



Biotech Daily

Thursday November 14, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: MESOBLAST UP 17%; CURVEBEAM DOWN 8%
- * NEUREN \$50m SHARE BUY-BACK
- * ALCIDION \$4.5m MIYA NORTH ADELAIDE HEALTH DEAL
- * ENLITIC UP-TO \$1.5m ENSIGHT SOFTWARE CONTRACT
- * PROF MATTHEW KIERNAN WINS \$100k GLAXOSMITHKLINE AWARD
- * GOODBYE ALLEGRA
- * WEHI BLOOD TEST FOR OVARIAN CANCER DRUG RESISTANCE
- * AMPLIA, NEXT&BIO FAK PANCREATIC CANCER PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES
- * BOTANIX 1st SOFDRA US PAYER COVERAGE
- * BCAL AUSTRALIA BREASTEST PATENT
- * RECCE RECEIVES \$6.8m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE
- * ANTEOTECH RECEIVES \$2.45m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE
- * TELIX ADSs TRADE ON NASDAQ
- * MEDADVISOR REVIEWS MARKET VALUATION
- * IMMUTEP: 'EFTI IMPROVES SARCOMA, LUNG CANCER'
- * MESOBLAST PLEADS 'SCHULTZ, NASDAQ TRADING' TO 18% PRICE QUERY
- * ATOMO WITHDRAWS 2 AGM RESOLUTIONS
- * LBT AGM APPROVES 'CLEVER CULTURE SYSTEMS' NAME CHANGE
- * IMUGENE AGM UP TO 42% OPPOSE OPTIONS; REM REPORT 36% 1st STRIKE
- * INVION AGM UP-TO 16% OPPOSE 100-1 CONSOLIDATION
- * MEDADVISOR AGM 11% OPPOSE TAKEOVER PROVISION RENEWAL
- * CANNVALATE TAKES 23% OF INHALERX
- * MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS TO LOSE DIRECTOR MARY SONTROP
- * IMAGION APPOINTS DR SUSAN HARVEY MEDICAL ADVISOR
- * AUSBIOTECH ADDS DR IRIS DEPAZ ORATION TO 2025 CONFERENCE

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.37 percent on Thursday November 14, 2024, with the ASX200 up 30.6 points to 8,224.0 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 16 fell, six traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Mesoblast was the best, up 25.5 cents or 16.7 percent to \$1.78, with 17.3 million shares traded, followed by Medadvisor, up 16.0 percent to 29 cents with 1.2 million shares traded. Immutep climbed 9.7 percent; Alcidion was up 5.6 percent; Actinogen, Neuren and SDI were up more than four percent; Avita improved 3.7 percent; Cyclopharm and Paradigm rose more than two percent; Medical Developments, Micro-X and Nanosonics were up more than one percent; with Clarity, Emvision, Genetic Signatures, Polynovo and Pro Medicus up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 9.1 percent best, Curvebeam, led the falls, down one cent or 8.3 percent to 11 cents, with 81,475 shares traded. Opthea and Universal Biosensors lost more than seven percent; Imugene and Proteomics fell more than four percent; 4D Medical, Aroa, Dimerix and Orthocell were down three percent or more; Cynata, EBR, Percheron and Resmed shed more than two percent; Amplia, Clinuvel and Syntara were down one percent or more; with Cochlear, CSL and Telix down by less than one percent.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says it intends to buy-back, on-market, up-to \$50 million worth of its shares, or about 3,022,974 shares based on its last closing price of \$16.54.

Last week, Neuren said it expected one-third of Acadia's \$US150 million (\$A227 million) sale of the Daybue rare paediatric disease priority review voucher and the next day said nine-month sales of Daybue for Rett syndrome were \$US251.7 million (\$A380 million), triggering a \$US50 million (\$A76 million) milestone payment (BD: Nov 6, 7, 2024).

Today, the company said that given its "sustainable and growing cash income from Daybue, the capital requirements for advancing NNZ-2591 and Neuren's current share price, the board has decided to deploy cash of up to \$50 million to buy-back shares".

Neuren said the buy-back would not exceed five percent of the shares on issue, would not require shareholder approval, and the shares purchased would be cancelled.

Neuren was up 76 cents or 4.6 percent to \$17.30 with 1.2 million shares traded.

ALCIDION GROUP

Alcidion says it has a contract worth up-to \$4.5 million over five years for its Miya Precision software with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.

Alcidion said the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network provided "a range of public hospital, community and home-based services across multiple sites in the northern and north-eastern metropolitan Adelaide region, employing nearly 6,500 staff and delivering services to more than 400,000 people in the community".

The company said the contract would implement its Miya Precision management and capacity planning product to improve patient access to care, increase operational efficiencies and improve clinician experience across the organization.

Alcidion said the contract had an initial two-year term with extensions to five years.

Alcidion managing-director Kate Quirke said the contract was "a significant milestone for Alcidion enabling us to support critical health information systems in the state of South Australia, where our company was founded".

Alcidion was up 0.3 cents or 5.6 percent to 5.7 cents with 5.3 million shares traded.

[ENLITIC](#)

Enlitic says it has an up-to \$1,565,000 contract over five years to provide its Ensignt radiology software to Hastings, England's Medica Reporting Ltd.

Enlitic said the agreement had an initial term of 12 months, and that, assuming successful validation testing, which was expected "over the coming months", with revenue expected to be about GBP160,000 (\$A313,000) a year.

The company said the Medica Group was "a market leading radiology and pathology diagnostic services company, providing teleradiology services to more than half of the 215 NHS (National Health Services) Trusts across the UK".

Enlitic said Medica would use the Ensignt 2.0 platform as part of its tele-radiology services to support NHS customers, including its Endex data standardization module.

The company said that optimizing protocols was "a crucial workflow improvement that benefits radiologists by streamlining the imaging study review process".

Enlitic said Ensignt 2.0 with Endex was "designed to improve operational efficiencies ... offering a suite of [products] that bolster productivity and workflow automation".

The company said the deal would automatically "renew each year to five years unless otherwise terminated".

Enlitic managing-director Michael Sistenich said the deal underscored "the growing demand for cutting-edge imaging solutions tailored to the needs of imaging businesses and radiologists."

"With the volume of imaging studies steadily increasing, there is an essential need for technology that supports faster, more efficient reviews and reporting," Mr Sistenich said.

"By integrating Enlitic's Ensignt software, Medica Group is positioned to drive measurable improvements in operational performance, benefiting their NHS Trust customers and their patients," Mr Sistenich said.

Enlitic fell 0.1 cent or 1.7 percent to 5.7 cents with 4.4 million shares traded.

[GLAXOSMITHKLINE AUSTRALIA](#)

Glaxosmithkline says Prof Matthew Kiernan has won its \$100,000 award for research excellence for his work on neuro-degenerative diseases.

A media release from Glaxosmithkline said that Prof Kiernan was chief executive officer and institute director of Neuroscience Research Australia and a professor of neuroscience at Sydney's University of New South Wales.

The company said that Prof Kiernan's research included the development of techniques that allowed scientists to study how nerve cells communicated with one another and had "elevated global understanding of the mechanisms of neuro-degenerative disease", helping scientists identify therapeutic targets.

Glaxosmithkline said Prof Kiernan would use the grant "to underpin the development of a national clinical trials program".

[ALLEGRA MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES](#)

The ASX says Allegra will be removed from the official list at the close of trading today following its compulsory acquisition by Allegra Innovations Pty Ltd.

In May, Allegra said Allegra Innovations, a related party of director Dr Nicholas Hartnell, would pay 0.4 cents a share in a cash bid, valuing it at \$478,444 (BD: May 27, 2024).

Last month, the company said Dr Hartnell and Allegra Innovations had acquired 90 percent and would compulsorily acquire its remaining shares (BD: Oct 9, 2024).

Allegra last traded at 2.9 cents.

WALTER AND ELIZA HALL MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute says it has developed a blood test to detect ovarian cancer cell DNA changes that resist treatment.

WEHI said a study of patient blood samples found the 'splicing' of cancer cells could be used to predict a subset of patients likely to become resistant to poly-adenosine phosphate (ADP) ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitors, used to treat ovarian and breast cancers.

The Institute said the process of 'splicing' could cause cancer cells with mutations in genes, such as breast cancer gene 1 (BRCA1), to become resistant to PARP inhibitor treatment.

WEHI said resistance meant cancer cells with mutated BRCA1 genes could "skip over" the mutation that the drug exploits, removing the drug vulnerability and causing the cancer to become resistant".

The study, titled 'BRCA1 secondary splice-site mutations drive exon-skipping and PARP inhibitor resistance' was published in the journal Molecular Cancer, with the full article available at: <https://bit.ly/3Z3KNm9>.

The Institute said the study used patient blood samples to detect the process that made ovarian cancer cells resistant to treatment, which was a "significant finding that could enable the early detection of patients who won't respond well to the therapy".

WEHI said researchers could "immediately start to look for this form of resistance using tests that are currently being used in research settings and soon clinicians will be able to order these tests".

The Institute said the results would "improve patient care and potentially lead to clinical trials focused on overcoming drug resistance".

WEHI said it expected that testing for this type of resistance, using a straightforward blood test, would eventually become a standard practice in both clinical and research environments.

The Institute said in high-income countries, most patients with a DNA repair deficiency known as homologous recombination deficiency (HRD), which could be caused by BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations, were now receiving this treatment.

WEHI said HRD was found in about 50 percent of ovarian cancer patients, and that among these patients, "about half have mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes".

The Institute said the identification of the splicing mechanism offered "a non-invasive method for monitoring PARP [inhibitor] resistance, potentially predicting this type of resistance".

WEHI said the next focus would involve developing drugs to target splicing mechanisms and exploring other genes involved in similar resistance pathways.

WEHI said study collaborators included Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Fox Chase Cancer Centre, Clovis Oncology, the Royal Women's Hospital, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Australian Ovarian Cancer Study.

The Institute said the study was funded by the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, as well as an American Association for Cancer Research and AstraZeneca ovarian cancer research fellowship.

WEHI ovarian cancer researcher and study co-first author Dr Ksenija Nestic said the findings solved "a long-standing 'blind spot' in cancer research and could mark a turning point for cancer treatment".

"We are hopeful that further research will reveal similar splicing mechanisms in BRCA2 and other genes that relate to HRD," Dr Nestic said. "The ultimate goal is to stop drug resistance in its tracks, for PARP [inhibitors] and for other types of drug resistance too."

"This research brings us closer to achieving this," Dr Nestic said.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says the Seoul, South Korea-based Next&Bio will run pre-clinical studies of its focal adhesion kinase (FAK) inhibitors in patient-derived pancreatic cancer cells.

Amplia said Next&Bio was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seoul's HK Kolmar Holdings and had a platform for testing drugs, both alone and in combination with approved or experimental treatments, in cancer cells isolated from patients.

The company said the studies would focus on pancreatic cancer cells with "known oncogenic mutations" which were changes to the DNA that caused cells to become cancerous and develop into tumors.

Amplia said it was "interested in exploring potential synergistic activity of the company's FAK inhibitors with a new class of drugs currently in development that inhibit the potent oncogene kRas" or Kirsten rat sarcoma virus.

The company said the drugs developed "had the potential to be used in the treatment of pancreatic cancer in coming years".

Amplia did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement.

Amplia managing-director Dr Chris Burns said testing the company's FAK inhibitors in patient-derived cell systems gave it "the chance to explore the activity of our compounds in combination with targeted therapies such as kRas inhibitors".

"This in turn opens up new commercial opportunities for our FAK inhibitors to be used in combination with drug classes currently in clinical development for pancreatic cancer in addition to the chemotherapy combination currently being investigated in the ... trial," Dr Burns said.

Amplia fell 0.1 cent or one percent to 9.9 cents with 2.25 million shares traded.

BOTANIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Botanix says the Roseland, New Jersey-based US payer organization Ascent Health will cover its Sofdra, or sofpironium bromide topical gel for excessive sweating.

Earlier this year, Botanix said that the US Food and Drug Administration had approved Sofdra for excessive underarm sweating in adults and children aged nine years and older (BD: Jun 20, 2024).

Today, the company said Ascent Health was the second largest US payer organization and represented about 65 million people, about 40 percent, of the total US commercial lives.

Botanix said Sofdra would "be covered in line with the target patient access restrictions previously communicated to shareholders" but did not state the covered amount.

The company said it would share updates as additional coverage decisions were made by US Payers "in coming months, before the company's sales professionals begin calling on target dermatologists in 2025".

Botanix was unchanged at 32 cents with 13.2 million shares traded.

BCAL DIAGNOSTICS

Bcal says it expects IP (Intellectual Property) Australia to grant a patent protecting the methods and lipids that form its Breasttest breast cancer test.

Bcal said that IP Australia had accepted the patent, titled 'Diagnostic signature' which, once granted, would protect its intellectual property until May 10, 2043.

Bcal fell one cent or 8.7 percent to 10.5 cents.

RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce says it has received \$6,751,176 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government's Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Recce said the incentive related to Australian and overseas research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2024.

The company said the funds would be used to "repay advances from Endpoints Capital reflecting [research and development] rebate credits for 2023-'24".

In March, Recce said it had an \$11,178,965 Endpoints Capital loan, secured against its expected Research and Development Tax Incentive (BD: Mar 8, 2024).

Recce was up two cents or 4.2 percent to 50 cents.

ANTEOTECH

Anteotech says it has received \$2.45 million from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government's Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Anteotech said the incentive related to research and development expenditure for both its clean energy and life science divisions for the year to June 30, 2024.

Anteotech was unchanged at 2.2 cents with six million shares traded.

TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telix says its American depository shares (ADSs) have begun trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker code 'TLX' and it continues to be listed on the ASX.

Earlier this year, the company said it would offer 17,000,000 American depository shares (ADSs) to raise about \$US200 million (\$A302 million) or \$A17.76 an ADS to list on the Nasdaq under the code 'TLX' (BD: Jun 6, 2024).

Later, Telix said it withdrew its proposed \$350 million US initial public offer to list on the Nasdaq, due to the offering's share issue price not being high enough (BD: Jun 14, 2024).

Last month, Telix said it had filed a 20-F registration statement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for a proposed listing of American depository shares (ADSs) on the Nasdaq exchange (BD: Oct 18, 2024).

Today, the company said each ADS represented one Australian share and that it had not issued any new shares as part of the Nasdaq listing.

Telix managing-director Dr Chris Behrenbruch said that listing on the Nasdaq was "an important milestone".

Telix fell seven cents or 0.3 percent to \$22.91 with 633,841 shares traded.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says it has appointed Adelaide Equity Partners Ltd as its financial advisor and is evaluating "strategic options to maximize shareholder value".

Medadvisor said it believed its current market valuation did not reflect the combined value of its Australian and US businesses and that the formal review process was "expected to consider a range of initiatives designed to address the valuation disconnect".

The company said it had appointed HWL Ebsworth as its legal counsel for the process.

Medadvisor said it intended to continue its current business plans and to evaluation opportunities that may arise, but it did "not intend to make any acquisition or undertake an associated capital raise whilst the review process is underway".

The company said it expected the review to take up-to three months.

Medadvisor was up four cents or 16.0 percent to 29 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says efti has shown “significant efficacy” in 21 soft tissue sarcoma patients and “significant improvement” in 40 non-small cell lung cancer patients.

In May, Immutep said four of six soft tissue sarcoma patients in an up-to 40-patient phase II trial of eftilagimod alpha, or efti, with standard-of-care radiotherapy and pembrolizumab, or Keytruda, had “near-complete responses” (BD: May 2, 2024).

Today, the company said further preliminary data from 21 patients evaluable in the phase II trial of efti, formerly IMP321, showed the triple combination therapy had “significant efficacy in the neoadjuvant setting for resectable [soft tissue sarcoma]”.

Immutep said the combination “achieved a greater than threefold increase in tumor hyalinization/fibrosis, median 50 percent, at the time of surgical resection as compared to a historical median 15 percent from standard radiotherapy alone”.

The company said hyalinization/fibrosis rate was the primary endpoint of the study and an important predictor of overall survival for soft tissue sarcoma patients.

Immutep said 71.4 percent, or 15 patients, achieved a pathologic response and 9.5 percent, or two patients, achieved a complete pathologic response.

The company said the combination therapy was safe with no grade three toxicities related to efti and pembrolizumab, and the trial was “expected to reach the planned enrolment of 40 patients” by April 2025.

Immutep said the results were presented at the Connective Tissue Oncology Society 2024 meeting held in San Diego, California from November 13 to 16, 2024.

In 2021, Immutep said it had dosed the first of up-to 20 patients in its first-in-human, phase I, ‘Insight-003’ trial of IMP321 for cancers (BD: Aug 5, 2021).

At that time, the company said the study was conducted by Germany’s Frankfurt Institute of Clinical Cancer Research and evaluated the safety, tolerability, and initial efficacy of 30mg subcutaneous doses of efti every two weeks in conjunction with standard-of-care chemotherapy and anti-programmed death-1 (PD-1) therapy.

Today, Immutep said that 21 patients with minimum follow-up of 22 months showed “excellent results, well above historical controls and exceeding expectations”.

The company said median overall survival was 32.9 months, median progression free survival was 12.7 months and the 24-month overall survival rate was 81 percent.

Immutep said the data from all 40 evaluable patients showed “significant improvement of overall response rate compared to historical controls”, with continuing safety.

The company said in the 36 patients with low and negative PD-L1 expression, the triple combination achieved a 52.8 percent overall response rate and an 86.1 percent disease control rate.

Immutep said all 19 patients in the expansion cohort had a less than 50 percent tumor proportion score and several with stable disease could potentially become responders.

The company said the ‘Insight-003’, multi-centre study was led by the Frankfurt Institute of Clinical Cancer Research and was nearing completion of patient enrolment.

Immutep chief executive officer Marc Voigt said the survival and progression-free survival data from “the mature cohort of patients in the trial with nearly a two-year minimum follow-up exceeds our expectations”.

“We are encouraged to see efti build upon the historical clinical outcomes from the most widely used immunotherapy-chemo combination today,” Mr Voigt said.

“Additionally, the early evaluations in the expansion cohort of 19 patients, who all have low or negative PD-L1 expression, are tracking well and we look forward to additional data updates from the ... trial in 2025 and beyond,” Mr Voigt said.

Immutep was up three cents or 9.7 percent to 34 cents with 20 million shares traded.

MESOBLAST

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

The ASX said the company's share price rose 18.0 percent from \$1.525 at the close of trading yesterday to a high of \$1.80 today and noted the "significant increase" in the volume of shares traded.

Mesoblast said that overnight 793,500 American depository shares (ADS) were traded on the Nasdaq which resulted in an increased ADS price of 17.64 percent compared to its prior Nasdaq closing price, and "a substantially higher share price when converted to ordinary shares relative to the prior closing price on the ASX".

The company said it was "likely that continued strong demand ensured that the ASX opening trading price matched the Nasdaq ADS closing price".

Mesoblast was up 25.5 cents or 16.7 percent to \$1.78 with 17.3 million shares traded.

ATOMO DIAGNOSTICS

Atomo says it has withdrawn the resolutions to approve its 10 percent placement facility and amend its constitution from tomorrow's annual general meeting.

Atomo was unchanged at 2.2 cents.

LBT INNOVATIONS

LBT says its annual general meeting passed all resolutions, with 99.85 percent in favor of its change of company name to 'Clever Culture Systems'.

Last month, LBT said the meeting would vote to change its name issue options and performance rights to directors (BD: Oct 10, 2024).

Today, the company said the 10 percent placement facility was opposed by 58,236,170 votes (7.94%), and the remaining resolutions passed easily.

According to its most recent filing, LBT had 1,757,338,069 shares on issue, meaning that the 58,236,170 votes against the placement facility amounted to about 3.3 percent of the company, not sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

LBT fell 0.1 cent or 5.9 percent to 1.6 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

IMUGENE

Imugene says investors voted a remuneration report first strike and passed all resolutions but with up-to 41.79 percent against rights to chair Paull Hopper.

Last month, Imugene said its annual general meeting would vote to issue 3,576,375 performance rights to Mr Hopper, 19,312,500 rights to managing-director Leslie Chong and 2,000,000 restricted stock units, each, to directors Dr Jakob Dupont, Dr Jens Eckstein, Dr Lesley Russell and Kim Drapkin (BD: Oct 15, 2024).

Today, the company said Mr Hopper's rights were opposed by 741,185,853 votes (41.79%), with 1,032,204,703 (58.21%) in favor; Ms Chong's rights and the restricted stock units for directors were opposed by 29.94 percent to 35.58 percent of the meeting; the remuneration report faced 36.22 percent opposition, with the election of Dr Russell and the ratification of the prior issue of shares passing more easily.

According to its most recent filing, Imugene had 7,438,310,643 shares on issue, meaning that the 741,185,853 votes against Mr Hopper's rights amounted to about 9.96 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Imugene fell 0.2 cents or 4.35 percent to 4.4 cents with 54.6 million shares traded.

INVION

Invion says its annual general meeting passed all resolutions, but with up-to 15.64 percent against its 100-to-one capital consolidation.

Last month, Invion said shareholders would vote on a 100-to-one consolidation and to issue options in lieu of fees to chair Thian Chew as well as directors Alan Yamashita and Alistair Bennallack (BD: Oct 15, 2024).

Today, the company said the approval of the consolidation was opposed by 32,877,143 votes (15.64%), with 177,355,498 votes (84.36%) in favor.

Invion said the approval of options to Mr Chew, Mr Yamashita and Mr Bennallack faced up-to 20.06 percent dissent, with the remaining resolutions all passed overwhelmingly.

According to its most recent filing, Invion had 6,816,591,669 shares on issue, meaning that the 32,877,143 votes against the consolidation amounted to about 0.5 percent of the company, not sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

Invion was up 0.1 cent or 50 percent to 0.3 cents with nine million shares traded.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says its annual general meeting passed all resolutions but with up-to 11.26 percent against the renewal of proportional takeover bid approval.

Medadvisor said the proportional takeover provisions were opposed by 43,753,578 votes (11.26%), with 344,784,431 votes (88.74%) in support.

The company said the issue of incentive options to managing-director Richard Ratliff was opposed by 9.54 percent of the company, with the re-election of directors Linda Jenkinson and Jim Xenos and the adoption of the remuneration report passing more easily.

According to its annual report, Medadvisor had 551,307,637 shares on issue, meaning that the 43,753,578 votes against the takeover provisions amounted to about 7.9 percent of the company, sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.

INHALERX

Cannvalate Pty Ltd says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Inhalerx from 36,024,924 shares (18.98%) to 48,330,887 shares (22.89%).

Melbourne's Cannvalate said between May 15, 2023 and March 11, 2024 it bought 3,385,856 shares in 12 transactions for \$145,064, or an average of 4.3 cents a share, and on October 24, 2024 converted 8,920,107 shares as part of a loan at 2.3 cents a share.

Inhalerx was unchanged at three cents.

MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL

Medical Development says that director Mary Sontrop will resign from the board, effective from December 20, 2024.

Medical Developments chair Gordon Naylor said the company would "miss Ms Sontrop's wisdom and experience on the board".

"Ms Sontrop has made a significant contribution to the company over her four-year tenure on the board," Mr Naylor said. "Ms Sontrop's extensive manufacturing, operations and quality experience has been incredibly valuable, and I have personally appreciated her wise counsel on a board range of matters."

"On behalf of my fellow directors, I thank Ms Sontrop for her contribution to the company and wish her all the best for her retirement from the board," Mr Naylor said.

Medical Developments was up half a cent or 1.15 percent to 44 cents.

IMAGION BIOSYSTEMS

Imagion says it has appointed Dr Susan Harvey as its medical affairs advisor. Imagion said Dr Harvey was a radiologist, the head of medical affairs at the Marlborough, Massachusetts-based Hologic, a mammography and women's health company, and a director of breast imaging at Baltimore, Maryland's Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The company said Dr Harvey was a co-founder of the non-profit organization Cure Women's Cancer. Imagion fell 0.1 cent or 2.1 percent to 4.6 cents.

AUSBIOTECH

Ausbiotech says its 2025 conference will include an inaugural oration in memory of Dr Iris Depaz, a "champion of Australia's life sciences sector". Ausbiotech said that "in August of this year ... [it] was deeply saddened to learn of Dr Depaz's sudden passing". The industry-organization said that Dr Depaz had been an Ausbiotech board member and the managing-director of the Sanofi's Translational Science Hub in Queensland. Ausbiotech said Dr Depaz "held an unwavering commitment to our sector and belief in the potential of Australia's life sciences sector". The organization said Dr Depaz's "leadership played a pivotal role in establishing Sanofi's Translational Science Hub, a \$280 million collaboration with the Queensland Government, the University of Queensland, and Griffith University". Ausbiotech said that as the Hub's managing-director, one of Dr Depaz's primary goals was to strengthen Australia's biomedical ecosystem. Ausbiotech chief executive officer Rebekah Cassidy said that the 'Depaz Oration' would "be a testament to Dr Depaz's enduring legacy and our respect for her contributions to our sector nationally". "The Depaz Oration will be held annually at our Ausbiotech conference starting in 2025," Ms Cassidy said. "It will celebrate and continue Dr Depaz's mission of fostering innovation, collaboration, and growth in Australia's life sciences community," Ms Cassidy said. "The Oration will serve as a reminder of Iris's impact, ensuring her vision and passion for biotechnology live on," Ms Cassidy said. "We are honoured to pay tribute to her remarkable life and career, and we look forward to inspiring future generations of leaders in the spirit of her dedication and vision," Ms Cassidy said.