Biotech Daily

Tuesday July 22, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX, BIOTECH UP: IMPEDIMED, MICRO-X UP 12%; IMUGENE DOWN 12%**

*** GENETIC SIGNATURES RECEIPTS UP 84% TO $18m**

*** MICROBA RECEIPTS UP 44% TO $17m**

*** BTC $500k ADELAIDE HOSPITAL ECMO ORDER**

*** WEHI, DOHERTY: 'HIV DRUGS SUPPRESS HTLV-1 VIRUS, IN MICE'**

*** REDHILL 'POSITIVE' FDA RHB-204 CROHN'S DISEASE FEEDBACK**

*** GENETIC SIGNATURES, TECAN, REPADO AUTOMATE TESTING**

*** DORSAVI RRAM 'SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL GAINS' FOR SENSORS**

*** MEDADVISOR $2.1m MANAGEMENT BENEFITS, 2.2m M-D OPTIONS EGM**

*** REGAL DILUTED TO 23% OF ADHERIUM**

*** FIL (FIDELITY) DILUTED BELOW 5% OF ADHERIUM**

*** ADVANCE BELOW 5% OF OSTEOPORE**

*** RADIOPHARM APPOINTS DR OLIVER SARTOR ADVISER**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.1 percent on Tuesday July 22, 2025, with the ASX200 up 9.0 points to 8,677.2 points. Twenty-two of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 13 fell, four traded unchanged and one was untraded. All four Big Caps were up.

Impedimed was the best, up 0.6 cents or 11.8 percent to 5.7 cents, with 4.7 million shares traded; followed by Micro-X, up 11.7 percent to 6.7 cents, with 836,109 shares traded. Botanix climbed 9.7 percent; Clarity and Nova Eye were up more than seven percent; Orthocell improved 6.5 percent; Curvebeam and Paradigm were up five percent or more; Actinogen, Alcidion and Clinuvel rose four percent or more; CSL and Neuren climbed more than three percent; Avita, Prescient and Pro Medicus were up more than two percent; Compumedics, EBR, Resmed and Syntara improved more than one percent; with Cochlear, Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Nanosonics, Polynovo and Telix up by less than one percent.

Imugene led the falls, down 4.5 cents or 12.3 percent to 32 cents, with 6.2 million shares traded. Cynata lost 8.1 percent; Atomo was down five percent; Aroa, Genetic Signatures and Starpharma fell more than four percent; 4D Medical, Medadvisor and Medical Developments shed more than three percent; Mesoblast and SDI were down more than one percent; with Emvision and Proteomics both down by 0.6 percent.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2025 were up 83.6 percent to $18,168,000, compared to the prior corresponding period.
Last year, Genetic Signatures said customer receipts for the year to June 30, 2024 fell 48.2 percent to $9,895,000 due to withdrawal of its main respiratory diagnostic from Australia for a “large part” of the year (BD: Jul 31, 2024).
Today, the company said unaudited sales from its Easyscreen gastro-intestinal and respiratory infection diagnostics for the three months to June 30, 2025 were up 52 percent “reflecting higher testing rates typically experienced during the Australian winter respiratory season”.
Genetic Signatures said it had conducted a review in the three-month period and “selective redundancies were implemented, alongside targeted investments in areas requiring specialized expertise to support key priorities in the years ahead”.
The company said it had a cash burn of $5,952,000 for the three months, with cash and equivalents of $30,873,000 at June 30, 2025 compared to $36,252,000 at June 30, 2024.
Genetic Signatures fell two cents or 4.8 percent to 40 cents.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says receipts from customers for the year to June 30, 2025 were up 43.8 percent to $17,710,000, compared to the previous corresponding period.
Microba said receipts from sales of its Metaxplore and Metapanel gastro-intestinal disorder test kits, nutritional supplements and Invivo-branded products for the three months to June 30, 2025 were down 14.2 percent to $3,996,000, compared to the prior corresponding period.
The company said that “supplement sales dipped slightly for the quarter, reflecting our transition to more focus on our higher margin Invivo branded products where we achieved strong growth with our top selling … pre-biotic supplement”.
Microba said it had a cash burn of $5,558,000 for the three months, with cash and cash equivalents of $11,742,000 at June 30, 2025 compared to $20,890,000 at June 30, 2024, with 2.1 quarters of cash.
Microba was up 0.1 cents or 1.05 percent to 9.6 cents.

BTC HEALTH

BTC says it has a $500,000 order from Adelaide’s Women’s and Children’s Hospital for its extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) life-support machine.
BTC said the purchase order included the ECMO equipment and the first year of single-use consumables.
The company said it expected to supply about $100,000 a year in consumables and that the Women's and Children's Hospital would “expand its ECMO services to include in-patients in the very near term”.
BTC executive chair Dr Richard Treagus said the order was “an important step towards expanding BTC Health's presence in the ECMO market”.
“The establishment of a second ECMO centre reflects the growing confidence in our technology and highlights our commitment to supporting life-saving retrieval services across Australia,” Dr Treagus said.
“We are creating a strong platform for expansion into additional Australian hospitals,” Dr Treagus said.
BTC was unchanged at 6.4 cents.

THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
PETER DOHERTY INSTITUTE FOR INFECTION AND IMMUNITY

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute says with the Doherty Institute it has found existing HIV drugs could suppress the transmission of HTLV-1 virus, in mice.

The Institute said human T-cell leukaemia virus type 1 (HTLV-1) infected T-cells and had no preventative treatments and no cure, with a small proportion of people infected for a long duration developing T-cell leukemia and spinal cord inflammation.

WEHI said its study with the Doherty Institute found "a new drug target that could lead to the elimination of HTLV-1 positive cells from those with an established infection and prevent disease progression".

WEHI said the study, titled "Combination antiretroviral therapy and MCL-1 inhibition mitigate HTLV-1 infection in vivo", was published in the journal Cell, with the full article available at: https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(25)00689-0.

The Institute said its researchers had "isolated the virus and developed a world-first humanized mouse model for HTLV-1 that enabled them to study how the virus behaves in a living organism with a human-like immune system".

WEHI said mice were transplanted with human immune cells that were susceptible to HTLV-1 infections, including Australia's genetically novel HTLV-1 strain, and were treated with the HIV antivirals tenofovir (marketed by Gilead Sciences as Viread) and dolutegravir (marketed by Glaxosmithkline subsidiary Viiv Healthcare as Tivicay).

The Institute said the study showed both drugs could suppress HTLV-1.

WEHI said the study found that "human cells containing HTLV-1 could be selectively killed when mice were treated with HIV drugs" in combination with a therapy inhibiting the MCL-1 protein, which was known to help rogue cells stay alive.

The Institute said it was using RNA therapies to develop ways to target MCL-1 and "establish combination treatments that can be clinically tested, which they believe could offer a promising curative strategy for HTLV-1".

WEHI said the results could help find a treatment and prevention for HTLV-1 virus, which was "endemic among many First Nations communities … including in Central Australia".

The Institute said it was "in talks with the companies behind the HIV antivirals used in this study, to see if HTLV-1 patients can be included in their ongoing clinical trials".

WEHI said, if successful, HTLV-1 patient inclusion in HIV trials "would pave the way for these drugs to become the first approved pre-exposure prophylaxis against HTLV-1".

The Institute said the study was supported by The Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research, The Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust, Drakensberg Trust and the Federal Government's National Health and Medical Research Council.

WEHI laboratory head and co-lead author Dr Marcel Doerflinger said the study was "the first time any research group has been able to suppress this virus in a living organism".

"As HTLV-1 symptoms can take decades to appear, by the time a person knows they have the infection the immune damage is already in full swing," Dr Doerflinger said.

"Suppressing the virus at transmission would allow us to stop it before it has the chance to cause irreversible damage to immune function, leading to disease and a premature death," Dr Doerflinger said.

"What's most exciting, is that these antivirals are already in use for millions of HIV patients, meaning there's a direct path for the clinical translation of our findings," Dr Doerflinger said.

"We won't have to start from scratch because we already know these drugs are safe and effective," Dr Doerflinger said.

"And now we've shown that their use can very likely be extended to HTLV-1," Dr Doerflinger said.

REDHILL BIOPHARMA

Redhill says it has “positive feedback” from the US Food and Drug Administration for a potential approval pathway for its RHB-204 for Crohn’s disease.

Redhill said the guidance was provided at a type C meeting with the FDA, allowing it to conduct a phase II study of RHB-204 in a “first ever clinical trial” testing a specifically defined population of mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis infected, or MAP-positive, Crohn’s disease patients.

The company said RHB-204 was a “next-generation optimized formulation” of RHB-104, designed to support enhanced tolerability, safety and adherence, with a 40 percent pill burden reduction and potentially better outcomes.

In 2010, the Israel-based Redhill said it bought Myoconda (RHB-104), Heliconda (RHB-105) and Picoconda (RHB-106) from the Sydney-based Giaconda with Giaconda founder Prof Tom Borody appointed as an advisor (BD: Aug 17, 2010).

Today, the company said development of RHB-204 was supported by clinical efficacy and safety data from the 331-patient, phase III, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, study of RHB-104 in Crohn’s disease, which met its endpoints, showing RHB-104 with standard-of-care was 64 percent more effective than standard-of-care alone; and was superior for remission at week-26 compared to placebo ($p = 0.013$) (BD: Jul 31, 2018).

Today, the company said the primary endpoints of the RHB-204 phase II study were expected to be mucosal remission, Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis (Map) status and clinical remission.

Redhill said study funding was expected to be non-dilutive and it was pursuing partnering and collaborations, including an innovation development grant application already filed.

The company said RHB-204 was expected to receive a transferred paediatric orphan drug designation from RHB-104, and it would explore additional regulatory statuses, such as breakthrough therapy, fast track designations and eligibility for priority review vouchers.

On the Nasdaq Redhill was up 49 US cents or 26.34 percent to $US2.35 with 509,898 shares traded.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says with Tecan and Repado it will deliver a “scalable suite of fully-automated diagnostic platforms designed for syndromic testing laboratories”.

Genetic Signatures said the partnership would use its infectious disease assay products with the Männedorf, Switzerland-based Tecan’s liquid handling platforms for a sample-to-result product and the Rapperswil, Switzerland-based Repado’s software for in-vitro diagnostics, regulatory standards, data integrity and user workflow.

A spokesperson for the company told Biotech Daily that Genetic Signatures would work with the partners to “produce a new generation of testing instrumentation which we will use in conjunction with our testing kits”.

“We are modifying existing products on the market to enable us to come to market faster and with reduced cost compared to undertaking this internally,” they said.

The company said the partnership would “enable laboratory efficiencies, complete automation and regulatory compliance”.

Genetic Signatures did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement.

The company said the deal was a “significant leap forward for Genetic Signatures in offering consolidated infectious disease testing”.

Genetic Signatures chief executive officer Allison Rossiter said the partnership would allow the company to offer “complete solutions, from sample to result, with built-in compliance, quality, and performance”.

DORSAVI

Dorsavi says RRAM leads to “significantly material gains” for its sensors including up-to 50 times faster write speeds and more than 5,000 times faster read access.

Earlier this year, Dorsavi said it would pay $S1,100,000 ($A1,320,000) for the Singapore Nanyang Technological University’s resistive random-access memory (RRAM) technology to be used to extend the battery life of its wearable sensors, improving usability in continuous monitoring (BD: Jun 12, 2025).

Today, the company said the use of RRAM in its next-generation biomedical and artificial intelligence (A.I.) electro-myography (EMG) and electro-cardiography (ECG) sensors was “expected to unlock a range of performance enhancements”.

Dorsavi said enhancement included faster and more accurate real-time data handling, reduced energy consumption, increased write endurance, extending operational lifespan, improved responsiveness, accuracy and system stability.

Dorsavi chair Gernot Abl said the results provided “strong technical validation for the role RRAM can play in advancing our sensor platforms”.

“We’re seeing clear evidence that RRAM can enable faster, more durable, and energy-efficient systems,” Mr Abl said.

Dorsavi was up 0.2 cents or 9.1 percent to 2.4 cents with 21.2 million shares traded.

MEDADVISOR

Medadvisor says investors will vote to issue about $2,070,000 in retention benefits to management and 2,182,540 incentive options to managing-director Richard Ratliff.

Earlier this month, Medadvisor said it had completed the $35 million sale of its Australia and New Zealand business operations to Brisbane’s Jonas Software Aus Pty Ltd and repaid its $US15.1 million ($A23 million) finance facilities (BD: Jul 7, 2025).

Today, the company said its extraordinary general meeting would vote to issue Mr Ratliff $US275,000, chief financial officer Ancila Desai $225,000 and its chief operating officer Vinod Subramanian $US200,000 “in connection with ceasing to hold a managerial or executive office”.

Medadvisor said the meeting would vote to issue an additional $US550,000 in severance pay, 22,618,288 securities and $US4,500 worth of medical benefit coverage to Mr Ratliff; $112,500 in lieu of notice and 4,530,472 securities to Ms Desai; and $US100,000 in lieu of notice and 4,035,335 securities to its chief operating officer, Mr Subramanian.

The company said shareholders would vote to issue Mr Ratliff 2,182,540 options, vesting over three years at zero exercise price as part of his long-term incentive plan.

Medadvisor said the meeting would vote on the issue of placement shares and options as well as director participation in the placement and issue corporate advisor shares.

The meeting will be held online on August 21, 2025 at 11am (AEST).

Medadvisor fell 0.3 cents or 3.6 percent to eight cents with two million shares traded.

ADHERIUM

Sydney’s Regal Funds Management Pty Ltd says its 364,651,488 share-holding in Adherium has been diluted from 26.29 percent to 23.18 percent due to a share issue.

Last week, Adherium said it raised $3,092,395 at 0.5 cents a share in an institutional rights offer and $1,400,000 in a retail rights offer (BD: Jul 17, 2025).

Adherium was unchanged at half a cent with 6.3 million shares traded.

ADHERIUM

Sydney and Hong Kong's FIL Limited (Fidelity Investment Management) says its 77,982,072 share-holding in Adherium has been diluted to 4.96 percent (see above).

OSTEOPORE

The Cayman Islands-based Advance Opportunities Fund says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Osteopore.

Advance said it sold 1,432,748 shares on July 21, 2025 for $20,202, or 1.4 cents a share.

Last year, Osteopore said that it expected to raise $20 million from Advance for a redeemable convertible note at four percent interest a year, issuing in four equal tranches of 20 equal sub-tranches of $250,000 each, converting at 80 percent of the average closing price on "any five consecutive days" as selected by the noteholder during the 45 business days immediately preceding the conversion date (BD: Sep 27, 2024).

Yesterday, Advance said it had reduced its substantial shareholding in Osteopore from 16,245,909 shares (9.96%) to 11,491,915 shares (5.55%).

According to its most recent filing, Osteopore had 207,139,492 shares on issue, meaning that Advance retained about 4.86 percent of the company.

Osteopore fell 0.1 cents or 7.1 percent to 1.3 cents with 2.9 million shares traded.

RADIOPHARM THERANOSTICS

Radiopharm says it has appointed Dr Oliver Sartor to its scientific advisory board.

Radiopharm said Dr Sartor was director of Radiopharmaceutical Clinical Trials and chair of Genito-urinary Cancer Disease Group at the Rochester, Minnesota-based Mayo Clinic, was previously the medical director of the New Orleans, Louisiana Tulane Cancer Center and worked for Louisiana State University and Harvard Medical School.

The company said Dr Sartor held a Doctor of Medicine from Tulane University.

Radiopharm was unchanged at 2.3 cents with three million shares traded.