Biotech Daily

Thursday August 6, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: IMPEDIMED UP 20%; SALUDA DOWN 7.5%**

*** ACRUX PHASE III FEMALE HSDD TESTOSTERONE TRIAL**

*** QUEENSLAND UNI TO OPEN BRISBANE CENTRE FOR DNA THERAPIES**

*** QIMR, JAMES COOK UNI TROPICAL HEALTH RESEARCH**

*** AND HEALTH, TGA MEDICAL SOFTWARE REGULATION PARTNERSHIP**

*** MONASH SPIN-OUT MYOSTELLAR, ARGENX FOR MUSCULAR THERAPIES**

*** CONNEQT SHARE PLAN RAISES $379k, SHORTFALL $121k; TOTAL $5.9m**

*** RENERVE WINS PHILIPPINES NERVALIGN APPROVAL**

*** OSTEOPORE APPOINTS MIDDLE EAST DISTRIBUTOR**

*** ARGENT: SPLASH TO DEVELOP CANNEPIL FOR ANIMAL CANCER PAIN**

*** TRUSCREEN 50% DIRECTOR FEE POOL HIKE AGM**

*** LIFE SCIENCES QUEENSLAND GENE NOMINATIONS CLOSE TOMORROW**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.47 percent on Thursday August 6, 2026, with the ASX200 up 43.8 points to 9,271.6 points. Fifteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 18 fell, five traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Impedimed was best for the second day in a row, up 0.1 cents or 20 percent to 0.6 cents, with 6.9 million shares traded. Botanix climbed 9.5 percent; Emvision and Syntara were up more than six percent; Medical Developments rose 5.3 percent; Mesoblast was up 4.7 percent; Cochlear and Nova Eye were up more than three percent; Alcidion and Telix rose more than two percent; CSL, Cyclopharm, Nanosonics, Orthocell and Polynovo were up more than one percent; with Aroa, Clinuvel and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Saluda led the falls, down 4.5 cents or 7.5 percent to 55.5 cents, with 273,516 shares traded. Atomo lost 5.6 percent; Prescient fell 4.3 percent; Amplia, Avita, EBR and Lumos were down more than three percent; Actinogen, Artrya, Immutep and Imugene shed more than two percent; 4D Medical, Pro Medicus, Racura and Resonance lost more than one percent; with Clarity, Imricor, Neuren and Starpharma down by less than one percent.

ACRUX

Acrux says it will conduct a double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III study of its transdermal female testosterone spray for sexual dysfunction.

Earlier this year, Acrux said it would focus on the development of its female testosterone for hypoactive sexual desire dysfunction (HSDD) following a review of its topical generics and the US Food and Drug Administration regulatory environment for hormone replacement therapy (BD: Apr 28, 2026).

Today, Acrux managing-director John Warmbrunn told Biotech Daily that results from a completed phase II trial of the hormone therapy were published "over a decade ago" and that the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) shutdown of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) treatment resulted in the company's work being put on hold.

Mr Warmbrunn said Acrux had a meeting with the FDA and when it had the regulator's response, it would disclose the number of women to be enrolled, the expected trial start date and the expected timeline for results.

In an investor presentation, for the Bioshares Biotech Summit in Queenstown, New Zealand, the company said it had a post-end-of-phase-II meeting with the FDA last month, with an Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration meeting last December.

Acrux said the phase III trial would assess its metered dose transdermal system (MDTS) applicator for delivering a controlled spray of female testosterone through the skin, with co-primary endpoints of sexually satisfying events and sexual desire score at 24 weeks as well as female sexual distress scores as a secondary endpoint.

The company said its phase II trial showed that the "mean number of satisfactory sexual events increased compared to placebo at weeks four, eight, 12 and 16 for all of the testosterone groups".

Acrux said the phase II trial found a "statistically significant increase in the primary endpoint in the … testosterone group … with mean increase of 2.00 satisfactory sexual events at week 16, compared to a mean increase of 0.53 events in the placebo group".

The company said that it would focus on progressing potential co-development partnerships to "de-risk the clinical trial process and expedite market launch" with phase III trials expected to begin in 2027 and regulatory submission to the US FDA and product launch by 2030.

Acrux was unchanged at 1.1 cents with 2.8 million shares traded.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland says it will open a Brisbane-node of the Medical Research Council Centre of Research Excellence for Mitochondrial Genome Therapeutics.

The University of Queensland said the facility would be the Centre's "only non-European base" and would "define how changes in DNA caused disease while translating that knowledge into new therapies that correct the DNA alterations".

The University said advancements through the work of the Centre were "making new approaches possible" including gene-editing technologies for correcting pathogenic mutations, viral and messenger (m)RNA therapies delivered directly into living cells, and imaging to map metabolic and physiological effects of mtDNA mutations.

The University of Queensland said the Mito Foundation funded research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mitochondrial diseases and was "a key supporter of [its] … bid to secure a research hub in Brisbane".

The University said the Centre was led by the University of Cambridge and combined "world-leading expertise from Birmingham, Manchester, Heidelberg, Paris and Brisbane".

THE QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BERGHOFER

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) Berghofer says it has a partnership with James Cook University for tropical health research and workforce development.
QIMR Berghofer said the partnership would “create one of Australia's leading collaborations in tropical health research, accelerating the development of new vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics while building the next generation of health researchers”.
The Institute said that following an original agreement signed in July 2025, the two organizations had expanded their partnership with “priority areas of cooperation, governance arrangements and shared commitments to support research excellence, workforce development, and innovation”.
QIMR Berghofer said the expansion included joint appointments in 2026 to support collaborative research programs, a partnership board to oversee activities and guide future priorities, increased opportunities for joint research projects and external funding applications, visiting scientist and adjunct appointments, co-supervised study opportunities to develop researchers, reciprocal facility access and staff exchanges and workshops.

AND HEALTH (AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE)

AND Health says it has a 12-month partnership extension and expansion with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration for software as a medical device regulation.
AND Health said the renewed partnership would allow it to “continue to deliver national, no-cost access to expert guidance on [software-as-a-medical device] regulation, helping innovators accelerate the safe and effective commercialization of new digital health technologies”, including the use of artificial intelligence (A.I.).
The organization said the TGA’s regulatory approach was on a “technology-agnostic basis, focusing on a technology’s intended purpose rather than the technology it utilizes”.
AND Health said that “with software-as-a-medical device expressly including artificial intelligence, innovators building in frontier technology domains need to consider their regulatory strategy early in the development lifecycle”.
The organization said that as artificial intelligence moved from the margins to the mainstream of new health technologies, a growing share of the evidence-based digital and connected health technologies with which AND Health works is within the TGA’s regulatory framework.
AND Health said the partnership strengthened its “ability to help startups navigate … regulation with confidence, embedding regulatory readiness into our national commercialization programs and reinforcing Australia's sovereign capability to bring safe, effective, world-class digital health technologies to market and to the world”.
The organization said that its services covered all software-based medical devices regulated by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, including software-as-a-medical device, standalone digital products such as applications, artificial intelligence tools, and internet cloud-based clinical software.
AND Health said since the partnership began in August 2021, it had supported more than 2,300 Australian innovators in navigating Australia’s software-as-a-medical device regulatory frameworks, through individual ‘office hours’ sessions and webinars.
The organization said that companies which were developing software-based or software-enabled products were “encouraged to register for upcoming ‘office hours’ or monthly webinars” with information available at:
https://www.andhealth.com.au/our-programs/tga-samd.

MONASH UNIVERSITY, MYOSTELLAR, ARGENX

Monash University says with spin-out company Myostellar it has partnered with Amsterdam's Argenx to develop first-in-class molecules for muscular therapies.
Monash University said the agreement built "on the existing strategic research and innovation partnership between Monash and Argenx from earlier this year and demonstrates both organizations' commitment to advancing novel scientific research in the interest of patients".
The University said the Clayton, Melbourne-based Myostellar was co-founded in 2022 by chief executive officer Prof Peter Currie and chief scientific officer Prof Mikael Martino at its Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, with Dr Bo Yun chief operating officer.
According to its website, Myostellar was developing protein-based therapeutics that closely mimicked the body's compounds for the regeneration of muscle stem cells, with applications including muscular dystrophy as well as acute muscle loss and atrophy.
Monash University said Myostellar had received $500,000 in an inaugural funding round of Brandon Capital's Cureator program "to support the development of regenerative therapies for muscular dystrophies" alongside University investments.
The University said the Nasdaq-listed Argenx was an immunology company developing therapies for severe auto-immune diseases and had "a long-standing history and track record of partnering … to translate scientific breakthroughs into a portfolio of novel antibody-based medicines".
Myostellar is a private company.

CONNEQT HEALTH (FORMERLY CARDIEX)

Conneqt says it has raised $379,000 in a share plan at 2.2 cents a share, taking the total raised to $5,879,000 and leaving a $121,000 shortfall.
Earlier this year, Conneqt said it had "commitments" to raise $5,500,000 at 2.2 cents a share in a placement, with an about $500,000 share purchase plan to follow and further details including a timetable to be announced separately (BD: Jun 19, 2026).
Today, the company said the funds would be used for "inventory to support continued commercial growth, together with product development, marketing, enterprise expansion and general working capital".
Conneqt was unchanged at two cents.

RENERVE

Renerve says it has marketing approval for its Nervalign nerve cuff for peripheral nerve repair in the Philippines.
Renerve said that the approval "opened access to one of Southeast Asia's largest and fastest-growing healthcare markets and a significant addressable market for nerve repair".
The company said the marketing authorization added to its existing approvals in the US, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.
Renerve managing-director Dr Julian Chick said securing approval in the Philippines was "a significant milestone in our Asia-Pacific expansion strategy".
"The Philippines is one of the largest and fastest-growing healthcare markets in the region, and the clinical need for effective peripheral nerve repair, driven by both trauma and diabetes, is substantial," Dr Chick said.
"This approval is further validation of the strength of our clinical data and the clear benefit the Nervalign nerve cuff delivers to patients and surgeons," Dr Chick said.
Renerve was unchanged at eight cents.

OSTEOPORE

Osteopore says Dubai's Al-Umnia Medical will distribute its orthopaedic products in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.
Osteopore said with Al-Umnia it would begin product registration in the five countries, according to each country's requirements and practice.
The company said the three-year agreement for the distribution of its orthopaedic bone reconstruction products included optional annual extensions as well as termination on related non-performance of sales purchase targets.
The company did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement.
Osteopore managing-director Dr Yujing Lim said the orthopaedics bone reconstruction product line was "progressing to the next phase of commercialization, beyond South-East Asia to the Middle East".
Osteopore was up 0.1 cents or 25 percent to 0.5 cents with 19.3 million shares traded.

ARGENT BIOPHARMA (FORMERLY MGC PHARMACEUTICALS)

Argent says Splash Beverage Group has begun US veterinary development for its Cannepil for companion-animal oncology and chronic pain management.
Last month, Argent said the Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based Splash Beverage Group would pay $US5.5 million ($A7.9 million) to forgive its outstanding Mercer Street convertible notes to licence Cannepil for epilepsy (BD: Jul 7, 2026).
Today, the company said canine applications were expected to form the first stage of development, which would progress through the US Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine and begin with an investigational new animal drug application before potential conditional approval.
Argent said the veterinary program would be led by the New York's Lupvindol Biosciences chief executive officer Dr Hunter Land "with an experienced cannabinoid pharmaceutical development team".
Previously, the company said its marijuana cannabinoid-based Cannepil was approved for use in Germany under a special access scheme approval for refractory epilepsy in humans (BD: Apr 3, 2025).
Argent chair Roby Zomer said the milestone showed "that the global licencing strategy is already translating into tangible operational progress".
Mr Zomer said that Argent retained ownership of Cannepil intellectual property, manufacturing capabilities and royalty participation, but Splash was executing development, adding opportunities to expand the value of Cannepil for shareholders.
Argent fell half a cent or 11.1 percent to four cents.

TRUSCREEN GROUP

Truscreen says its annual general meeting will vote to increase the director fee pool by 50 percent from $NZ300,000 ($A250,000) to $NZ450,000 ($A375,000).
Truscreen said weakening of the New Zealand dollar to the Australian dollar had "reduced [its] ability to meet current director's fee payable in Australia for listed companies" and the proposed increase would provide the board with flexibility to meet the Australian market.
The company said investors would vote to elect Dr Dexter Cheung and Reece O'Connell as directors, approve the auditor's remuneration and ratify the appointment of its auditors.
The meeting will be held at Level 30, PWC Tower, 15 Customs Street West, Auckland on September 1, 2026 at 11am (NZST).
Truscreen fell 0.1 cents or 8.3 percent to 1.1 cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

LIFE SCIENCES QUEENSLAND

Life Sciences Queensland says nominations for its $37,000 ‘Gene’ awards for researchers, innovators and organizations in life sciences close at midnight tomorrow.

Life Sciences Queensland said that it was the 15th ‘Gene Awards’ and that it was the first year it would award a $25,000 ‘Bio-Innovation Bursary’ to support emerging and mid-career talent and “recognize a project with strong potential to advance innovation, collaboration, commercialization and broader sector impact across Queensland”.

The organization said the seven awards “celebrate the outstanding individuals and companies making a meaningful impact on our sector and advancing Queensland's position as a leader in life sciences”.

Life Sciences Queensland said the awards were open exclusively to member organizations and provided “a unique opportunity to be recognized among Queensland’s life sciences leaders and celebrating achievements with the broader ecosystem”.

The organization said “this year’s submissions have attracted a strong field of nominations, highlighting the depth of talent, innovation and achievement” and were open until the extended deadline of August 7, 2026 at 11.59pm (AEST).

For more information go to: https://www.lsq.com.au/gene-awards-bio-inno-bursary.