



Biotech Daily

Thursday March 6, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX DOWN, BIOTECH EVEN: EBR UP 12.5%; MESOBLAST DOWN 8%**
- * **FISHER & PAYKEL TO BUILD \$226m AUCKLAND FACTORY**
- * **DR EMMA BALL TO REPLACE BIO-MELBOURNE CHAIR DAVID HERD**
- * **ANATARA REQUESTS 'GARP-IBS TRIAL UPDATE' TRADING HALT**
- * **VANGUARD BELOW 5% OF NEUREN**
- * **GREGORY PETERS, ASSOCIATES BELOW 5% OF PERCHERON**
- * **PHARMA NUTRIA TAKES 5.2% OF FIREBRICK**
- * **FIREBRICK CHAIR DR PETER MOLLOY INCREASES, DILUTED TO 14.4%**
- * **FIREBRICK COO STEPHEN GOODALL INCREASES, DILUTED TO 14%**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was down 0.57 percent on Thursday March 6, 2025, with the ASX200 down 46.4 points to 8,094.7 points.

Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 17 fell and seven traded unchanged. The four Big Caps were mixed.

EBR was the best, up 19 cents or 12.5 percent to \$1.71, with 749,452 shares traded. Orthocell climbed 7.2 percent; Medical Developments was up 6.45 percent; Atomo, Cyclopharm and Immutep were up five percent or more; Cochlear, Curvebeam and Nova Eye improved more than four percent; Compumedics, Resonance and Syntara rose two percent or more; Aroa, Neuren, Paradigm, Pro Medicus and Telix were up one percent or more; with Emvision up by 0.3 percent.

Mesoblast led the falls, down 20 cents or 8.3 percent to \$2.20, with 12.5 million shares traded. Clinuvel lost 7.5 percent; Proteomics was down 5.9 percent; Avita, Opthea and Starpharma fell more than four percent; Actinogen, Medadvisor, Micro-X and Resmed were down more than three percent; 4D Medical, Clarity, Imugene and Nanosonics shed more than two percent; Alcidion, Amplia, Dimerix and Polynovo were down more than one percent; with CSL down by 0.9 percent.

[FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE](#)

Fisher & Paykel says it will construct a fifth building at its East Tāmaki campus in Auckland, New Zealand for about \$NZ250 million (\$A226 million).

Fisher & Paykel said it had signed a construction contract with Auckland's Dominion Constructors Ltd for the building, which would have a total floor area of 28,000 square metres (about 6.9 acres or 301,390 square feet) and be used for "research and development, manufacturing and distribution" of its products for acute and chronic respiratory care, surgery and obstructive sleep apnoea.

Earlier this month, the company said it expected its costs would "likely increase" due to the US 25 percent tariff imposed on Mexico, where it manufactured about 45 percent of its products (BD: Feb 3, 2025).

At that time, Fisher & Paykel said 43 percent of its revenue in the six months to September 30, 2024 was from US sales of its devices and software and that about 60 percent of US volumes were supplied from its factories in Mexico.

Today, the company said its 42-hectare East Tāmaki site currently had more than 3,900 employees, with the additional building to "accommodate the company's expected growth in Auckland over the next five years".

Fisher & Paykel said earthworks had "been largely completed and construction will start later this month, with the facility expected to be operational in 2027".

The company said it had submitted a private plan change application for its separate New Zealand site at Karaka, Auckland "to accommodate growth over the long term".

In 2023, Fisher & Paykel said it had acquired land in Karaka for a second New Zealand campus, opened a third building in Tijuana, Mexico and began fitting-out a new manufacturing facility in China (BD: Aug 29, 2023).

Today, Fisher & Paykel chief operating officer Andy Niccol said the project was "a purposeful investment in infrastructure to ensure we have the necessary capacity and resources in New Zealand to progress our pipeline of innovative products and therapies".

Fisher & Paykel fell 22 cents or 0.7 percent to \$31.03 with 478,283 shares traded.

[BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK](#)

The Bio-Melbourne Network says director Dr Emma Ball will replace chair David Herd following his retirement, effective from April 29, 2025.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said Dr Ball had more than 20 years of experience in strategy and operations in therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics and life sciences, including as head of ecosystem development at Illumina.

The Network said Mr Herd was appointed to the board in 2018, deputy chair in 2019 and had been its chair since 2021, and was "instrumental in shaping the strategic direction of Bio-Melbourne Network, guiding the organization through significant periods of growth and transformation".

According to her LinkedIn profile, Dr Ball held a Bachelor of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Melbourne as well as a Master of Business Administration from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

[ANATARA LIFESCIENCES](#)

Anatara has requested a trading halt pending an announcement regarding "an update on the phase II Garp-IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) trial stage two".

Trading will resume on March 10, 2025, or on an earlier announcement.

Anatara last traded at 3.9 cents.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based Vanguard Group says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Neuren and retains 4.988 percent of the company.

The Vanguard Group said that between February 20 and 28, 2025 it bought shares for between \$13.01 a share and \$14.20 a share and sold shares on February 28, 2025 for \$13.23 a share.

Neuren was up 16 cents or 1.3 percent to \$12.59 with 604,408 shares traded.

PERCHERON THERAPEUTICS

The Melbourne-based Gregory Peters and his associates including Dr David Kenley and Robert Moses say they have ceased their substantial shareholding in Percheron.

In a ceasing substantial shareholder notice, Gregory Peters said that he and his associates had ceased to be associated by “virtue of the resolutions proposed by them under section 249D of the Corporations Act having been considered at a general meeting of shareholders on March 4, 2025”.

Mr Peters said his associates included Dale Reed, the then Antisense former chair Mr Moses, Dr and Noelle Kenley, Statemoor Pty Ltd, Xcelerate Nominees and XEC Partners Pty Ltd

Earlier this year, Percheron said Mr Peters and his associates had called a meeting of shareholders to replace chair Dr Charmaine Gittleston and managing-director Dr James Garner with himself and Gennadi Koutchin (BD: Jan 19, 2025).

On Tuesday, the company said its extraordinary general meeting voted up-to 56.55 percent against the removal of Dr Gittleston and Dr Garner (BD: Mar 4, 2025).

At that time, Percheron said the appointments of Mr Peters and Mr Koutchin were opposed by 80.91 percent and 81.41 percent of the meeting, respectively.

Percheron was unchanged at 1.1 cents.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

The Manila, Philippines-based Pharma Nutria NA Inc says it has become a substantial shareholder in Firebrick with 11,578,947 shares, or 5.2 percent.

Pharma Nutria said that it bought the shares in a private placement on March 5, 2025 for \$1,100,000, or 9.5 cents a share.

On Tuesday, Firebrick said Pharma Nutria bought 11,578,947 shares, or 5.2 percent, for \$1.1 million, or 9.5 cents a share (BD: Mar 4, 2025).

At that time, the company said Pharma Nutria was part of the SV More Group and had acquired the shares at a 13 percent premium to the 15-day volume weighted average price at February 27, 2025.

Firebrick was up 0.3 cents or 3.3 percent to 9.5 cents.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick executive chair Dr Peter Molloy says he has increased and been diluted in the company from 30,856,472 shares (15.80%) to 31,811,017 shares (14.35%).

The Ballarat, Victoria-based Mr Molloy said with Aquarico Pty Ltd and Christine Molloy he bought 500,000 shares on June 27, 2024 for \$28,438, or 5.7 cents a share, on October 10, 2024 acquired 454,545 shares in a share plan for \$25,000, or 5.5 cents a share and on March 5, 2025 was diluted due to a private placement (see above).

[FIREBRICK PHARMA](#)

Firebrick chief operating officer Stephen Goodall says he has increased his holding and been diluted from 30,856,472 shares (15.80%) to 31,038,290 shares (14.00%).

The Central Coast, New South Wales-based Mr Goodall said that on October 10, 2024 he bought 181,818 shares in a share plan for \$10,000, or 5.5 cents a share and was diluted due to a private placement on March 5, 2025 (see above).