



Biotech Daily

Monday February 17, 2014

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: CLINUVEL UP 8%, ANTEO DOWN 9%**
- * **PHARMAUST, NSW UNI PATENT FOR PPL-1 CHEMO ENHANCER**
- * **PRANA REQUESTS PHASE II HUNTINGTON'S RESULTS TRADING HALT**
- * **CELLMID ISSUES 600,000 SHARES TO BRYNNE EDELSTEN**
- * **NAB, WESTPAC, BT BELOW 5% IN ACRUX**
- * **CLARIFICATION: MEDICAL AUSTRALIA, BRUCE HANCOX, WINDFALL**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market climbed 0.5 percent on Monday February 17, 2014 with the S&P ASX 200 up 26.6 points to 5,382.9 points.

Nine of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 13 fell, 13 traded unchanged and five were untraded.

Clinuvel was the best, up 11 cents or 7.75 percent to \$1.53 with 31,274 shares traded.

Acrux climbed 4.3 percent; Benitec, CSL, Neuren, Reva and Universal Biosensors rose more than two percent; Genetic Technologies and Living Cell were up more than one percent; with Sirtex up 0.8 percent.

Anteo led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 8.6 percent to 16 cents, with 5.8 million shares traded.

Avita, Ellex, Phosphagenics and Prima fell four percent or more; both Antisense and Pharmaxis lost 3.7 percent; Admedus, Patrys and QRX shed more than two percent; Bionomics and Nanosonics were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, Mesoblast and Resmed down by less than one percent.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust says that its PPL-1 in combination with existing cancer drugs can reduce the chemotherapy dose required by up to 99 percent.

In an announcement to the ASX, Pharmaust said that with the University of New South Wales it had filed a patent application, based on mouse research at Sydney's St George Hospital that showed synergies between PPL-1 and some existing cancer therapeutics. Pharmaust executive chairman Dr Roger Aston told Biotech Daily that "depending on the drug, PPL-1 could improve efficacy by up to two orders of magnitude, reducing the amount of chemotherapy needed to one hundredth of the dose and therefore potentially reducing toxicity".

Last year, the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries approved the company as an animal research establishment enabling it to conduct trials of PPL-1 for canine cancer expected to begin by April 2014 (BD: Dec 19, 2013).

Today, Pharmaust said that the cytotoxicity of certain cancer drugs could be selectively enhanced for killing cancer cells, therefore potentially reducing the side-effects of chemotherapy such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, weight loss and immuno-suppression. Dr Aston said the cancer chemotherapy market was estimated at \$42 billion a year and was "currently the fastest growing sector within the [pharmaceutical] industry, mainly driven by the identification of new potential therapeutic targets".

"This growth is further fuelled by the magnitude of the disease worldwide, currently estimated at more than 25 million people suffering from cancer globally, and an estimated five million people dying each year from the disease," Dr Aston said.

"Furthermore the synergy between PPL-1 and certain mainline cancer therapeutics potentially provides an attractive market fit for the product," Dr Aston said.

Pharmaust said it was the joint applicant for the patent filing with Newsouth Innovations, the commercialization arm of the University of New South Wales.

The company said that Newsouth Innovations had "indicated ...that it will grant to Pharmaust an exclusive worldwide royalty-free licence in respect of its joint ownership of this patent filing".

Pharmaust was up 0.2 cents or 13.3 percent to 1.7 cents with 99.3 million shares traded.

PRANA BIOTECHNOLOGY

Prana has requested a trading halt pending an announcement "in relation to the results of its Reach2HD phase II Huntington's disease trial".

Trading will resume on February 19, 2014 or on an earlier announcement.

Prana last traded at 91.5 cents.

CELLMID

Cellmid has issued 600,000 shares to Brynne Pty Ltd, a company associated with Brynne Edelsten, for "endorsement services".

Ms Edelsten is the estranged wife of controversial de-registered doctor and entrepreneur Geoffrey Edelstein.

Last year, Cellmid said that Ms Edelsten would receive up to 1,400,000 shares for the provision of endorsement services for the company's Évolis FGF-5 inhibitor hair growth products (BD: Nov 18, 2013).

Today, in an Appendix 3B new issue announcement, Cellmid said that the shares were issued under its employee incentive plan.

Cellmid was unchanged at 3.4 cents with 2.2 million shares traded.

ACRUX

Westpac Bank, BT Investment Management and associates, including National Australia Bank, say they have ceased their substantial shareholding in Acrux.

Westpac said that the shares were held by a range of companies including Advance Asset Management, HSBC Custody nominees, National Australia Bank, Asgard Capital Management, Westpac Bank and several BT companies.

Last year, Westpac Bank and BT Investment Management increased their substantial shareholding in Acrux from 8,531,574 shares (5.12%) to 10,276,832 shares (6.17%) buying and selling shares in small parcels including 2,205,595 shares acquired for \$7,326,191 or an average price of \$3.32 a share (BD: Oct 22, 2013)

Today, Westpac said the shares were bought and sold between October 22, 2013 and February 13, 2014 with the largest acquisitions by NAB on December 13, 2013 of 1,538,527 shares for \$3,446,300 or \$2.24 a share and the largest sales by HSBC on February 4, 2014 of 506,180 shares for \$1,047,793 or \$2.07 a share.

NAB has previously issued ceasing substantial notices in Acrux saying it had either lent or sold shares (BD: Oct 22, Dec 13, 2013).

Acrux recovered 8.5 cents or 4.3 percent to \$2.06 with 1.5 million shares traded.

MEDICAL AUSTRALIA

On February 13, 2014 Biotech Daily reported that Medical Australia has appointed Bruce Hancox as a director and he was also a director of Windfall (NZ) Trust.

Today, Medical Australia said "that statement was in error and the company withdraws it". Medical Australia was unable to provide any further details at the time of publication.

The New Zealand Government Companies Office records that the Windfall Trust No 1 and No 2 named Bruce Alan Hancox of Palm Beach New South Wales as a director but were struck off on December 22, 2011 and January 27, 2012, respectively.

In December 2013, The Nelson, New Zealand-based Windfall (NZ) Trust said it had acquired 10,000,000 shares (9.78%) in Medical Australia with Lance Ogilvie and Andrew Talijancich as trustees.

No sub-editors were hurt in making this clarification.

Medical Australia fell two cents or 5.7 percent to 33 cents.