



Biotech Daily

Tuesday June 4, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: AMPLIA UP 6%; STARPHARMA DOWN 9%
- * BRANDON RAISES \$270m FOR BIOTECH INVESTMENT FUND VI
- * GENETIC SIGNATURES TO RAISE \$30m
- * IDT RIGHTS TO RAISE \$7m; MYNDBIO TAKEOVER PROPOSAL
- * LUMOS TRIGGERS \$7.5m HOLOGIC IP PAYMENT
- * CORRECTION: RESONANCE
- * MTP CONNECT SIGNS 2 DEALS, RELEASES REDI REPORT AT BIO 2024
- * GENETIC SIGNATURES WINS FDA ENTERIC PARASITE KIT APPROVAL
- * OPTISCAN RELEASES INVUE MICROSCOPE
- * LTR REQUESTS 'TRIAL RESULTS' TRADING HALT
- * ASX REINSTATES CANN GROUP
- * TRIVARX 12m CHAIR, DIRECTOR OPTIONS EGM
- * REGAL TAKES 11% OF CYCLOPHARM
- * JENCAY INCREASES, DILUTED BELOW 5% OF MEDADVISOR
- * REGAL BELOW 5% OF VITURA
- * CONTROL BIONICS DIRECTOR PETER FORD INCREASES, DILUTED TO 10%
- * PHILLIP, BIOSCIENCE MANAGERS INCREASE, DILUTED TO 17% OF ADHERIUM
- * GENETIC SIGNATURES APPOINTS ALLISON ROSSITER CEO ON \$500k PA
- * AMPLIA APPOINTS CLINICAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was down 0.31 percent on Tuesday June 4, 2024, with the ASX200 down 23.9 points to 7,737.1 points. Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 19 were down, six traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Amplia was the best, up 0.4 cents or 5.7 percent to 7.4 cents, with 458,936 shares traded. Syntara climbed 4.55 percent; Atomo, Cynata, Micro-X and Next Science were up more than three percent; 4D Medical and Clarity rose more than two percent; Emvision, Medical Developments, Mesoblast and Orthocell were up more than one percent; with CSL and Proteomics up by less than one percent.

Starpharma led the falls, down one cent or 9.1 percent to 10 cents, with 1.25 million shares traded. Actinogen, Imugene, Neuren and Polynovo lost six percent or more; Avita was down 5.9 percent; Compumedics and Opthea fell more than four percent; Alcidion, Clinuvel, Pro Medicus and Universal Biosensors were down more than three percent; Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Impedimed and Telix shed two percent or more; Medadvisor was down 1.1 percent; with Cochlear, Nanosonics, Resmed and SDI down by less than one percent.

BRANDON CAPITAL

Brandon Capital says that with CSL and superannuation companies Hostplus and Hesta it has raised \$270 million for its sixth investment fund.

The formal announcement was made at the BIO 2024 convention in San Diego, California by Brandon Capital managing partner Dr Chris Nave.

The company said it was “speaking to new investors” about raising more money for the fund and told Biotech Daily that “as part of a second close, we will speak with potential new investors to modestly increase the fund size”.

“This will also provide the opportunity to diversify our investor base, adding new perspectives,” the Brandon Capital spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the fund would “support the establishment and growth of Australian and New Zealand life sciences startups with strong scientific and commercial potential and expand Brandon Capital's international investing” particularly in the UK, Europe, and the US.

The spokesperson said the first investments would close “in the near term”.

Brandon said that since establishment in 2007, it had raised more than \$1 billion through five funds and made more than 60 investments in new therapeutic, medical device, and health technology companies.

“Australia ranks among the top 10 countries globally for the quality and output of its medical and clinical research,” Dr Nave said.

“At Brandon, we partner with Australia’s brightest medical minds to support the translation of biomedical discoveries into companies developing new drugs, vaccines and medical devices,” Dr Nave said.

“The global biotech sector, valued at approximately US\$1.55 trillion, continues to grow unabated, spurred on by events like COVID and the emergence of new therapies,” Dr Nave said.

“We plan to provide our investors with exposure to this growth,” Dr Nave said.

Brandon said it had offices in Australia, the UK, the US and New Zealand.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says it hopes to raise \$30 million at 75 cents a share through a \$6 million placement and a \$24 million one-for-5.82, fully-underwritten rights offer.

Genetic Signatures said the issue price was a 11.6 percent premium to the five-day volume weighted average price of 67 cents up-to and including May 30, 2024.

The company said in addition to the placement, executive director Michael Aicher had committed to subscribe for \$50,000, subject to shareholder approval.

Genetic Signatures said the non-renounceable entitlement offer would include a \$15.5 million institutional component and an \$8.5 million retail component, with “all eligible directors” intending to participate in the rights offer.

The company said the funds would be used to support US commercialization of its enteric parasite product, including customer installations and manufacturing, as well as for instrument development, product development and general working capital.

Genetic Signatures said the retail entitlement offer had a record date of June 6, would open on June 12 and close on July 1, 2024.

The company said Bell Potter and Taylor Collison were joint lead managers and underwriters to the offers.

Genetic Signatures was in a trading halt and last traded at 73 cents.

IDT AUSTRALIA

IDT says it hopes to raise about \$7 million at 0.9 cents a share in a one-for-4.5, fully-underwritten rights offer, and has received an acquisition bid from Myndbio Pty Ltd. IDT said the issue price was a 7.8 percent discount to the 30-day volume weighted average price of 9.76 cents a share to May 30, 2024.

The company said the funds raised would be used for capital expenditure relating to mRNA therapeutics, enhancing its antibody drug conjugate capabilities ahead of an expected increase in work orders and general working capital.

IDT said the entitlement offer had a record date of June 7, would open on June 13 and close on July 3, 2024, with Taylor Collison the lead manager and underwriter.

IDT said it had received a non-binding indicative proposal “as part of its ordinary course of business” from Melbourne’s Myndbio Pty Ltd in relation to a potential acquisition of all the shares in IDT.

IDT said the proposal was subject to a number of conditions, including due diligence, and that discussions with Myndbio were “incomplete and preliminary in nature ... [with] no certainty that these discussions will result in any binding transaction”.

The company said shareholders did not need to take any action at this time.

IDT was up one cent or 10 percent to 11 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Lumos says it has received the second payment of \$US5.0 million (\$A7.48 million) from Hologic Inc under its foetal fibronectin test intellectual property agreement.

Earlier this year, Lumos said the Marlborough, Massachusetts-based Hologic Inc would pay it up-to \$US10.0 million (\$A14.9 million) to improve their women’s health products and adapt them for use with Lumos’ platform (BD: Jan 21, 2024).

Today, the company said the second payment brought the total payments to \$US10.0 million and granted Hologic an exclusive licence to the use Lumos’ technologies, currently being incorporated into Hologic’s diagnostic products, for foetal fibronectin.

Last month, Lumos said it would receive \$US400,000 from Hologic in milestone payments for the first phase of development for its foetal fibronectin test (BD: May 6, 2024).

Today, the company said it expected payment for the phase I milestone payment by June 30, 2024, and that it had begun phase II of the development agreement.

Lumos managing-director Doug Ward said there was “a great need for improved women’s health initiatives globally”.

“Receiving the second \$US5.0 million payment not only further solidifies our relationship with Hologic but provides greater balance sheet support and flexibility to execute our long-term strategic goals,” Mr Ward said.

Lumos was up 0.2 cents or 5.7 percent to 3.7 cents with 43.5 million shares traded.

CORRECTION: RESONANCE HEALTH

Last night’s headline incorrectly said ‘Resonance Completes \$7.2m Trialswest Purchase’ but the acquisition of the Perth-based clinical trial and research centre was more complex. In fact, Resonance said it would acquire Trialswest for \$4 million in up-front cash and a further \$4 million in an earnout arrangement, with the up-front payment funded from cash reserves and a three-year, \$3.2 million loan from National Australia Bank.

The mistake was made by the Monday headlines sub-editor who has been dismissed.

We apologise unreservedly.

Resonance was unchanged at 6.4 cents.

MTP CONNECT

MTP Connect says it has signed two skills deals and released its Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) report at BIO 2024 in San Diego, California. Earlier this year, MTP Connect said it would lead the Australian delegation to the BIO 2024 conference, the largest biotechnology partnering event in the world, from June 3 to 6, 2024, and invited delegates to join them (BD: Jan 25, 2024).

Today, an MTP Connect media release said the Federal Government-funded organization had signed a deal with San Diego's Biocom California to host programs and events, provide connections and in-market support, exchange knowledge and support investment and trade between Australia and US.

The industry organization said the agreement was signed by MTP Connect chief executive officer Stuart Dignam and Biocom's chief executive Joe Panetta, and observed by Australia's Federal Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic.

Discussing the partnership with Biocom, Mr Dignam said MTP Connect was "delighted to formalize this relationship with Biocom California as our organizations share mutual industry interests to support innovation, fuel medical product discovery and advance human health".

"The US is the world's biggest pharmaceutical and medtech market and Australia's largest two-way investment partner and this agreement with Biocom California will help open-up new market, commercial and collaboration opportunities for Australia's life science start-ups, SMEs and researchers," Mr Dignam said.

A separate media release said MTP Connect had signed an agreement with Brisbane's Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub to open a Biomedical A.I. Sprints Accelerator (BASA) "to help biomedical companies harness the power of data and artificial intelligence" (A.I.).

The organization said the Accelerator would offer \$25,000 to \$50,000 in matched funding to companies and would "upskill a selected number of high growth companies in the use of [artificial intelligence] and data analytics, provide access to affordable data management infrastructure and create a tech-ready workforce".

MTP Connect said it had completed skills gap analysis work which identified artificial intelligence expertise gaps which were "potential holding back growth of Australia's life sciences sector".

Over the weekend MTP Connect said it had released its Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) report, titled 'Improving workforce skills in Australia's medical products sector', which is available at:

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/MTPC_RED_ImpactReport2024.pdf.

In 2021, MTP Connect said it had identified 20 skill gaps in the biotechnology sector and would fund programs to address them through the Federal Government Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry Initiative (BD: Mar 10, 2021).

Today, the organization said REDI initiative was almost complete, and that it launched the report at a workforce capability roundtable at BIO 2024, with CSL, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bench International, Cytiva and Biocom California in attendance.

MTP Connect said REDI had succeeded in providing researchers with a "range of experiences and exposure to entrepreneurship and enabled the formation of long-term, sustainable partnerships across the sector and in Australia".

The report said the REDI program had "exceeded all its contracted objectives and outcomes".

Mr Dignam said "with REDI now concluded, the challenge remains to ensure growing and scaling [small to medium enterprises] can access the skilled staff they need, in Australia, to get their products to market and ultimately to patients".

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says it has US Food and Drug Administration approval to sell its Easyscreen gastro-intestinal parasite detection kit automated workflow in the US.

Last year, Genetic Signatures said Easyscreen was a polymerase chain reaction-based rapid molecular test covering the eight most common gastro-intestinal parasites using its 3base software, with reimbursement expected at \$US263 (\$A407) (BD: Sep 4, 2023).

Today, Genetic Signatures said the kit was “highly automated and is able to provide a result for all eight targets in about five hours”.

The company said current testing was time-consuming, labor intensive, slow to provide a result, variable in sensitivity and frequently poor at producing patient compliance.

Genetic Signatures said it was prepared for the test launch and had “installed instruments and completed training at nine customer-experience sites which span a range of customer groups including hospitals, health departments and corporate pathology providers”.

The company said the current procedural terminology codes for both public and private reimbursement had been identified, and it expects first commercial sales within 60 to 90 days, once packaged and labelled product was available and pathology providers had completed their internal technology evaluation and approval process.

Genetic Signatures interim chief executive officer Dr Neil Gunn said the company was “very excited to have secured our first FDA clearance for a unique and highly differentiated molecular test based on our proprietary 3base technology”.

“This has been a key focus for the company as the US is the largest single market for molecular diagnostics,” Dr Gunn said.

OPTISCAN IMAGING

Optiscan says it has released its Invue microscope for providing “real-time, digital pathology access” to surgeons during surgery.

Optiscan said Invue expanded its portfolio to surgical application and was “a significant step forward in realizing the company’s strategic goals”.

The company said Invue could be used in cancer diagnosis and treatment and was designed to put digital pathology “directly in the hands of surgeons as they operate, to enable on-the-spot decision making and treatment adjustments”.

Optiscan said the device had “a spatial resolution of 0.55 μ and is more than 1,000 times more powerful than traditional [computed tomography] and [magnetic resonance imaging] scanners with a typical resolution of 0.5mm-to-1mm”.

The company said Invue was expected to be integrated with its internet cloud-based telepathology platform in 2025, allowing surgeons to collaborate “from anywhere in the world”.

Optiscan said the device was designed and manufactured in Melbourne in partnership with industrial design firm Design + Industry.

Optiscan managing-director Prof Camile Farah said the reveal was “much more than just a significant milestone in the company’s growth strategy ... it paves the way for a significant evolution of digital pathology and precision surgery”.

“Invue will bring digital pathology insights into the operating theatre and directly into the hands of surgeons,” Prof Farah said. “The end-result will be enhanced speed and accuracy of treatment, which should in turn deliver improved patient outcomes.”

“We are particularly excited by what the Invue, which tailors our patented technology to the surgical market, will mean for the future treatment and diagnosis of cancer patients,” Prof Farah said. “It will facilitate a dramatic step forward in the way cancer can be diagnosed and treated with unprecedented accuracy and precision.”

Optiscan was up 1.5 cents or 12.5 percent to 13.5 cents with 3.4 million shares traded.

LTR PHARMA

LTR has requested a trading halt “pending an analysis of ... clinical trial results of its pivotal study of Spontan nasal spray treatment of erectile dysfunction”.
Trading will resume on June 6, 2024, or on an earlier announcement.
LTR last traded at 64 cents.

CANN GROUP

The ASX says Cann Group has been reinstated to quotation “following its compliance with ASX’s reinstatement conditions”.

In March, the ASX said Cann’s securities would be suspended under Listing Rule 17.3, pending compliance with Listing Rule 12.2 and 19.11A (b) (BD: Mar 1, 2024).

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.”

Listing Rule 12.2 states: “An entity’s financial condition (including operating results) must, in ASX’s opinion, be adequate to warrant the continued quotation of its securities and its continued listing”.

Cann fell 1.2 cents or 19.35 percent to five cents with 7.9 million shares traded.

TRIVARX

Trivarx says its extraordinary general meeting will vote to issue 6,000,000 options, each, to chair David Trimboli and director Christopher Ntoumenopoulos.

Trivarx said the options were part of Mr Trimboli and Mr Ntoumenopoulos’ remuneration, with 3,000,000 of each recipients’ options exercisable at six cents each within three years, with the balance exercisable at eight cents each within three years.

The company said investors would vote to issue 2,160,000 shares and 1,800,000 shares to Mr Trimboli and Mr Ntoumenopoulos, respectively, at 2.5 cents a share in lieu of a portion of their fees.

Trivarx said Mr Trimboli’s yearly salary was \$72,0000, and Mr Ntoumenopoulos’ received \$60,000 in annual director fees.

The company said the meeting would vote to ratify the prior issue of placement shares, issue advisor options to JP Equity Holdings, issue shares to S3 Consortium as payment for investor relations services.

The meeting will be held at 647 Beaufort Street, Perth on July 5, 2024 at 9am (AWST).

Trivarx was unchanged at 2.6 cents.

CYCLOPHARM

Regal Funds says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Cyclopharm from 7,376,061 shares (7.83%) to 12,002,783 shares (11.31%).

The Sydney-based Regal Funds said that between February 4 and May 8, 2024 it sold 30,0001 shares for \$51,262, or \$1.709 a share, and on May 29 and 30, 2024 it bought 4,656,723 shares for \$6,611,120, or \$1.42 a share.

Cyclopharm fell three cents or 2.1 percent to \$1.40.

MEDADVISOR

Sydney's Jencay Capital says it has increased its holding in Medadvisor but been diluted below the five percent substantial shareholder threshold "due to share issuance". Jencay said between March 23, 2021 and May 31, 2024 it bought and sold shares and was diluted, with a net increase of 7,404,837 shares, bought for 7.45 cents a share and in 2021 became substantial with 18,056,967 shares, or 5.02 percent (BD: Mar 25, 2021). According to its most recent filing, Medadvisor had 550,328,287 shares on issue, meaning that Jencay's holding of 25,461,804 shares amounted to about 4.6 percent of Medadvisor. Medadvisor fell half a cent or 1.1 percent to 44.5 cents.

VITURA HEALTH

The Sydney-based Regal Funds says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Vitura. Regal said it bought and sold shares between February 27 and May 30, 2024, with the single largest sale 926,393 shares on April 23 for \$119,875, or 12.9 cents a share. Vitura was up 0.6 cents or 7.5 percent to 8.6 cents with two million shares traded.

CONTROL BIONICS

Control Bionics executive director Peter Ford says he has increased his holding and been diluted from 19,623,433 shares (11.5%) to 19,723,433 shares (9.89%). The Sydney-based Mr Ford said that on June 3, 2024 he bought 100,000 shares on market for \$4,300, or 4.3 cents a share. In May, Control Bionics said it raised \$1,170,000 at 4.3 cents a share (BD: May 17, 2024). Control Bionics rose 0.5 cents or 11.6 percent to 4.8 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

ADHERIUM

Phillip Asset Management Ltd says it has increased its substantial holding in Adherium and been diluted from 73,733,827 shares (18.90%) to 123,733,827 shares (16.95%) The Melbourne-based Phillip Asset said as trustee for Bioscience Managers Translation Fund it was diluted due to the issue of shares on June 3, 2024. Last month, Adherium said it raised \$8.4 million at 2.0 cents a share (BD: May 23, 2024). Philip did not disclose the price or date for the purchase of the 50,000,000 shares. Adherium was unchanged at 1.6 cents.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says it has appointed Allison Rossiter as chief executive officer and will pay her \$500,000 a year starting "no later than the end of September 2024". Genetic Signatures said Ms Rossiter had been managing-director of Roche Diagnostics Australia since 2019 and had worked for Roche's molecular systems business in the US. According to her LinkedIn profile, Ms Rossiter held a Bachelor of Science from England's University of Plymouth. The company said Ms Rossiter would be paid a one-time hiring bonus of \$250,000, a \$500,000 base yearly salary, exclusive of superannuation, a short-term incentive of up-to 200 percent of her remuneration and 2,500,000 long-term incentive options, exercisable at the 30-day volume weighted average price before the date of employment within 15 years. Genetic Signatures said interim chief executive officer Dr Neil Gunn would step down and continue in his role as a non-executive director.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says it has appointed Dr Jose Iglesias, Dr Jordan Berlin, Dr Mitesh Borad, Prof Nick Pavlakis and Dr Jason Lickliter to its clinical advisory board.

Amplia said Dr Iglesias was “responsible for the phase III development of Abraxane in pancreatic cancer” and had been appointed chair of the advisory board,

The company said Dr Berlin was from Nashville, Tennessee’s Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, with Dr Borad from the Phoenix, Arizona-based Mayo Clinic, Prof Pavlakis from Sydney’s North Shore Private Hospital and Dr Lickliter from Melbourne’s Nucleus Network.

Amplia said the advisory board would “provide expert clinical insight and strategic advice with a particular focus on pancreatic cancer to Amplia as the company prepares to undertake clinical trials in the US”.

Amplia was up 0.4 cents or 5.7 percent to 7.4 cents.