



Biotech Daily

Thursday August 3, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: IMPEDIMED UP 5%; STARPHARMA DOWN 5%**
- * **FEDERAL \$40m CRC ROUND OPENS**
- * **CICADA, BRANDON INCUBATOR FOR SYDNEY'S WESTMEAD**
- * **LUMOS SHARE PLAN RAISES \$690k OF \$4.75m; TOTAL \$5.44m**
- * **FLINDERS UNI DEVELOPS ANTI-BACTERIAL METALLIC COATING**
- * **IMPEDIMED BOARD SPILL REQUISITION**
- * **SEMMELWEIS UNI TRIALS TRAJAN NEOTERYX MITRA BLOOD SAMPLERS**
- * **AUSTRALIA GRANTS RECCE R327, R529 PATENT FAMILY 4**
- * **EPSILON REBRANDS THC PHARMA, TETRA HEALTH AS 'EPSILON'**
- * **M&G INCREASES, DILUTED TO 6.4% OF MESOBLAST**
- * **MEDIBIO REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' HALT**
- * **CHIMERIC LOSES DIRECTOR DR GEORGE MATCHAM**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.58 percent on Thursday August 3, 2023, with the ASX200 down 42.8 points to 7,311.8 points. Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 fell, nine traded unchanged and three were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Impedimed was the best, up one cent or 5.1 percent to 20.5 cents, with 6.05 million shares traded. Alcidion climbed 4.2 percent; Atomo was up 3.45 percent; Nova Eye and Orthocell rose two percent or more; Opthea was up 1.7 percent; with Cyclopharm, Nanosonics and Neuren up by less than one percent.

Starpharma led the falls, down one cent or 5.1 percent to 18.5 cents, with 1.4 million shares traded. Genetic Signatures and Patrys fell more than four percent; Dimerix, Emvision, Polynovo and Volpara were down more than three percent; Amplia and Next Science shed more than two percent; Antisense, Medical Developments, Prescient, Pro Medicus and Resonance were down more than one percent; with 4D Medical, Avita, Clinuvel, Cochlear, CSL, Resmed and Telix down by less than one percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says the \$40 million Round 15 of the Cooperative Research Centres Projects, has opened, to assist develop technologies, products and services. The Federal Government said it expected to award the \$40 million in grants to small and medium businesses for projects to support a “circular economy or meet the key priorities of the National Reconstruction Fund”.

A media release from the Federal Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic said that since the scheme was introduced in 2016, more than \$500 million had been awarded to more than 200 Australian business and organizations.

The Government said projects that supported national science and research priorities were also welcome to apply.

The Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic said the grants “play an important role in strengthening Australian recycling technologies and developing a circular economy in Australia”.

“The [Cooperative Research Centres] projects provide short-term support, of up to three years, for collaborative research projects,” Mr Husic said.

“The program is also working to boost capabilities in the emerging quantum computer sector and robotics companies,” Mr Husic said.

The Federal Government said that applications were open for six weeks and close on September 14, 2023.

For more information or to apply, go to: www.business.gov.au/crc-p.

CICADA INNOVATIONS, BRANDON CAPITAL

Sydney’s Cicada says it has launched an “incubator” at Westmead Health and Innovation District with the Brandon Bio-Catalyst, managed by Brandon Capital.

Cicada said the Brandon Bio-Catalyst was a collaboration of more than 50 medical research institutes, investors, and government “to progress the next generation of medical therapies and technology which improve health and save lives”.

Cicada Innovations said that the incubator at Westmead Health and Innovation District was backed by Investment New South Wales.

Cicada said that Westmead Health and Innovation District was “one of Australia’s largest health and biomedical research precincts” and the incubator would be the first health-focused incubator funded by the New South Wales government to support pre-revenue health-tech startups in bridging the gap between research and commercialization.

Investment New South Wales chief executive officer Katie Knight said the new Westmead Biomedical Incubator would deliver jobs and better medical care for the world.

“With the right incentives, [New South Wales] startups can deliver real-world patient outcomes to the market sooner,” Ms Knight said.

“Specialists in medical technology including cell and gene therapy, cancer research, infectious diseases, immunology, and vaccines will all benefit from working within this inclusive ecosystem in the heart of the Westmead Health precinct,” Ms Knight said.

Cicada said that in addition to commercialization support and dedicated space in the incubator, health technology companies would have facilitated access to the facilities and connections available in the broader Westmead precinct.

The company said the precinct was home to four hospitals, two universities, two large research institutes, New South Wales’ largest pathology service, and allied health centres.

Cicada Innovations said it would deliver health-focused programs with Brandon Capital, which would support commercial outcomes through participation in Cicada's commercialization programs, mentoring and support for innovators in the precinct.

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS HOLDINGS

Lumos says its share plan has raised \$690,000 of a hoped-for \$4.75 million, taking the total raised to \$5.44 million.

In July, Lumos said it had raised \$4.75 million in an institutional placement at 7.0 cents a share and hoped to raise \$4.75 million through a share plan (BD: Jul 10, 2023).

Today, the company said proceeds would be used to buy back the remaining convertible notes issued to Lind Global Fund II and SBC Global Investment Fund in January and provide working capital in preparation for the US launch of Febridx.

Lumos said that last night it issued early redemption notices to both Lind and SBC, equivalent to \$1,050,000 and \$825,000 to each company, respectively, which would require between \$1.25 million to \$1.87 million of the proceeds from the capital raising.

Lumos fell 0.1 cents or 1.9 percent to 5.1 cents with 9.65 million shares traded.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Flinders University says researchers have developed a metallic coating treatment for bandages, medical devices and other surfaces to resist and kill bacteria.

Flinders University said researchers from Flinders' University's Biomedical Nano-engineering Laboratory, along with the University of Sydney and North Carolina State University used gallium nanoscale liquid metal particles, which had low cytotoxicity to cells, and could combat "escalating threats of antimicrobial resistance".

The research article, titled 'Gallium Liquid Metal: Nanotoolbox for Antimicrobial Applications' was published in the journal America Chemical Society (ACS) Nano, with an abstract available at: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsnano.3c06486>.

Flinders University researcher Dr Vi Khanh Truong said the gallium in its liquid state was "one of the most promising candidates to be used as an antimicrobial agent, and can be used in many ways as a liquid metal".

"The liquid state of [gallium] enables it to be easily combined or functionalised with other components to create various forms of more efficient antimicrobial metals," Dr Truong said. "As well gallium appears to be compatible with human cells in preparations and concentrations relevant to its antimicrobial activity, so could one day be administered orally or intravenous injection."

IMPEDIMED

Impedimed says it has received a notice under section 249D of the Corporations Act 2001 requesting the replacement of four directors at an extraordinary general meeting.

Impedimed said the notice requested the removal of chair Don Williams and directors Amit Patel, David Anderson and Daniel Sharp, to be replaced by Nanosonics chief financial officer McGregor Grant, Christine Emmanuel-Donnelly, Andrew Grant and Janelle Delaney (BD: Jul 31, Aug 2, 2023).

The company said that a members' statement outlined the "rationale of the requisition, being a perceived disconnect between the Australian shareholders and the present board relating to the company's recent capital raising and perceived risks to shareholder wealth".

In May and June, Impedimed said it had commitments to raise \$20 million in a placement at 13.0 cents a share that its \$5 million share plan had more than \$20 million in applications, and it had scaled back the plan to \$10 million (BD: May 19, Jun 21, 2023).

Today, Impedimed said it was considering the notices, would respond to the statement in due course and would hold the general meeting no later than October 2, 2023.

Impedimed was up one cent or 5.1 percent to 20.5 cents with 6.05 million shares traded.

TRAJAN GROUP

Trajan says the Budapest-based Paediatric Centre of Semmelweis University will use its Neoteryx Mitra blood micro-sampling devices in a neonate research study.

In an email to media not released to the ASX, Trajan said that the Neoteryx Mitra enabled “the collection of very small volumes of blood - less than one-tenth of the blood sample size required for standard laboratory measurements”.

The company said it donated 200 Mitra micro-samplers to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Semmelweis University to “enable the researchers to evaluate new sampling methods and develop less invasive blood tests for newborn and premature babies”.

Trajan said the study would “determine the most reliable sampling method that is gentler and requires less blood sample volume for steroid hormone analysis in neonates”.

The company said that a newborn baby had about 80ml of blood per kilogram of body weight, so the amount of blood taken from newborn and premature babies for blood tests was “critical to their wellbeing”.

Trajan said that the Mitra device was based on volumetric absorptive micro-sampling, which absorbed a micro-volume blood sample of 10 microliters (μL), 20 μL , or 30 μL .

The company said the devices could be used to collect capillary blood samples and ship them in dried form, which made it “easier to take blood samples and store them until laboratory processing”.

The Paediatric Centre of Semmelweis University assistant lecturer Dr Kata Kovács said that “in terms of laboratory measurements of newborns and premature babies, this quantitative difference is significant, since compared to their total blood volume, the amount of blood required for laboratory tests already represents a significant loss”.

Dr Kovács said that the research aimed to validate the 10 μL Mitra micro-samplers and compare steroid levels from capillary blood samples (10 μL) and standard arterial blood samples (200 μL) to facilitate clinical application of the new sampling method.

Trajan fell six cents or 3.2 percent to \$1.83.

RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce says the Australian Patent Office has granted the first of its new patent family 4 for its anti-infectives.

Recce said the patent family, titled ‘Process for Preparation of Biologically Active Copolymer’ would provide intellectual property protection until 2041.

The company said that the patent claims related to R327 and R529, including the process for preparation of anti-infectives, the use of R327 and R529 for the treatment of disease, particularly in treatment of bacterial infections, viral infections and other diseases.

Recce said the patent family validated its anti-infectives from studies in burn wounds, urinary tract infections, gonorrhoea, influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (Sars-Cov-2) and other bacterial and viral pathogens.

The company said that the patent protection included administration by oral, inhalation, transdermal delivery or by intra-muscular and/or intra-venous injection, and as an aerosol, gel, topical foam or ointment or impregnated into a dressing for application to skin or mucous membranes for transdermal or transmucosal delivery.

Recce said that the grant was “the first ... wholly owned family 4 granted [patents], with Patent Co-operation Treaty country patent submissions in respective stages of review”.

Recce chief executive officer James Graham said the company was “thrilled to see this new family of intellectual property be granted in Australia; with further market-monopolies reinforcing opportunities among a significant range of bacterial and viral pathogens”.

Recce fell 1.5 cents or 2.4 percent to 60 cents.

[EPSILON HEALTHCARE \(FORMERLY THE HYDROPONICS COMPANY\)](#)

Epsilon says it will rebrand THC Pharma and Tetra Health subsidiaries as Epsilon Pharma and Epsilon Clinics, respectively.

Epsilon said that THC Pharma operated its Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration-licensed Southport Queensland marijuana processing factory.

The company said that Tetra Health operated a “medicinal cannabis telehealth clinic”.

Epsilon said it would pursue a ‘one brand’ strategy.

Epsilon was up 0.2 cents or 10 percent to 2.2 cents.

[MESOBLAST](#)

London’s M&G Investments Funds says it has increased its Mesoblast holding and been diluted from 51,752,865 shares (8.84%) to 51,954,410 shares (6.38%).

M&G said that between September 4, 2020 and June 23, 2023 it bought and sold Australian shares and American depository shares (ADSs), disposing of ADSs equivalent to 4,540,450 shares.

The company said that from October 10, 2022, it sold its ADSs with the single largest sale 70,000 ADSs equivalent to 350,000 Australian shares for \$273,941 or 78.3 cents a share on June 16, 2023.

In April, Mesoblast said it raised about \$US40 million (\$A60.5 million) at 85 cents a share in a placement to US, UK and Australian shareholders (BD: Apr 26, 2023).

Mesoblast was in a trading halt for the US Food and Drug Administration decision on remestemcel-L for paediatric graft versus host disease and last traded at \$1.09.

[MEDIBIO](#)

Medibio has requested a trading halt pending “an announcement regarding a capital raising”.

Trading will resume on August 7, 2023.

Medibio last traded at 0.15 cents.

[CHIMERIC THERAPEUTICS](#)

Chimeric says non-executive director Dr George Matcham has resigned, effective from August 3, 2023.

Chimeric said Dr Matcham had served on the board since July 2021.

Chimeric chair Paul Hopper said he thanked Dr Matcham “for his insightful contribution over the last two years and wish him well for the future”.

Chimeric was unchanged at four cents.