



Biotech Daily

Tuesday September 22, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: MICRO-X UP 20%; ATOMO DOWN 6%**
- * **GENETIC SIGNATURES, MICROBA \$35m SCRIP MERGER; BCAL**
- * **BRANDON CUREATOR+ \$15.6m FOR 7 COGNITIVE DECLINE COMPANIES**
- * **EVINCO, ARMI COLLABORATE ON CELL THERAPY FOR ALZHEIMER'S**
- * **ADELAIDE UNI: 'ENDOFUSION A.I. FINDS ENDOMETRIOSIS IN 18ms'**
- * **RHYTHM: ENGLAND'S SOUTHERN HUB EVALUATING COLOSTAT**
- * **NEXSEN REQUESTS 'RAPID-GBS TRIAL UPDATE' TRADING HALT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.3 percent on Tuesday September 22, 2026, with the ASX200 up 25.9 points to 8757.8 points.

Fourteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 12 fell, 12 traded unchanged and two were untraded. The four Big Caps were mixed.

Micro-X was the best for the second day in a row, up 0.5 cents or 20.0 percent to three cents, with three million shares traded.

Lumos climbed 9.1 percent; Resonance and Telix were up more than six percent; Emvision improved 4.8 percent; Dimerix and Immutep rose more than two percent; Aroa, Artrya, CSL, Mesoblast, Nanosonics, Neuren and Starpharma were up by one percent or more; with Clarity and Cochlear up by less than one percent

Atomo led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 5.6 percent to 1.7cents, with 711,259 shares traded.

Compumedics fell four percent; Optiscan and Nova Eye were down more than three percent; 4D Medical, Medical Developments, Orthocell and Saluda shed more than two percent; Imricor and Racura were down one percent or more; with Avita, Polynovo, Pro Medicus and Resmed down by less than one percent.

GENETIC SIGNATURES, MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES, BCAL DIAGNOSTICS

Genetic Signatures and Microba have announced a merger through a scheme of arrangement with Genetic Signatures issuing Microba about \$39.3 million in scrip. Earlier this month, Genetic Signatures said that it had received a section 249D notice from Bcal which wanted to replace chair Genetic Signatures Mike Aicher with former Genetic Signatures chief executive officer John Melki and appoint Susan Forrester as a director (BD: Sep 3, 2026).

The company said at the time that its share register indicated “that the same number of shares purportedly acquired by ... [Bcal were] held by an entity named Lawn Views Pty Ltd” with sole director and shareholder Angela Kate Williams, whose spouse is David Williams, the former chair of Medical Developments, Polynovo and Inoviq and the current chair of Arovella.

Genetic Signatures said Lawn Views’ address was the same as the registered office of Kidder Williams Ltd.

In August, Bcal said it had increased its holding in Genetic Signatures to 41,923,644 shares (18.46%) (BD: Aug 26, 2026).

Earlier this month, Bcal said it had engaged corporate adviser and investment bank Kidder Williams, which was “not an associate of Bcal” to assist with the acquisition of its interest in Genetic Signatures and understood Kidder Williams “used an associated entity to facilitate the acquisition” (BD: Sep 3, 2026).

Today, Genetic Signatures and Microba said that through a scheme of arrangement Genetic Signatures would acquire Microba for 0.654 new Genetic Signatures shares for each Microba share.

Genetic Signatures said it would issue about 469 million new shares, with Microba option holders receiving 0.654 new Genetic Signatures options for each Microba option held.

At today’s closing price of 7.5 cents, 469 million Genetic Signatures shares is worth about \$35.2 million.

The companies said that following the implementation of the merger, Microba shareholders would hold about 67 percent of Genetic Signatures and existing shareholders would hold about 33 percent, with the company remaining on ASX under the code GSS.

Genetic Signatures said the proposed merger would “bring together two established Australian diagnostics businesses with complementary technologies, products and international distribution networks to create a larger and stronger, combined, ASX-listed diagnostics group ... [with about] \$29.6 million in aggregate 2025-’26 revenue and products distributed to more than 30 countries”.

The companies said the combined group would bring together Genetic Signatures’ “established hospital and reference laboratory customers with Microba’s clinician networks and pathology partnerships, including relationships with Sonic Healthcare and Synlab” and held about \$30 million in cash and term deposits at June 30, 2026.

Genetic Signatures chair Mike Aicher said that “by bringing our respective technologies, expertise and commercial capabilities together, we have the potential to build a stronger diagnostics platform and accelerate the delivery of new solutions to clinicians and patients globally”.

Microba chair Pasquale Rombola said the merger “creates a leader in gastro-intestinal diagnostics, with broader revenue and customer bases, and a materially stronger balance sheet to meet the significant global opportunity facing the merged group”.

Bcal fell 0.4 cents or 4.65 percent to 8.2 cents.

Genetic Signatures was up 0.1 cents or 1.35 percent to 7.5 cents.

Microba was up 0.2 cents or four percent to 5.2 cents.

BRANDON BIOCATALYST, CUREATOR+ AND HEALTH (AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE)

Brandon Biocatalyst says it will provide \$15.6 million to seven start-ups for dementia and cognitive decline therapies, diagnostics and technologies targeting.

Brandon Biocatalyst said the funds would be provided by its Cureator+ Dementia & Cognitive Decline in partnership with AND Health and Dementia Australia; and funded by the Federal Government through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

The company said that the program focused on “accelerating the research translation and commercialization of early-stage Australian medical research and innovations with commercial potential”.

Brandon Biocatalyst said the seven companies selected in round 2 were developing innovations addressing some of the most significant challenges in dementia and neuro-degenerative disease - from childhood dementia and Alzheimer's disease to earlier detection of cognitive decline.

The company said the recipients were Melbourne's Kinosis Therapeutics (\$2,500,000) for a therapy for chronic agitation and aggression associated with dementia; Melbourne's Synerva Therapeutics (\$2,489,934) for therapies designed to prevent neuronal cell death in Parkinson's disease and related dementias; Brisbane's Quinthera (\$2,425,000) for an oral therapy targeting neuro-inflammation in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; Brisbane's Intracellica Bio (\$1,607,074) for an intracellular anti-Tau antibody for Alzheimer's disease and related tauopathies; Hobart's Tastest (\$2,500,000) for a digital self-assessment identifying dementia risk before symptoms appear; Perth's Codebreakers (\$2,129,972) to develop a gene editing therapy to reverse childhood dementia caused by mitochondrial disease; and Melbourne's Healthily (\$1,928,237) to develop an artificial intelligence (A.I.)-powered voice platform for the early detection of cognitive decline.

Cureator program head Dr Amanda Vrselja said the technologies showed “the strength of Australian innovation in dementia and neuro-degenerative disease”.

“These seven companies are tackling that challenge from very different directions, including gene therapy, novel medicines, artificial intelligence and digital diagnostics,” Dr Vrselja said.

EVINCO THERAPEUTICS, AUSTRALIAN REGENERATIVE MEDICINE INSTITUTE

Melbourne's Evinco says it will collaborate with the Monash University-based Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI) on a cell therapy for Alzheimer's disease.

Evinco said that the collaboration would generate human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived brain cell models to investigate the effects of its natural killer cell-derived extracellular vesicle (NK-EV) platform on neuro-inflammation.

The company said that ARMI would generate iPSC-derived brain cell models and Evinco would test its NK-EV platform against them.

Evinco said the collaboration was “an important milestone in [its] proof-of-concept development program” providing the means to investigate the effects and potential mechanism of action of its NK-EVs in the brain cell types most closely associated with neuro-inflammation.

Evinco executive chair Prof Alan Trounson said the collaboration “could revolutionize the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, now the leading cause of death in Australia”.

ARMI research director Prof Peter Currie, said the collaboration reflected “the infrastructure and industry relationships the Institute has built to move discovery science into development pipelines”.

Evinco is a private company.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

Adelaide University says its Endofusion an artificial intelligence (A.I.) tool was able to identify two indicators of advanced endometriosis in pelvic scans, in 18 milliseconds. Adelaide University said it was “a significant development, as [magnetic resonance] and ultrasound imaging are often better at detecting one sign of the condition over the other”. The University said the artificial intelligence framework was “in the early stages of development ... [and worked] by using information gathered from four datasets containing more than 9,000 female pelvic [magnetic resonance] scans and more than 800 transvaginal ultrasound sliding scans”.

The research, titled ‘Unpaired multi-modal multi-label learning for detecting endometriosis signs’ was published in the journal Artificial Intelligence in Medicine at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0933365726001557?via%3Dihub>.

Adelaide University’s Prof Jodie Avery said that “current scanning methods each have their own strengths when it comes to detecting two common markers that indicate the likelihood of endometriosis and patients will often only have access to one of them”.

“Our A.I. tool can help address these shortcomings by combining data from both imaging tools, giving the framework the knowledge it needs to detect both signs of endometriosis through a single scan more effectively and efficiently,” Prof Avery said.

The University said Endofusion was “able to distinguish between positive and negative cases of endometriosis and provided a correct diagnosis 83 percent of the time, which was more accurate than all competing models”.

Adelaide University said more than 190 million women had endometriosis, a chronic condition occurring when uterine tissue grew outside the uterus, causing symptoms including abdominal pain, heavy periods, bloating, anxiety, fatigue and infertility.

RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm says England’s Southern Hub research laboratory has completed the technology transfer of Colostat, the first phase of independent evaluation.

Last year, Rhythm said the Southern Hub research laboratory was based at the Royal Surrey National Health Service Foundation Trust in Guildford and would evaluate the Colostat blood test for use in bowel cancer screening (BD: Dec 12, 2025).

The company said the Hub team were able “to run the Colostat assay themselves, in their own laboratory, using the company’s system and reagents”.

Rhythm said the Southern Hub was involved in research that informed how the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) was used in screening and symptomatic pathways and had expertise to explore novel biomarkers like those that underpin Colostat’s performance.

The company said the NHS screening program offered a stool-based test every two years to those aged 50 to 74 years, issuing about eight million tests, with a 65 percent uptake.

Rhythm said a significant number of bowel cancer diagnoses were symptomatic, and the NHS National Cancer Plan contemplated changes to increase the sensitivity of bowel cancer testing - changes that could place further pressure on endoscopy capacity.

The company said Hub evaluation would allow a Colostat clinical study, providing “independent clinical performance data ... in an NHS laboratory”.

Rhythm managing-director Dr David Atkins said that “getting a new clinical diagnostic running in someone else’s laboratory, to their standards, with their people, is a critical step in taking a test beyond a single laboratory and into new markets”.

“The Hub team, led by Prof Sally Benton, are now running Colostat themselves, which is exactly what we set out to achieve in this first phase,” Dr Atkins said.

Rhythm fell 0.1 cents or 1.2 percent to 8.1 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.

NEXSEN

Nexsen has requested a trading halt for “finalizing an announcement providing an update on its Rapid-GBS clinical study”.

Last year, Nexsen said it had begun its 2,400 patient, pivotal trial of its Strepsure group B streptococcus (GBS) Rapid Sensor at Melbourne’s Northern Hospital (BD: Oct 21, 2025). The company said at that time that the trial would provide clinical validation of the vaginal-rectal swab-based GBS Rapid Sensor, comparing its accuracy to that of laboratory testing.

Trading will resume on September 24, 2026 or on an earlier announcement.

Nexsen last traded at 16.5 cents.