Biotech Daily

Tuesday August 26, 2025

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX DOWN, BIOTECH FLAT: NANOSONICS UP 15%; CURVEBEAM DOWN 18%**

*** NANOSONICS REVENUE UP 17% TO $199m; PROFIT UP 59% TO $21m**

*** AUSTCO RECORD REVENUE UP 40% TO $81m; PROFIT DOWN 16% TO $6m**

*** MICROBA REVENUE UP 30% TO $16m; LOSS DOWN 25% TO $15m**

*** STARPHARMA REVENUE DOWN 41% TO $4.9m; LOSS UP 22% TO $10m**

*** VAXXAS RAISES $49m; $40m DEBT FACILITY; STAFF CUTS**

*** PETER MACCALLUM: 'CDK11 REGULATES CANCER CELLS'**

*** AMPLIA SHARE PLAN RAISES $2.65m; TOTAL $28m**

*** FIREBRICK PLACES $1.4m SHORTFALL; TOTAL $1.6m**

*** ACTINOGEN: 'XANAMEM EXPOSURE WITH, WITHOUT FOOD'**

*** RHYTHM VALIDATES COLOSTAT, NATA FILING**

*** FIREBRICK EXPANDS INNORINI NASODINE LICENCE**

*** EMYRIA EXPANDS PERTH MDMA THERAPY CLINIC**

*** EMVISION OPENS 6th US 'EMU' TRIAL SITE AT UCLA**

*** BLINKLAB TO OPEN 2 MORE Dx1 AUTISM TRIAL SITES**

*** IMMURON PARTNERS WITH INVESTOR HUB**

*** PACIFIC EDGE PLEADS 'SCHULTZ' TO NZX 38% PRICE QUERY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.41 percent on Tuesday August 26, 2025, with the ASX200 down 36.8 points to 8,935.6 points. Sixteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 15 fell, eight traded unchanged and one was untraded. All four Big Caps fell.

Nanosonics was best, up 62 cents or 15.1 percent to $4.73, with 2.9 million shares traded. Actinogen climbed 12.3 percent; Emvision, Genetic Signatures and Polynovo were up five percent or more; Botanix and Clinuvel improved more than three percent; Cyclopharm and Cynata rose more than two percent; Dimerix, EBR and Proteomics were up more than one percent; with 4D Medical, Mesoblast, Neuren and Telix up by less than one percent.

Curvebeam led the falls, down three cents or 17.65 percent to 14 cents, with 498,805 shares traded. Compumedics lost 8.1 percent; Aroa, Avita and Clarity fell more than four percent; Micro-X, Starpharma and Syntara were down more than three percent; Atomo and Resmed shed more than two percent; Imugene, Medadvisor and Paradigm were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL, Medical Developments, Orthocell, Pro Medicus and SDI down by less than one percent.

NANOSONICS

Nanosonics says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 was up 16.8 percent to $198,628,000, with net profit after tax up 59.4 percent to $20,676,000.
Nanosonics said revenue was from its Trophon ultrasound probe cleaning systems, with recurring revenue from consumables and services up 20 percent to $146.1 million and device sales and upgrades up nine percent to $52.5 million.
The company said revenue from North America was up 17.0 percent to $180,371,000, in Europe and the Middle East revenue rose 21.7 percent to $12,256,000 and Australia Pacific revenue increased 4.1 percent to $6,001,000.
Nanosonics chief executive officer Michael Kavanagh said the year to June 30, 2025 reflected “a strong financial performance and a year in which we continued to lay the foundations for our next growth horizon”.
Mr Kavanagh said the company “achieved significant innovation milestones” in the year, including FDA clearance of Coris and the development of the next generation of Trophon (BD: Mar 20, Aug 6, 2025).
The company said diluted earnings per share rose 59.3 percent to 6.69 cents, net tangible asset backing per share was up 15.1 percent to 62.96 cents and it had cash of $161,638,000 at June 30, 2025, compared to $129,552,000 at June 30, 2024.
Nanosonics was up 62 cents or 15.1 percent to $4.73 with 2.9 million shares traded.

AUSTCO HEALTHCARE

Austco says record revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 was up 40.0 percent to $81,405,000, with net profit after tax down 16.15 percent to $5,933,000.
Austco said revenue from sales of its Tacera and Pulse nurse call and communications software and clinical workflow systems was “driven by both organic growth in existing operations and additional revenue from acquisitions”.
In May, the company said it acquired Auckland’s Nurse Call reseller Guild & Spence Technologies for $NZ7,966,035 (BD: May 30, 2025).
Today, Austco said $2.0 million of the prior year’s research expenditure in the year to June 30, 2025, offset by a $1.6 million amortization expense.
The company said diluted earnings per share fell 30.1 percent to 1.602 cents, with cash and cash equivalents of $14,483,000 at June 30, 2025, compared to $13,556,000 at June 30, 2024 and net tangible assets per share including right-of-use slipped 0.9 percent from 5.47 cents to 5.42 cents.
Last year, Austco said its net tangible assets including right-of-use was 9.03 cents.
Austco fell 1.5 cents or four percent to 36 cents with one million shares traded.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 was up 29.6 percent to $15,669,089, with net loss after tax down 25.1 percent to $14,939,471.
Microba said its increased revenue was “underpinned by accelerating adoption” of its Metaxplore for gut microbiome testing and Metapanel for gastro-intestinal pathogen testing as well as its Invivo supplements business.
The company said diluted loss per share fell 31.5 percent to 3.33 cents, net tangible assets per share fell 62.7 percent to 1.57 cents from 4.21 cents in the prior year and it had cash of $11,740,910 at June 30, 2025 compared to $20,889,451 at June 30 2024.
Last year, Microba said it had net tangible assets per share of 4.35 cents.
Microba fell 0.4 cents or 4.1 percent to 9.3 cents.

STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says revenue for the year to June 30, 2025 fell 40.7 percent to $4,912,000, with net loss after tax up 22.35 percent to $9,990,000.
Last year, Starpharma said revenue for the year to June 30, 2024 was up 131.8 percent to $9,756,000, including a one-off $6,553,000 from the termination of its Vivagel for bacterial vaginosis (BV) deal with Mundipharma (BD: Aug 22, 2024).
Today, the company said it had restated its revenue for the prior year to not include $1,467,000 of interest income.
Starpharma said revenue was driven by research revenue from Petalion Therapeutics and increased sales and royalties from its Viraleze nasal spray for respiratory viruses and Vivagel for bacterial vaginosis.
The company said diluted loss per share was flat at two cents a share, net tangible asset backing per share fell 28.6 percent to 5.0 cents and it had cash and equivalents of $15,407,000 at June 30, 2025 compared to $23,360,000 at June 30, 2024.
Starpharma fell half a cent or 3.85 percent to 12.5 cents.

VAXXAS PTY LTD

Vaxxas says it has raised $49.22 million in series D equity, has a $40 million debt facility, and has made changes to its board and cut staff.
Last year, Brisbane's Vaxxas said it hoped to raise up-to $100 million for its high-density, micro-array patch (HD-MAP) needle-free vaccines (BD: Oct 24, 2024).
Today, the company said the financing was "one of the largest financings for a private biotech company in Australia" and it continued to attract investor interest.
Vaxxas said the equity financing was led by life sciences firm Stepstone Private Markets (SPRIM) Global Investments, with participation from LGT Crestone and existing investors Oneventures, Brandon Capital and Hostplus.
The company said it had a $US25.2 million ($A40 million) debt facility with SPRIM, which the company could draw-down based on eligible Australian Government Research and Development Tax Incentive research.
Vaxxas said the funds would allow it "to accelerate the development and scale-up of its HD-MAP technology towards market readiness, including installation of semi-automated manufacturing lines and later-stage clinical trial programs".
The company said 14-year chief executive officer David Hoey would transition to strategic advisor, with chair Paul Kelly to be replaced by Oneventures' Sarah Meibusch.
Biotech Daily understands that chief financial officer Doug Cubbin and 10 percent the company's 150 employees have been made redundant.
Vaxxas said it believed the transition provided "a strategic opportunity to put leadership in place for the coming years, as the company accelerates its commercialization efforts to bring the HD-MAP to market".
The company said a search for a replacement chief executive officer was "well advanced".
Vaxxas said Mr Kelly had been chair since the company was founded in 2011, and that Ms Meibusch had been "closely involved with Vaxxas for a number of years and has been an alternate director since 2020".
Vaxxas chair Sarah Meibusch said the raising was "an excellent achievement in a very difficult market for [biotechnology]".
"Coupled with our sharp focus on commercialization, this funding provides Vaxxas with a runway into the second half of 2027 as we focus on bringing our technology to market," Ms Meibusch said.
Vaxxas is a private company.

PETER MACCALLUM CANCER CENTRE

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre says the protein cyclin-dependent kinase 11 (CDK11) is a critical regulator of gene expression in cancer cells.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said the discovery showed a potential new target for treating aggressive blood cancers like acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) “opening up a promising new avenue for treatment”.

The Peter MacCallum Centre said that the laboratory led by Prof Ricky Johnstone identified CDK11 “as a critical regulator of gene expression in cancer cells”, with the research showing that the protein acted as a checkpoint for whether certain genes were switched on or off, “helping cancer cells survive, grow, and resist treatment” and blocking CDK11 disrupted the cancer process, leading to rapid AML cell death.

The research article, titled ‘A CDK11-dependent RNA polymerase II pause-checkpoint precedes CDK9-mediated transition to transcriptional elongation’ was published in the journal Molecular Cell and the full text was available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1097276525006513?via%3Dihub.

“Importantly, they also found that an experimental drug targeting CDK11 can effectively kill blood cancer cells in pre-clinical models of human [acute myeloid leukaemia],” the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said.

“Cancer cells are masters of hijacking normal gene control,” said senior author Prof Johnstone, who was also the executive director of cancer research at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

“Our study shows that CDK11 is a crucial player in this process and without it, aggressive blood cancer cells can't survive,” Prof Johnstone said. “This potentially opens up a whole new strategy to treat these hard-to-treat cancers.”

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said the findings “provide important new insights into how gene expression is controlled in cancer”.

“Unlike healthy cells, cancer cells rely heavily on certain pathways to keep growing and this study pinpoints CDK11 as one such ‘Achilles heel’,” co-author Dr Jennifer Devlin said.

“This research gives us a new angle on how we approach killing aggressive blood cancers like AML,” Dr Devlin said. “By targeting CDK11, we may be able to switch off the genes that cancer cells need to survive, without harming normal cells.”

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said that the research team hoped to explore how drugs targeting CDK11 could be developed further with the aim of eventually entering clinical trials.

The Peter MacCallum Centre said the “breakthrough underscores the power of fundamental research in uncovering new targets for cancer therapies and brings fresh hope to patients facing aggressive blood cancers with limited treatment options”.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said that more than 1,000 people were diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in Australia each year, with a five-year survival rate of just 30 percent.

The research paper said that controlled gene expression was achieved through the regulation of RNA polymerase II (Pol II) progression through transcription-cycle checkpoints.

“While the contribution of CDK9 for Pol II pause-release is well established, the requirement for other cyclin-dependent kinases has not been fully elucidated, the research paper said. “In this study, we propose a critical role for CDK11 in the Pol II pausing-to-elongation transition at a checkpoint that precedes and is independent from CDK9.”

“Selective CDK11 inhibition or degradation results in acute ablation of RNA synthesis near the beginning of transcriptional units and genome-wide stalling of Pol II at transcription start site-proximal regions,” the research paper said.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says it has raised $2.65 million at 18 cents a share in a share plan, exceeding the original target of $2.5 million and taking the total raised to $27.65 million.
Last month, Amplia said it raised $25 million at 23 cents a share, a 0.6 percent premium to the 30-day volume weighted average price, in an institutional placement, with a fully-underwritten, $2.5 million share plan to follow (BD: Jul 23, 2025).
At that time, the company said the share plan issue price would be the lower of the placement price of 23 cents a share and a 5.0 percent discount to the volume weighted average price in the last five days of the offer.
Today, Amplia said the funds raised would be used for its clinical trials of narmafotinib, or AMP945, as well as the commencement of a phase IIb/III trial for AMP945 in 2026.
The company said the share purchase plan was subject to shareholder approval at its annual general meeting on August 27, 2025.
Amplia was unchanged at 19 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick says it has “firm commitments” to raise $1.4 million at 6.3 cents a share in a placement of its shortfall, taking the total amount raised to $1.595 million.
In June, Firebrick said it raised about $195,000 at 6.3 cents a share in a placement, a 14.6 percent discount to the 15-day volume weighted average price, leaving a shortfall of about $1,400,000 (BD: Jun 26, 2025).
At that time, the company said investors would receive one option for every two shares issued, exercisable at 9.5 cents each within three years and that Report Card Pty Ltd was lead manager to the placement without charging any capital raising fees.
Today, Firebrick said the funds raised would be used to expand Nasodine nasal spray sales in the US, distribution and marketing in Singapore and final development and manufacturing of three additional Nasodine-brand products to launch in 2026.
The company said “investors in the placement were introduced by an existing shareholder … [and] there were no broker or advisor fees or other material costs”.
Firebrick was unchanged at 7.4 cents.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says a 16-volunteer trial of oral Xanamem shows the drug reaches expected blood levels both with and without food, comparable with prior studies.
Actinogen said the study confirmed that 10mg once daily remained the target therapeutic dose for the clinical program.
The company said each participant received a 10mg tablet of Xanamem once while fasting and once after a high-fat meal, with blood levels of Xanamem measured frequently over 48 hours.
Actinogen said the results included a median time to maximum blood concentration of four hours post-fasting and six hours after a meal as well as an elimination half-life of 15 hours in both fed and fasted volunteers.
The company said Adelaide’s CMAX clinical research centre conducted the trial.
Actinogen was up 0.35 cents or 12.3 percent to 3.2 cents with 13.2 million shares traded.

RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm says it has validated its Colostat colorectal cancer detection kits and submitted a regulatory application to the Australian National Association of Testing Authorities.

Last year, Rhythm said its second-generation Colostat colorectal cancer test showed "superior performance" compared to the first-generation test ($p < 0.0001$) and that it would work with its contract manufacturing organization Quansys Biosciences to develop, verify and validate a commercial version of the algorithm (BD: Oct 7, 2024).

Earlier this month, the company said its second-generation Colostat test reached final production validation and was effective for all cancer stages (BD: Aug 4, 2025).

Today, Rhythm said it completed validation of Colostat kits, algorithm and instrumentation produced by Quansys Biosciences and Colostat had "shown to be a highly robust and reproducible test following analytical testing in over 450 sample replicates".

Rhythm said Colostat had achieved sensitivity of 91 percent in identifying colorectal cancer in more than 300 clinical samples, and that Colostat "could be used as a safe and effective alternative for those symptomatic individuals who prefer not to do stool-based testing to support a decision regarding use of colonoscopy".

Rhythm fell 0.7 cents or 6.7 percent to 9.8 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick says it has a licencing deal for Singapore's Innorini Pte Ltd to market and sell its Nasodine products in Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Mauritius.

Last year, Firebrick said it would pay Innorini $6,900 a month to market and sell its antimicrobial Nasodine nasal spray in Singapore (BD: Oct 31, 2024).

Today, the company said the revised two-year agreement replaced its previous contract and extended the marketing activities of Innorini to include all distribution, promotion and sale in Singapore and the additional territories.

Firebrick said Innorini would "have the exclusive right to distribute, promote and sell Nasodine nasal spray and all future Nasodine brand products in the territory".

The company said Nasodine was already sold in Singapore and Innorini was pursuing the necessary regulatory approvals for the other three countries.

Firebrick said there were no commitments as to minimum quantities to be sold.

Last year, Firebrick said it had Singapore approval for Nasodine for "'nasal hygiene' without any therapeutic claims", selling for about $28 per 25ml bottle (BD: Jun 13, 2024).

EMYRIA

Emyria says it will expand the workforce and infrastructure at its Perth clinic to meet increased demand for its psychedelic-assisted therapy.

Last year, Emyria said it opened an Empax Centre with Perth's Pax Centre for the delivery and study of 3,4 methylene-dioxy-meth-amphetamine (MDMA)-assisted therapy; and later, said it opened a second centre in Perth, which would treat patients for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (BD: Apr 10, 2024; Apr 14, 2025).

Today, the company said "additional psychiatrists, therapists, and support staff are being engaged alongside fit-for-purpose clinical facilities to increase patient throughput".

Emyria said the investments were "capital-light and designed to generate a rapid return by directly expanding treatment capacity and revenue".

The company said it was advancing preparations with Avive Health to open an Empax clinic in Brisbane (BD: Jul 29, 2025).

Emyria was up 0.7 cents or 15.2 percent to 5.3 cents with 51.95 million shares traded.

EMVISION MEDICAL DEVICES

Emvision says it will open the sixth 'Emu' portable brain scanner trial site at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) "in two weeks".
In February, Emvision said it had approval for a 300-patient validation trial of its Emu brain scanner (BD: Oct 29, 2024; Feb 12, 2025)
Last month, the company said it opened five of six validation trial sites for its 'Emu' portable brain scanner for stroke, with a sixth site in progress (BD: Jul 2, 2025).
Today, Emvision said it had shipped an 'Emu' brain scanner to UCLA with site activation scheduled in two weeks, and first patient enrolment expected shortly thereafter.
Emvision said all five other sites were actively recruiting, with trial recruitment expected to be completed by July 2026.
Emvision was up nine cents or five percent to $1.90.

BLINKLAB

Blinklab says Ohio's Cincinnati Children's Medical Center and Washington's Seattle Children's Research Institute will be clinical sites for its Dx1 autism diagnostic trial.
In June, Blinklab said it had ethics approval for the 1,000-patient, main study of its US diagnostic trial of its Dx1 smartphone application for autism (BD: Jun 30, 2025).
Last week, the company said Philadelphia's University of Pennsylvania would be the third site for its US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) trial of its Dx1 diagnostic for autism (BD: Aug 21, 2025).
Today, Blinklab said the additional sites brought the total number of US-based clinical sites participating in the autism diagnostic trial to five, with study completion expected by July and FDA submission by October 2026.
Blinklab was up one cent or two percent to 51 cents.

IMMURON

Immuron says will partner with Investor Hub to launch "an interactive investor hub, bringing content and communication into a single integrated platform".
Immuron said Investor Hub was "a direct-to-investor engagement software company that provides public companies the digital capabilities to build direct and interactive relationships with investors".
The company said it would upload content via the hub, including videos accompanying select announcements, educational material, interviews and corporate research.
Immuron was unchanged at 6.8 cents.

PACIFIC EDGE

Pacific Edge has told the NZX that it is not aware of any information it has not announced which, if known, could explain the recent trading in its securities.
The New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) said Pacific Edge's share price rose 38.2 percent from a low of 10.2 cents at the close of market on August 13, 2025 to 14.1 cents yesterday but did not note an increase in the number of shares traded.
Pacific Edge fell half a cent or 3.85 percent to 12.5 cents.