



Biotech Daily

Wednesday February 21, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: STARPHARMA UP 11.5%; DIMERIX DOWN 13%**
- * **MTP CONNECT TTRA PROGRAM AWARDS \$38m TO 22 PROJECTS**
- * **IDT H1 REVENUE UP 137% TO \$5.8m; LOSS DOWN 34% TO \$3.9m**
- * **AUSTCO TO PAY \$10.6m FOR AMENTCO NURSE CALL RESELLER**
- * **MELODIOL 'COMMITMENTS' FOR \$1.1m PLACEMENT**
- * **RADIOPHARM TAKES \$1.9m RADIUM RDTI LOAN**
- * **NEUROTECH: NTI164 'MORE IMPROVEMENTS' FOR PANDAS/PANS**
- * **ALGORAE PLEADS 'SCHULTZ, A.I.' TO ASX 20% QUERY**
- * **ALLEGRA REQUESTS 'FINANCING' TRADING HALT**
- * **REGAL TAKES 7.4% OF IMMUTEP**
- * **CLINUVEL LOSES EX-CHAIR WILLEM BLIJRDORP**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.66 percent on Wednesday February 21, 2024, with the ASX200 down 50.6 points to 7,608.4 points. Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 23 fell, six traded unchanged and three were untraded. All three Big Caps were up.

Starpharma was the best, up 1.5 cents or 11.5 percent to 14.5 cents, with 336,297 shares traded. Syntara (Pharmaxis) climbed 9.1 percent; Actinogen improved 8.1 percent; Cochlear climbed 3.3 percent; Clarity and Impedimed rose more than two percent; Amplia and Percheron (Antisense) were up more than one percent; with CSL, Medical Developments and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Dimerix led the falls, down three cents or 12.8 percent to 20.5 cents, with 11.6 million shares traded.

Cynata lost 5.6 percent; Curvebeam, Micro-X, Prescient and Proteomics fell more than four percent; Atomo and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; 4D Medical, Alcidion, Neuren, Next Science, Nova Eye and Telix shed two percent or more; Cyclopharm, Genetic Signatures, Paradigm, Polynovo, Pro Medicus and SDI were down one percent or more; with Clinuvel, Nanosonics and Opthea by less than one percent.

MTP CONNECT

MTP Connect says at its half-way point, the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program has already created “benefits and novel health solutions” to patients. In 2020, MTP Connect said it would provide \$47 million through its Targeted Translation Research Accelerator initiative, supported by the Federal Medical Research Future Fund to fund research for the prevention, management and treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Australia (BD: Oct 29, 2020).

Today, the Federally-funded industry organization said it had published a report, titled ‘Transforming health outcomes for diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Australia – Interim report on impacts of the first Targeted Translation Research Accelerator’. MTP Connect said the report showed the achievements of the program to date, including establishing two research centres, the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations and the Australian Stroke and Heart Research Accelerator, as well as awarding \$38.3 million to 22 individual research projects.

MTP Connect chief executive officer Stuart Dignam said although the program was still in its infancy “tangible impacts and economic growth are already being delivered with 46 new products, solutions and technologies now progressing towards translation, three new spin-out companies formed, 17 pre-clinical and clinical trials commenced, and 459 trial participants recruited”.

“Innovations supported by our diabetes and cardiovascular disease accelerator include an oral insulin drug delivery platform, a total artificial heart controller, antithrombotic therapies for better stroke treatment, technology to detect unstable coronary plaques, as well as the world's first national helpline providing mental health support via telehealth directly to adults with diabetes and cardiovascular disease,” Mr Dignam said.

“With such strong early impacts, the [Targeted Translation Research Accelerator] program is already delivering substantial return on investment and the foundations for yet more success in the coming years have been set as this cohort of research centres and innovative projects continue to mature,” Mr Dignam said.

“It funds innovations across behavioral interventions, digital health, health services innovations, medical devices and therapeutics and specifically supports projects led by First Nations researchers that will deliver benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing,” Mr Dignam said.

The report is at: https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/TTRA_Impact_Report_2024.pdf.

IDT AUSTRALIA

IDT says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2023 was up 136.6 percent to \$5,730,000 with last year's net loss after tax down 33.6 percent to \$3,861,000.

IDT said that the increased revenue from the manufacture of active pharmaceutical ingredients, specialty oral ingredients and advanced therapies was due to its number of commercial contracts reaching a three-year high.

The company said sales from its pharmaceuticals manufacturing business rose 985 percent to \$2.8 million for the six months to December 31, 2023 and specialty oral treatments improved 12.2 percent to \$2.2 million, with revenue from its advanced therapies pipeline reaching \$323,000.

IDT said its diluted loss per share was down 53.5 percent to 1.12 cents, with net tangible asset per share down 34.1 percent to 6.56 cents, following a property revaluation.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$4,158,000 at December 31, 2023 compared \$4,325,000 at December 31, 2022.

IDT fell 0.2 cents or two percent to 9.6 cents.

AUSTCO HEALTHCARE

Austco says it will pay \$5 million in cash, \$2 million in scrip and up-to \$3.6 million in milestones to buy certified Nurse Call reseller and healthcare solutions provider Amentco. Austco said the Brisbane-based Amentco Enterprise Group Pty Ltd was a provider of integrated communication and security systems for healthcare facilities and a reseller, system installer and maintainer of its Nurse Call and healthcare security products.

The company said the acquisition would allow it to expand its market presence, diversify its product and service offerings of communication and security solutions to healthcare clients, bring revenue synergies, operational efficiencies, talent retention and knowledge transfer and an enhanced competitive advantage.

Austco said it would pay \$5 million in upfront cash, as well as \$2 million in shares at an issue price based on the 30-day volume weighted average price of its shares to be calculated to days before completing the agreement.

The company said the agreement would include a further earnout payment to be calculated annually as 3.5 times Amentco's annual earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization for 2023-'24 and 2024-'25, which based on earnings for the year to June 30, 2023 would be about \$3.6 million.

Austco said the agreement was subject to conditions including the voluntary escrow of shares, retention of key Amentco employees, assignment of contracts, regulatory approvals, finalising its financial and legal due diligence and the final documents.

The company said it expected to complete the acquisition around April, 2024.

Austco chief executive officer Clayton Astles said "with Amentco's expertise and reputation in the healthcare and security communications industry, coupled with its strong customer relationships, the acquisition will boost our competitive standing and growth opportunities".

"We look forward to finalizing the acquisition and collaborating closely with Amentco's team," Mr Astles said.

Austco was up two cents or 10 percent to 22 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

MELODIOL GLOBAL HEALTH (FORMERLY CRESO PHARMA)

Melodiol says it has "firm commitments" to raise \$1.08 million in a placement at 1.019 cents a share, with two free attaching options for every share issued.

Melodiol said the issue price was a 30 percent discount to the 10-day volume weighted average price prior the placement.

The company said the funds would be used for "near term growth opportunities across select business units, corporate costs, general working capital and costs of the offer".

Melodiol said the options would be exercisable at 1.5 cents each within five years of issue.

Melodiol fell 0.2 cents or 14.3 percent to 1.2 cents with 7.85 million shares traded.

RADIOPHARM THERANOSTICS

Radiopharm says it has taken a Radium Capital loan of \$1,900,000 against its expected Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive.

Radiopharm said the loan from Melbourne's Radium Capital provided it "early access to a portion" of its anticipated research and development rebate for the year to June 30, 2024, and that repayment was due by December 31, 2024.

The company said the funds would be used to support its clinical trial pipeline and the loan interest was at an undisclosed "commercial rate".

Radiopharm fell 0.4 cents or 6.6 percent to 5.7 cents.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Neurotech says the 15-patient, phase I/II trial of its marijuana-based NTI164 shows “further improvements” in children with neuro-psychiatric disorders at 24 weeks.

Last year, Neurotech said the trial of children with paediatric auto-immune neuro-psychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (Pandas) and paediatric acute-onset neuro-psychiatric syndrome (Pans) met the primary endpoint for anxiety and depression, with a 30 percent improvement in overall symptoms from high severity at baseline to low severity from week four onward ($p = 0.016$) (BD: Oct 6, 2023).

Today, the company said data analysis at 24 weeks showed “continued improvements in patients with no adverse or serious adverse events recorded from 12-to-24 weeks”.

Neurotech said at 24 weeks, patients had a 39 percent improvement ($p = 0.0008$) in anxiety and depression scores compared to a baseline reading of 30 percent.

The company said severity of illness continued to improve “with patients down-staged from markedly ill at baseline to mildly ill at 24 weeks” a 32 percent improvement ($p = 0.00007$), compared to an 18 percent improvement of severity of illness at 12 weeks ($p = 0.0005$).

Neurotech said it intended to seek “early dialogue with regulatory bodies relating to the clinical and regulatory development opportunities in Pandas [and] Pans for NTI164”.

The company said there were no approved treatments for the orphan disease.

Neurotech executive director Dr Thomas Duthy said the company was “very pleased with the progress of our Pandas [and] Pans patients under the extension phase of the ... clinical trial”.

“The original 12-week trial demonstrated a statistically significant and clinically meaningful beneficial impact on these children’s symptoms,” Dr Duthy said.

“The results of today’s data release at 24 weeks highlights the durability of treatment with NTI164 with patients recording further clinical improvements and importantly, such benefits did not come at the cost of safety, with NTI164 continuing to demonstrate an attractive safety profile, devoid of any serious events, which has traditionally hampered the acceptability of paediatric neurological drugs by the medical community,” Dr Duthy said.

Neurotech was up half a cent or 4.8 percent to 11 cents with 7.45 million shares traded.

ALGORAE PHARMACEUTICALS (FORMERLY LIVING CELL TECHNOLOGIES)

Algorae has told the ASX that it is not aware of any information it has not announced which, if known, could explain the recent trading in its securities.

The ASX said Algorae’s share price rose 20.0 percent yesterday from a low of 0.01 cents a share to 0.012 cents a share and noted the “significant increase” in the volume of shares traded.

Algorae said it was “aware of investor interest in bio-pharmaceutical companies engaged in the use of artificial intelligence for the discovery of drug candidates and their development”.

Algorae was unchanged at 1.1 cents with 5.5 million shares traded.

ALLEGRA MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

Allegra has requested a trading halt pending an announcement “regarding the company’s financing arrangements”.

Trading will resume on February 23, 2024, or on an earlier announcement.

Allegra last traded at 2.9 cents.

[IMMUTEP](#)

Regal Funds Management Pty Ltd says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Immutep from 64,965,278 shares (5.46%) to 88,013,280 shares (7.40%).

The Sydney-based Regal Funds said that on February 14 and February 16, 2024, it bought 23,048,002 shares for \$7,767,221, or 33.7 cents a share.

Immutep was unchanged at 35.5 cents.

[CLINUVEL PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Clinuvel says that nine-year director and former chair Willem Blijdorp has resigned as a non-executive director, effective from today.

Clinuvel said that Mr Blijdorp was appointed a director in January 2015 and chair in November 2019, resigning as chair in January 2024.

Clinuvel chair Prof Jeffrey Rosenfeld thanked Mr Blijdorp “for his expertise and sage judgement, which have been underpinned by many years of leading a very successful business”.

Clinuvel fell four cents or 0.2 percent to \$16.29 with 143,571 shares traded.