms.

The company said it would focus on laboratory analyses of samples collected during the trial, with preliminary results expected in September 2023.

Biotron managing-director Dr Michelle Miller said the company was "very pleased to have completed recruitment and dosing in this important phase II Covid trial".

"The trial commenced in May 2023 and its completion in just three months is a remarkable achievement," Dr Miller said.

Biotron was unchanged at three cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

## LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Lumos says it has expanded Henry Schein Medical's distribution deal for its Febridx point-of-care test to include the Netherlands.

Lumos did not disclose commercial terms of the deal for the Febridx fingerprick blood test to differentiate a viral from bacterial acute respiratory infection.

In July, the company said it had a deal with the New York-based Henry Schein for distribution in Spain and Portugal (BD: Jul 18, 2023).

Lumos was up 1.8 cents or 25.35 percent to 8.9 cents with 130.8 million shares traded.

## LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS HOLDINGS

Lumos says it has been granted European and Japan patents for its in-vitro diagnostic (IVD) camera technology for its point-of-care reader diagnostic platform.

Lumos said the patent, titled 'Device for reading an IVD assay' would protect its intellectual property until 2036.

The company said the patent had been granted in Australia and the US.

## IMPEDIMED

Impedimed says that the requisitioned board spill extraordinary general meeting will be held on September 28, 2023.

Last month, Impedimed said it had received a notice from Acadia Park Pty Ltd calling for the removal of chair Donald Williams and directors Amit Patel, David Anderson and Daniel Sharp (BD: Jul 31, 2023).

The company said at that time that the notice "purports to be issued pursuant to section 203D of the Corporations Act 2001 ... on behalf of Acadia Park Pty Ltd regarding the intention of [Acadia Park] with the support of a small handful of private investors, to move resolutions for the removal of [the] four directors.

Earlier this month, Impedimed said it had received a notice under section 249D of the Corporations Act 2001 requesting the replacement of the four directors at an extraordinary general meeting by Nanosonics chief financial officer McGregor Grant, Christine Emmanuel-Donnelly, Andrew Grant and Janelle Delaney (BD: Aug 3, 2023).

Today, Impedimed said the extraordinary general meeting would vote on the removal of the four directors and the election of the Mr Grant, Ms Emmanuel-Donnelly, Mr Grant and Ms Delaney.

The company said that the directors, excluding each named in the relevant resolution, recommended that shareholders vote against the removal of existing directors and unanimously recommended voting against the four new candidates.

Impedimed published a "members statement" by the requisitioning parties as well as several documents supporting the existing board.

The members statement's principal point was that there was "a fundamental disconnect between the US-controlled board and the Australian shareholders, most aptly demonstrated by the most recent capital raising" which it said was unnecessarily dilutive. Impedimed said that the existing board had management support and the extraordinary general meeting was a "distraction from strategy execution".

The meeting will be held at Johnson Winter Slattery, Quay Quarter Tower, Level 14, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney on September 28, 2023 at 9am (AEST) and via audio webcast at <https://meetings.linkgroup.com/IPDGM23> or via telephone, however voting was not possible by telephone.

Impedimed was up one cent or 5.1 percent to 20.5 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

## STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Allan Gray Australia says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Starpharma from 60,548,078 shares (14.81%) to 56,519,698 shares (13.77%).

The Sydney-based Allan Gray said that between February 9 and August 11, 2023, it bought 2,614,058 shares for \$1,196,574 or an average of 45.77 cents a share and sold 6,642,438 shares for \$1,311,487 or an average of 19.74 cents a share.

Starpharma fell one cent or 5.9 percent to 16 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.