



Biotech Daily

Tuesday February 6, 2018

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: UNIVERSAL BIO UP 5%; VOLPARA DOWN 12%**
- * **ACTINOGEN: 'RESEARCH BACKS STRESS, COGNITIVE DECLINE LINK'**
- * **REGENEUS FAT-DERIVED SYGENUS 'EFFECTIVE FOR ACNE'**
- * **CARDINAL TO DISTRIBUTE RHINOMED MUTE NASAL DILATORS**
- * **PLATINUM INCREASES, DILUTED TO 7% OF IMUGENE**
- * **GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES LOSES EUTILLIO BUCCILLI; DR PAUL KASIAN**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market followed the US lead, falling 3.2 percent on Tuesday February 6, 2018 with the ASX200 down 192.9 points to 5,833.3 points.

Five of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 29 fell, four traded unchanged and two were untraded. All three Big Caps fell.

Universal Biosensors was the best, up 1.5 cents or five percent to 31.5 cents with 10,000 shares traded.

Acrux climbed three percent; Telix was up 2.7 percent; with Opthea and Polynovo up by more than one percent.

Volpara led the falls, down nine cents or 11.8 percent to 67 cents with 305,703 shares traded, followed by Optiscan down 11.6 percent to 8.4 cents with 689,387 shares traded .

Dimerix lost 8.3 percent; Airxpanders, Impedimed and Starpharma fell more than seven percent; ITL, Medical Developments, Nanosonics, Oncosil and Psivida shed more than six percent; LBT, Mesoblast and Viralytics lost more than five percent; Admedus, Avita, CSL, Orthocell, Osprey and Resmed fell more than four percent; Clinuvel, Cochlear, Prana, Pro Medicus and Reva were down more than three percent; Factor Therapeutics shed 2.5 percent; Bionomics, Compumedics, Ellex, Pharmaxis and Sirtex were down more than one percent; with Neuren down 0.7 percent.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says two research papers support the association between stress and age-related cognitive decline with an implied link to increased cortisol levels.

Actinogen is conducting its Xanadu trial of Xanamem to block production of the stress hormone cortisol in the brain to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The company said that a research paper entitled 'Midlife stress alters memory and mood-related behaviours in old age: Role of locally activated glucocorticoids' published in Psychoneuroendocrinology concluded that exposure to a period of stress in midlife results in cognitive decline in old age.

Actinogen said that a second article, entitled 'Environmental novelty exacerbates stress hormones and [amyloid beta] pathology in an Alzheimer's model' published in Nature "similarly concluded that stress may worsen cognitive decline with age".

The company said that both studies showed that an increase in stress hormones was associated with cognitive decline and provided support for the development of Xanamem, which was designed to block the production of cortisol in the brain.

Actinogen said that in the pre-clinical development of Xanamem, it showed that blocking cortisol production in the brain significantly improved cognition.

The University of Edinburgh's Prof Jonathan Seckl, a co-inventor of Xanamem and co-author of the Psychoneuroendocrinology article, said that the study added "to the growing evidence that raised cortisol, even in mid-life, is toxic to the brain especially with aging". "It highlights the importance of developing effective treatments that decrease the impact of excess cortisol on the brain as a potential way of slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease," Prof Seckl said. "We have demonstrated that reducing stress hormone in the brain works to restore memory in aging animals."

"We are all eagerly awaiting the results from [Actinogen's Xanadu trial] to see if a similar benefit can be demonstrated with Xanamem in humans," Prof Seckl said.

Actinogen was unchanged at 4.2 cents with 3.3 million shares traded.

REGENEUS

Regeneus says that six weeks of topical use of its fat-derived Sygenus gel for acne is well-tolerated and showed "a significant effect on the appearance of acne lesions".

Regeneus said that Sygenus was an allogeneic, or off-the-shelf, cell secretions technology platform that comprised cytokines, growth factors and exosomes from adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells, which worked "to reduce pain and inflammation and encourage accelerated healing and repair".

Regeneus said that the Irving, Texas-based Reliance Clinical Testing Services tolerance study examined 33 healthy volunteers with mild to moderate facial acne with Sygenus gel applied topically twice a day throughout the study, to assess tolerability involving the change in acne lesions over the six-week period.

Regeneus said that no intolerance was observed and there was an overall improvement in the appearance of acne, as early as three weeks.

The company said that "statistically significant reductions in the total number of inflammatory and non-inflammatory acne lesions were noted from baseline to week six ... [and] the acne global severity score showed significant reduction ... at week six compared to baseline".

Regeneus said the results would help partner Sygenus gel for acne and other inflammatory skin conditions and it had granted patents in Australia, Europe, China, US and Japan covering the composition, manufacture and use of the Sygenus technology.

Regeneus was up half a cent or 4.8 percent to 11 cents.

[RHINOMED](#)

Rhinomed says it has a wholesale purchase and distribution agreement with the Dublin, Ohio-based Cardinal Health for its Mute sleep and snoring nasal dilators. Rhinomed said that all four pack variants of the Mute dilators would be available for ordering by Cardinal's network of 25,000 independent US pharmacies. Rhinomed was unchanged at 12.5 cents.

[IMUGENE](#)

Platinum Investment Management says it has increased its holding but has been diluted in Imugene from 194,224,434 shares (8.2%) to 203,980,652 shares (7.15%). The Sydney-based Platinum said it acquired 39,756,218 shares on November 22 and 28, 2017 for \$715,612 or 1.8 cents a share and on February 1 and 2, 2018 sold 30,000,000 shares for \$475,508 or 1.6 cents a share. In November and December, Imugene said it had raised \$8.7 million in a placement and rights issue at 1.8 cents a share (BD: Nov 23, Dec 19, 2017). Imugene fell 0.05 cents or 3.3 percent to 1.45 cents with 11.2 million shares traded.

[GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES](#)

Genetic Technologies says that chief executive officer Eutillio Buccilli has resigned from the company with immediate effect.

Genetic Technologies said that chairman Dr Paul Kasian would be acting chief executive officer while the company undertakes a search for a new chief executive officer.

The company said that Mr Buccilli joined the company in June 2014 as chief financial officer and was appointed chief executive officer in February 2015.

Genetic Technologies thanked Mr Buccilli for his contributions during his time with the company.

Genetic Technologies was in a suspension and last traded at 1.55 cents.