Biotech Daily

Monday August 25, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX EVEN, BIOTECH UP: POLYNOVO UP 9%; IMUGENE DOWN 7%**

*** VITURA REVENUE $124m; PROFIT DOWN 5% TO $3m**

*** POLYNOVO REVENUE UP 23% TO $127m; PROFIT UP 151% TO $13m**

*** GENETIC SIGNATURES REVENUE UP 63% TO $16m; LOSS UP 13% TO $20m**

*** BRAIN CANCER CENTRE 'WORLD-FIRST' PERI-OPERATIVE GLIOMA TRIAL**

*** FLOREY: FEDERAL $494k FOR FEBI QUANTUM BLOOD IRON TEST**

*** LTR: '4 PROSTATECTOMY PATIENTS SATISFIED WITH SPONTAN'**

*** NEUREN OPENS 1st US PHASE III NNZ-2591 PHELAN-MCDERMID SITE**

*** ARTRYA 1st SALIX CORONARY PLAQUE POST-APPROVAL US STUDY SITE**

*** ARGENT: 'ARTEMIC 85% SURVIVAL FOR VIRAL INFECTIONS, IN MICE'**

*** TRIVARX RECRUITS MEB-001 VETERAN DEPRESSION TRIAL**

*** NOXOPHARM DOSES 3rd PHASE I SOF-SKN COHORT**

*** FIREBRICK WINS AUSTRALIA NASODINE COVID-19 PATENT**

*** BOTANIX APPOINTS DR PATRICIA WALKER DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market edged up 0.06 percent on Monday August 25, 2025, with the ASX200 up 5.0 points to 8,972.4 points. Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 12 fell, nine traded unchanged and one was untraded. The four Big Caps were mixed.

Polynovo was the best (see below), up 10 cents or 9.1 percent to $1.20, with 9.3 million shares traded. Compumedics climbed 8.8 percent; Clarity and Impedimed were up more than seven percent; Cynata was up 5.3 percent; Botanix improved 3.3 percent; Amplia, Avita, Clinuvel, Dimerix, Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Neuren and Telix rose more than two percent; EBR, Nanosonics and Proteomics were up more than one percent; with 4D Medical, Cochlear and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Imugene led the falls, down two cents or seven percent to 26.5 cents, with 4.55 million shares traded. Medadvisor and Resonance lost more than six percent; Actinogen was down five percent; Alcidion and Paradigm fell more than four percent; Genetic Signatures and Starpharma were down more than three percent; Immutep shed two percent; Aroa, Emvision and Pro Medicus were down one percent or more; with CSL and Orthocell down by less than one percent.

VITURA HEALTH

Vitura says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 edged up 0.13 percent to $124,036,970, with net profit after tax down 5.35 percent to $3,324,321.
Vitura said revenue from sales of its medical marijuana and psychedelic products and vapes through its Canview platform fell 11.2 percent, offset by a 79.9 percent increase in revenue from consultation and services fees from its acquired Doctors on Demand and Candor Medical businesses (BD: Oct 27, 2023; Feb 20, 2025).
The company said the decreased loss related to a reduction in legal costs, “as a result of the litigation matters in 2024 having been largely resolved” (BD: Jan 19, 2025).
Vitura said it would pay a fully-franked, 0.2 cent dividend on September 30 to shareholders at the record date of September 8, 2025, compared to no dividend in the previous corresponding period.
The company said diluted earnings per share fell 11.3 percent to 0.55 cents, with net tangible assets per share down 4.0 percent to 1.21 cents.
Vitura said it had cash and cash equivalents of $7,579,097 at June 30, 2025 compared to $11,347,887 at June 30, 2024.
Vitura was up 0.25 cents or 3.7 percent to 7.05 cents.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 was up 23.3 percent to $127,243,000, with net profit after tax up 151.2 percent to $13,214,000.
Polynovo said $118,634,000 in revenue was from sales of its Novosorb biodegradable wound treatment, up 28.9 percent on the prior year, with revenue from its US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority contract down 22.8 percent to $8,609,000.
Polynovo chair David Williams said: “While I am still focused on revenue growth, shareholders will find it refreshing in [2025-’26] to see major capital expenditure coming to an end and increased cash from operations dropping to the bottom line”.
Polynovo said diluted earnings per share rose 152 percent to 1.89 cents, with net tangible assets per share up 1.2 percent to 10.63 cents and cash and cash equivalents of $33,535,000 at June 30, 2025 compared to $45,907,000 at June 30, 2024.
Polynovo was up 10 cents or 9.1 percent to $1.20 with 9.3 million shares traded.

GENETIC SIGNATURES

Genetic Signatures says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 was up 62.8 percent to $15,900,000, with net loss after tax up 12.55 percent to $20,104,000.
Genetic Signatures said the increased revenue was from sales of its Easyscreen respiratory pathogen detection kit in Australia as well as tests for diagnosing various infectious diseases; and equipment sales, leasing and maintenance, with the $20 million loss including a “one-off impairment expense of $7.0 million”.
Last year, the company said revenue for the year to June 30, 2024 fell 42.3 percent to $9,766,000 after it had to recall Easyscreen in Australia due to inconsistent influenza B detection, with net loss after tax of $17,862,000 (BD: Aug 30, 2024).
Genetic Signatures said diluted loss per share fell 17.95 percent to 8.87 cents, with net tangible asset backing per share down 13.3 percent to 22.1 cents and cash and equivalents of $7,473,000 at June 30, 2025 compared to $36,252,000 the prior year.
Genetic Signatures fell 1.0 cent or 3.4 percent to 28.5 cents with 1.4 million shares traded.

THE BRAIN CANCER CENTRE, VICTORIA GOVERNMENT
THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Brain Cancer Centre says a proof-of-principle trial shows peri-operative trials could be used to study treatments for low-grade gliomas, a form of brain cancer.

The Brain Cancer Centre said it was founded in 2021 by charity Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer in partnership with the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research with funding from the Victoria Government.

In a joint media release with the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Walter and Eliza Hall and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Centre said that in a peri-operative study it had seen safusidenib's effect on low-grade glioma tumor samples taken before and after treatment.

The media release said collaborators included University of Melbourne, the Florey Institute, Metabolomics Australia and Moleqlar Analytics and was supported by Anheart Therapeutics, a Nuvation Bio company, which owned the intellectual property to safusidenib, an oral inhibitor targeting the mutated IDH1 gene.

The Centre said the study, titled 'Perioperative IDH inhibition in treatment-naive IDH-mutant glioma: a pilot trial' was published in Nature Medicine, with the full article available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-025-03884-4.

The study said 10 patients had been treated, with a 14-month follow-up, continuing post-operative safusidenib, with follow-up for safety and efficacy and "the primary endpoint showed the feasibility and acceptability of … a two-stage peri-operative trial".

The study said one patient "experienced a serious surgery-related adverse event, and 10 reported safusidenib-related adverse events; most were grade 1, and one experienced grade 3 elevation of transaminases".

The research concluded "the safety and feasibility of this peri-operative approach, which can be applied broadly in clinical trial design, serving as proof-of-concept for advancing drug development in glioma".

Brain Cancer Centre laboratory head Dr Jim Whittle said peri-operative trials, where surgical biopsies were taken before and after treatment, were regularly used in other cancers to understand the effect of new and emerging treatments.

THE FLOREY INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Florey Institute says it has $494,000 from the Federal Government to develop a quantum technology blood test, called 'Febi', for measuring iron levels.

The Florey Institute said its Dr Nicole Jenkins was the chief executive officer of Febi Technologies, which had developed the test for measuring blood iron levels cheaply, reliably and accurately with the University of Melbourne.

The Institute said that "existing ferritin-based iron tests resulted in misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis and cost Australians billions of dollars each year", with low iron levels predominately affecting women.

The Florey said it had a Federal grant to fund prototype development of the test in First Nations communities in the Northern Territory, beginning this month.

The Institute said its researchers would travel to Katherine, Northern Territory to gather data to help them design the test to operate in a range of environments and for use in rural and remote communities.

The Florey said Febi iron testing would "potentially lead to better health outcomes for pregnant women, young children and all those effected by chronic disease".

Febi co-founder Prof David Simpson said the group had been working on diamond-based quantum sensing technology for more than a decade "and we are excited to see it develop into a precision diagnostic tool for direct and accurate iron assessment" by a blood test."

LTR PHARMA

LTR says four patients were satisfied with the efficacy of its Spontan nasal spray for treating erectile dysfunction (ED) following radical prostatectomy.

Last year, LTR said the first patients had been prescribed its Spontan nasal spray formulation of vardenafil, marketed as Levitra, under an Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration special access scheme (BD: Aug 5, 8, 16, 2024).

Today, the company said that "all patients preferred Spontan nasal spray over traditional oral [erectile dysfunction] therapies, citing spontaneity and ease of use".

LTR said the case studies, titled 'Intranasal Vardenafil: A Novel PDE5 Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction in Men Post-Radical Prostatectomy' were presented at the 25th Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference in Sydney from August 22 to 24, 2025.

The company said the patient case series added to its clinical validation package and "supported the progression of Spontan through late-stage development and regulatory pathways in Australia, the US, and other key markets".

LTR executive chair Lee Rodne said the "real-world clinical outcomes confirm that Spontan has the potential to transform treatment for prostate cancer survivors suffering from erectile dysfunction, a population where current therapies routinely fail".

"The fact that all patients in this independent case series not only achieved therapeutic success but also actively preferred our nasal spray technology over conventional treatments is tremendously encouraging," Mr Rodne said. "With a significant and growing global market of post-prostatectomy patients, these results strengthen our conviction that Spontan is positioned to become the first-line therapy in this underserved population."

LTR was up 6.5 cents or 12.15 percent to 60 cents with 5.2 million shares traded.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says it has opened the first US site in its 160-patient, blinded, controlled, phase III trial of NNZ-2591 for Phelan-McDermid syndrome following review board approval.

In May, Neuren said the US Food and Drug Administration confirmed the primary endpoints for its 13-week Phelan-McDermid syndrome trial (BD: May 13, 2025).

Today, the company said the study was the first phase III trial in Phelan-McDermid syndrome "a serious neuro-developmental disorder with no approved treatments".

Neuren was up 49 cents or 2.85 percent to $17.66 with 485,195 shares traded.

ARTRYA

Artrya says Atlanta, Georgia's Piedmont Healthcare has agreed to be the first site for a retrospective study of its Salix plaque analysis module, subject to ethics approval.

In March, Artrya said it had US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance to commercialize its Salix coronary anatomy platform; and last week, said it had FDA 510(k) clearance for its coronary plaque module for high-risk plaque (BD: Mar 28, Aug 21, 2025).

Today, the company said it would run a retrospective, multi-centre study in three phases to evaluate the prognostic and clinical utility of its artificial intelligence-based Salix plaque analysis module and the plaque dispersion score for identifying coronary artery disease.

Artrya said Piedmont was "recognized for leadership in heart and vascular services" and the study would "generate robust clinical evidence to support broader clinical and commercial adoption of Salix in the US".

Artrya managing-director John Konstantopoulos said the company expected the study would begin in early 2026 "as we move through the contracting and ethics processes".

Artrya was up 10 cents or five percent to $2.10 with 1.3 million shares traded.

ARGENT BIOPHARMA (FORMERLY MGC PHARMACEUTICALS)

Argent says a study of Artemic shows a survival rate of up-to 85 percent in mice with lethal viral infections compared to zero in a control group ($p < 0.001$).

Earlier this year, Argent said a 29-patient, phase IIb trial of Artemic, a brand name Cimetra, for Covid-19 showed "a positive trend toward faster recover and symptom improvement compared to placebo" and a "strong safety profile" (BD: Mar 17, 2025).

Previously, the company said Cimetra was composed of Curcuma longa (turmeric) and Boswellia serrata (Indian frankincense).

Today, Argent said the study showed Artemic "not only achieved a significant reduction of viral load in both lung and brain tissue, but also markedly suppressed cytokine-driven inflammatory injury, a key driver of morbidity".

The company said "systemic treatment with Artemic enhanced overall antiviral efficacy and extended life expectancy, yielding an additional 20 percent to 40 percent survival advantage in treated cohorts".

Argent said the study was conducted and financed by AMC Pharma USA with the Botanical Medicine Research and Education Consortium and Tampa's University of South Florida, completed in April and published on August 20, 2025.

The company said it had begun a study on the prophylactic effects of Artemic on infected animals with AMC Pharma USA and the University of South Florida.

Argent fell 0.5 cents or 3.85 percent to 12.5 cents.

TRIVARX (FORMERLY MEDIBIO)

Trivarx says it has completed recruitment of 30 US veterans in its trial of the MEB-001 electro-cardio-graphy (ECG) sleep scoring algorithm for major depressive episode.

In March, Trivarx said that with the US Department of Veterans Affairs it would conduct a 12-week trial of its algorithm for depression; and later, said it had opened the trial at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center (BD: Mar 13, May 30, 2025).

In June, the company said it recruited the first of up-to 30 US veterans in the study, with veterans to wear wrist-worn devices during the night to provide the company with additional data for further research and development (BD: Jun 19, 2025).

Today, Trivarx said the trial used its single-channel algorithm which used "heart rate and heart rate variability to accurately conduct sleep staging and screen for current major depressive episode".

The company said interim results were expected "in the coming weeks".

Trivarx was unchanged at 0.9 cents.

NOXOPHARM

Noxopharm says it has completed the third dose cohort in its 16-patient, phase I, 'Heracles' trial of SOF-SKN, with the dose level "safe and well-tolerated".

Last month, Noxopharm said it dosed the first of 16 patients with its Sofra-based SOF-SKN in the phase I 'Heracles' trial for auto-immune diseases (BD: Jul 16, 2025).

Today, the company said the safety steering committee had "determined the third dose level to be safe and well-tolerated, with no clinically relevant issues found".

Noxopharm said the trial would "now proceed to the fourth cohort of participants, who will receive the highest dose approved for this trial".

Noxopharm fell one cent or 8.7 percent to 10.5 cents.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick says it has been granted a patent covering the use of its Nasodine, nasal spray povidone-iodine, for Covid-19 in Australia.

Firebrick said the patent, titled 'Prevention of infection by highly pathogenic viruses using topical application of povidone-iodine on mucous membranes' protected its intellectual property until 2040.

The company said the patent protected Nasodine or any other intranasal povidone-iodine preparations as a method of reducing the viral load of Sars-Cov-2 in the nose, as well as pre-exposure prophylaxis and preventative use.

Firebrick said the patent was accepted or granted in both the US and Europe as well as South Africa and Mexico.

The company said the patent replaced its innovation patent with the same title that expired on June 10, 2028.

Firebrick fell 0.1 cents or 1.3 percent to 7.4 cents.

BOTANIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Botanix says it has appointed former chief medical advisor Dr Patricia Walker as a director, effective from August 25, 2025.

Botanix said Dr Walker had led the development of its lead product Sofdra, or sofpironium, topical gel, 12.45 percent, from a pre-clinical asset to phase III prior to its acquisition by the company, and her consulting company Walker Consulting continued to work with prominent dermatology pharmaceutical companies.

The company said Dr Walker held a Doctor of Medicine from Iowa City's University of Iowa College of Medicine and was a member of the department of dermatology clinical faculty at the University of California, Irvine.

Botanix was up half a cent or 3.3 percent to 15.5 cents with 25.6 million shares traded.