



Biotech Daily

Tuesday October 20, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: IMUGENE UP 6%
- IMPEDIMED, STARPHARMA DOWN 33%**
- * **INVION, PERCHERON PRE-CLINICAL HMBD-002, PHOTOSOFT STUDIES**
- * **EYEPOINT TUMBLES 87% ON 2nd PHASE III DURAVYA WET AMD MISS**
- * **MICROBA 'FIRM COMMITMENTS' FOR \$2m PLACEMENT**
- * **STARPHARMA TAKES 66% OF PETALION**
- * **TELEX, EKALIA JOIN FOR US ASTATINE-211 ISOTOPE PRODUCTION**
- * **ARGENICA: 'IN-VITRO STUDIES BACK ARG-007 FOR BRAIN INJURY'**
- * **GERMANY APPROVES ANTERIS DURAVR TRIAL**
- * **EBR FILES WISE CRT TO TGA**
- * **RECCE INTERIM PHASE III R327 DATA 'STRONG EFFICACY, SAFETY'**
- * **CYNATA UNMARKETABLE PARCEL FACILITY**
- * **SYNTARA 14m M-D GARY PHILLIPS RIGHTS AGM**
- * **ADHERIS CONDITIONAL BOARD SPILL AGM**
- * **PHARMA NUTRIA TAKES 10% OF FIREBRICK**
- * **ELEGANT GREEN DIAMONDS, BENZION BASAL TAKE 13% OF IDENTIFAI**
- * **DANIEL CANU TAKES 6% OF NEUROTECH**
- * **DUTCH INK BELOW 5% OF NEUROTECH**
- * **POLYNOVO LOSES 8-YEAR CFO JAN GIELEN; NEW CFO WANTED**
- * **VITRAFY APPOINTS JAN GIELEN CFO**
- * **MICROBA LOSES DIRECTORS PROF IAN FRAZER, PROF GENE TYSON**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.33 percent on Tuesday October 20, 2026, with the ASX200 down 28.8 points to 8,816.9 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 17 fell, 10 traded unchanged and one was untraded. All four Big Caps were up.

Imugene was the best, up 0.2 cents or 5.9 percent to 3.6 cents, with 5.3 million shares traded. Cochlear, Prescient and Resonance were up more than five percent; EBR and Nova Eye climbed more than three percent; Avita, Compumedics, Racura and Telix rose more than two percent; Alcidion, CSL, Nanosonics and Pro Medicus were up one percent or more; with Emvision and Resmed up by less than one percent.

Impedimed and Starpharma led the falls, both down 33.3 percent, to 0.4 cents and 50 cents, respectively, with 128.0 million and 12.3 million shares traded, respectively.

Curvebeam lost 14.3 percent; Actinogen was down 6.5 percent; Lumos fell 5.4 percent; 4D Medical, Artrya, Micro-X and Optiscan were down more than three percent; Dimerix shed 2.4 percent; Clarity, Imricor, Medical Developments and Polynovo were down more than one percent; with Clinuvel, Mesoblast and Neuren down by less than one percent.

INVION, PERCHERON THERAPEUTICS

Invion and Percheron say they will conduct pre-clinical research on Percheron's monoclonal antibody HMBD-002 with Invion's photo-dynamic therapy (PDT) Photosoft. Last year, Percheron said it would acquire Hummingbird Bioscience's HMBD-002, a monoclonal antibody with potential applications in cancers that targeted the v-domain immuno-globulin suppressor of T-cell activation (Vista) (BD: Jun 26, 2025).

Today, the companies said "the biological rationale for the combination is that Photosoft-initiated tumor destruction may create an environment in which an immune-directed therapy could generate additional anti-tumor activity" and that Photosoft-driven elimination of tumor cells could "trigger an immune response".

Percheron said the costs of the study were expected "to be modest and will not affect Percheron's cash runway".

Invion said the collaboration would "investigate a complementary therapeutic approach that combines INV043's PDT-mediated tumor destruction with HMBD-002".

The companies said "pre-clinical findings could provide scientific rationale for further development of the combination and broaden the potential opportunities for HMBD-002 in solid tumors".

Percheron managing-director Dr Michael Baker said "we believe there is a strong scientific rationale for investigating whether these distinct mechanisms can work together to generate enhanced anti-tumor activity".

Invion executive chair Prof Thian Chew said the collaboration brought "together two highly complementary technologies with the potential to reshape how solid tumors are treated".

"By combining these mechanisms, we aim to generate a more powerful and durable anti-tumor response," Prof Chew said.

"Both programs have already completed phase I studies, so positive pre-clinical data could allow us to move swiftly toward clinical evaluation," Prof Chew said.

Invion fell 0.2 cents or 5.3 percent to 3.6 cents.

Percheron was up 0.1 cents or 33.3 percent to 0.4 cents.

EYEPOINT (FORMERLY PSIVIDA)

Eyepoint fell 86.5 percent to 40.26 US cents on news its 475-patient Lucia phase III trial of Duravyu for wet age-related macular degeneration “did not meet the primary endpoint”. In August, Eyepoint said the “primary endpoint [was] not achieved” in its 432-patient, ‘Lugano’ phase III trial of Duravyu for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), with the primary endpoint “a change in baseline in best corrected visual acuity compared to two milligrams of aflibercept control” (BD: Aug 19, 2026).

Following the August news, Eyepoint fell as much as 73.2 percent from \$US14.75 on Friday to a low of \$US3.95 on Monday before closing down \$US9.88 or 67.0 percent at \$US4.87.

Previously, the company said Duravyu, formerly EYP-1901, was the administration of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, vorolanib, into the eye using its Durasert intra-vitreous, micro-insert drug delivery device (BD: May 7, 2024)

Overnight, Eyepoint said that Lucia enrolled 475 patients and Lugano enrolled 432 patients and both trials randomized patients to either 2.7mg of Duravyu every 24 weeks or on-label aflibercept 2 mg every eight weeks, with supplemental aflibercept as needed according to pre-specified criteria.

The company said that Lugano “did not meet the primary endpoint ... despite demonstrating visual improvement”.

Eyepoint said that in Lugano, Duravyu showed “strong and consistent performance across key secondary endpoints, including a 42 percent reduction in treatment burden (nominal p-value < 0.0001), a favorable safety profile with redosing, durable supplement-free rates and strong anatomic control through week-56”.

The company said that Lucia “did not achieve the primary endpoint of statistical non-inferiority in mean change in [best corrected visual acuity] versus on-label aflibercept control, despite demonstrating visual improvement”.

Eyepoint said that Lucia’s “key secondary endpoints ... were met including a superior 38 percent reduction in treatment burden (nominal p-value < 0.0001), with 52 percent of eyes supplement-free and 71 percent receiving zero or one supplement up to week-56, as well as strong anatomic control”.

The company said that there was a “continued favorable safety profile for Duravyu with redosing [and the diabetic macular oedema] program remains on track with pivotal phase III topline data from two identical clinical trials” expected by the end of 2027.

Eyepoint chief executive officer Dr Jay Duker said the company was “disappointed that the Lucia trial did not meet the primary endpoint given the promising scientific rationale of Duravyu and its potential to improve outcomes for patients with wet AMD”.

“Both Lucia and Lugano demonstrated Duravyu’s ability to control fluid and reduce the treatment burden for patients with wet AMD,” Dr Duker said.

“These findings support Duravyu’s therapeutic potential in [diabetic macular oedema],” Dr Duker said.

“With the multi-factorial and inflammatory nature of [diabetic macular oedema], as well as compelling results in the phase II Verona trial, we believe Duravyu is well positioned to potentially deliver stable vision with fewer injections than standard of care,” Dr Duker said.

“We remain focused on executing on our phase III [diabetic macular oedema] program and continue to be guided by our unwavering mission of serving the retinal disease community,” Dr Duker said.

Separately, Eyepoint said it would “reduce the company’s workforce by approximately 53 percent of employees”.

Eyepoint closed down \$US2.55 (\$A3.64) or 85.28 percent at 44 US cents (62.86 Australian cents), with 183.4 million shares traded.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says it has “firm commitments” to raise \$2.025 million at four cents a share in a placement to shareholders Sonic Healthcare, Perennial Partners and Thorney.

Microba said the issue price was a 13 percent discount to the 10-day volume weighted average price and a 9.1 percent discount to the last closing price.

The company said the two-tranche placement would be issued through an initial \$1.025 million tranche and a second \$1.0 million tranche, subject to shareholder approval, which included subscriptions from directors Pasquale Rombola, Stephane Chatonsky and Jacqueline Fernley.

Microba said the placement would fund its cost reduction program and strengthen its funding position as it progressed the proposed merger with Genetic Signatures.

Last month, Genetic Signatures and Microba announced a merger through a scheme of arrangement, with Genetic Signatures to issue Microba about \$39.3 million in scrip (BD: Sep 22, 2026).

Today, Microba said it reduced its annualized cash operating costs by about \$5 million, or more than 20 percent, and that following slower-than-expected revenue in the UK, it planned to further decrease costs by about \$3 million.

Microba was unchanged at 4.4 cents.

STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says it will pay \$5 million to increase its equity interest in Petalio Therapeutics from 22.5 percent to 66 percent for its FAP-targeted oncology program.

In 2024, Starpharma said London’s Medicxi would invest up-to \$US25 million (\$A38 million) and licence part of its dendrimer platform to co-found Petalio Therapeutics for fibroblast activation protein (FAP)-targeted cancer treatments (BD: Apr 8, 2024).

At the time, the company said it would licence “certain intellectual property to Petalio as required for research, development, manufacture and commercialization” and, in exchange, receive an equity holding of 22.5 percent in the London-based Petalio.

Today, Starpharma said Medicxi would retain 30 percent and four percent would remain held with Petalio advisers and that it would contribute \$3.0 million in cash and \$2.0 million in research and development services, funded from its recent capital raise.

The company said it would lead operations and provide its dendrimer enhanced product (DEP) platform, dendrimer, conjugation and development capabilities, while Medicxi would provide strategic, oncology-development, investment and expertise.

Starpharma said the purchase provided “majority economic ownership and decision-making control of a differentiated FAP-targeted program at a defined development stage”.

The company said it would appoint two directors to the board of Petalio, with Medicxi to retain one position and its chief executive officer Cheryl Maley to serve as chair.

Ms Maley said Petalio was “strongly aligned with our strategy to build a focused portfolio of differentiated targeted-oncology therapies”.

“Its FAP-targeted dendrimer-drug conjugate complements our broader work in targeted drug delivery and demonstrates the versatility of the DEP platform across therapeutic payloads,” Ms Maley said.

“Majority ownership enables us to integrate the program more closely into our oncology portfolio and direct the next phase with clear development and capital-allocation priorities,” Ms Maley said.

“Our immediate objective is to select a lead candidate and establish the evidence required for the next development and partnering decision,” Ms Maley said.

Starpharma fell 25 cents or 33.3 percent to 50 cents with 12.3 million shares traded.

TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS

Telix says with the IBA-Framatome joint venture Ekalia it will produce the alpha-emitting radio-isotope astatine-211 in the US for targeted alpha therapy.

In an email not released to the ASX, Telix said Ekalia was a joint-venture of the Herndon, Virginia-based Ion Beam Applications (IBA) and Courbevoie, France's Framatome.

The company said it would combine its US radio-pharmacy infrastructure, clinical portfolio and development capabilities with IBA's alpha-beam cyclotron technology and Framatome's nuclear and isotope production.

Telix said the collaboration "expanded into the US the strategic partnership formed by IBA and Framatome in Europe to advance industrial-scale [astatine-211] production".

The company said the first installation at RLS Trevoise was "intended to establish a reproducible production model, with the potential for further rollout".

Last year, Telix said it acquired Orlando, Florida's RLS Inc (BD: Jan 28, 2025).

Today, the company said astatine-211 was "a promising alpha-emitting radio-isotope for the development of innovative cancer treatments ... [and the collaboration was] intended to improve robust, reliable, and timely access to [astatine-211] for research and clinical development through a network of production sites in close proximity to clinical centres, helping to further establish theranostics as a cornerstone of precision oncology".

The company said the agreement was expected to support development of candidates, including its astatine-211-based TLX102-Tx for glioblastoma and lepto-meningeal disease. Telix was up 36 cents or 2.3 percent to \$15.76 with 1.5 million shares traded.

ARGENICA THERAPEUTICS

Argenica says in-vitro pharmacology studies show xaranetide, or ARG-007, "inhibits several channels on the cell surface that are involved in brain injury".

Argenica said the studies evaluated xaranetide by determining the inhibition of ion channels associated with modulation of glutamate-associated excitotoxicity, including the major mediator of excitotoxicity, the n-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) receptor, as well as voltage-gated calcium channel (CaV2.2) and acid-sensing ion channel 1a (ASIC1a).

The company said the UK and Swiss studies evaluated the inhibitory potential, kinetics, mechanism and voltage dependence of ARG-007 on NMDA receptor currents.

Argenica said electro-physiological recordings were made from human embryonic kidney cell lines stably expressing the full-length ion channel and for each ion channel, a positive control was tested in parallel; with the NMDA studies showing xaranetide reduced activity in both receptor subunits tested, with greater inhibition as concentration increased.

Argenica said at 1.2 micrometres "the measured onset time constants were approximately five seconds for both sub-types, showing that inhibition developed rapidly once the peptide was applied in these laboratory experiments".

The company said the study explained "how its effect on ... the NMDA channel, responds to high levels of glutamate and changes in electrical voltage across the cell membrane".

Argenica said the results strengthened "the scientific rationale for xaranetide as a novel treatment to protect vulnerable brain tissue following injury".

Argenica managing-director Dr Liz Dallimore said the "proposed mechanism targets NMDA channels once they open, potentially limiting damaging calcium entry".

"Studies show a multi-target activity targeting other channels implicated in stroke, being the ASIC1a and CaV2.2 channels," Dr Dallimore said. "This could be particularly relevant in more severe strokes where still-living tissue is under substantial stress resulting in channel opening and offers a possible explanation for our exploratory phase II signals."

Argenica was untraded at 12 cents.

[ANTERIS TECHNOLOGIES GLOBAL CORP](#)

Anteris says it has full regulatory clearance from the Germany Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices for the Duravr transcatheter heart valve pivotal trial.

Anteris said the clearance allowed it to begin recruitment at Germany centres and was “an important step in expanding the ‘Paradigm’ trial’s European footprint”.

Last year, the company said it had treated the first of up-to 1,000 patients in its pivotal trial of the balloon-expandable Duravr transcatheter heart valve for severe calcific aortic stenosis at Denmark’s University Hospital and later said it had US Food and Drug Administration approval for the trial (BD: Oct 16, 28, Nov 3, 2025).

Today, the company said Germany was “Europe’s largest and most established transcatheter aortic valve replacement market, with an extensive network of experienced structural heart centres and investigators”.

Anteris said activating sites in this high-volume environment was expected to increase access to eligible patients and accelerate enrolment in the ‘Paradigm’ trial”.

Anteris was up five cents or 0.6 percent to \$8.75.

[EBR SYSTEMS](#)

EBR says it has filed an application to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration for its Wise cardiac re-synchronization therapy (CRT).

Last year, EBR said the US Food and Drug Administration approved its leadless Wise CRT device for left ventricular pacing (BD: Apr 14, 2025).

Earlier this year, the company said it had TGA priority review determination for its Wise wireless cardiac re-synchronization therapy (BD: Apr 24, 2026).

Today, EBR said the submission for Wise to be included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods was a milestone in its regulatory and commercialization strategy.

EBR managing-director John McCutcheon said the submission was “an important step towards making the Wise system available to patients outside the US”.

“Our submission is supported by our clinical data and the FDA approval,” Mr McCutcheon said.

EBR was up half a cent or 3.45 percent to 15 cents with 3.6 million shares traded.

[RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS](#)

Recce says a review of blinded data from 75 patients in its phase III trial of R327 for diabetic foot ulcers “indicates strong efficacy along with a very positive safety profile”.

Last year, Recce said it began dosing its up-to 310 patient, phase III trial of R327 topical gel for diabetic foot infections at five sites in Indonesia (BD: Sep 25, 2025).

Today, the company said a data set of 75 patients had been submitted to the data monitoring committee who would unblind the data for the phase III trial in Indonesia.

Recce said the committee would “provide its recommendations to the company following the conclusion of its meeting expected as soon as mid-November”.

Recce managing-director James Graham said the review was “an important milestone in our phase III diabetic foot infection program”.

“While Recce remains blinded to treatment allocation, the overall efficacy and safety profile observed to date is encouraging,” Mr Graham said.

“[Diabetic foot infections] represents a significant global healthcare challenge and an area of substantial unmet medical need where R327 [gel] is anticipated to become the standard of care for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcer infections,” Mr Graham said.

Recce was up six cents or 20.7 percent to 35 cents with 1.1 million shares traded.

CYNATA THERAPEUTICS

Cynata says it has an unmarketable parcel facility for holders of shares worth less than \$500, or 49,999 shares or fewer based on the closing price of one cent.

Cynata said that there were 2,363 shareholders with unmarketable parcels, or 7.9 percent of the company's issued shares, at the record date of October 19, 2026.

The company said that the facility would be able to sell shares without brokerage or handling costs and allow the company to reduce administrative costs.

The company said Caravel Securities was broker and sale agent to the facility.

Cynata was unchanged at one cent with 1.6 million shares traded.

SYNTARA

Syntara says its annual general meeting will vote to issue managing-director Gary Phillips 3,087,108 rights in lieu of salary and 11,041,009 performance rights.

Syntara said the 3,087,108 performance rights to Mr Phillips were in lieu of \$62,360 of his \$505,678 annual remuneration, with the 11,041,009 performance rights at zero grant price and zero exercise price.

The company said shareholders would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect Dr Simon Green as a non-executive director, approve an additional 10 percent placement capacity and reinstate the proportional takeover provisions.

The meeting will be held online on November 19, 2026 at 9am (AEDT).

Syntara was unchanged at 2.0 cents with one million shares traded.

ADHERIS HEALTH (MEDADVISOR)

Adheris says its annual general meeting will vote to adopt the remuneration report and a conditional spill resolution.

Last year, the then Medadvisor said its annual general meeting would vote to change the company name to 'Adheris Health Ltd' and ASX ticker code to 'AHE'; and later, said the meeting passed all resolutions except the remuneration report, which was defeated by 68.08 percent of the meeting (BD: Oct 27, Nov 26, 2025).

Under the Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Director and Executive Remuneration) Act 2011 any company with a vote of 25 percent or more against the remuneration report in two successive annual meetings must vote on a board spill.

Today, the company said investors would vote to adopt the remuneration report and re-elect directors Lucas Merrow and John Murray.

The meeting will be held online and at Level 9, 5 Martin Place, Sydney on November 18, 2026 at 9.30am (AEDT).

Adheris was untraded at 1.4 cents.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Pharma Nutria NA Inc says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Firebrick from 12,778,947 shares (5.08%) to 30,828,947 shares (10.01%).

The Manila, Philippines-based Pharma Nutria said that on October 19, 2026 it bought 18,050,000 shares in a placement for \$631,750, or 3.5 cents a share.

Last week, Firebrick said it raised about \$732,000 at 3.5 cents a share in a placement, supported by Philippines licencing partner Pharma Nutria (BD: Oct 12, 2026).

Firebrick was up 0.2 cents or 7.1 percent to three cents.

IDENTIFAI GENETICS

New York's Elegant Green Diamonds & Gold LLC says it has become a substantial shareholder in Identifai with 25,398,111 shares, or 13.23 percent of the company.

Elegant Green Diamonds chief executive officer Benzion Basal said he acquired the 25,398,111 vendor shares.

Identifai was up 6.5 cents or 15.1 percent to 49.5 cents with 1.5 million shares traded.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Brisbane's Daniel Canu says he has become a substantial shareholder in Neurotech with 90,579,391 shares, or 5.60 percent of the company.

Mr Canu said he bought shares between September 22 and October 19, 2026, with the largest purchase 31,000,000 shares on October 14 for \$434,000, or 1.4 cents a share.

Neurotech was up 0.1 cents or 5.9 percent to 1.8 cents with 6.1 million shares traded.

NEUROTECH INTERNATIONAL

Dutch Ink Pty Ltd says it has ceased its substantial shareholding in Neurotech.

In 2024, the Perth-based Dutch Ink Pty Ltd said it became a substantial shareholder in Neurotech with 94,341,233 shares, or 9.11 percent (BD: Oct 9, 2024).

Dutch Ink said at that time that it bought shares between August 1, 2020 and October 4, 2024, but failed to disclose the amount and cost as required under the Corporations Act.

POLYNOVO

Polynovo says eight-year chief financial officer Jan Gielen "will step down from his role to pursue a new opportunity as chief financial officer of Vitrafy" (see below).

Polynovo said it expected to appoint an interim chief financial officer and Mr Gielen would remain with the company until January 15, 2027 to "support a smooth transition".

The company thanked Mr Gielen for "his significant contribution ... and wish him every success in his new role".

Polynovo fell 1.5 cents or 1.6 percent to 90.5 cents.

VITRAFY LIFE SCIENCES

Vitrafy says it has appointed Jan Gielen as chief financial officer, effective from February 1, 2027 (see above).

Vitrafy was up four cents or 1.5 percent to \$2.75.

MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Microba says it will move to a smaller board with directors Prof Ian Frazer and Prof Gene Tyson agreeing to step down, effective from October 21, 2026.

Microba said the board thanked "them both and wishes them every success".