



2 exciting biotech shares to watch in 2018

James Mickleboro | November 9, 2017 | More on: [BNO](#) [CSL](#)

Credit: US Army RDECOM

Just over 14 years ago the **CSL Limited** ([ASX: CSL](#)) share price was trading in or around the \$12.00 mark. Fast-forward to today and the biotech giant's shares are 1,100% higher and fetching \$144.35 apiece.

While CSL's success could be a once in a decade event, I do believe it demonstrates just how rewarding an investment in the industry can be.

Two fledgling biotech companies which I think investors ought to keep an eye on are listed below:

Actinogen Medical Ltd ([ASX: ACW](#))

This clinical-stage biotechnology company's lead candidate is its Alzheimer's disease drug Xanemem. The drug has shown enormous promise thus far and was enough to attract pioneering drug developer and former Amgen executive, Dr George Morstyn, to join the board as a non-executive director recently. He believes the drug's approach to treating the disease by lowering cortisol levels in the brain is "refreshingly different".

According to the company, in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease, the drug was effective in improving cognitive function and clearing amyloid plaques from the brain. The improved cognitive function was observed after only 4 weeks of treatment, and was maintained for at least 41 weeks. Management believes that if Xanemem can be as effective in humans, it has the potential to be one of the most meaningful breakthroughs for treating Alzheimer's disease in decades.

Bionomics Ltd ([ASX: BNO](#))

While the company has a number of promising drugs in its pipeline, the one that I am most excited about is its BNC210 anxiety drug.

Phase 2 trials of BNC210 have not only met their two primary endpoints and outperformed the current standard of care Lorazepam, they showed no signs of sedation, memory impairment, addiction, or loss of motor co-ordination. With the anxiety treatment market forecast by management to be worth US\$18.2 billion in sales by 2020, BNC210 could be an extremely lucrative drug if it can become the standard of care in the future.

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That's why at The Motley Fool we've been scrutinizing the ASX to uncover the kinds of companies that we believe could turn into the next Cochlear or REA Group.

We've found three exciting companies that we believe re poised to perform in the new year. [Click here to uncover these ideas!](#)

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The Motley Fool Australia, PO Box 4635, Ashmore, Qld 4214