



# Biotech Daily

Thursday January 25, 2024

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX, BIOTECH UP: ACTINOGEN UP 21%; 4D MEDICAL DOWN 8%**
- \* **SAHMRI: PROBIOTIC BACTERIA DETECT GUT TUMORS, IN MICE**
- \* **RESMED H1 REVENUE UP 14% TO \$3.4b, PROFIT UP 11% TO \$789m**
- \* **AUSCANN SHARE PLAN FOR \$1m**
- \* **AROA: 6 OF 10 ENIVO MASTECTOMY PATIENTS TESTED; NO COMPLICATIONS**
- \* **MEMPHASYS AI-PORT 60% EFFICIENT AS STANDARD COW INSEMINATION**
- \* **RESPIRI LICENCES ECHO IQ ECHOSOLV FOR US PATIENT MONITORING**
- \* **FIL (FIDELITY) TAKES 8% OF MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS**
- \* **M-D DR RICHARD LIPSCOMBE REDUCES TO 12.5% OF PROTEOMICS**
- \* **MTP CONNECT TO LEAD BIO 2024 DELEGATION**
- \* **BIO-MELBOURNE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS**
- \* **BIO-MELBOURNE: 'EARLY, EARLY-BIRD TICKETS FOR A.I. SYMPOSIUM'**
- \* **AUSBIOTECH FEBRUARY BIO-CHEERS**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.48 percent on Thursday January 25, 2024, with the ASX200 up 36.2 points to 7,555.4 points. Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, nine traded unchanged and one was unchanged. All three Big Caps rose.

Actinogen was the best, up 0.5 cents or 20.8 percent to 2.9 cents, with 19.96 million shares traded. Proteomics climbed 8.2 percent; Cynata was up 7.4 percent; Resmed rose 6.4 percent; Imugene improved five percent; Nanosonics was up 4.5 percent; Nova Eye and Starpharma were up more than three percent; Clarity, Resonance, SDI and Telix rose more than two percent; Avita, Clinuvel, Compumedics, Emvision, Neuren, Percheron (Antisense) and Orthocell were up more than one percent; with Cochlear and CSL up by less than one percent.

4D Medical led the falls, down five cents or 7.7 percent to 60 cents, with 1.55 million shares traded. Universal Biosensors lost seven percent; Dimerix and Prescient fell five percent or more; Alcidion and Impedimed were down more than three percent; Medical Developments, Opthea and Polynovo shed two percent or more; Mesoblast and Paradigm were down more than one percent; with Pro Medicus down by 0.6 percent.

## [SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, UNIVERSITY OF COLUMBIA](#)

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) says it has engineered a probiotic bacterium to detect early gut tumors without faecal testing, in mice. SAHMRI said the research with the University of Adelaide and New York's University of Columbia studied the bacteria strain Escherichia coli Nissle, which was isolated from the gut of a dysentery-resistant soldier in 1917.

The Institute said previous research had shown that "rather than live in normal tissue, [Escherichia coli Nissle] prefers to live in tumors when they're present in the gut and will actively seek them out".

SAHMRI researcher Georgette Radford said the study showed "that after oral dosing, these bacteria selectively live in the gut in both the benign precursor lesions to bowel cancer, called polyps, and also bowel cancers".

"We've taken advantage of this bacteria's natural gravitation towards tumors and engineered it to release molecules that illuminate early cancers," Ms Radford said.

The Institute said the research, titled 'Engineering tumor-colonizing E. coli Nissle 1917 for detection and treatment of colorectal neoplasia' was published in Nature with the full article available at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-44776-4>.

SAHMRI's Prof Susan Woods said the method could be used to diagnose cancer early and non-invasively and that "once the bacteria locates the tumor it releases a marker that we can then detect in urine, which shows cancer is present".

"In the future, we're aiming to be able to detect this marker in a blood test," Prof Woods said.

The Institute said the research team was "confident the bacteria can also be manipulated to deliver therapeutic treatment directly to the tumor site, providing another option to treat early cancers, while drastically reducing the side effects that come with putting drugs in the body".

## [RESMED](#)

Resmed says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2023 was up 14.2 percent to \$US2,265,122,000 (\$A3,444,633,469) with net profit after tax up 11.2 percent to \$US518,529,000 (\$A789,223,000).

Resmed said that \$US1,980,900,000 of its revenue came from its sleep and respiratory care products, with a further \$US284,200,000 derived from its software-as-a-service business.

The company cited both US generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and non-GAAP data, saying it used non-GAAP information because it provided better insight when evaluating performance from core operations and provided consistent financial reporting. This report quotes the non-GAAP data.

Resmed said that research and development expenses were up 12.4 percent to \$US149,590,000, or 6.6 percent of total revenue.

The company said non-GAAP diluted earnings per share rose 10.7 percent to \$US3.51 for the six months to December 31, 2023.

Resmed said that it had cash and equivalents of \$US210,247,000 at December 31, 2023 compared to \$US253,199,000 at December 31, 2022.

The company said it would pay a dividend of 48 US cents for a record date of February 8, payable on March 14, 2024.

Resmed was up \$1.70 or 6.4 percent to \$28.45 with 5.6 million shares traded.

## [AUSCANN GROUP HOLDINGS](#)

Auscann says it hopes to raise \$1 million through a non-underwritten share plan at 1.6 cents a share.

Auscann said the price was a 60 percent discount to its closing price on August 29, 2022, the last day before it was suspended from trading.

In 2022, the ASX said Auscann had been suspended pending an announcement of a proposed transaction and re-compliance with the chapters 1 and 2 of the Listing Rules, requiring a proposed acquisition to have shareholder approval (BD: Sep 1, 2022).

Last year, the company said it had a conditional contract to sell its Wangara, Perth premises for \$6,750,000 to Optral Pty Ltd, with funds to be used “for a proposed material acquisition and working capital” (BD: Apr 4, 2023).

Today, Auscann said funds raised would be used for ongoing operating costs, working capital and costs incurred seeking to re-comply with the ASX’s admission and quotation requirements, including costs from acquisition negotiations.

The company said the share plan had a record date of January 24, would open on January 31 and close on March 19, 2024.

Auscann was in a suspension and last traded at four cents a share.

## [AROA BIOSURGERY](#)

Aroa says six-of-10 patients tested in its Enivo system trial have reported no clinically relevant seroma, or pockets of serous fluid, or complications post-mastectomy.

Last year, Aroa said its Enivo pump and catheter product had US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance “for use in the removal of surgical and bodily fluids from a closed wound for haematoma and seroma prophylaxis following plastic surgery or other general surgeries where large flaps are formed” (BD: Apr 12, 2023).

At that time, the company said the product was part of its Enivo Tissue Apposition Platform and used a material derived from sheep forestomach to help reduce surgical and bodily fluid build-up in closed wounds.

Today, Aroa said its Enivo system applied vacuum pressure to surgical sites to eliminate the open space created by surgical separation or excision of soft tissue, called “dead space”, and reduce fluid accumulation following surgery.

The company said dead space could lead “to a range of secondary complications, such as seromas and haematomas, resulting in complications and extending hospital stay for patients”.

Aroa said seromas, the collection of fluid in dead space that can result in infection, discomfort and poor cosmetic outcomes, were the most common post-operative complication following mastectomy.

The company said surgeons currently used surgical drains, adhesives or quilting sutures to manage dead space and prevent fluid accumulation, but that such techniques could be unreliable and post-operative complications continued to pose significant challenges.

Aroa said that the study began in Auckland in July 2023 and that it had since expanded to include a second study site in Whangarei, New Zealand.

Aroa chief executive officer Dr Brian Ward said the company had “now treated six patients and overall, we are very pleased with the way the device has functioned, with no breast seromas forming”.

“We are hopeful that Enivo could pave the way for a new standard of care in a wide range of surgeries where managing dead space is difficult and subsequent complications may lead to poor outcomes for patients and higher treatment costs,” Dr Ward said.

Aroa fell one cent or 1.35 percent to 73 cents.

## MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says a field trial of four bulls and 146 cows showed its artificial insemination system led to 60 percent the pregnancy rate of conventional insemination procedures. Memphasys said the trial used semen from four bulls at a farm in the New South Wales' Hunter region and aimed to increase pregnancy rates by using its ambient temperature artificial insemination port system, called 'AI-Port', instead of the conventional frozen sperm method.

The company said its system could store and transport animal semen for artificial insemination for up-to seven days, without the harmful effects of freezing sperm used in standard procedures for livestock.

Memphasys did not provide detailed results but said the trial showed its artificial insemination-port achieved a "pregnancy rate that was 60 percent of that observed with conventional cryo-storage procedures".

The company said the field trial was "an improvement on the initial pilot study conducted in April 2023".

Memphasys said it would use the results to "improve identifiable areas particularly optimizing the media and instituting operational improvements in the field".

The company said University of Newcastle researchers would work to optimize the media in the months to March 31, 2024, and that it planned to conduct another trial for November 2024 once the improvements were incorporated.

Memphasys fell 0.4 cents or 28.6 percent to one cent with 30.6 million shares traded.

## ECHO IQ, RESPIRI

Respiri says it has a 12-month licence to integrate Echo IQ's Echosolv cardio-vascular decision support system into its remote patient monitoring system.

Respiri said it would include the Echosolv program, which could analyze existing customer patient echocardiographs, in its US systems.

The company said that it would pay Echo IQ a monthly licence fee for each additional patient that was identified as meeting American Heart Association guidelines for severe aortic stenosis as well as heart failure.

Respiri said that, pending US Food and Drug Administration clearance, it would also pay Echo IQ monthly royalties for patients identified by the Echosolv program as displaying high-risk aortic stenosis and heart failure risk profiles.

Respiri said the inclusion of Echosolv to its system added further cardiology capabilities and would generate additional revenues from remote patient monitoring services and, or as "part of future risk-share contracts".

The company said the agreement had an initial term of 12 months, with an automatic renewal for a further 24 months pending sales milestones and gave it exclusive rights to use Echosolv in the US.

Respiri chief executive officer Marjan Mikel said the company continued to increase its remote patient monitoring US "business across all chronic conditions, cardiovascular included, and our charter is to continue to build our differentiation with exclusive device portfolio that supports our world class clinical patient engagement".

Echo IQ chief executive officer Andrew Grover said "the application of our solutions to remote patient monitoring, as well as the insurer and [accountable care organizations] sectors demonstrate the value of our technology in a variety of commercial healthcare settings".

Echo IQ was up one cent or 7.4 percent to 14.5 cents.

Respiri fell 0.3 cents or 11.5 percent to 2.3 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

### [MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL](#)

Hong Kong's FIL (Fidelity Limited) says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Medical Developments from 6,311,871 shares (7.31%) to 7,204,523 shares (8.35%). FIL said that between May 16, 2023 and January 22, 2024, it sold shares at 71.65 cents to 81.75 cents a share and bought shares at 73.21 cents to \$1.00 a share. Medical Developments fell two cents or 2.1 percent to 93 cents.

### [PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES](#)

Proteomics managing-director Dr Richard Lipscombe says he has reduced his holding from 19,048,704 shares (16.58%) to 16,417,125 shares (12.54%).

On Tuesday, Proteomics said it hoped to raise \$6.5 million in a placement at 76 cents a share, with Dr Lipscombe to sell \$2 million worth of shares to "facilitate institutional participation without additional equity dilution", his first sale since the company's inception in 2001 (BD: Jan 23, 2024).

Proteomics was up seven cents or 8.2 percent to 92 cents.

### [MTP CONNECT](#)

MTP Connect says it will lead the Australian delegation to the BIO 2024 conference in San Diego from June 3 to 6, 2024, and invites delegates to join them.

MTP Connect said the conference was the largest biotechnology partnering event in the world with more than 20,000 participants expected.

The Federally-funded industry organization said the conference provided an "opportunity to showcase Australia's research and industry capabilities to international prospects and foster strategic relationships with the aim of securing partnerships, investment and revenues across the health tech sector".

MTP Connect said it had partnered with the New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia state governments, as well as the Federal Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Ausbiotech.

The organization said it would host the Australian welcome and business reception before the conference on June 2, 2024, which would provide networking opportunities and attract potential partners and investors to Australian companies.

MTP Connect said organizations wanting to join the Australian delegation could contact their state government representative, with more information available at:

[https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Story?Action=View&Story\\_id=722](https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Story?Action=View&Story_id=722).

### [BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK](#)

Bio-Melbourne Network says that nominations for its 2024 Women in Leadership Awards will close on February 12, 2024.

Bio-Melbourne Network said the awards "celebrate, honor and profile successful women who are driving change and impact in the health sciences industry".

The Network said nominees should be "innovators and leaders in their fields of expertise, make outstanding contributions and serve as role models and mentors".

Bio-Melbourne Network said the three award categories were for emerging leadership, inspiring leadership and distinguished leadership.

Further details and nomination forms are available at: <https://bit.ly/3u4WVXE>.

### [BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK](#)

The Bio-Melbourne Network says “early, early-bird tickets” for its artificial intelligence (A.I.) symposium are available until the end of January.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said the symposium, titled ‘Crossing the Rubicon in A.I. Decision-Making: A Clinical Dilemma’ would explore “the intersection of artificial intelligence with clinical decision-making and the role of the patient”.

The Network said the event would be held at Monash College, Level 2 Auditorium, 750 Collins Street, Docklands on March 18, 2024 from 8.45am to 6.30pm AEST.

For details and registration, go to: <https://bit.ly/3vWYsiP>.

### [AUSBIOTECH](#)

Ausbiotech says its Victoria Bio-cheers will be held on February 22, 2024 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at CSIRO Clayton, 20 Research Way, Clayton.

Ausbiotech said the event was held in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and would be free for Ausbiotech members and \$90 for non-members.

Details at: <https://www.ausbiotech.org/events/event/vic-biocheers-february-2024>.