Biotech Daily

Friday July 17, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: CYCLOPHARM, NOVA EYE, SYNTARA UP 4.35% - 4D MEDICAL DOWN 16%**

*** DIMERIX UP-TO $418m FOR MISSION'S DMX-652 KIDNEY DRUG**

*** DIMERIX TAKES $10m SKIPTAN (MEURS) LOAN**

*** UTS: 'VITRONECTIN CAUSES LUNG SCARRING, IN MICE'**

*** LTR, SHED US TELEHEALTH ROXUS FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**

*** NEURIZON ENROLS NUZ-001 PHASE II/III 'HEALEY' ALS TRIAL**

*** CERYVYN EXECUTIVE CHAIR DR JEREMY LEVIN PAY UP 28% TO $484k PA**

*** MAYNE APPOINTS GRIFFIN BUCHANAN CFO**

*** ANTEOTECH INTERIM CFO, CO SEC SCOTT WADDELL FIXED-TERM**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.5 percent on Friday July 17, 2026, with the ASX200 down 44.0 points to 8,796.7 points.

Six of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 27 fell and seven traded unchanged. The four Big Caps were mixed.

Cyclopharm, Nova Eye and Syntara were equal best, up 4.35 percent to 60 cents, 12 cents and 2.4 cents, respectively, with 73,138 shares, 21,587 shares and 1.2 million shares traded, respectively. Actinogen and Avita rose more than two percent; with Alcidion, CSL and Resmed up by less than one percent.

4D Medical led the falls, down 59 cents or 15.6 percent to $3.20, with 16.8 million shares traded.

Mesoblast lost 11.9 percent; Immutep was down 7.4 percent; Amplia shed 6.9 percent; Clarity, EBR, Micro-X and Proteomics were down more than five percent; Emvision, Lumos, Polynovo, Racura and Telix fell more than four percent; Atomo, Botanix, Cochlear, Nanosonics, Neuren and Pro Medicus were down three percent or more; Aroa, Artrya, Compumedics, Imricor, Imugene, Orthocell, Paradigm, Saluda and Starpharma shed more than two percent; with Clinuvel down 1.9 percent.

DIMERIX

Dimerix says it will pay up-to $US292 million ($A418 million) plus royalties for the Cambridge, England-based Mission Therapeutics' DMX-652 for acute kidney injury.

Dimerix said the oral small molecule DMX-652 was a selective inhibitor of USP30, a mitochondrial enzyme that slowed the removal of damaged mitochondria.

The company said that the once daily DMX-652 capsule supported mitochondrial quality control in injured kidney cells, which was "a mechanism indicated in the progression of [acute kidney injury] caused by ischaemia (a lack of blood flow resulting in oxygen starvation), toxins or sepsis-related causes, as well as in other renal and non-renal indications".

Dimerix said the asset had completed an 85-participant, phase I study showing it was "well tolerated at both a single 200mg dose and multiple 100mg doses over 14 days, with no serious adverse events related to drug reported", as well as pre-clinical efficacy data showing "strong scientific reasoning validating DMX-652's mechanism of action".

The company said the acquisition included assignment of the composition of matter patent, an open investigational new drug in the US with a US Food and Drug Administration-approved phase II clinical trial protocol, as well as sufficient drug product for the phase II trial and all manufacturing methodology.

Dimerix said it would pay $US5 million up-front to Mission Therapeutics within 30 days of signing, as well as up-to $US47 million in deferred acquisition payments on development milestones, with $US40 million on marketing approval, and $US25 million on approval in a second indication, as well as up-to $US175 million on sales milestones.

The company said it would pay an eight-to-10 percent royalty on net sales if the sales were made by Dimerix, or 2.5-to-five percent on net sales if the sales were made by a third-party sub-licencee.

Dimerix said a proposed 160-patient, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase II trial would assess the safety and efficacy of DMX-652 for preventing acute kidney injury in high-risk patients following cardiac surgery; with a primary endpoint of acute kidney injury incidence seven days after surgery.

Dimerix said clinical trial ethics approval and clinical site initiation was expected this year, with dosing of the first patient by July 2027 and an interim data readout by 2028.

The company said the acquisition of DMX-652 aligned with its "strategy to build a focused pipeline of effective treatments for rare kidney diseases with high unmet medical needs" and was a complementary addition to its phase III asset DMX-200 for focal segmental glomerulo-sclerosis (FSGS) kidney disease.

Dimerix said a complementary asset allowed it "to further leverage its core expertise and existing global network of relationships in kidney disease".

The company said it confirmed that it was "funded through to completion of the … phase III trial in DMX-200, as well as initiation of the phase II clinical trial in DMX-652" through existing cash reserves, licence payments and a $10 million loan (see below).

Dimerix said it was in negotiations "to access up-to a further $40 million in non-dilutive funding, anticipated to be on substantially similar terms to the loan facility".

Dimerix managing-director Dr Nina Webster said DMX-652 was "an exciting and differentiated novel compound, and the acquisition of a phase II-ready program in acute kidney disease represents an important step in executing our strategy to expand our renal pipeline".

"This asset is highly complementary to our phase 3 FSGS program and broadens our development footprint across the kidney disease continuum, from acute injury through to chronic disease," Dr Webster said.

Dimerix was unchanged at 24 cents with 8.6 million shares traded.

DIMERIX

Dimerix says it has a $10 million loan with Skiptan Pty Ltd at 10 percent a year interest to fund potential commercial manufacturing and marketing approval for DMX-200.
Dimerix said Skiptan was an associated entity of Melbourne-based substantial shareholder Peter Meurs and the loan could be drawn-down in whole or in part by December 31, 2026, at its discretion, repayable by January 17, 2028.
The company said negotiations to access up-to a further $40 million in non-dilutive funding, expected to be on substantially similar terms to the loan facility, were progressing and such funding would extend its "cash runway, while supporting a sustainable development pipeline of assets in rare and/or renal disease" (see above).
Dimerix said the facility was expected to be repaid through existing future licencee milestone payments, potential additional licence fees and/or capital market access.
Dimerix chair Mark Diamond said the company was "extremely grateful for the ongoing support and confidence shown, by the company's largest shareholder, in DMX-200 and in the company's future".
"The advanced status of the … phase III clinical trial in FSGS, combined with our newly acquired phase II asset in acute kidney injury, DMX-652, underline our commitment to growing sustainable shareholder value through clinical success, global partnerships, and pipeline diversification," Mr Diamond said.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY (UTS)

The University of Technology Sydney says a study in mice shows the protein vitronectin causes macrophages to scar the lungs in pulmonary fibrosis.
The University of Technology Sydney said that in pulmonary fibrosis, a lung protein called vitronectin switched macrophage immune cells to cause scarring, rather than their normal wound healing process.
The University said researchers used a 3-dimensional tissue culture system that mimicked the fibrotic environment and found that vitronectin was "critical in switching the macrophages to cause scarring rather than healing".
The University of Technology Sydney said vitronectin changed "how macrophages produce energy, and this drives them to have a heightened fibrotic state".
The University said the research, titled 'Vitronectin metabolically programs profibrotic macrophages in 3D cultures and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis' was published in Science Advances at: https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aec8501.
The University of Technology Sydney said it was "a completely new mechanism to understand how fibrosis happens that was only possible by studying these cells in more natural, 3-dimensional environments".
The University said the 3-dimensional cultures were "perfectly mirrored by animal models … and in tissue samples from patients with [idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis".
The University of Technology Sydney said the next step was "to identify new treatments that can use the vitronectin-macrophage pathway to treat [idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis]".
The University said two drugs were approved to treat pulmonary fibrosis and "neither of them can reverse the scarring and cure the disease".
The University of Technology Sydney research and co-first author Prof Gang Liu said "understanding this mechanism is critical to identifying new therapeutic agents for fibrosis patients".
"Now we can work to identify new drugs that can most effectively inhibit vitronectin so we can translate this research into clinical practice and help find a new cure for this debilitating disease," Prof Liu said.

LTR PHARMA

LTR says it has signed a commercial agreement with Salt Lake City, Utah's Shed Holdings for the US telehealth distribution of its Roxus for erectile dysfunction (ED).
Last month, LTR said Shed Holdings would distribute its intra-nasal Roxus for erectile dysfunction through direct-to-consumer telehealth in the US (BD: Jun 9, 2026).
Today, the company said Shed had committed "to support delivery of not less than 150,000 units during the first 12 months following commercial launch".
LTR said Shed would commercialize Roxus through its telehealth website Mavrox for consultation and treatment as well as on its own website.
The company said with Shed it would "now focus on completing the remaining implementation activities required to support commercial launch".
LTR said the agreement further reduced execution risk as it advanced US commercialization, and was "another significant milestone as the company progresses toward US commercial launch".
Previously, the company said it was developing Roxus, a nasal spray based on vardenafil, marketed by Bayer as Levitra, for erectile dysfunction with a "pharmaceutical partner in Australia" (BD: Mar 26, 2025).
At the time, LTR executive chair Lee Rodne told Biotech Daily he was not at liberty to describe the technical differences between Roxus and Spontan, which was also a nasal spray based on vardenafil, marketed by Bayer as Levitra, for erectile dysfunction, but said Roxus had been developed specifically for the US market and the company hoped to launch the product for erectile dysfunction in early-to-mid-2026.
LTR was up two cents or 4.1 percent to 51 cents.

NEURIZON THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PHARMAUST)

Neurizon says it has enrolled all 250 patients in the phase II/III 'Healey' trial of NUZ-001, formerly monepantel, for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).
Earlier this year, Neurizon said the first of about 160 patients was dosed with NUZ-001 in the phase II/III trial; and later, said it had dosed 129 of 240 patients in the trial following an increase in the number of patients (BD: Feb 26, May 27, Jun 12, 2026).
Today, the company said the final participant had completed their baseline visit and begun treatment, completing enrolment, with topline efficacy and safety results expected by July 2027, "earlier than previously anticipated".
Neurizon said completion of enrolment, together with the earlier expected timing of the topline results readout, further showed the continued advancement of the late-stage clinical development program for NUZ-001 for the treatment of ALS.
The company said patients would continue through the 36-week randomized, controlled trial phase before entering the 36-week active treatment extension phase, with the company's focus centred on continued execution ahead of expected readout.
Neurizon executive chair Sergio Duchini said completion of enrolment was "a major milestone in the clinical development of NUZ-001".
"Importantly, the rapid completion of recruitment has enabled the anticipated timing of topline efficacy and safety results to be accelerated into late Q2 CY2027, bringing forward an important value inflection point for Neurizon and our shareholders," Mr Duchini said.
"With recruitment now complete, our focus turns to delivering the study with the same operational discipline that has characterized the program to date," Mr Duchini said.
"We look forward to advancing NUZ-001 through clinical development and towards the anticipated topline efficacy and safety results," Mr Duchini said.
Neurizon was unchanged at 6.3 cents with 2.1 million shares traded.

CERYVYN THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY OPTHEA, CIRCADIAN)

Ceryvyn says it has increased executive chair Dr Jeremy Levin's pay by 27.6 percent from $379,500 to $484,250 a year, effective from September 15, 2025.

Last year, following two trials of OPT-302 for wet age-related macular degeneration not meeting their primary endpoints the then Opthea said it cut staff by 85 percent, its directors would step down and it paid a one-off settlement of $US20 million ($A31 million) to its DFA Investors and had $20 million in cash (BD: Mar 24, 31, Jul 30, Aug 19, 2025).

At the time, Opthea said Dr Jeremy Levin would continue as executive chair on $379,500 a year plus a 30 percent retention bonus.

Today, Ceryvyn said Dr Levin's pay included a $314,000 annual salary, excluding statutory entitlements, for the role of chief executive officer, a $150,000 a year fee for his services as chair and $6,750 per year per board committee membership held.

Ceryvyn said Dr Levin remained eligible for a retention bonus equal to 30 percent of his chair fees and chief executive consultancy fees of $114,075 a year.

Ceryvyn was unchanged at 1.3 cents with 6.5 million shares traded.

MAYNE PHARMA

Mayne Pharma says it has appointed Griffin Buchanan as its chief financial officer, effective from August 1, 2026.

Mayne said Mr Buchanan was "a senior finance executive with extensive experience" in medical technology and healthcare and had been Establishment Labs head of finance and head of enterprise services finance at Siemens Healthineers.

The company said Mr Buchanan held a Bachelor of Science from Durham's University of New Hampshire and a Master of Business Administration from Erlangen, Germany's Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Mayne said the appointment brought "directly relevant sector experience to Mayne at a time when women's health remains a core pillar of the company's portfolio".

Mayne fell four cents or 1.4 percent to $2.88.

ANTEOTECH

Anteotech says interim chief financial officer and company secretary Scott Waddell will continue on a fixed term contract, until December 16, 2026.

Earlier this year, Anteotech said it had appointed Mr Waddell as interim chief financial officer and company secretary, effective from February 2, 2026 (BD: Jan 28, 2026).

Anteotech fell 0.2 cents or 7.7 percent to 2.4 cents with 15.9 million shares traded.