Biotech Daily

Thursday February 6, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX UP, BIOTECH EVEN: CURVEBEAM UP 13%; PARADIGM DOWN 12%**

*** MICRO-X $6m PLACEMENT, RIGHTS OFFER**

*** MICRO-X, BILLION PRIMA $3.2m BAGGAGE X-RAY DEAL, $2.4m EQUITY**

*** ADALTA 'EAST-WEST' STRATEGY TO LICENCE 3 CAR-T PRODUCTS**

*** IMPEDIMED TAKES $24m SWK FUNDING FACILITY**

*** ACTINOGEN REVIEW 'CONFIRMS XANAMEM OPTIMUM DOSE'**

*** AROVELLA REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**

*** ALTERITY REQUESTS 'CAPITAL RAISING' TRADING HALT**

*** POINT72 DILUTED BELOW 5% OF ALTERITY**

*** VAXXAS APPOINTS 3 CLINICAL ADVISORS**

*** TONY FITZGERALD REPLACES INHALERX DIRECTOR JAMES BARRIE**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 1.23 percent on Thursday February 6, 2025, with the ASX200 up 103.8 points to 8,520.7 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 17 fell, five traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Curvebeam was the best for the second day in a row, up two cents or 13.3 percent to 17 cents, with 1.8 million shares traded. Alcidion climbed 10.8 percent; Cynata and Resonance rose more than eight percent; Actinogen was up 6.45 percent; Opthea and Starpharma were both up five percent; Avita, Emvision, Impedimed and Prescient rose two percent or more; 4D Medical, Amplia, Compumedics, Immutep and Neuren were up one percent or more; with Cochlear, CSL and Medical Developments up by less than one percent.

Paradigm led the falls, down 6.5 cents or 11.9 percent to 48 cents, with 3.7 million shares traded. Clarity fell 4.85 percent; Mesoblast, Nova Eye and SDI lost more than three percent; Aroa and Orthocell shed more than two percent; Dimerix, Genetic Signatures, Proteomics and Universal Biosensors were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Cyclopharm, EBR, Nanosonics, Polynovo, Pro Medicus, Resmed and Telix down by less than one percent.

MICRO-X

Micro-X says it will raise $6.0 million at seven cents a share in a non-underwritten $2.0 million placement and $4.0 million one-for-10 institutional and retail entitlement offer.

Micro-X said the offer price was a 13.9 percent discount to the 30-day volume weighted average price and it had “confirmations from several existing substantial shareholders that they intend to invest in the placement”, with all directors and key management intending to invest about $300,000, subject to shareholder approval.

Micro-X said the funds would be used for imaging activities, product support and manufacturing, capital expenditure, regulatory approval, launch and working capital.

The company said Morgans Corporate and Hawkesbury Partners were joint lead managers, the retail rights offer had a record date of February 10, would open on February 13 and close on February 28, 2025.

Micro-X was in a suspension and last traded at 7.8 cents.

MICRO-X

Micro-X says it has a $3.2 million baggage scanner partnership and has raised $2.4 million in a placement at nine cents a share with Johor, Malaysia’s Billion Prima.

Micro-X said the placement price of nine cents was a 15 percent premium to the last traded price of 7.8 cents a share, and Billion Prima would hold 4.4 percent of Micro-X.

The company said Billion Prima developed and manufactured baggage, parcel and cargo scanning products for borders, ports, airports, prisons and critical infrastructure.

Micro-X said it would develop a carbon nanotube, x-ray-based, baggage and parcel scanner with Billion Prima, for Billion Prima to sell in South-East Asia.

The company said the planned baggage and parcel scanner would use its Nex technology, x-ray tubes and generators.

Micro-X said Billion Prima would pay $1.0 million on execution of the development agreement, and an additional $2.2 million on completion of four milestones.

The company said it hoped to complete the scanners within 12 months.

Micro-X said that Billion Prima would have a 20-year exclusive right to manufacture and sell the unit in South-East Asia, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

The company said it retained the right to sell or licence the unit in other territories and had a master supply agreement for the ongoing supply of its x-ray tubes, generators and other products to Billion Prima.

Micro-X said the agreement would be an “ongoing source of revenues … in-line with its strategy to be a technology developer and supplier of imaging chains”.

Micro-X chief executive officer Kingsley Hall said that “over the next 12 months, we will commercialize a new scanning unit [with Billion Prima] for baggage and parcel applications, leveraging our proprietary technology,” Mr Hall said.

“When launched next year, this will be the first commercial application of our security technology and a key step to monetizing our security assets,” Mr Hall said.

“We expect this will also build market acceptance of the benefits of Nex technology across a range of scanning applications and markets,” Mr Hall said.

“The nature of the partnership will significantly strengthen our balance sheet at a critical juncture for us, whilst providing a source of future ongoing revenue from our proprietary technology,” Mr Hall said. “In parallel, we continue to work closely with the [US Department of Homeland Security] under our $29 million of current contracts to deliver both baggage scanner and checkpoints solutions.”

ADALTA

Adalta says it has binding term sheets to in-licence three clinical stage chimeric antigen receptor (Car)-T cell products as part of its 'East to West' cell therapy strategy.

Last year, Adalta said that with the Melbourne-based, Prof Andrew Wilks-run Synthesis Bioventures it would initiate a joint-venture, called Adcella, to provide Asian cellular immuno-therapy products in "Western regulated markets" (BD: Apr 8, 2024).

At that time, the company said it would licence or acquire the commercial rights for immuno-therapies owned by Asian companies in territories outside Asia and conduct "initial clinical trials for Western-regulated markets in Australia".

Adalta said the joint venture would use its ability to conduct trials at a US Food and Drug Administration standard for Asian companies that lacked the resources, networks and know-how to translate innovation into Western-regulated markets.

Today, the company said it had two further non-binding term sheets to in-licence Car-T products, bringing the total products in advanced due diligence to three.

Adalta managing director Dr Tim Oldham told Biotech Daily the trials in Australia would be "geared towards meeting US regulatory requirements and to US standards".

Dr Oldham told Biotech Daily that the contract research organizations that would be chosen for the development work would be "FDA experienced".

The company said its lead fibrosis disease drug candidate AD-214 would "continue to be advanced into phase II clinical trials through external partnerships and financing".

Dr Oldham said Adalta would cease in-house discovery research and development and focus on in-licencing clinic-ready assets from China and/or Asia, and the partnership model could "could be a straight out licencing or it could be a co-investment in a spin-out company where Adalta provides the asset, and third parties provide the capital".

Adalta said ceasing internal research and development would save up to $850,000 a year that would be directed towards its 'East to West' cell therapy strategy from April 2025.

Dr Oldham said the strategy already provided the company with "access to 'Eastern' advances in cellular immuno-therapies and will, in turn, help drug candidates flowing from [biotechnology] innovation in that region reach 'Western' regulated markets".

"We believe Adalta can make a series of modest investments, leveraged with third party capital and focused on single clinical trials per asset, that could see value realization in relatively short time periods," Dr Oldham said. "We'll continue to seek transactions to advance AD-214 however we will cease internal [research and development]."

Adalta fell 0.1 cents or 5.9 percent to 1.6 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

IMPEDIMED

Impedimed says it has a $US15 million ($A23.9 million) capital facility with the Dallas, Texas-based SWK Funding LLC for the commercialization of its Sozo platform.

Impedimed said $US10 million was available immediately, with the remaining $US5 million available to be drawn-down subject to prescribed 2024-'25 sales targets.

The company said the facility would mature in 60 months, with a two-year interest only period, increasing to 36 months on meeting the tranche two sales targets; with the interest rate the overnight financing rate, currently 4.3 percent with a 4.25 percent floor, and a 9.25 percent margin, or a minimum of 13.75 percent a year.

The company said it would issue 12,491,870 warrants today following the draw-down of the first tranche and 6,245,935 warrants if it draws down the second tranche, exercisable at 5.139 cents, the 10-day volume-weighted average price, within seven years.

Impedimed said Armentum Partners was exclusive financial advisor to the transaction.

Impedimed was up 0.1 cents or two percent to 5.1 cents with 3.2 million shares traded.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says a review has confirmed the utility of the 10mg daily oral dose of Xanamem, or emestedastat, to be used in its phase IIb/III clinical trials (BD: Dec 9, 2024).
Actinogen said earlier pharmaco-kinetic modelling suggested that 20mg daily would be the optimum dose but that further positron emission tomography scanning suggested that 10mg or even 5mg doses may be sufficient to inhibit the enzyme target.
Actinogen said "with once-daily doses of 5mg to 20mg of Xanamem in cognitively normal, older volunteers, a consistent pattern of pro-cognitive benefit, without dose-response, was seen as improvement in attention and working memory but not episodic memory".
The company said that the study, titled 'Clinical Pharmacology and Approach to Dose Selection of Emestedastat, a Novel Tissue Cortisol Synthesis Inhibitor for the Treatment of Central Nervous System Disease' was co-authored by its chief medical officer Dr Dana Hilt, published in the journal Clinical Pharmacology in Drug Development and available at https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11788964/.
Dr Hilt said the drug development steps "taken by Actinogen to confirm the target dose range of [less than or equal to] 10mg daily demonstrate the value of careful and stepwise clinical pharmacology testing and use of measures of direct brain effects".
"Paired with the positive effects on depressive symptoms seen in the 'Xanacidd' phase IIa trial with a 10mg dose, we have full confidence in the design and 10mg dose being used in our current 'Xanamia' phase IIb/III Alzheimer's trial," Dr Hilt said.
Last year, Actinogen said its 165-patient, phase IIa trial of Xanamem for depression missed its primary endpoints, but met secondary endpoints (BD: Aug 12, 2024).
Actinogen was up 0.2 cents or 6.45 percent to 3.3 cents with 34.4 million shares traded.

AROVELLA THERAPEUTICS

Arovella has requested a trading halt "as the company expects to make a material announcement to the market in connection with the capital raising placement".
Trading will resume on February 10, 2025, or on an earlier announcement.
Arovella last traded at 19.5 cents.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

Alterity has requested a trading halt "pending an announcement in relation to a capital raising".
Trading will resume on February 10, 2025, or on an earlier announcement.
Alterity last traded at 1.2 cents.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

New York's Point72 Associates LLC says its 268,982,474 share-holding in Alterity has been diluted from 5.05 percent to 4.90 percent following a private placement.
On Monday, Alterity said it had raised $2.13 million in the US through an at-the-market facility to fund the clinical and regulatory development of ATH434 for Parkinson's disease (BD: Feb 3, 2025).
Today, Alterity said the notice from Point72 Associates "was provided to the company pursuant to the Australian Takeovers Panel Guidance Note 20 – Equity Derivatives".

VAXXAS PTY LTD

Vaxxas says it has appointed Dr Emilio Emini, Dr Nathalie Garcon and Prof Paul Young as consultants to provide clinical, regulatory and manufacturing advice.

Vaxxas said the advisors were in the US, Europe and Australia and extended its expertise as it expanded and progressed its product pipeline, including advancing the company's Covid-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus high-density microarray patch needle-free vaccines into later-stage clinical trials.

The company said Dr Emini was former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute and had been head of vaccine research at Pfizer and executive director of anti-viral research at Merck.

Vaxxas said Dr Garcon was former head of the Global Adjuvant Centre for Vaccine Development at Glaxosmithkline Biologicals, and had manufactured, developed and registered the Pandemrix pandemic influenza vaccine and Shingrix shingles vaccine.

The company said Prof Young was a professor of virology at Brisbane's University of Queensland and had led an Australian consortium that developed a Covid-19 vaccine in early 2020.

Vaxxas chief executive officer David Hoey said expanding the company's "international product development expertise is a strategic priority for Vaxxas as we advance our technology towards later-stage clinical trials, large-scale manufacturing, and eventual commercialization".

"Our needle-free technology has the potential to transform the way life-saving vaccines are delivered globally, so it is critical to have this international representation and input," Mr Hoey said.

Vaxxas is a private company.

INHALERX

Inhalerx says it has appointed Resonance founder Tony Fitzgerald as a director, replacing interim director James Barrie, effective from today.

Inhalerx said Mr Barrie continued as its company secretary.

The company said Mr Fitzgerald was chief executive officer of Avicena Systems, the founder of Resonance Health and Selvax Pty Ltd, co-founder of the Alerte group of artificial intelligence technology companies which licenced its technology to Echo IQ and had served as director of public companies for more than 25 years.

The company said Mr Fitzgerald held a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Public Administration from Los Angeles' California State University.

Inhalerx was untraded at 2.2 cents.