



Biotech Daily

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Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** BIOPHARMICA, LAING SCREENING FOR FLOPPY BABY SYNDROME CURE**

BIOPHARMICA

Biopharmica and the Laing Neuromuscular Diseases Group are collaborating to screen compounds to increase heart actin in skeletal muscles to treat 'floppy baby syndrome'. Biopharmica said that "in a world first" its wholly owned subsidiary Molecular Discovery Systems and the Laing Group "cured mice" of a muscle disease that causes floppy baby syndrome, a congenital myopathy disorder that causes babies to be born without the ability to properly use their muscles.

The research has been published online in the Journal of Cell Biology and is available at <http://jcb.rupress.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.1855iti2v1>.

The lead author Dr Kristen Nowak said the data was a proof of principle and the collaboration with Molecular Discovery allowed the screening of more than 1,000 already approved medications.

The collaboration was looking for a compound that increases heart actin in skeletal muscles.

The genetic disease renders most of the affected children severely paralyzed and takes the lives of many of these children before the age of one year. It is presently incurable. Both Molecular Discovery and the Laing Neuromuscular Diseases Group are located in the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research and have been collaborating through a French Muscular Dystrophy Association grant since 2008.

Biopharmica said Molecular Discovery had core expertise in high content and high throughput imaging and analysis.

The company said its Incell Analyzer 1000 was a high-content screening platform designed for the rapid throughput and analysis of cell culture screens in multiple-well formats and was similar to those used for large-scale drug screens.

Biopharmica said it was "ideally suited" to screen of off-label drug effects that up-regulate cardiac actin in the Flexor Digitorum Brevis culture system that the Laing Group developed.

Biopharmica was unchanged at 3.5 cents.