



Biotech Daily

Thursday September 14, 2023

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: 4D MEDICAL UP 9%; STARPHARMA DOWN 6%**
- * **PAINCHEK 'FIRM COMMITMENTS' FOR \$3.55m PLACEMENT**
- * **QUEENSLAND UNI TETRASODIUM EDTA CATHETER TRIAL**
- * **MONASH UNI: OLAMKICEPT, BGP-15 REDUCE LIVER CANCER, IN MICE**
- * **PROTEOMICS REQUESTS 'REGULATORY, REIMBURSEMENT' HALT**
- * **RESPIRI REQUESTS 'PLACEMENT' TRADING HALT**
- * **PATRYS TO LOSE DIRECTOR SUZY JONES**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.46 percent on Thursday September 14, 2023 with the ASX200 up 32.6 points to 7,186.5 points.

Nineteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 14 fell, three traded unchanged and four were untraded. All three Big Caps were down.

4D Medical was the best, up 5.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 64 cents, with 210,018 shares traded.

Medical Developments and Universal Biosensors climbed six percent or more; Impedimed improved 5.9 percent; Actinogen, Dimerix and Micro-X were up more than four percent; Kazia and Paradigm climbed more than three percent; Compumedics, Cyclopharm, Immutep and Orthocell rose more than two percent; Amplia, Antisense, Emvision and Imugene were up more than one percent; with Avita and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 23.1 percent best, Starpharma, led the falls, down one cent or 6.25 percent to 15 cents, with 4.2 million shares traded.

Atomo, Patrys and Prescient lost more than five percent; Mesoblast, Nova Eye, Opthea, Pharmaxis and Volpara shed more than two percent; Clinuvel, Neuren, Resmed and Telix were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Nanosonics and Polynovo down by less than one percent.

PAINCHEK

Painchek says it has “firm commitments” from institutional, professional and sophisticated investors to raise \$3.55 million in a placement at 2.7 cents a share.

Painchek said the issue price was a 3.6 percent discount to its last traded price of 2.8 cents on September 11, 2023.

The company said the funds would go towards commercialization of its adult pain software application for aged care, hospital and homecare including a US Food and Drug Administration de-novo regulatory clearance application, commercialization of its infant pain software application as well as technology upgrades, sales, marketing, operations and working capital.

Painchek said the placement would vest in two tranches, with the first tranche of \$2.83 million to settle on September 19, and the second tranche worth about \$720,000 to settle on or about November 28, pending shareholder approval.

The company said directors had subscribed for about \$216,000 in the second tranche of the placement subject to shareholder approval at its annual general meeting on or about November 22, 2023.

Painchek was up 0.3 cents or 10.7 percent to 3.1 cents with 2.5 million shares traded.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland says it will trial tetra-sodium ethylene-diamine-tetraacetic acid (EDTA) solution to reduce paediatric catheter-related infections and blood clots.

The University said the trial, aimed at reducing infection and blood clot rates for children with cancer, would be conducted in hospitals across Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast.

The University of Queensland’s Prof Amanda Ullman said “one of the first procedures children being treated for cancer undergo is the insertion of a central line into blood vessels leading to the heart”.

“This line carries important treatments such as chemotherapy drugs, blood transfusions and antibiotics but it can also lead to infection and blood clots,” Prof Ullman said.

“These complications can stop treatment, cause stress for the child and their family and result in harm, expense, and even death,” Prof Ullman said.

“In our trial we’re using what’s called a lock solution tetrasodium EDTA, which is a calcium and iron chelator that makes it difficult for blood to clot and bacteria to grow,” Prof Ullman said.

“This lock solution was developed and safety tested in Canada, but this is the first time it has been trialled to prevent complications associated with the treatment of cancer, worldwide,” Prof Ullman said.

“We’re hoping that with the success of our trial, the lock solution could be used for everyone with cancer and for children with other complex health conditions to reduce complications and health care costs,” she said.

The University of Queensland said that each year Australia recorded more than 250 bloodstream infections, 70 deep vein thromboses, and 300 treatment disruptions related to central venous access devices in children undergoing cancer treatment.

The University said the trial would begin at the Queensland Children’s Hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Gold Coast University Hospital, before expanding to Sydney’s Children’s Hospital, Melbourne’s Royal Children’s Hospital, Monash Children’s Hospital and Auckland’s Starship Children’s hospitals in the next few months.

The University said the trial was partly funded by the Cancer Council Queensland and supported by a \$1.5 million National Health and Medical Research Council Grant.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Monash University says that olamkicept with BGP-15 endoplasmic reticulum stress inhibitor reduces the onset of hepato-cellular carcinoma, or liver cancer, in mice.

The University said researchers from Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences found the drug combination reversed the symptoms of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and “markedly” reduced the onset of non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis-driven liver cancer, without affecting the liver in mice.

Monash University said both drugs were already “proven to be safe in humans and have progressed to phase II and III human clinical trials for other metabolic and inflammatory diseases”.

The University said hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) often presented in patients with obesity and symptoms associated with metabolic syndrome, especially metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease.

Monash University said that 25 percent of the world’s population was estimated to be living with metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease, with about 15 percent of those exhibiting signs of non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis.

The research article titled ‘Therapeutic blockade of ER stress and inflammation prevents NASH and progression to HCC’ was published in Science Advances and is available at: <https://www.science.org/doi/full/10.1126/sciadv.adh0831?af=R>.

Monash University Prof Mark Febbraio, the lead author of the study, said hepato-cellular carcinoma was “increasing at an alarming rate largely due to increased obesity and type 2 diabetes which may lead to NASH, a well-known [hepatocellular carcinoma] risk factor”.

“This is an exciting discovery for a particularly widespread and devastating disease with a low survival rate,” Prof Febbraio said.

Prof Febbraio said that despite the high prevalence of non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis and the rise in non-alcoholic steato-hepatitis-driven hepatocellular carcinoma, there were no US Food and Drug Administration approved treatments that halt disease progression.

“Consistent with our hypothesis, the study shows that while monotherapy with either of the two drugs modestly slowed progression, when combined they have shown to be a realistic therapeutic strategy for treating human NASH and progression to [hepatocellular carcinoma],” Prof Febbraio said.

“As both drugs have been shown to be safe in several human clinical trials, the logical next step is testing the ... combination in clinical trials for patients with NASH and or HCC,” Prof Febbraio said.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics has requested a trading halt regarding “regulatory approval for the Promarkerd test in Australia and the reimbursement payment rate ... in the US”.

Trading will resume on September 18, 2023, or on an earlier announcement.

Proteomics last traded at 90 cents.

RESPIRI

Respiri has requested a trading halt pending an announcement on “the placement of new shares over and above the recently completed share purchase plan”.

Last month, Respiri said it raised \$3 million in a share plan and \$900,000 in a private placement, at 3.4 cents a share (BD: Aug 8, 11, 2023).

Trading will resume on September 18, 2023, or on an earlier announcement.

Respiri last traded at 3.2 cents.

PATRY'S

Partys says non-executive director Suzy Jones will retire effective from Friday, September 15, 2023.

Patrys said that Ms Jones had been a director since in 2011 and “played a pivotal role in the company’s evolution over the last decade”.

Patrys managing-director Dr James Campbell said that on behalf of the board, he extended his “immense thanks to Suzy and wish her every success in her future endeavors”.

The company said it had begun a search for a new non-executive director.

Patrys fell 0.05 cents or 5.9 percent to 0.8 cents.