



Biotech Daily

Friday March 1, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * FEBRUARY BDI-40 RECORD HIGH - UP 2%, ASX200 UP 0.2%, BIG CAPS DOWN 4%
- * TODAY: ASX, BIOTECH UP: EMVISION UP 18%; UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS DOWN 9%
- * CORRECTION: NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS
- * VICTORIA: ZOETIS TO ACQUIRE CSL PARKVILLE SITE; \$350m
- * BRANDON: \$3m FOR 5 ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE PROJECTS
- * USCOM UNDERWRITTEN RIGHTS OFFER RAISES \$1.3m OF \$2m
- * UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS TO RAISE \$12.5m
- * CARDIEX CANCELLED TRIAL TAKES H1 REVENUE TO \$9.5m; \$807k PROFIT
- * CANN H1 REVENUE UP 46% TO \$8.5m, LOSS DOWN 24% TO \$14m
- * UNIVERSAL BIO REVENUE UP 47% TO \$6.6m, LOSS DOWN 75% TO \$6.7m
- * ASX SUSPENDS CANN ON ACCOUNTS; AUDITOR DISCLAIMER
- * ASX DELISTS CANN GLOBAL ON ACCOUNTS
- * ASX SUSPENDS NUHEARA FOR REPORTS
- * 4D MEDICAL, VANDERBILT TEST XV FOR VETERAN RESPIRATORY DISEASE
- * AVITA RESUBMITS RECELL GO TO FDA; 'EXPECTS MAY 30 APPROVAL'
- * P3, AUSTRIALS, HOLDSWORTH HOUSE MERGE INTO MOMENTUM
- * PERENNIAL TAKES 13.6% OF LUMOS
- * INHALERX LOSES DIRECTOR DR JOHN CROCK; CO SEC JAMES BARRIE INTERIM
- * SUSHMAR KEJRIWAL REPLACES TISSUE REPAIR CO SEC PRIYAMVADA RASAL

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.61 percent on Friday March 1, 2024, with the ASX200 up 46.9 points to 7,745.6 points. Nineteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 16 fell, four traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Emvision was the best, up 40 cents or 17.8 percent to \$2.65, with 396,682 shares traded. Impedimed improved 12.05 percent; Next Science was up 11.1 percent; Resonance rose 10.9 percent; Actinogen was up 9.1 percent; Avita and Compumedics climbed more than seven percent; Prescient was up 6.4 percent; Proteomics rose 5.8 percent; Opthea and Syntara (Pharmaxis) were up more than four percent; 4D Medical was up 3.8 percent; Cynata rose 2.7 percent; Clinuvel, Genetic Signatures, Nanosonics, Neuren and Percheron (Antisense) were up one percent or more; with Resmed and Volpara up by less than one percent.

Universal Biosensors led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 14.5 cents, with 675,634 shares traded. Alcidion and Dimerix lost eight percent or more; Clarity was down 7.2 percent; Medical Developments shed 6.7 percent; Immutep, Micro-X, Paradigm and Telix fell more than four percent; Cochlear, Polynovo and Starpharma were down more than three percent; Nova Eye shed 2.4 percent; CSL, Orthocell and SDI were down one percent or more; with Cyclopharm and Pro Medicus down by less than one percent.

[BIOTECH DAILY TOP 40 INDEX \(BDI-40\)](#)

February was a volatile month for the Biotech Daily Top 40 Index (BDI-40) with 24 companies up, of which 16 were up by more than 10 percent; and 15 companies were down, with 10 falling more than 10 percent (see below).

The BDI-40 was up 2.4 percent for the month to a record collective market capitalization of \$26,444 million, and up 40.0 percent for the year, while the benchmark ASX200 edged up just 0.2 percent in February and 6.1 percent for the year to February 29, 2024.

Similar to the ASX200, the Nasdaq Biotechnology Index (NBI) was up 1.0 percent for the month and 8.7 percent for the year.

The usually robust three Big Caps of Cochlear, CSL and Resmed (which are not included in the BDI-40) fell 3.9 percent in February to a collective market capitalization of \$200,436 million, down 1.6 percent for the year to February 29, 2024 (see charts below).

While Cochlear put on an impressive 15.0 percent in February to a market capitalization of \$22,934 million, the three Big Caps were dragged down by the giant CSL falling 5.1 percent to \$138,281 million and Resmed down 8.6 percent to \$39,221 million. In January, the collective market capitalization was approaching the record high of \$215,852 million on August 31, 2021.

But the deepest fall was the reconstituted 11-member Cannabis Corner, down 13.9 percent in February to a collective market capitalization of just \$334 million, falling 42.0 percent for the year. The current incumbents are Auscann, Avecho, Bioxyne, Cann Group, Emyria, Epsilon, Inhalerx, Little Green Pharma, Neurotech, Vitura and Zelira.

Thirteen of the Top 20 companies were up, with seven up by more than 10 percent, while seven fell, with five down by more than 10 percent. The Second 20 had 11 companies up, with nine up by more than 10 percent, while eight fell, with five down by more than 10 percent.

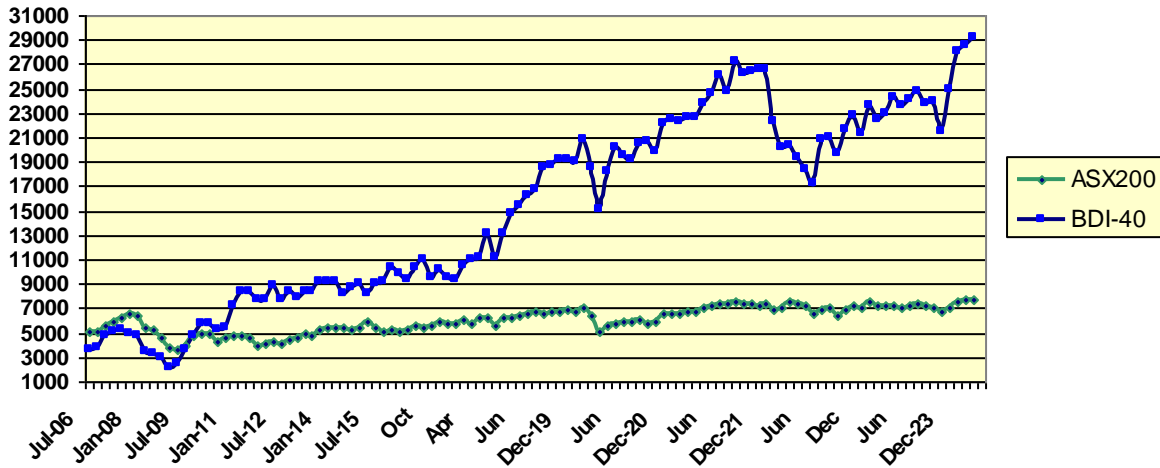
Syntara (Pharmaxis) was the best, recovering \$11 million or 68.75 percent to \$27 million, followed by Percheron (Antisense) (52.9%), Opthea (34.6%), Cynata (32.0%), Clarity (23.7%), Imugene (22.5%), Atomo (20.0%), Polynovo (19.7%), Emvision (18.2%), Orthocell (17.1%), Genetic Signatures (15.5%), Actinogen (14.9%), SDI (13.8%), 4D Medical (13.5%), Paradigm (11.8%) and Mesoblast (11.5%).

Telix added most to the index, up \$304 million or 8.2 percent.

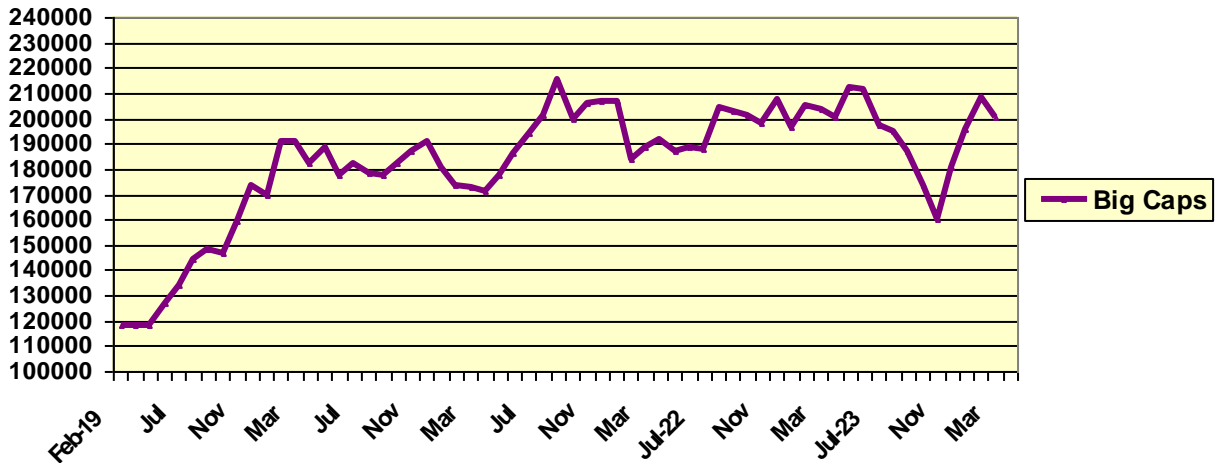
Impedimed led the falls, down \$55 million or 24.7 percent to \$168 million, followed by Prescient (20.8%), Neuren (18.0%), Curvebeam (14.7%), Compumedics (13.4%), Alcidion (13.0%), Clinuvel and Universal Biosensors (12.8%), Starpharma (12.5%) and Nova Eye (10%).

On the Nasdaq, Incannex recovered 60.2 percent to \$133 million, Bionomics was up \$4 million or 33.3 percent to \$16 million, Brisbane's Protagonist climbed 22.7 percent to \$2,696 million, with Eyepoint (formerly Psivida) up 2.1 percent to \$2,045 million.

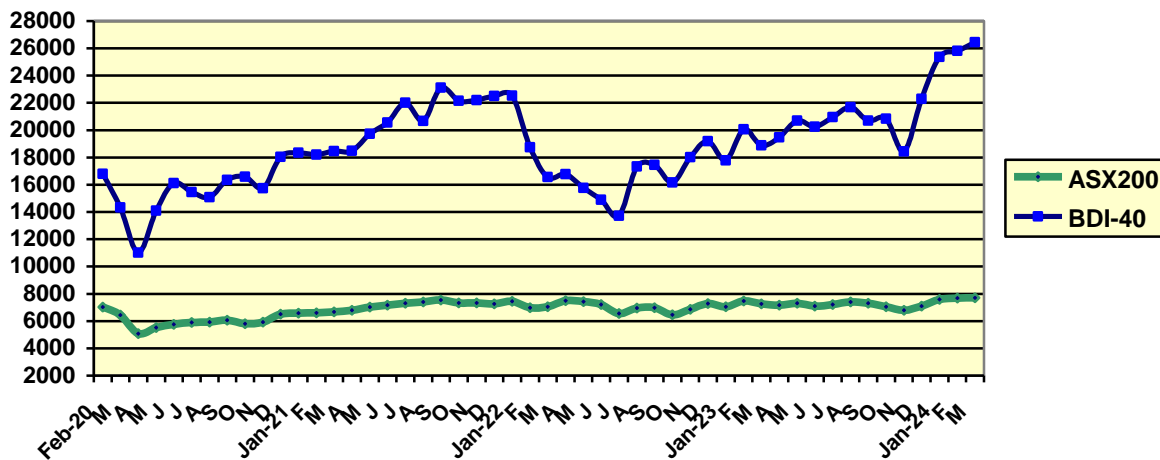
BDI-40 v ASX200 Jun 30, 2006 to Feb 29, 2024- Adjusted



Big Caps \$m (Cochlear, CSL, Resmed) Feb 28, 2019 – Feb 29, 2024



BDI-40 (\$m) v S&P ASX 200 – Jan 31, 2020 – Feb 29, 2024 (Pre-Covid to date)



CORRECTION: NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Last night's edition correctly reported that Neuren had \$17 million in cash at December 31, 2023, but omitted the further \$211 million in short term investments.

Biotech Daily apologizes for the oversight.

Neuren recovered 35 cents or 1.8 percent to \$19.71 with 899,417 shares traded.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

The Victoria Government says Zoetis Australia will acquire the majority of CSL's Poplar Road, Parkville site and establish a manufacturing hub worth up-to \$350 million.

A media release from the Victoria Minister for Precincts Colin Brooks said that the investment from animal health company Zoetis would "help establish sovereign manufacturing capabilities" at the site and create up-to 95 jobs.

The State Government said the investment and would help ensure "Australia's livestock and domestic animal industries have access to life-saving vaccines, innovative new products and diagnostic tools".

Mr Brooks said "it's a \$350 million vote of confidence in Melbourne to secure the old CSL site for Zoetis, and as we continue to invest in infrastructure and housing in the area, Parkville will only further cement itself as a world-leading biomedical hub".

Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins said "this investment by the world's largest animal health company is a huge win for Victoria, positioning us as a global leader in vaccine production and boosting local jobs and capabilities in [research and development], innovation and manufacturing".

BRANDON CAPITAL

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

Brandon Capital says its Biocatalyst fund's Cureator program will provide \$3 million for five projects that aimed to minimize anti-microbial resistance.

Brandon Capital said it would provide \$500,000 to the Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Western Australia to manufacture a nasal therapy to prevent childhood ear infections and reduce antibiotic use, in preparation for a phase I trial.

The company said it would provide \$430,000 to the Darwin-based Kraken Coding Pty Ltd for a project titled "clinical branches" as well as \$500,000 to Melbourne's Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, and the University of Melbourne, for a project titled "rescuing frontline antibiotics by developing resistance-breaking therapeutics".

Brandon Capital said it would provide \$500,000 to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for a project titled 'Leveraging diagnostic test data in smart digital health standards-based [applications] for enhanced antimicrobial stewardship decision support'.

The company said it would provide \$500,000 to the University of South Australia for a project titled 'Liquid crystal nanoparticles that enhance antimicrobial efficacy'.

Brandon Capital said \$570,000 would be available as "top-up funding" on a competitive basis for successful projects.

CSIRO's leader of the minimizing antimicrobial resistance mission Prof Branwen Morgan said "As the challenge of antimicrobial resistance continues to grow, it's crucial that we invest in developing new technologies that can reduce the risk and likelihood of AMR emerging while also being commercially viable".

"That's why CSIRO is proud to support this round of the Cureator program, which is focused on fostering innovative and sustainable solutions," Prof Morgan said.

USCOM

Uscom says its non-renounceable rights issue has raised \$1,304,306.57 of a hoped-for \$2,014,000, with a shortfall of 18,802,525 shares to be issued to the underwriter.

In February, Uscom said it hoped to raise about \$2,014,000 through an underwritten, two-for-seven rights offer at 3.7 cents a share (BD: Feb 5, 2024).

Uscom fell 0.7 cents or 23.3 percent to 2.3 cents.

UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says it hopes to raise \$12.5 million through a \$10 million rights offer of CHES Depositary Interests (CDIs) and a \$2.5 million placement.

Universal Biosensors said that proposed terms for the capital raising were yet to be finalized, but that it expected the underwritten, pro-rata, one-for-2.55 rights offer to be priced at 15.0 cents for each new CDI, with the ability to accept oversubscriptions.

The company said participants in the placement and entitlement offer would receive one attaching option for every new CDI issue, exercisable at 20 cents, vesting upon issuing and exercisable in multiple tranches.

Universal Biosensors said it had a "binding commitment" from shareholder Viburnum Funds Pty Ltd, of which Universal Biosensors non-executive director Craig Coleman was chair, to fully underwrite the entitlement offer, with Viburnum to receive a payment of 13,849,567 options, worth about \$500,000 as an underwriting fee.

The company said final details, as well as an indicative timetable, would be advised "in a further announcement".

Universal Biosensors fell 1.5 cents or 9.4 percent to 14.5 cents.

CARDIEX

Cardiex says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2023 was up 558.2 percent to \$9,471,096, with last year's net loss after tax turned to a profit of \$807,254.

Cardiex said \$7,855,924 was "lease revenue", including \$7.67 million relating to its cancelled Clinichain clinical trial, up from \$301,233 the previous year, with \$1,507,328 from sales of its devices for hypertension and vascular diseases as well as its Sphigmocor central blood pressure technology, up from \$924,458 the previous year.

The company said last year's diluted loss per share of 7.2 cents turned to 0.6 cents earning per share, net tangible asset backing per share fell from 3.1 cents to negative 0.42 cents, and it had cash and equivalents of \$4,296,316 at December 31, 2023, compared to \$2,482,249 the previous year.

Cardiex was up 0.4 cents or 5.1 percent to 8.2 cents.

CANN GROUP

Cann says revenue for the six months to December 31, 2023 was up 45.8 percent to \$8,487,000 with net loss after tax down 23.9 percent to \$14,338,000.

Cann said revenue increased due to "new contracts and advancing existing relationships with domestic ... customers" for its marijuana oil and flower products".

The company said diluted loss per share fell 36.3 percent to 3.40 cents.

Cann said that net tangible assets per share fell 38.4 percent to 11.59 cents.

The company said that it had cash and cash equivalents of \$1,636,000 at December 31, 2023 compared to \$7,190,000 at December 31, 2022.

Cann was in a suspension and last traded at 6.2 cents.

UNIVERSAL BIOSENSORS

Universal Biosensors says revenue for the year to December 31, 2023 was up 46.6 percent to \$6,632,838 with net loss after tax down 74.9 percent to \$6,741,564.

Universal Biosensors said it had revenue for its Siemens Health blood coagulation testing products of \$2,607,506, compared to \$2,366,331 in the prior corresponding period.

The company said revenue for its laboratory testing services was \$996,346 compared to 1,145,560, and it received \$2,528,666 for its Sentia wine analyzers compared to \$1,013,071 in the previous corresponding period, as well as \$500,320 from its newly created veterinary diabetes products.

Universal Biosensors said that its diluted loss per share was down 78.6 percent to 3.0 cents with net tangible assets per share down 25.0 percent to 9.0 cents.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$10,240,429 at December 31, 2023 compared to \$25,977,703 at December 31, 2022.

CANN GROUP

The ASX says that the securities of Cann Group will be suspended from quotation immediately under Listing Rule 17.3, pending compliance with Listing Rule 19.11A (b).

Listing Rule 19.11A (b) says: "The accounts must be prepared to Australian accounting standards. If the entity is a foreign entity the accounts may be prepared to other standards agreed by [the] ASX."

The ASX said the suspension was "in relation to the disclaimer conclusion of the independent auditor in its review of [Cann's] half year financial report for the period ended December 31, 2023".

William Buck Audit (Vic) Pty Ltd wrote in the accounts: "We do not express a conclusion on the accompanying half-year financial report of Cann Group and its subsidiaries."

"Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of conclusion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for a review conclusion on the half-year financial report," William Buck said.

William Buck said that Cann "incurred a net loss of \$14,338,000 during the half year ended December 31, 2023, had a net current asset deficiency of \$54,163,000 and, for the period, the Group's net cash outflows used in operations was \$6,071,000".

"As at the date of this report, the group has been unable to confirm its ability to secure an appropriate mix of current and longer term external financial commitments to provide sufficient funding to support the group as a going concern," William Buck said.

William Buck said that the directors believe the group would secure sufficient funding and continue to have the support of its creditors and external financiers, however, at the date of this review report the group and its directors have been unable to provide sufficient appropriate evidence of sufficient committed funding for the cash requirements of the group for 12 months from the date of this review report.

"We have been unable to obtain alternative evidence which would provide sufficient appropriate review evidence as to whether the group may be able to obtain such financing, and hence remove significant doubt of its ability to continue as a going concern within 12 months of the date of this review report," William Buck said.

CANN GLOBAL

The ASX says it has delisted Cann Global from today for failing to lodge relevant periodic reports for a period of one year.

Biotech Daily will revert to describing Cann Group as "Cann".

[NUHEARA](#)

The ASX says it has suspended Nuheara under Listing Rule 17.5 for “not lodging the relevant periodic report by the due date” effective from today.

Nuheara last traded at 8.1 cents.

[4D MEDICAL](#)

4D Medical says the Vanderbilt University will test its X-ray velocimetry (XV) technology’s ability to study deployment-related respiratory disease in veterans.

4D Medical said the Nashville, Tennessee Vanderbilt University Medical Centre received a US Department of Veterans Affairs grant to use its XV technology to “characterize” veterans with biopsy-confirmed deployment-related respiratory disease (DRRD) and study disease progression, as well as creating new surrogate endpoints for future trials.

The company said the Vanderbilt University Medical Center was researching factors that cause DRRD and ways to improve the ability of clinicians to diagnose it non-invasively.

In 2022, 4D Medical said a 20-patient trial also in collaboration with Vanderbilt University showed its XV scan technology detects constrictive bronchiolitis, with “less than 0.001 percent uncertainty” (BD: Aug 31, 2022).

Vanderbilt University’s Prof Bradley Richmond said the Medical Center “was one of the earliest collaborative partners of 4D Medical and is utilising 4D Medical’s X-ray velocimetry software to develop radiographic biomarkers for diagnosis and prognostication in multiple diseases including DRRD, candidate selection for broncho-scopic lung volume reduction... in [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], and in early diagnosis of chronic lung allograft dysfunction after lung transplantation”.

“While [computed tomography] scans offer anatomic information, 4D Medical’s XV technology lets us evaluate actual lung function in real-time,” Prof Richmond said.

“4D Medical’s recent acquisition of Imbio is also exciting as Imbio’s suite of CT-based analysis tools complements XV technology and has broad application across multiple pulmonary disease domains,” Prof Richmond said.

4D Medical chief executive officer Prof Andreas Fouras said that inclusion in the pivotal study “cements our position as a leading technology for veterans exposed to burn pits”.

“4D Medical’s XV technology will assist veterans, clinicians and researchers at the [Department of Veterans Affairs] to detect lung disease associated with toxic exposure sensitively and non-invasively,” Prof Fouras said.

4D Medical was up 2.5 cents or 3.8 percent to 69 cents with one million shares traded.

[AVITA MEDICAL](#)

Avita says it has responded to the US Food and Drug Administration following its request for additional Information for the pre-market approval supplement of Recell Go.

In October, Avita said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required more data for its Recell Go application, delaying its launch (BD: Oct 2, 2023).

Today, the company said its response “addressed various questions and [incorporated] data from in-house testing” to support its pre-market approval supplement, which had resumed the review process through the FDA’s breakthrough devices program.

Avita said that on receipt by the FDA, the application of the pre-market approval supplement would resume its 180-day review, with 90 days remaining in the review period, which Avita said led it to “expect FDA approval on May 30, 2024, positioning us for a product launch on May 31, 2024”.

Avita was up 40 cents or 7.8 percent to \$5.52 with 380,281 shares traded.

MOMENTUM CLINICAL RESEARCH

Brisbane's Momentum says New Zealand's P3 Research, Brisbane's Austrials and Sydney's Holdsworth House have merged to form Momentum Clinical Research. Momentum said it would be Australia and New Zealand's "largest multi-site clinical research entity" and the only Trans-Tasman clinical trial site network, with 13 sites that could be used for clinical trials, including for vaccinations, general medicine, chronic pain and human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV).

Momentum chief executive officer Joshua Stent said "our centralized approach to feasibility and accelerated start-up process not only enhances capacity at our sites but also enables our research teams to prioritize what matters most".

"This empowers them to focus on the quality delivery of clinical trials, while simultaneously ensuring improved access for those seeking to participate in trials," Mr Stent said.

"As one organization, we can offer a streamlined and efficient process for our partners, providing confidence to deliver high-quality studies efficiently, achieved through the centralization of our feasibility and study start-up teams, and our deep expertise in rapidly recruiting participants," Mr Stent said.

Momentum is a private company.

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Perennial Value Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Lumos from 59,963,027 shares (12.46%) to 65,341,712 shares (13.58%).

The Sydney-based Perennial said it bought shares on February 27 and 28, 2024, with the largest purchase of 1,182,667 shares for \$84,984 or 7.2 cents a share.

Lumos was up 0.4 cents or 5.6 percent to 7.6 cents with 1.7 million shares traded.

INHALERX

Inhalerx says Dr John Crock has resigned as director, effective today, with company secretary James Barrie replacing him until a new director was recruited.

Inhalerx said Dr Crock was resigning due to "significant recent increase in time commitment related to his surgical practice" but would stay involved with the company in an advisory capacity; and thanked Dr Crock for his contribution.

Inhalerx was up 0.1 cents or 2.4 percent to 4.2 cents.

TISSUE REPAIR

Tissue Repair says Sushma Kejriwal will replace Priyamvada Rasal as company secretary, effective immediately.

Tissue Repair said Ms Kejriwal worked for Acclime Corporate Services Australia, which provided company secretarial and corporate governance consulting services to ASX-listed and unlisted public and private companies.

According to her LinkedIn page, Ms Kejriwal held a Bachelor of Commerce from the Kolkata, India-based Shri Shikshayatan College and a Master of Business Law, Banking, Corporate, Finance and Securities Law from the Bengaluru, India-based National Law School of India University.

Tissue Repair was untraded at 22.5 cents.

BIOTECH DAILY TOP 40 WITH MARKET CAPITALIZATION AT FEB 29, 2024

Company \$Am	Feb 28, 2023	Jan 31, 2024	Feb 29, 2024
Cochlear	14,618	19,942	22,934
CSL	142,881	145,749	138,281
Resmed	46,174	42,949	39,221
BDI-20			
Avita	511	642	658
Clinuvel	943	787	686
Compumedics	32	67	58
Cyclopharm	140	165	170
Cynata	43	25	33
Genetic Signatures	122	90	104
Immutep	211	416	434
Medical Developments	125	75	71
Mesoblast	719	269	300
Nanosonics	1,371	902	827
Neuren	926	3,006	2,465
Nova Eye	34	51	45
Opthea	390	315	424
Polynovo	1,696	1,315	1,574
Pro Medicus	6,371	10,608	10,841
SDI	103	87	99
Starpharma	225	64	56
Syntara Pharmaxis	32	16	27
Telix	2,213	3,726	4,030
Volpara	199	284	285
Second 20			
4D Medical	116	229	260
Actinogen	150	67	77
Alcidion	171	77	67
Amplia	16	16	15
Atomo	27	15	18
Clarity	160	616	762
Curvebeam	87	75	64
Dimerix	36	91	98
Emvision	106	148	175
Impedimed	107	223	168
Imugene	835	717	878
Micro-X	67	62	60
Next Science	157	99	92
Orthocell	76	76	89
Paradigm	378	110	123
Percheron ANP	66	51	78
Prescient	62	48	38
Proteomics	114	130	136
Resonance	24	25	25
Universal Biosensors	64	39	34

* Biotech Daily editor, David Langsam, owns shares in Acrux, Actinogen, Alcidion, Alterity, Amplia, BTC Health, Clarity, Cochlear, Control Bionics, Cynata, Nanosonics, Neuren, Patrys, Pharmaxis, Polynovo, Telix, Volpara and non-biotech stocks. Through Australian Ethical Superannuation he has an indirect interest in other companies: <https://www.australianethical.com.au/personal/ethical-investing/companies-we-invest-in/>. These holdings are liable to change.

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