



# Biotech Daily

Monday September 16, 2024

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

- \* **ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: AVITA UP 8%; IMMUTEP DOWN 11%**
- \* **IMMUTEP CLAIMS EFTI COMBINATION 33% OVERALL RESPONSE**
- \* **DIMERIX: UK RARE KIDNEY REGISTER JOINS DMX-200 FSGS TRIAL**
- \* **LUMOS APPOINTS THERMO FISHER US FEBRIDX DISTRIBUTOR**
- \* **RESPIRI, CERAS \$1.1m COVENANT HEALTH REMOTE SERVICES**
- \* **MEMPHASYS: FELIX HORSE INSEMINATION SALES IN 1 YEAR**
- \* **ACTINOGEN REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**
- \* **PERENNIAL TAKES 10% OF MEDADVISOR**
- \* **TENMILE, TATTARANG, 'TWIGGY' FORREST TAKE 12.4% OF LUMOS**
- \* **PERENNIAL REDUCES TO 11.8% OF LUMOS**
- \* **MARK RIDGWAY, UNICORE REDUCE TO 13% OF LBT**
- \* **PROTEOMICS APPOINTS DR JAMES WILLIAMS DIRECTOR**

## MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.27 percent on Monday September 16, 2024, with the ASX200 up 21.7 points to 8,121.6 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 18 fell and 10 traded unchanged. All three Big Caps fell.

Avita was the best, up 23 cents or 8.2 percent to \$3.03, with 867,766 shares traded. Percheron improved 7.8 percent; SDI and Syntara climbed six percent or more; Opthea, Paradigm, Starpharma and Universal Biosensors were up four percent or more; Compumedics, Medical Developments and Orthocell rose more than three percent; with 4D Medical up by 1.2 percent.

Immutep led the falls, down 4.5 cents or 11.25 percent to 35.5 cents, with 15.1 million shares traded. Telix lost 6.5 percent; Polynovo fell five percent; Clinuvel, Cyclopharm, Impedimed, Micro-X, Pro Medicus and Proteomics were down more than three percent; Curvebeam, Dimerix, Imugene, Mesoblast and Nova Eye shed two percent or more; Clarity and CSL were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, Genetic Signatures, Nanosonics, Neuren and Resmed down by less than one percent.

## [IMMUTEP](#)

Immutep says efiti in combination with pembrolizumab for head and neck cancer increased lymphocyte biomarker count and led to 6.9 percent complete response rate.

Last year, Immutep said it had enrolled the 171-patient, Tacti-003, phase IIb trial of efitilagimod alpha, or efiti, with the anti-programmed cell death-1 therapy pembrolizumab, marketed as Keytruda, for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (BD: Nov 9, 2023)

Earlier this year, the company said the trial showed efiti with Keytruda led to “overall response rates that exceed Keytruda monotherapy” with 58 of 118 evaluable patients in cohort A, with PD-L1 expression, having a 32.8 percent overall response when treated with the combination compared to a 26.7 percent overall response in the 60 patients treated with Keytruda alone (BD: Jun 27, 2024).

Today, Immutep said cohort A of efiti in combination with pembrolizumab had a complete response rate of 6.9 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for pembrolizumab alone.

Immutep said the median duration of response was 17.5 months for the 58-patients in the combination arm, compared to 17.1 months in the 60-pembrolizumab-alone patients.

The company said efiti in combination led to a “statistically significant increase” in absolute lymphocyte count, measured as an exploratory biomarker, indicating an effective induced immune response; and showed a “favorable safety profile with no new safety signals observed” with its 4.3 percent discontinuation rate similar to the 4.4 percent for pembrolizumab alone.

Immutep said it expected results for overall survival “the most relevant endpoint”, in 2025.

Immutep said the results were presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology Congress 2024, in Barcelona, Spain, September 13 to 17, 2024.

Immutep fell 4.5 cents or 11.25 percent to 35.5 cents with 15.1 million shares traded.

## [DIMERIX](#)

Dimerix it will recruit patients from the UK’s National Registry of Rare Kidney Diseases for its 286-patient, phase III trial of DMX200 for kidney disease.

In 2022, Dimerix said it had recruited the first of 286 patients in the phase III trial of DMX200 for focal segmental glomerulo-sclerosis (FSGS) (BD: May 31, 2022).

Today, the company said the UK National Registry of Rare Kidney Diseases was led by University College London’s Prof Danny Gale and the UK Kidney Association, and was “the largest rare kidney disease registry in the world ... designed to collate information across patients diagnosed with certain rare kidney diseases, including FSGS”.

Dimerix said the registry would help identify and recruit suitable UK focal segmental glomerulo-sclerosis patients for the trial.

The company said that recruitment was “on-track”, with blinded interim analysis for the first 144-patients expected about mid- 2025.

Dimerix said that the Thai Food and Drug Administration approved its investigational new drug application this week, and that it expected to initiate recruitment in the coming weeks.

Dimerix fell one cent or 2.4 percent to 40.5 cents with 4.4 million shares traded.

## [LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS](#)

Lumos says Fisher Healthcare will distribute its Febridx point-of-care finger prick blood test to differentiate bacterial from viral respiratory infections in the US.

Lumos did not disclose commercial terms of its deal with the Thermo Fisher Scientific-affiliated Fisher Healthcare.

Lumos fell 0.1 cents or 2.9 percent to 3.3 cents with 3.6 million shares traded.

## RESPIRI

Respiri says Boston's Ceras will provide remote patient services to Covenant Health for an expected \$US720,000 (\$A1,073,010) a year, at \$US80 (\$A119) per patient per month. Respiri said the contract would begin in October, and would include more than 750 patients, and it expected to increase the number of patients from the 2,200 hospital discharges a year and 18,515 Medicare-insured patients of the Knoxville Tennessee-based Covenant Health.

The company said it would pay Ceras \$US8 for every patient treated each month.

Respiri said it would integrate its technology with Covenant's Epic electronic medical records system to enable "streamlined patient on-boarding" with less disruption to workflow, expediting claims processing and payment for services rendered.

Respiri chief executive officer Marjan Mikel said "partnering with Ceras also allows us to continue to explore and develop our [artificial intelligence] and platform capabilities in healthcare delivery which is a future necessity with new and existing clients and a sweet spot for Ceras".

Respiri fell 0.1 cents or 3.3 percent to 2.9 cents.

## MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it expects to launch its Felix system for equine artificial insemination to horse breeders "within the next 12 months".

Earlier this month, Memphasys said it was preparing for a three-year horse fertility study using its Felix sperm separation system for in-vitro fertilization (BD: Sep 4, 2024).

Today, the company said a trial of its Felix system in frozen-thawed stallion spermatozoa provided "faster and higher-quality sperm isolation ... compared to other methods".

Memphasys was unchanged at 0.8 cents.

## ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement regarding a capital raising and share purchase plan".

Trading will resume on September 18, 2024 or on an earlier announcement.

Actinogen last traded at 3.5 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

## MEDADVISOR

Perennial says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Medadvisor from 48,187,368 shares (8.74%) to 57,326,354 shares (10.40%).

The Sydney-based Perennial said that between August 14 and September 12, 2024 it bought and sold shares, with the single largest purchase on August 14 of 1,855,409 shares for \$818,176 or 44.1 cents a share.

Medadvisor was unchanged at 40 cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

## LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS HOLDINGS

Tenmile and the Forrest family say they have increased their substantial holding in Lumos from 45,000,000 shares (9.35%) to 69,725,275 shares (12.93%).

Tenmile Ventures Pty Ltd, Tattarang Pty Ltd, Nicola and Dr Andrew Forrest said that on September 12, 2024 they bought 24,725,275 shares in a rights issue for \$939,560 or 3.8 cents a share.

### LUMOS DIAGNOSTICS HOLDINGS

Perennial says it has reduced its substantial holding in Lumos from 70,327,469 shares (14.61%) to 66,186,221 shares (11.76%).

The Sydney-based Perennial said that between April 18 and September 12, 2024 it bought and sold shares, with the single largest sale on May 9 of 28,719,316 shares for \$1,412,990 or 4.92 cents a share.

### LBT INNOVATIONS

Adelaide's Mark Ridgway and Unicore Investments say they have reduced their LBT substantial holding from 224,190,000 shares (14.43%) to 223,190,000 shares (12.96%). Mr Ridgway said that on August 7, 2024 Unicore "divested on market" 1,000,000 shares for \$24,000 or 2.4 cents a share, and that between July 10 and September 11, 2024 the percentage holding was "diluted through the successive issue of shares".

LBT was unchanged at 1.3 cents.

### PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics says it has appointed Dr James Williams as an independent, non-executive director, and deputy chair, effective from September 16, 2024.

Proteomics said Dr Williams had worked in biotechnology for 25 years, was the co-founder of venture capital firm Yuuwa Capital and conceived the technology for Iceptica Inc and co-discovered Dimerix's lead therapy, DMX200 for chronic kidney disease.

Dr Williams was formerly the executive chair of Dimerix.

The company said that Dr Williams was currently the chief executive officer of Health Translation Group Ltd and a director of the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science.

The company said Dr Williams held a Bachelor of Science from Scotland's University of Aberdeen, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Australia, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Melbourne.

Proteomics managing director Dr Richard Lipscombe said "James brings industry specific skills and a proven record of commercialization experience to strengthen our board at a pivotal stage of our company's development, and his wealth of industry-specific knowledge, especially in the chronic kidney disease space, will be invaluable".

Proteomics fell two cents or 3.2 percent to 60 cents.