



Biotech Daily

Wednesday April 16, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX EVEN, BIOTECH DOWN: PERCHERON UP 10%; CLARITY DOWN 8%**
- * **CENTENARY: 'DPP9 PROTEIN BLOCK MAY PREVENT LIVER CANCER, IN MICE'**
- * **QUEENSLAND UNI 150-DAY BOLIVIAN CHAPARE VIRUS VACCINE CHALLENGE**
- * **NEUROSCIENTIFIC \$3.5m ISOPOGEN PLACEMENT**
- * **AUSTCO, MEXICO ANGELES \$3.4m NURSE CALL DEAL**
- * **TELIX: 'TLX101 EFFECTIVE, SAFE FOR BRAIN CANCER'**
- * **PRESCIENT PTX-100 FOR LYMPHOMA FDA FAST TRACK STATUS**
- * **PAINCHEK INFANT APPLICATION ON APPLE AUSTRALIA; \$1.4m FEDERAL RDTI**
- * **ECHO IQ LISTS ON US OTCQB**
- * **PROTEOMICS REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISE' TRADING HALT**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES BENELONG, WALKER DOCA EGM**
- * **ADVANCE REDUCES TO 13% OF OSTEOPORE**
- * **DIXSON TAKES 5.9% OF IMEX; BARRIJAG TAKES 5.8%**
- * **CARTHERICS: BRYAN WILLIAMS CHAIR, LAURENCE NORE DIRECTOR**
- * **EMVISION LOSES DIRECTOR GEOFF POCOCK**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.04 percent on Wednesday April 16, 2025, with the ASX200 down 2.8 points to 7,758.9 points. Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 19 fell, four traded unchanged and two were untraded. All four Big Caps fell.

Percheron was the best, up 0.1 cents or 10 percent to 1.1 cents, with 2.5 million shares traded. Actinogen climbed 7.4 percent; Syntara was up 6.1 percent; Alcidion, Atomo and Genetic Signatures rose more than five percent; Prescient climbed 4.8 percent; Emvision and Medadvisor were both up 3.3 percent; Amplia, Aroa and SDI rose two percent or more; Dimerix was up 1.2 percent; with Avita and Nanosonics up less than one percent.

Clarity led the falls, down 15 cents or 8.2 percent to \$1.68, with 3.3 million shares traded. Imugene and Neuren lost more than seven percent; Orthocell and Universal Biosensors fell more than six percent; 4D Medical and Impedimed were down five percent or more; Curvebeam, Medical Developments and Mesoblast fell more than four percent; Cyclopharm, EBR and Polynovo were down more than three percent; Immutep, Pro Medicus and Resmed shed more than two percent; Cochlear, Paradigm, Proteomics and Telix were down one percent or more; with Clinuvel, Compumedics and CSL down by less than one percent.

CENTENARY INSTITUTE

The Centenary Institute says it has found “switching off” the DPP9 protein in liver cells “may help prevent the early development of liver cancer”, in mice.

The Centenary Institute said a study led by Prof Mark Gorrell focused on the dipeptidyl peptidase-9 (DPP9) protein, which worked “inside cells to help regulate processes such as inflammation, metabolism and cell survival”.

The Institute said the study used a mouse model of liver disease and showed that “turning off the DPP9 gene in liver cells led to improved blood sugar control, lower body and liver fat, and fewer liver tumors”.

The Centenary Institute said the study found “changes in proteins involved in tumor suppression and autophagy, a natural cellular clean-up system that helps remove damaged cells” and “could lead to new strategies for treating liver cancer, safely”.

The Institute said removing DPP9 from liver cells “seemed to trigger a stronger internal maintenance response, making the cells more resilient and less likely to turn cancerous”.

The Centenary Institute said the study, titled ‘Dipeptidyl peptidase 9 (DPP9) depletion from hepatocytes in experimental primary liver cancer’ was published in the journal *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (Molecular Basis of Disease)*, with the full article available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925443925001644>.

Prof Gorrell said the study showed that when DPP9 was “switched off in a damaged liver, the cells manage better and may be less prone to forming tumors”.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland says it will try to develop a vaccine for Bolivian Chapare virus in 150 days or fewer to test its response capabilities to a viral pandemic.

The University of Queensland said under the “pressure test” it will attempt to produce “the first vaccine for the little-known but potentially fatal Bolivian Chapare virus”.

The University said the test was a deliberate challenge from Oslo, Norway-based Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

The University of Queensland said its rapid response vaccine team would “produce 26 vaccine candidates using its re-engineered molecular clamp technology, which successfully completed a proof-of-concept, phase I clinical trial last year”.

In 2023, the University said proof-of-concept testing of its second-generation clamp platform produced a Covid-19 vaccine which was “functionally equivalent” to the Australian-approved Nuvaxovid (Novavax) vaccine (BD: Nov 23, 2023).

Today, the University of Queensland said the Chapare virus was known to occur in Bolivia and caused a severe haemorrhagic fever, with five documented outbreaks since the disease emerged in 2003 and a laboratory-confirmed case reported in January this year.

The University’s research lead Prof Keith Chappell said the goal was “to get as close as possible to achieving CEPI’s aspirational ‘100 Days Mission’ to create a vaccine from scratch in just over three months when faced with a new pandemic threat”.

“It took a little less than a year for the first safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to be developed and approved for use,” Prof Chappell said.

“That’s an astonishing timeframe to develop a medical defence system, but it still wasn’t quick enough to prevent COVID-19 from surging across the world,” he said.

“While we might not know when or where the next viral threat will emerge, we can improve how quickly we respond and hopefully save more lives,” Prof Chappell said.

“We want to prove that the combination of our Clamp2 technology and the people we have in the team is able to generate a safe and effective vaccine within a highly accelerated timeline,” Prof Chappell said.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it has “firm commitments” for an up-to \$3.5 million placement at 3.5 cents a share to fund the development of Isopogen WA’s Stemsmart (see below).

Neuroscientific said the funds would be used for “the 12-month funding requirements for Stemsmart and Emtinb ... [the] costs of the [Isopogen WA] acquisition and placement and general working capital costs”.

The company said Westar Capital was lead manager for the placement and would receive a six percent capital raising fee and, subject to shareholder approval, up to 40,000,000 options exercisable at seven cents each within three years.

Neuroscientific said that director Dr Anton Uvarov had subscribed for \$92,750 in the placement and that 14,000,000 of the 40,000,000 lead manager options would be issued to the company’s directors, subject to shareholder approval.

Neuroscientific rose 1.7 cents or 48.6 percent to 5.2 cents with 10.6 million shares traded.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it will acquire Perth’s Isopogen WA and its Stemsmart mesenchymal stromal cells (MSC) for indications including Crohn’s disease.

Neuroscientific said Isopogen WA was a public unlisted company developing Stemsmart, which had shown potency, efficacy and safety for refractory Crohn’s disease in an 18-patient, phase II trial, with other possible indications including kidney transplant, lung disorders and graft-versus-host disease.

The company said that Stemsmart’s mesenchymal stromal cells were derived from adult human donor bone marrow, isolated and grown in culture before the patented Stemsmart manufacturing process was applied to improve their clinical efficacy, working by interacting with patients’ immune systems to modulate immune responses.

It has been widely reported that Isopogen WA had been in legal dispute with Perth Health’s East Metropolitan Health Service over intellectual property rights.

Neuroscientific said it would buy Isopogen through the issue of 85,714,286 Neuroscientific shares in the company and 57,142,857 Neuroscientific performance shares that would convert into ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis subject to various clinical and regulatory milestones.

The company said it had binding share sale agreements with “key shareholders” including directors of Isopogen and their affiliated entities, who collectively held 51.4 percent of Isopogen’s issue capital.

Neuroscientific said the directors of Isopogen were “currently soliciting executed agreements from the minority sellers”.

The company said the transaction would not proceed if it did not execute agreements with all Isopogen minority shareholders.

Neuroscientific said one Isopogen share was equivalent to 0.6093 Neuroscientific consideration shares and 0.4062 Neuroscientific performance shares, respectively, and subject to 12-month voluntary escrow, with the acquisition subject to shareholder approval.

The company said its long-term goal for Stemsmart was to have mesenchymal stromal cell therapy achieve “regulatory and re-imbursement approval in Australia and other jurisdictions for initial indications of fistulizing Crohn’s disease and refractory Crohn’s disease and for the treatment to be accessible to patients”.

Neuroscientific said it intended to appoint Isopogen directors Robert McKenzie and Paul Fry as directors to progress the development of Stemsmart.

AUSTCO HEALTHCARE

Austco says it has a \$3.4 million deal to supply its Tacera nurse call platform and infant protection maternity care system to three Angeles Health System hospitals in Mexico. Austco said the contract was signed by US subsidiary Austco Marketing and Service and included “the design, installation and long-term support” of its clinical communication software products as well as five years of technical support, ongoing software updates and user training at each hospital.

The company said the three hospitals were Mexico City’s Hospital Angeles Polanco and Guadalajara’s Hospital Angeles Andares and Hospital Angeles Arboledas.

Austco said it expected design and installation revenue by July 2025 and to continue until July 2027, with support revenues to be recognized until July 2029.

The company said the project would “not be affected by US tariffs” as its distribution model allowed for “direct shipments to Mexico, bypassing tariff-impacted routes and ensuring cost predictability and uninterrupted deliver”.

Earlier this month, the US White House said President Donald Trump would use emergency powers to “impose a 10 percent tariff on all countries” (BD: Apr 3, 2025).

Austco managing-director Clayton Astles said the company was “honored to partner with Angeles Health System, one of Mexico’s most respected healthcare networks”.

“This achievement is a testament to our growing reputation for delivering mission-critical communication and workflow solutions worldwide,” Mr Astles said.

Austco was up 3.5 cents or 14 percent to 28.5 cents.

TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telix says its eight-patient, investigator-led, phase II study of TLX101 for glioma, or brain cancer, shows “encouraging” preliminary efficacy and safety results.

Telix said the single-arm trial was conducted by Linz, Austria’s Kepler University Hospital and studied the safety, tolerability and preliminary efficacy of TLX101, or iodine-131-iodofalan, with external beam radiation therapy in patients at first or second recurrence with high-grade gliomas, including glioblastoma.

The company said treatment of TLX101 was “well tolerated with no serious adverse events reported” and showed a median overall survival of 12.4 months from the beginning of treatment, or 32.2 months from initial diagnosis.

Telix said the results were “consistent with the positive efficacy signal” found in a previous study of glioma patients with first recurrence, only one prior resection and treatment with standard chemotherapy.

The company said the prior study had reported 13-month median overall survival from initiation of TLX101 treatment and 23 months from initial diagnosis.

Telix said recurrent glioblastoma patients treated with external beam radiation therapy alone showed a median survival of 9.9 months after treatment.

Telix said the eight patients included five oxygen-6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase unmethylated tumors, typically associated with “especially poor prognosis, and were dosed intravenously with 4.0GBq (Giga Becquerels) of TLX101 before second line external beam radiation therapy and up-to 2.0GBq afterwards.

The company said it was investigating TLX101 with standard-of-care for glioblastoma in a phase I/II study using TLX101-CDx as a companion diagnostic.

In 2023, Telix said it dosed the first of 12 patients in its phase I study of TLX101 with post-surgical standard-of-care treatment for glioblastoma (BD: Aug 8, 2023).

Telix fell 45 cents or 1.7 percent to \$25.87 with 1.3 million shares traded.

PRESCIENT THERAPEUTICS

Prescient says the US Food and Drug Administration has granted PTX-100 fast track designation for the treatment of adults with relapsed or refractory mycosis fungoides. Prescient said mycosis fungoides was the most common subtype of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL).

The company said fast track status was designed to “expedite the review of therapies that treat serious conditions with a high unmet need, with the aim of getting therapies to patients earlier”.

Prescient said the designation included “increased access to the FDA, the possibility of rolling submissions of new drug applications and a pathway to accelerated approvals”.

Prescient chief executive officer James McDonnell said the status was “a critical milestone towards our goal of advancing PTX-100 into a registration-enabling trial designed to support potential accelerated approval and, from there, commercialization”.

“As we progress our phase II trials, we will be engaging closely with the FDA to ensure alignment on endpoints and study scope,” Mr McDonnell said.

Prescient was up 0.2 cents or 4.8 percent to 4.4 cents with 7.2 million shares traded.

PAINCHEK

Painchek said its software application for infant monitoring is available on the Apple application store for \$99.99 per year “in Australia only at this stage”.

Painchek managing director Philip Daffas told Biotech Daily the application was officially launched in March 2025.

The company said it had received “very positive” feedback for the infant application including that it was an “easy-to-use” and “simple” pain assessment technology.

Painchek said the application provided “pain scores, offering reassurance, validation and ‘peace of mind’ during stressful and uncertain moments”.

Painchek said the application was primarily “used in situations when babies seem unwell, during teething, at night when children are fussy, inconsolable crying, or after exhausting other soothing methods”.

Painchek was unchanged at 3.5 cents with 2.9 million shares traded.

PAINCHEK

Painchek says it has received \$1,410,000 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government’s Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

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

ECHO IQ

Echo IQ says it has listed on the US over-the-counter OTCQB quality B venture market under the ticker code ‘ECHQF’.

Echo IQ said that OTCQB trading provided shareholders with access to investor groups, increased liquidity to support the ongoing commercialization of Echosolv and allowed US investors to trade in its shares in US dollars during US market hours.

The company said no additional shares would be issued for the listing and that it would continue to provide disclosures and announcements to the ASX as required.

Echo IQ was up three cents or 10.7 percent to 31 cents with 4.6 million shares traded.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics has requested a trading halt "pending the release of an announcement regarding a capital raise and subsequent issue of securities".

Trading will resume on April 22, 2025, or on an earlier announcement.

Proteomics fell half a cent or 1.1 percent to 44.5 cents.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

FTI Consulting says Genetic Technologies investors will vote on the deed of company arrangement (DOCA) from Sydney's Benelong Capital Partners Pty Ltd.

Last year, FTI Consulting said Ross Blakeley and Paul Harlond were appointed voluntary administrators of Genetic Technologies (BD: Nov 20, Dec 16, 2024; Feb 5, 2025).

Last month, the administrators said creditors resolved to execute a DOCA from Benelong, which included a one-for-10 share consolidation (BD: Mar 3, 2025).

Today, FTI said the extraordinary general meeting would vote to issue 1,163,511,764 shares at 0.023 cents a share to Walker Investments to raise \$27,000, with Walker Investments to acquire about 88 percent of the company.

The administrators said the meeting vote to issue 26,493,450 shares to Benelong at 0.0038 cents a share to raise \$1,000, allowing Bennelong to acquire a two percent interest in the company.

FTI said shareholders would vote to appoint Walker Capital founder Michael Walker, John Polinelli and Anthony Hartman as directors of Genetic Technologies.

The meeting will be at Nicols and Brien Chartered Accountants, Level 2, 350 Kent Street, Sydney on May 14, 2025 at 11am (AEST).

Genetic Technologies was in a suspension and last traded at 3.9 cents.

OSTEOPORE

Advance Opportunities Fund says it has reduced its substantial shareholding in Osteopore from 19,480,519 shares (13.88%) to 17,851,329 shares (12.72%).

Advance said that on April 14 it sold 695,963 shares for \$17,190, or 2.47 cents a share and on April 15, 2025 sold 933,227 shares for \$22,771, or 2.44 cents a share.

Last year, Osteopore said it expected to raise \$20 million from Advance Opportunities for a redeemable convertible note at four percent a year, issuing in four equal tranches of 20 equal sub-tranches of \$250,000 each (BD: Sep 27, 2024).

In February, the company said Advance had subscribed for \$2.0 million worth of the \$20 million redeemable convertible note; and last week, said Advance subscribed for a further \$1.0 million (BD: Feb 17, Apr 8, 2025).

Osteopore fell 0.2 cents or 8.7 percent to 2.1 cents with 2.7 million shares traded.

IMEX HEALTH SERVICES

Dixon Trust Pty Ltd says it has become a substantial shareholder in Imex with 2,959,044 shares, or 5.87 percent of the company.

The Sydney-based Dixon said that on April 14, 2025 it bought 1,285,715 shares for \$450,000, or 35.0 cents a share.

Earlier this month, Imex said that it had raised \$2.5 million at 35 cents a share, a 13.2 percent discount to the five-day volume weighted average price, in a placement, with a further \$1.0 million, non-underwritten share plan to follow (BD: Apr 3, 2025).

Imex was up three cents or 9.1 percent to 36 cents.

IMEX HEALTH SERVICES

Barrijag Pty Ltd as trustee for the Hadley Family Trust says it has become a substantial shareholder in Imex with 2,909,091 shares, or 5.77 percent.

The Sydney-based Barrijag said that on April 14, 2025 it bought 2,000,000 shares for \$700,000, or 35.0 cents a share (see above).

CARTHERICS PTY LTD

Cartherics says it has appointed director Prof Bryan Williams to replace founding chair Bob Moses, with Laurence Nore appointed as a director.

Cartherics said Prof Williams had been a non-executive director since 2017 and was an “internationally recognized cancer researcher” that had worked in both private and publicly listed companies, as well as research institutes and associations.

The company said Mr Moses had “stepped down for personal reasons”.

Cartherics said Ms Nore had more than two decades in the US life sciences industry, “specializing in therapeutics and diagnostics”.

According to their LinkedIn profiles, Prof Williams held a Doctor of Philosophy from Dunedin, New Zealand’s University of Otago, while Ms Nore held a Bachelor of Arts from Lyon, France’s Emlyon Business School and a Master of Business Administration from the University of California Los Angeles.

Cartherics is a private company.

EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says non-executive director Geoff Pocock has announced his retirement.

Emvision said Mr Pocock had served on the board since its ASX listing in 2018 and had been “a valuable contributor to the board particularly in matters of technology transfer, intellectual property and capital markets”.

The company said it was “in the process of reviewing its board composition as it progresses towards commercialization and expects to announce an appropriate addition to the board in the coming months”.

Emvision chair John Keep thanked Mr Pocock “for his dedication and significant contributions over a momentous seven-year journey from an early-stage university spin out to a late-stage development company with a pivotal trial for [US Food and Drug Administration] clearance underway”.

Emvision was up six cents or 3.3 percent to \$1.90.