Biotech Daily

Thursday August 13, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX DOWN, BIOTECH UP: SALUDA UP 8%; 4D MEDICAL DOWN 5%**

*** BRANDON CUREATOR $13.5m FOR 6 START-UPS**

*** QBIOTICS HOPES TO RAISE $40m**

*** ADELAIDE UNI 'DERMAVIGNET' A.I. SKIN DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC**

*** PETER MAC: PROTEIN-LED BREAST CANCER THERAPY RESISTANCE**

*** PARADIGM CONTINUES PHASE III PPS KNEE OSTEO-ARTHRITIS TRIAL**

*** NEUROSCIENTIFIC, FDA PRE-PHASE II STEMSMART MEETING**

*** PROTEOMICS AUSTRALIA PROMARKER ENDO PATENT**

*** MERCHANT FUNDS TAKES 7% OF NEUROTECH**

*** NEURIZON: ELANCO'S DR STEVE NANCHEN BOARD OBSERVER**

*** BIO-MELBOURNE OCTOBER BIOBANK, A.I. SYMPOSIUM**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.23 percent on Thursday August 13, 2026, with the ASX200 down 20.9 points to 9,188.5 points.

Eighteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 13 fell, eight traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Saluda was best, up 5.0 cents or 8.3 percent to 65 cents, with 515,183 shares traded. Proteomics climbed 6.45 percent; Atomo and Imricor were up more than five percent; Starpharma was up 4.3 percent; Amplia and EBR were up more than three percent; Curvebeam, Immutep, Paradigm and Telix rose two percent or more; Alcidion, Clinuvel, Cochlear, Dimerix, Imugene, Neuren, Pro Medicus and Resmed were up one percent or more; with Aroa and Nanosonics up by less than one percent.

4D Medical led the falls, down 21 cents or 5.1 percent to $3.91, with 5.4 million shares traded. Medical Developments fell 4.2 percent; Micro-X and Resonance were down more than three percent; Artrya, Cyclopharm, Emvision, Optiscan and Racura shed two percent or more; Prescient lost 1.2 percent; with Clarity, CSL, Mesoblast and Orthocell down by less than one percent.

BRANDON CAPITAL
AND HEALTH (AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE)

Brandon Capital says with AND Health it has awarded $13.5 million to six medical and health technology start-ups under the second round of its Cureator+ program.

Brandon said the funds from the Federal Government's Medical Research Future Fund supported the commercialization of early-stage Australian medical innovations that may "improve health outcomes while creating high-value companies and sovereign capability".

The company said inflammatory disease companies Aleris Therapeutics and Frontier Inflammasome Therapeutics were awarded $2,500,000 each, with Luma Bio to receive $2,500,000 for a peptide-based radio-pharmaceutical for cancer testing and treatment and Navier Medical awarded $2,130,609 for artificial intelligence (A.I.)-enabled cardiac computed tomography (CT) for heart attack.

Brandon said Neurotologix was awarded $1,950,000 to commercialize a platform for testing vertigo and dizziness, with Weguide to receive $1,945,111 for an A.I. platform for digital biomarkers using wearable, clinical and patient-generated health data.

The company said that the start-ups would receive the non-dilutive funding on milestones as well as "expert commercialization support and access to industry networks to accelerate development of their therapeutics, medical devices and digital health innovations".

Brandon said it was "committed to transforming world-class Australian research into investable companies that improve patient outcomes, attract private investment and strengthen Australia's global leadership in life sciences".

The Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said the Government was "investing in 'biomedtech' and health technology startups to support new technologies that can improve health outcomes and change lives".

"These advances have the potential to make a real difference for patients, and I look forward to seeing their impact in inflammatory disease, cancer, heart disease and beyond," Mr Butler said.

AND Health chief executive officer Bronwyn Le Grice said the companies selected through Cureator+ were "developing new solutions to solve major health challenges".

"These innovations show the breadth of Australian capability in A.I.-enabled diagnostics, digitally-enabled models of care and data-driven biomarkers, and we're focused on supporting them to become globally competitive companies that deliver better outcomes for patients in Australia and around the world," Ms Le Grice said.

QBIOTICS GROUP

Qbiotics says it hopes to raise up-to $40 million at 55 cents a share in a non-underwritten placement to further develop tigilanol tiglate for cancers.

Qbiotics said the funds raised would be used "to advance its clinical development programs, including the ongoing phase II [soft tissue sarcoma] study, breast cancer and liver cancer trials for tigilanol tiglate and chemistry and manufacturing activities to support future registration".

Last week, the company said that 14 of 18 tumors (77.8%) injected with tigilanol tiglate in its 16-patient, phase II trial had an objective response for head and neck cancer (BD: Aug 3, 2026).

Today, Qbiotics said that the offer opened today, August 13, 2026, and was expected to close on September 17, 2026, with the prospectus available at: https://qbiotics.com/pub/QBiotics%20Prospectus%2012-08-26.pdf.

Qbiotics is a public-unlisted company.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

Adelaide University says it has developed an artificial intelligence (A.I.) model to improve the speed, accuracy and transparency of skin disease diagnosis.
Adelaide University said Dermavignet, used “two powerful machine learning approaches to analyze skin conditions and justify its decision-making”.
The University said Dermavignet was “trained and validated using a large dataset of just under 10,000 ‘derma-scopic’ images, including both common and under-represented conditions”.
Adelaide University said the artificial intelligence model was assessed against eight baseline deep learning models and out-performed all of them, with 98 percent accuracy when classifying five skin diseases including vitiligo, acne, nail psoriasis, hyper-pigmentation and Stevens-Johnson syndrome-toxic epidermal necrolysis.
The University said the research, titled ‘Dermavignet: A Hybrid Vision Transformer and CNN-Based Framework with Explainable AI for Robust Skin Disease Classification’ was published in IEEE Xplore at: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/11490111.
Adelaide University said research would focus on expanding the dataset, integrating additional clinical information and further refining the technology for clinical deployment.
Adelaide University co-researcher Dr Sabbir Ahmed said the model’s “combination of a large diverse dataset and explainable A.I. is a breakthrough innovation in this space”.
“Many A.I. systems will share a recommendation or decision but cannot share the reasoning behind it which can be an unacceptable risk in high-stakes fields such as health,” Dr Ahmed said.
“Our technology incorporates explainable A.I. techniques by highlighting the specific regions of an image that influenced a diagnosis,” Dr Ahmed said.

PETER MACCALLUM CANCER CENTRE

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre says it has found the retinoblastoma protein may cause breast cancer treatment to stop working in some patients.
Peter MacCallum said retinoblastoma prevented cells from dividing uncontrollably, helping to protect against cancer and hormone receptor-positive breast cancer drugs, known as CDK4/6 inhibitors, switched the protein back on, slowing tumor growth.
The Centre said that retinoblastoma unexpectedly activated a group of genes that responded to oestrogen, with some genes helping cancer cells withstand treatment and retaining the capacity to begin growing again.
Peter MacCallum said the research, titled ‘Rb-driven transcription limits its tumour-suppressive effects in breast cancer’ was published in Nature, with the full article available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-026-10886-w.
The Centre said that the study explained the effectiveness of the combination of CDK4/6 inhibitors and endocrine therapy, with the CDK4/6 inhibitor activating the protein to stop cancer cells dividing, while endocrine therapy blocked the unwanted oestrogen-driven signals retinoblastoma could trigger, enabling the tumor-suppressing effects of the protein.
The Centre said the balance changed in endocrine therapy-resistant tumors, with the oestrogen-related gene program continuing despite treatment, reducing the effectiveness of CDK4/6 inhibitors.
Peter MacCallum researcher Prof Shom Goel said that understanding the previously unknown role of retinoblastoma provided “an important new way to think about drug resistance … [and] we hope these insights will guide the development of new combination therapies that keep these treatments working for longer and ultimately improve outcomes for people with breast cancer”.

PARADIGM BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Paradigm says it has approval to continue its 466-patient, phase III trial of injectable pentosan polysulfate sodium (PPS) for knee osteoarthritis following a safety review.
Earlier this month, Paradigm said it had enrolled 538 of a hoped-for 466 patients in its phase III trial of injectable PPS for knee osteoarthritis pain (BD: Jun 15, 2026).
At that time, the company said 538 participants had begun treatment in the study, with the increase in patients reflecting "participants who were already undergoing screening when the enrolment target was reached".
Paradigm said completion of enrolment was "a major operational milestone" with interim analysis on track for September, and top-line results expected by April 2027.
Today, the company said the data safety monitoring board had completed its planned safety review of about 80 percent of patients who had completed dosing.
Paradigm sad completion of the 80 percent review was "another important de-risking milestone for the phase III program".
Paradigm chief medical officer Dr Donna Skerrett said the recommendation to continue the trial unchanged was "another important milestone for the phase III program".
"With three formal [data safety monitoring board] safety reviews now completed and the study continuing as designed, our focus turns to the September interim analysis and the assessment of treatment effect at day 112," Dr Skerrett said.
Paradigm was up half a cent or 2.9 percent to 18 cents with four million shares traded.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it will hold a US Food and Drug Administration pre-investigational new drug meeting for a planned phase II trial of Stemsmart in Crohn's disease.
Neuroscientific said the meeting would be held on August 31, 2026 and was a "critical regulatory milestone where the federal agency reviews the clinical, scientific and product development of prospective treatments like Stemsmart to ensure suitability for a future investigational new drug submission.
The company said it intended to apply for approval by late 2026 to open the trial in Australia and the US for Crohn's disease patients.
Last year, Neuroscientific said it completed its acquisition of Perth's Isopogen WA and its Stemsmart technology for scrip (BD: Jun 27, 2025).
Later, the company said a fourth patient began treatment with Stemsmart stem cells under an Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration special access program for fistulizing Crohn's disease (BD: Nov 11, 2025).
Neuroscientific chief executive officer Nathan Smith said the meeting was "an important milestone in … [the] development for our patented Stemsmart technology platform".
Neuroscientific fell 0.4 cents or 6.25 percent to six cents.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics says IP (Intellectual Property) Australia has provided notice of acceptance for a patent covering its Promarker Endo blood test for endometriosis.
Proteomics said the patent, titled 'Endometriosis biomarkers' would protect its intellectual property until March 2041, subject to grant and maintenance requirements.
The company said the patent supported commercialization and underpinned "the commercialization pathway, enabling future partnerships and licencing opportunities".
Proteomics was up one cent or 6.45 percent to 16.5 cents.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Perth's Merchant Funds Management says it has become a substantial shareholder in Neurotech with 118,698,491 shares, or 7.38 percent of the company.
A substantial shareholder notice signed by Merchant Funds director Andrew Chapman said that it bought shares between September 10 and December 9, 2024 as well as 71,428,572 shares for $1,000,000 on August 14, 2026, or 1.4 cents a share.
Neurotech fell 0.1 cents or 7.1 percent to 1.3 cents with 2.8 million shares traded.

NEURIZON THERAPEUTICS

Neurizon says it has appointed the Elanco Animal Health-designated Dr Steve Nanchen as a board observer, succeeding Justine Conway.
In 2018, the then Pharmaust said it had an option with Elanco to develop monepantel, the active ingredient in NUZ-001, as a treatment for dog cancer; and in 2020, said Elanco would not exercise the option (BD: Apr 18, 2018; Sep 9, 2020).
Last year, the company said it would pay up-to $US79.95 million ($A121.5 million) to licence monepantel from Eli Lilly-subsidiary Elanco; and later, appointed Elanco's head of business development Ms Conway as a board observer (BD: Jul 2, Nov 26, 2025).
Today, Neurizon said Dr Nanchen was a senior advisor to Elanco in external innovation and had about 20 years of experience in the animal health and pharmaceutical industries including at Novartis Animal Health.
The company said Dr Nanchen's appointment demonstrated its continued engagement with Elanco as it developed NUZ-001 for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Neurizon fell half a cent or 7.6 percent to 6.1 cents with 1.9 million shares traded.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network says it will hold a bio-symposium on October 7, 2026 on bio-bank governance, compliance and artificial intelligence (A.I.) readiness.
The Bio-Melbourne Network said Victoria held "substantial but under-leveraged health data assets, biobanks, registries and pathology data, much of it not yet governed, compliant or A.I.-ready enough to be used or promoted".
The Network said the regulatory environment was "modernizing fast, led by the [Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration's] review of software, including A.I., as a medical device".
Bio-Melbourne said the event would combine "the two threads … getting governance, compliance and A.I.-readiness right, alongside a clear regulatory pathway, is what makes Victoria attractive to [contract research organizations], sponsors and start-ups".
The Network said the full-day event would be held at the Melbourne Museum on October 7, 2026 from 9.30am (AEDT), with early Bird tickets on sale, member tickets $350, non-member tickets $500 and registration at: https://bit.ly/4fYznrp.