Biotech Daily

Tuesday January 22, 2013

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX FLAT, BIOTECH DOWN: MEDICAL DEV UP 13%, CELLMID DOWN 12%**

*** BATHURST STUDY: 'USCOM SAVES SEPSIS LIVES, HOSPITAL COSTS'**

*** OSPREY TO RELEASE 50k ESCROW CDIS**

*** CONSEGNA FILES BREATHEASSIST BO2LT PATENT APPLICATION**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was flat, climbing 0.03 percent on Tuesday January 22, 2013, with the S&P ASX 200 up 1.6 points to 4,779.1 points.

Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, 13 traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Medical Developments was the best, up 24 cents or 12.6 percent to $2.15 with 104,560 shares traded.

Universal Biosensors climbed 3.6 percent; GI Dynamics rose 2.7 percent; Compumedics, Genetic Technologies, Reva and Tissue Therapies were up more than one percent; with QRX up 0.5 percent.

Cellmid led the falls, following an unclear ASX query, apparently relating to the timing of a patent announcement, down 0.3 cents or 11.5 percent to 2.3 cents with 8.3 million shares traded.

Optiscan lost 9.5 percent; Circadian was down 7.1 percent; Phosphagenics was down 6.45 percent; Patrys and Uscom fell five percent or more; Prana and Sirtex were down more than four percent; Clinuvel and Neuren were down more than three percent; Acrux, Alchemia, Cochlear, Ellex, Living Cell, Mesoblast and Pharmaxis shed two percent or more; Starpharma was down 1.9 percent; with CSL down 0.4 percent.

USCOM

Uscom says a six year study confirms significant life-saving and cost reduction using its ultra-sonic cardiac output monitor to guide treatment of sepsis and septic shock.

Uscom said the study found that the Bathurst Uscom haemodynamic (Bush) protocol reduced mortality by 94 percent and management costs by 45 percent over the six-year study period.

The company said that the study, conducted by Charles Sturt University's by Prof Brendan Smith and presented this week at the Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual meeting in Puerto Rico, concluded that if the Bush protocol results were duplicated Australia-wide the savings would have been 8,237 lives and $1.01 billion.

The article, entitled 'Decreased Mortality, Morbidity and Emergency Transport in Septic Shock; A New Protocol Based on Advanced Noninvasive Haemodynamics and Early Antibiotics' was co-written by Uscom executive chairman Rob Phillips and published in the December edition of the journal Critical Care Medicine.

An abstract is at http://www.uscom.com.au/news/news.php

"These results demonstrate a potential new gold standard for the management of sepsis and we are now looking to share our experience and improve care in Australia and worldwide," Prof Smith said.

Uscom said that data from septic shock patients treated Australia-wide and in Bathurst between 2007 to 2012 were extracted from the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Centre for Outcomes and Resource Evaluation database and analyzed for trends in mortality, morbidity, emergency transport costs and cost of hospital stay.

The company said that the database was established to benchmark clinical standards of practice.

Uscom said that septic shock, also known as blood poisoning, was a complex medical condition with a patient mortality of 22 to 76 percent and was characterized by extreme and variable cardiovascular dysfunction which resulted in a critical oxygen shortage to the cells and leading ultimately to death.

The company said that the disease had been increasing in Australia at a rate of 10 percent a year for the last six years, while cancer and heart disease mortality had fallen.

"The Bathurst Uscom haemodynamic protocol, was introduced at Bathurst Base Hospital, a rural hospital in Australia, in 2007," Prof Smith said.

"The protocol is based on a multidisciplinary approach, immediate diagnosis, rapid administration of antibiotics and personalized cardiovascular resuscitation directed by advanced non-invasive Uscom haemodynamics," Prof Smith said.

"Each year we see tragic cases of septicemia unnecessarily claiming Australian health care costs," Prof Smith said. "Since the Bathurst introduction of the Bush protocol, most sepsis patients were treated in less than 60 minutes, and mortality has fallen to approximately 5.6 percent a year in those patients treated according to the Bush protocol."

"Renal failure was reduced from 74 percent to 14 percent, and emergency transport to tertiary referral centres was reduced by 87 percent, while other hospital costs were reduced by 45 percent," Prof Smith said.

Uscom chief executive officer Rob Phillips said this independent evidence demonstrated his company's monitor was "significantly contributing to making sepsis a curable disease".

"This study demonstrates the contribution Uscom can make to global health economics and provides the clinical and health economic evidence necessary for large national and international health management organizations to adopt the Uscom technology," Mr Phillips said.

Uscom fell one cent or five percent to 19 cents.

CONSEGNA

Consegna says it has lodged a new international patent application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty relating to its Breatheassist BO2LT device.
Consegna said that it also had applied for design registrations for the BO2LT device to further protect its visual appearance.
The company said that the combination of these submissions further protected the additional functional improvements centered on comfort and fit as well as the overall design of the device.
Consegna was up 0.2 cents or 66.7 percent to 0.5 cents with 4.6 million shares traded.

OSPREY MEDICAL

Osprey says that 25,000 shares of common stock equivalent to 50,000 Chess Depositary Interests (CDIs) are due for release from ASX escrow on February 7, 2013:
Osprey's most recent Appendix 3B notice said it had 100,864,456 CDIs on issue and Osprey company secretary Brendan Case told Biotech Daily the released shares were additional to that number.
Osprey fell one cent or 1.75 percent to 56 cents.