

euroPLX



Business Developer

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## Summer Saw Many BD Execs Change Positions + Many Company Name Changes

\* Name change: **BioCanCell Ltd.**, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapies to treat cancer, changed its name to **Anchiano Therapeutics**. 27 Aug 2018 ([www.anchiano.com](http://www.anchiano.com))

\* Name change: **Assertio Therapeutics, Inc.**, a leading specialty pharmaceutical company committed to advancing patient care, has announced that its corporate name change from "**Depomed, Inc.**" to "**Assertio Therapeutics, Inc.**" became effective August 14, 2018. 15 Aug 2018 ([www.assertiotx.com](http://www.assertiotx.com))

\* Acquisition: **Astellas Pharma Inc.** has acquired **Quethera Limited**, a gene therapy company headquartered in the United Kingdom, that is focused on developing novel treatments for ocular disorders, such as glaucoma. Through this transaction, Astellas has acquired Quethera's ophthalmic gene therapy program, which uses a recombinant adeno-associated viral vector system (rAAV) to introduce therapeutic genes into target retinal cells for the treatment of glaucoma. The lead pre-clinical candidate of the program has demonstrated significantly improved survival of retinal ganglion cells in pre-clinical models. 10 Aug 2018 ([www.astellas.com/en/index.html](http://www.astellas.com/en/index.html))

\* Acquisition: **Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH** exercised an option to acquire the Austrian oncolytic virus company **ViraTherapeutics GmbH**. Boehringer gained the option under a 2016 deal to jointly develop ViraTherapeutics' oncolytic virus therapy platform and its lead candidate, VSV-GP. ViraTherapeutics is developing a chimeric oncolytic virus that has so far been shown to be non-immunogenic, an issue that has limited use of the modality as a cancer therapeutic. VSV-GP pairs a potent oncolytic virus - vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) - with a different viral envelope that eliminated VSV's immunogenicity and toxicity. The total value of the deal is about €210 million (\$243 million), according to Boehringer. 13 Sep 2018 ([www.boehringer-ingelheim.com](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com))

\* Acquisition: **Cambrex Corporation**, a manufacturer of small molecule innovator and generic Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), has completed the acquisition of **Halo Pharma** (Halo), a leading dosage form Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) located in Whippany, New Jersey and Mirabel, Québec, Canada, for approximately \$425 million. 12 Sep 2018 ([www.cambrex.com](http://www.cambrex.com))

\* Acquisition: **Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A.** has acquired 100% of the stock capital of **NHCO Nutrition SAS**, a French company in the business of food supplements. The R&D work at NHCO focuses on new products based on aminoacids. 29 Aug 2018 ([www.chiesi-group.com](http://www.chiesi-group.com))

\* Licensing: **CURE Pharmaceutical**, a drug delivery and development company, entered into a multi-year licensing agreement for the first time with a leading international cannabis company. Under the terms of the agreement, the cannabis company will have an exclusive license to CURE's patented, multi-layer oral thin film, CUREfilm™ technology for use with cannabis extracts and biosynthetic cannabinoids in markets around the world. 5 Sep 2018 ([www.curepharmaceutical.com](http://www.curepharmaceutical.com))

\* Acquisition: **Enzo Biochem, Inc.**, an integrated diagnostic and therapeutics company, has entered into an agreement to purchase a commercial facility for \$6.0 million with nearly 36,000 square feet in Farmingdale, NY. 27 Aug 2018 ([enzo.com/](http://enzo.com/))

\* Acquisition: **LEO Pharma A/S** and **Bayer** announced the completion of the relevant closing conditions to allow the transfer of

Bayer's prescription dermatology business to LEO Pharma in the United States. Closing in all other countries is expected during the second half of 2019, subject to the fulfillment of customary closing conditions. LEO Pharma and Bayer entered into an agreement for the acquisition of Bayer's global portfolio of prescription dermatology products as announced on July 31, 2018. This includes Finacea® (azelaic acid) Foam for the topical treatment of mild to moderate rosacea, a range of topical steroids and other products for the treatment of acne and fungal skin infections. 4 Sep 2018 ([www.leo-pharma.com](http://www.leo-pharma.com))

\* Acquisition: **Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.** of Japan has completed the acquisition of **Visterra** for approximately USD 430 million in an all-cash transaction. The acquisition was completed on August 31, 2018. Visterra will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Otsuka America, Inc., which is a U.S. holding company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. of Japan. 4 Sep 2018 ([www.otsuka.co.jp](http://www.otsuka.co.jp))

\* Acquisition: **PCI Pharma Services** completed the acquisition of San Diego-based **Sherpa Clinical Packaging**, a provider of clinical trial supply service, which expands

PCI's U.S. operations to the U.S. West Coast. 10 Sep 2018 (/pciservices.com)

\* Distribution: **Photocure ASA** signed an exclusive distribution agreement with **Combat Medical** for the Nordic area for a patented medical device for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer and has a strong strategic and synergistic fit with current business. 27 Aug 2018 (www.photocure.com)

\* Acquisition: **PTC Therapeutics, Inc.** has successfully completed the acquisition of **Agilis Biotherapeutics, Inc.**, a private biotechnology company focused on the advancement of innovative gene therapy programs for rare genetic disorders that affect the central nervous system. 23 Aug 2018 (www.ptcbio.com)

\* Acquisition: **Scythian Biosciences Corp.** has completed its acquisition of **Marigold Acquisitions Inc.**, a privately-held British Columbia incorporated company. As a result of the acquisition, Scythian now indirectly holds a 49% stake in Marigold Projects Jamaica Limited, a medical cannabis company that holds a tier 3 Cultivator's license in Jamaica to produce cannabis for medicinal purposes. 13 Sep 2018 (scythianbio.com)

\* Name change: **Scythian Biosciences Corp.** intends to change its name to **SOL Investments Corp.**, subject to shareholder approval. 13 Sep 2018 (scythianbio.com)

\* Acquisition: **Servier** has finalized the previously announced acquisition of **Shire's** oncology branch after obtaining regulatory clearance. The 2.4 billion dollar transaction will enable Servier to establish a direct commercial presence in the United States and strengthen its oncology drug portfolio in the countries in which the Group is already present. It includes two marketed products, ONCASPAR® and ONIVYDE®, in

addition to two collaborations currently being developed in the immuno-oncology field. 31 Aug 2018 (www.servier.com)

\* Name change: **China YCT International Group, Inc.** changed its name to **Spring Pharmaceutical Group, Inc.** The new name became effective August 31, 2018. 31 Aug 2018 (zgyct.yongchuntang.com)

\* Acquisition: **Telix Pharmaceuticals Limited** completed the acquisition of **Atlab Pharma SAS** for US\$ 10m. 11 Sep 2018 (www.telixpharma.com)

\* Name change: **Synvirobio**, a leading company in cell-free natural product discovery, change its name to **Tierra Biosciences**. The name Tierra reflects the company's strategic focus of exploring naturally-motivated molecules from the world's soils and oceans. 11 Sep 2018 (tierrabiosciences.com)

\* Acquisition: **United Therapeutics Corporation** has closed the merger of **SteadyMed Ltd.** with a subsidiary of United Therapeutics. Pursuant to the merger, United Therapeutics acquired all of the outstanding ordinary shares of SteadyMed. 30 Aug 2018 (www.unither.com)

\* Acquisition and name change: **Xynomic Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** is a US emerging biopharmaceutical company founded by US-China industry veterans and successful entrepreneurs, and **Bison Capital Acquisition Corp.** have signed a definitive merger agreement. Upon completion of the merger, Xynomic will become a wholly-owned subsidiary and the operating business of BCAC, and BCAC will change its name to **Xynomic Pharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc.** (xynomicpharma.com)

## BD People on the Move

\* Accord Healthcare Ltd.: **Nakul Joshi**, who has been Assistant

Manager for In-licensing and Business Development, left the company in order to pursue a new career opportunity. (Pers Comm 17 Aug 2018)

\* Alfred Gera & Sons Ltd: **Reuben Demanuele**, who has been Brand Manager Marketing, left the company. (Corp Comm 9 Aug 2018)

\* Alvogen: **Anil Okay**, who was until most recently Head of Global Licensing at Helm AG, has been appointed as Vice President of Business Development. (Pers Comm 12 Sep 2018)

\* Aspen Pharmacare: **James Stocken**, who has been New Business Development Manager, left the company. (Pers Comm 9 Aug 2018)

\* Caligor Coghlan: **Kerry Myers**, who spent seven years at Quest Diagnostics, has been hired as Vice President of Business Development, Clinical Trial Services. (Press Release 6 Sep 2018)

\* Concept Life Sciences: **Sarah Harris**, with 10 years' business development experience in the biotechnology industry, has been appointed as Business Development Director for the East Coast, USA. (Press Release 13 Aug 2018)

\* Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.: **Vaibhav Sharma**, who has been Business Development Manager - Europe for Glenmark Pharmaceuticals S.r.o., left the company. (Pers Comm 9 Aug 2018)

\* Libbs Farmaceutica Ltda.: **Giuliano Barissa**, who has been Business Development Manager, left in order to pursue a different opportunity in the pharmaceutical industry. (Pers Comm 12 Sep 2018)

\* NantHealth, Inc.: **Nikko Khazana**, who held senior executive management positions in strategy,

sales, marketing, and operations at IQVIA, Integra Connect, CompanionDx Reference Lab, Cardinal Health Specialty, AmerisourceBergen Specialty, and Tyco International. has been appointed as Senior Vice President for Strategy and Business Development. (Press Release 7 Sep 2018)

\* RauCon GmbH & Co. KG: **Stefan Hilscher**, until most recently company advisor at a German bank has been appointed as Business Development Event and Office Manager effective 1 September 2018. (Corp Comm 3 Sep 2018)

\* Rockwell Medical: **Jim McCarthy**, who previously served as a Business Development Consultant for Rockwell Medical has been appointed Senior Vice President, Corporate and Business Development. (Press Release 4 Sep 2018)

\* UroGen Pharma: **Jones "Woody" Bryan**, Ph.D., who previously served as SVP of Business Development at Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has been appointed as Senior Vice President of Business Development (Press Release 11 Sep 2018)

\* VBI Vaccines Inc.: **Christopher McNulty**, who served as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, Business Development and Investor Relations, of Invivo Therapeutics has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer and Head of Business Development (Press Release 15 Aug 2018)

\* Verrica Pharmaceuticals Inc.: **Neetu Dhaliwal** has been hired as Vice President of Business Development. (Press Release 15 Aug 2018)

\* WellNet Healthcare: **Joe Clifton**, **James Darnell**, **Adam Khan**, **Eric Meyerhoff** and **Daniel Wells** has been hired as new, full-time business development executives. (Press Release 13 Aug 2018).