



# Biotech Daily

Wednesday November 7, 2012

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

## Biotech Daily's 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### Editorial

Biotech Daily is seven years old today. We have published some 1,750 editions running to more than 10,000 articles and somewhere between two million and five million words.

There have been about 80 corrections over the seven years, with at least 50 sub-editors dispatched to warmer or colder climes and several suitably admonished. There is nothing wrong with admitting to one's mistakes and that's why we have sub-editors.

There have been many changes to the biotechnology industry over the seven years and a detailed analysis will be in the last edition for the year on December 21.

But it is fair to say that we have seen the departure from the ASX of several important companies with interesting technologies, some acquired by larger companies and some running out of funds to continue their programs or acquire new ones.

Gropep was one of the first we saw depart the ASX, followed by Evogenix to Peptech which, as Arana, in turn went to Cephalon, Meditech into Alchemia and then out again as Audeo Oncology, Chemgenex to Cephalon, Peplin to Leo Pharma, Cytopia to YM Biosciences and Cellestis to Qiagen,

It has not all been plain sailing, with the collapse of Ventracor, Polartech, Dia-B Tech, Rockeby Biomed, Virax and Tyrian, along with the 10 companies named in Monday's edition, who went mining and never came back (BD: Nov 5, 2012).

Recent additions include Osprey, Reva, GI Dynamics and Bioniche with a few backdoor listing mergers including the ill-fated Hunter Immunology/Probiotec/Bioxyne adventure as well as the more promising CBio/Invion move.

The one clear message is that there is a need for more good companies, with strong responsible boards and serious Australian-developed technologies.

It is hard to believe that Australia's research institutes and universities don't have a wealth of commercializable technologies. The listed biotechnology sector should be alert to them.

There are several companies that have searched pro-actively for good technologies with Biodiem at the forefront, despite its low share price and funding issues. Other companies are also known to be hunting good technologies.

While last week's Ausbiotech conference appeared to be shorter in duration and lower on numbers than previous conferences, Biotech Daily does not believe this indicates any major downturn in the sector.

With the return of President Barack Obama in the US and a hoped-for recovery in Europe, the likelihood is that the global economy will improve and we should expect increased investment in our sector to cope with the needs of a globally ageing population. We need to be ready for it.

**David Langsam**  
**Editor**