



Biotech Daily

Wednesday September 4, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: ATOMO UP 10%; AMPLIA DOWN 9.5%**
- * **AUSBIOTECH MELBOURNE BIO-INVEST, CONFERENCE**
- * **MCRI DEVELOPS BLOOD STEM CELLS FOR TRANSPLANT, IN MICE**
- * **POLYNOVO ENROLS NOVOSORB US BARDA BURNS TRIAL**
- * **LUMOS \$10m RIGHTS OFFER, TENMILE, TRADING HALT**
- * **MEMPHASYS: 3-YEAR, \$90,000 FELIX HORSE FERTILITY STUDY**
- * **TENMILE, TATTARANG, FORRESTS TAKE 9.35% OF LUMOS**
- * **PLANET INNOVATION BELOW 5% IN LUMOS**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market lost 1.88 percent on Wednesday September 4, 2024, with the ASX200 down 152.7 points to 7,950.5 points.

Seven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 26 were down, six traded unchanged and one was untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Atomo was the best, up 0.2 cents or 10.0 percent to 2.2 cents, with 258,369 shares traded. Proteomics climbed 7.5 percent; Nanosonics was up 3.3 percent; Aroa and Orthocell rose two percent or more; Cyclopharm was up 1.45 percent; with Genetic Signatures up by 0.7 percent.

Amplia led the falls for the second day in a row, down one cent or 9.5 percent to 9.5 cents, with six million shares traded.

Syntara lost 8.8 percent; Medical Developments shed 7.5 percent; Avita and Mesoblast were down more than six percent; Alcidion was down 5.8 percent; Imugene, Nova Eye, Prescient and Resonance fell more than four percent; Dimerix and Emvision were down more than three percent; Actinogen, Clarity, Cochlear, Cynata, Immutep, Neuren, Opthea, Polynovo, Starpharma and Telix shed two percent or more; 4D Medical, Clinuvel, Medadvisor, Percheron and Pro Medicus were down more than one percent; with CSL and Resmed down by less than one percent.

[AUSBIOTECH](#)

Ausbiotech says the 2024 Ausbioinvest will be held on October 29, with the annual Ausbiotech conference from October 30 to November 1, both in Melbourne.

Ausbiotech said its Ausbioinvest conference would allow companies to pitch to investors, including venture capital, private equity, high net worth individuals, research analysts and brokers, industry executives and stakeholders.

The industry organization said that Ausbioinvest would include presentations from up to 30 companies, from early to late-stage development, showcasing their work, along with 'one-to-one partnering' for "personalized investment partnering sessions to explore potential collaborations".

Ausbiotech said that Ausbioinvest would include keynote speakers and a 'networking lounge' which was "a dedicated space designed for high-level networking and discussions".

The Ausbioinvest program is at: <https://www.ausbiotechinvestment.com.au/>.

The organization said qualified investors could apply for complimentary registration at: <https://www.ausbiotechinvestment.com.au/investors>.

Ausbiotech said that the main conference program included keynote presentations and panel discussions on topics including research, technologies, challenges and strategies for market access.

The organization said there would be sessions exploring trends, issues and opportunities in the industry in radio-pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, mRNA, antibody-drug conjugates, antimicrobial resistance, investment, clinical trials, manufacturing, commercialization, intellectual property and artificial intelligence.

Ausbiotech said speakers included the Palo Alto, California-based DCVC Bio partner Dr Eric Shiozaki, Huntington Beach, California-based Bivacor Inc founder Dr Daniel Timms the inventor "of the world's first durable total artificial heart", Palo Alto's Psiquantum executive Philipp Ernst, and New York's EB Research Partnership chief executive officer Michael Hund.

The organization said Dr Shiozaki would provide a keynote address on 'investing in innovation at the intersection of technology and biology', while Dr Timms would deliver the Prof Nancy Millis Oration.

Ausbiotech said the Melbourne conference was sponsored by the Victoria Government and CSL, and attracted more than 1,400 delegates each year, describing it as "Australia's flagship biotechnology conference".

The organization said the three-day event would feature more than 60 sessions with more than 200 industry leaders "showcasing Australia's pivotal role in advancing biotechnology on the global stage".

Ausbiotech said the conference would include an Early-Stage Innovation Forum on the first day, showcasing early-stage innovations from Australian research institutes and startups.

The industry organization said that the Agribiotech & Biosecurity Summit would be held on the second day of the conference and would be hosted in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Ausbiotech said that the Cell and Gene Summit, hosted in partnership with the Cell and Gene Catalyst would be on the third day of the conference and would explore cell and gene therapy research and development.

The industry organization said that the full 2024 national conference program was available at: <https://www.ausbiotechnc.org/ausbiotech-programme-2024>.

Ausbiotech said that registration for the conference was available at: <https://www.ausbiotechnc.org/register2024>.

MURDOCH CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute says it has successfully grown and transplanted human-derived blood stem cells, in mice.

The Royal Children's Hospital-based Murdoch Children's Research Institute said the research, titled 'Long-Term Engrafting Multilineage Haematopoietic Cells Differentiated From Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells' was published in Nature Biotechnology, and the full article was available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41587-024-02360-7>.

The Institute said it injected immune deficient mice with lab-engineered human blood stem cells and "found the cells became functional bone marrow at similar levels to those seen in umbilical cord blood cell transplants, a proven benchmark".

The MCRI said the lab-grown stem cells could be frozen prior to transplantation into mice, mimicking the preservation process of donor blood stem cells before transplantation.

The Institute said it had made a "significant discovery" that helped it overcome a major hurdle for producing human blood stem cells, and that could help it develop blood stem cells that closely resembled those in the human body.

The MCRI said the research could help develop personalized treatments for children with leukaemia, bone marrow failure disorders, and other blood disorders.

The Institute's Prof Elizabeth Ng said "the ability to take any cell from a patient, reprogram it into a stem cell and then turn these into specifically matched blood cells for transplantation will have a massive impact on these vulnerable patients' lives".

"Prior to this study, developing human blood stem cells in the lab that were capable of being transplanted into an animal model of bone marrow failure to make healthy blood cells had not been achievable," Prof Ng said.

"We have developed a workflow that has created transplantable blood stem cells that closely mirror those in the human embryo," Prof Ng said.

"Importantly, these human cells can be created at the scale and purity required for clinical use," Prof Ng said.

The MCRI's Prof Andrew Elefanty said that "while a blood stem cell transplant was often a key part of lifesaving treatment for childhood blood disorders, not all children found an ideally matched donor".

"Mis-matched donor immune cells from the transplant can attack the recipient's own tissues, leading to severe illness or death," Prof Elefanty said.

"Developing personalized, patient-specific blood stem cells will prevent these complications, address donor shortages and, alongside genome editing, help correct underlying causes of blood diseases," Prof Elefanty said.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says it has enrolled all 120-patients in its randomized, placebo-controlled trial of Novosorb BTM compared to standard-of-care for third degree, full thickness burns.

In 2021, The company said it had enrolled the first patients in a US Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority (BARDA)-funded, pivotal trial of Novosorb biodegradable temporizing matrix (BTM) for full-thickness burns (BD: Sep 21, 2021).

At the time, Polynovo said the results would support a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) application for an on-label claim for Novosorb BTM in full thickness burns.

Today, Polynovo said it had completed enrolment and begun talks with the FDA to time the pre-market approval filing for an on-label indication supporting Novosorb BTM's use for full thickness burns, which would "bring the US market in line" with other markets where the indication was already approved.

Polynovo fell seven cents or 2.9 percent to \$2.34 with 2.3 million shares traded.

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS HOLDINGS

Lumos has requested a trading halt and says it hopes to raise \$10.0 million through a \$4.0 million institutional offer and a \$6.0 million retail offer at 3.8 cents a share.

Lumos said Tenmile Ventures Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of the Perth-based Tattarang, an entity controlled by Dr Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest, had acquired 45.0 million shares, or a 9.3 percent shareholding in the company, becoming its largest shareholder, and would act as sub-underwriter for the offer.

The company said Tenmile was acquiring the shares following a block trade with existing shareholder Planet Innovation Holdings, who would be reduced from 68.0 million to 23.0 million shares, or 4.8 percent prior to the issue of new shares under the offer.

Lumos said existing shareholder Ryder Capital Ltd intended to subscribe "in full" for their entitlement, and would also act as sub-underwriter for the offer.

The company said its one-for-1.82 accelerated, pro-rata, non-renounceable entitlement offer was at a 12.0 percent discount to the five-day volume weighted average price.

Lumos said its retail offer, underwritten for \$6.0 million, had a record date of September 6, would open September 11 and close on October 2, 2024.

The company said proceeds would be used to fund completion of the Febridx clinical laboratory improvement amendments (CLIA) waiver trial in the US, product development, sales and marketing activities and general working capital.

Lumos said Bell Potter was the lead manager and underwriter of the offer, with Tenmile and Ryder as sub-underwriters.

The company requested a trading halt for the capital raising with trading to resume on September 6, 2024 or on an earlier announcement.

Lumos last traded at 4.6 cents.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it is preparing for a three-year horse fertility study using its Felix sperm separation system for in-vitro fertilization.

In May, Memphasys said it had appointed Michael Cameron and Rod Wellstead to assist "in evaluating commercial pathways for its animal products". (BD: May 30, 2024).

Today, Memphasys said it would conduct the trial, costing about \$90,000 over the three years, with the University of Newcastle and the Reading, England-based Equibreed UK.

The company said that it would work with Australian thoroughbred horse stud farms Arrowfield Stud and Vinery Stud Pty Ltd, and focus on sperm isolation and oxidative stress testing, market readiness and support for future bovine applications.

The company said it expected commercial outcomes within 12 months, and would target more than 4,000 horse breeders, with the global equine artificial insemination market to be estimated at \$US681.1 million (\$A1.0 billion).

Memphasys said the costs of the study would be partially offset by the Federal Research and Development Tax Incentive.

Memphasys was up 0.05 cents or 5.6 percent to 0.95 cents.

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Tenmile Ventures, Tattarang, Dr Andrew and Nicola Forrest say they have become substantial holders in Lumos with 45,000,000 shares or 9.35 percent of the company.

The Perth-based Tenmile, Tattarang and Forrest family said they bought the shares for \$1,710,000 or 3.8 cents each on September 3, 2024 (see above).

LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS

Melbourne's Planet innovation says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Lumos, selling 45,000,000 shares for \$1,710,000 or 3.8 cents a share (see above).