



Biotech Daily

Tuesday September 29, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH UP: MICRO-X 19.5%; IMPEDIMED DOWN 20%**
- * **AUSCELERATE \$4.2m FOR 5 HEART COMPANIES; TOTAL \$10.5m**
- * **QUEENSLAND UNI, SMART CRC, LIFEBLOOD \$2.5m COLLABORATION**
- * **FLOREY 'PSILOCYBIN IMPROVES OCD BEHAVIOR, IN MICE'**
- * **COCHLEAR: 'PROFIT FORECAST' CLASS ACTION**
- * **COCHLEAR RECRUITS DEVICE TRIAL; 1m HOURS MILESTONE**
- * **MEMPHASYS TAKES FURTHER \$3.5m PETERS NOTE**
- * **PATRY'S DOSES PHASE Ia RLS-2202 COHORT 1**
- * **NEUREN US ALLOWS WEIGHT-BANDED TROFINETIDE PATENT**
- * **ARGENT LICENCES NLC ANTI-VIRALS**
- * **EMYRIA OPENS 1st NSW EMPAX CLINIC**
- * **FIREBRICK: NASODINE FOR US RETAIL PHARMACIES**
- * **CONTROL BIONICS: PHOENIX LOAN BREACHED ASX LISTING RULE**
- * **NAOS TAKES 6% OF SOMNOMED**
- * **RHYTHM DIRECTOR SUE MACLEMAN REPLACES CHAIR GAVIN FOX-SMITH**
- * **MEMPHASYS APPOINTS MELISSA PETERS DIRECTOR**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.34 percent on Tuesday September 29, 2026, with the ASX200 up 29.6 points to 8,709.3 points. Seventeen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 11 fell, 11 traded unchanged and one was untraded.

Micro-X was the best, up 0.8 cents or 19.5 percent to 4.9 cents, with 6.7 million shares traded. EBR climbed 8.3 percent; Resonance rose 7.5 percent; Imugene was up 4.9 percent; Actinogen, Clarity, Mesoblast and Nova Eye were up more than three percent; 4D Medical, Clinuvel, Neuren and Prescient rose more than two percent; Imricor, Pro Medicus and Starpharma were up one percent or more; with Avita, CSL, Racura, Resmed and Telix up by less than one percent.

Impedimed led the falls, down 0.1 cents or 20 percent to 0.4 cents, with 6.5 million shares traded. Amplia, Compumedics, Curvebeam, Emvision and Syntara fell more than four percent; Aroa and Dimerix shed two percent or more; Cyclopharm was down 1.1 percent; with Artrya, Cochlear and Nanosonics down by less than one percent.

AUSCELERATE (FORMERLY MTP CONNECT)

Auscelerate says it will provide \$4.2 million to five Australian medical devices for cardio-vascular disease, with those companies providing \$6.3 million.

Auscelerate said the funding included \$1,000,000 for Corametix to develop bio-engineered heart valves for clinical translation and \$795,000 for Kynetyka Technologies' deep vein thrombosis test.

The Federally-funded organization said Navi Medical Technologies would receive \$1,000,000 for a device to prevent cardio-vascular complications related to central catheter procedures in children and Navier Medical would receive \$491,433 for a high-risk vessel test.

Auscelerate said \$900,000 of the funds would go to Pulsatile Innovations for the development of a Pulse Tile cardiac arrest detection device to improve cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) initiation and performance.

Auscelerate chief executive officer Stuart Dignam said the funding was "the latest to flow from the organization's Targeted Translation Research Accelerator, supported by the Medical Research Future Fund".

"We are delighted to back these companies with much-needed non-dilutive funding and expert commercialization support to continue the translation of their innovations on Australian soil," Mr Dignam said.

"World Heart Day is a fitting occasion to recognize both the toll heart disease takes on patients, carers, families and communities and the promise that [medical technology] innovations such as these hold for better health and wellbeing," Mr Dignam said.

"Working with our in-house specialists and industry partners, these companies will tap into local and international expertise giving them the best chances of building sovereign success to reach commercial proof-of-concept," Mr Dignam said.

Mr Dignam said that 60 percent were "female-led projects".

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND SMART CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC)

The University of Queensland says it has a \$2.5 million collaboration with the Smart CRC and Lifeblood for laboratory-grown red blood cell manufacturing.

A spokesperson for the Smart Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) said the funding would be provided as a shared contribution by the collaborating parties.

The University of Queensland said Lifeblood researchers were among only a few research groups in the world who were "already growing fully functional red blood cells from donor stem cells in the ... [laboratory] but producing them in quantities large enough for use in patients is inefficient and expensive".

The University said that "any use of [laboratory] grown blood in future would first need rigorous clinical trials, and regulatory approval".

Smart co-operative research centre (CRC) chief executive officer Prof Simon Cool said the collaboration would "help build the manufacturing capabilities for these niche blood products, as efficiently and cost effectively as possible".

"The Smart CRC exists to accelerate the translation of therapies and technologies to create meaningful benefits to Australian patients," Prof Cool said.

"By bringing Lifeblood and [the University of Queensland] together with the Smart CRC, we are excited to support the development of technology that could help meet the needs of patients with rare blood types who may struggle to find a compatible donor match," Prof Cool said.

THE FLOREY INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Florey Institute says “a single dose of ... psilocybin can improve aspects of social behavior linked to obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), in male mice”.

The Florey said the study, using a “mouse model of OCD, with characteristics of excessive grooming and altered social behaviors, the researchers observed how mice responded to a familiar mouse and a newly introduced unfamiliar mouse”.

The Institute said the study “found that male mice given psilocybin showed greater interest in an unfamiliar mouse, spending more time interacting with it”.

The Florey Institute said its researchers identified changes in brain activity that offered “clues to the processes underlying the behavioral effects”.

The Institute said “the findings build on earlier research showing psilocybin can reduce compulsive grooming in the same mouse model”.

The Florey Institute said the study, titled ‘Psilocybin restores social novelty investigation in male SAPAP3 knockout mice and engages prefrontal–hippocampal circuitry’ was published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, with the full article available at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41380-026-03879-8>.

The Institute said the researchers “also measured a molecule called c-Fos, a marker of recent brain cell activity, after the social interaction test”.

The Florey Institute said “mice that had received psilocybin showed higher levels of this marker in the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus, regions involved in learning, memory and social behavior”.

COCHLEAR

Cochlear says it has received a class action claim filed against it in the Supreme Court of Victoria related to its “forecast of underlying net profit for 2025-'26”.

The company said the claim was “on behalf of persons who acquired interests in Cochlear shares in the period between August 15, 2025 and April 21, 2026”.

Cochlear denied the allegations in the claim and said it would defend the proceedings.

Earlier this year, Cochlear fell 41.7 percent to \$97.88 a share on reducing its 2025-'26 profit guidance to between \$290 million and \$330 million (BD: Apr 22, 2026).

Cochlear fell 77 cents or 0.5 percent to \$144.36 with 455,004 shares traded.

COCHLEAR

Cochlear says it has recruited all 92 patients in its fully implantable hearing technology pivotal trial, with more than 1,000,000 hours of patient experience over 21 years.

Cochlear said the milestone reflected “the most comprehensive research program focused on fully implantable hearing technology, underscoring Cochlear’s long-term commitment”.

The company said that including previous feasibility studies conducted since 2005, more than 100 patients had received its fully implantable hearing technology.

Cochlear said while the technology was “promising, clinical experts are emphasizing that patients should not delay treatment”.

Cochlear chief executive officer Dig Howitt said fully implantable technology was “an exciting future direction for hearing care”.

“We now have more than 20 years of experience across three generations of investigational devices,” Mr Howitt said.

“This has given us a strong understanding of what recipients and clinicians need in everyday life,” Mr Howitt said.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it has a \$3.5 million convertible note subscription agreement from shareholder Peters Investments Pty Ltd, to be paid on October 2, 2026.

Earlier this year, Memphasys said it had “firm commitments” to raise \$1.2 million at 0.5 cents a share in a placement and had extended an existing Peters Investments convertible note to June 30, 2027 (BD: Jun 18, 2026).

Today, the company said the additional notes were at an interest rate of 12.5 percent a year, with a maturity date of two years from the issue date.

Memphasys said the notes would convert at the lower of 0.4 cents a share and 80 percent of the lowest price of any equity raising completed after the note issue and prior to conversion.

The company said the funds would strengthen its European commercial team, build product inventory, expand sales and pursue its identified commercial pipeline, and be used for its US Food and Drug Administration regulatory strategy.

Memphasys said the notes were subject to shareholder approval, and until approval was obtained the \$3.5 million advance was an interest-bearing loan.

The company said if approval was not obtained it “must repay the loan and accrued interest within 20 business days after the shareholder meeting”.

Memphasys was unchanged at 0.5 cents with 4.8 million shares traded.

PATRYS

Patrys says it has dosed all four healthy volunteers in cohort one of its phase Ia trial of RLS-2202, with a safety, tolerability and pharmaco-kinetic review to follow.

Last year, Patrys said it would acquire Perth’s Reliis Pty Ltd and its injectable quetiapine for delirium; and last month, said it had approval for a phase Ia trial of RLS-2202 injectable quetiapine in healthy volunteers (BD: Nov 26, 2025; Aug 28, 2026).

Today, the company said the safety review committee was scheduled to meet in October to review the cohort one data and make a recommendation regarding the dose for a 12-participant second cohort and whether any modifications were required.

Patrys chief executive officer Dr Samantha South said the company was “pleased that cohort one is now complete”.

“The available cohort one data will now be reviewed by the safety review committee, and we look forward to providing a further update following the [committee] meeting,” Dr South said.

Patrys was up 0.3 cents or 10 percent to 3.3 cents.

NEUREN PHARMACEUTICALS

Neuren says the US Patent and Trademark Office has allowed a patent covering weight-banded dosing of trofinetide for the treatment of Rett syndrome.

Neuren said the patent, titled ‘Methods and Compositions for Treatment of Rett Syndrome’ would protect its intellectual property until March 28, 2041.

The company said the notice of allowance indicated that the US Patent and Trademark Office had determined that the application met the requirements for patentability, and the patent was expected to issue following completion of standard administrative steps.

Neuren said trofinetide was also protected by a method of use patent for the treatment of Rett syndrome, expiring July 2036.

Neuren was up 45 cents or 2.3 percent to \$20.27 with 404,765 shares traded.

ARGENT BIOPHARMA (FORMERLY MGC PHARMACEUTICALS)

Argent says it has a licenced the Tel Aviv, Israel-based NLC Viral Defense LLC's anti-virals Tollovir, Tollovid and Nutravir including related formulations and data.

Argent said the agreement expanded its portfolio with complementary anti-viral opportunities alongside Cimetra and supported its focus on immune modulation and inflammatory disease, following the transition of Cannepil to partnered licencing.

The company said NLC was entitled to cash sales milestone payments of \$US100,000 (\$A143,000) at aggregate cumulative net sales of \$US2,500,000 (\$A3,600,000) and a further \$US125,000 (\$A178,000) at \$US5,000,000 (\$A7,100,000) of net sales.

Argent said that subject to shareholder approval it would issue an additional 2,000,000 performance rights to NLC, vesting at each net sales milestone and automatically converting into ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

The company said it would use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the approvals within 120 days after execution of the contract.

Argent said if approvals were not obtained "the parties would negotiate ... alternative consideration of substantially equivalent value in accordance with the agreement".

The company said the licence excluded the Tollovir clinical-trial formulation designated NLCV-001, which contained a different concentration of Shikonin 95 percent.

According to the National Library of Medicine, Shikonin was a natural red naphthoquinone pigment extracted from the roots of the purple gromwell plant.

Argent executive chair Roby Zomer said that "following the Cannepil licencing transaction, we are bringing greater focus to immune modulation and inflammatory disease, with Cimetra at the centre of our development strategy".

Argent fell 0.2 cents or 6.25 percent to three cents with 1.3 million shares traded.

EMYRIA

Emyria says its first Empax clinic for psychedelic-assisted psycho-therapy in Western Sydney was operational, with treatment beginning for the first patients.

In 2024, Emyria said it opened a Perth Empax Centre evaluating 3,4 methylene-dioxy-meth-amphetamine (MDMA) therapy and later said it had Perth, Brisbane and Mornington, Victoria centres (BD: Apr 10, 2024; Apr 14, Jul 29, 2025; Mar 24, 2026).

In April, the company said it would open a clinic for MDMA-assisted therapy at Matilda Healthcare's Nepean Private Hospital in New South Wales (NSW) (BD: Apr 29, 2026).

Today, the company said expansion into a fourth Australian state was a milestone.

Emyria said the first patients were approved for treatment under the NSW workers' compensation scheme, providing evidence of growing reimbursement pathways whilst supporting its objective of integrating evidence-based mental-health therapies into established healthcare and payer-supported settings.

The company said the clinic added four treatment beds taking the total to 18 beds and had begun operations with trained clinicians and authorized prescribers already in place.

Emyria said it continued to assess "opportunities to apply this experience in the US following its recent selection to present at the US Food and Drug Administration's public hearing on the potential future therapeutic use of psychedelic drugs".

Emyria executive chair Greg Hutchinson said the opening of its Sydney clinic added "specialist clinical infrastructure to support the delivery of these treatments at scale".

"With trained clinicians, authorized prescribers, treatment capacity and approved patients now in place, our focus is on converting this platform into improved patient outcomes, increased treatment volumes and high-quality real-world evidence," Mr Hutchinson said.

Emyria fell 0.1 cents or 2.1 percent to 4.6 cents with 3.4 million shares traded.

FIREBRICK PHARMA

Firebrick says it will begin commercialization of its Nasodine anti-viral nasal spray in US retail pharmacies and has appointed Al Moghaddam as US commercial director.

Firebrick said that US online sales of Nasodine had increased 200 percent in 2025-'26 and that following a trade exhibition up-to six independent regional pharmacy groups representing about 700 shops "expressed strong intent to place early orders".

The company said Mr Moghaddam had begun follow-on negotiations with independent regional pharmacy groups and retail product packaging designs were being upgraded and scaled-up manufacturing preparations were underway.

Firebrick said its US organization would operate independently from its ASX-listed entity following 2026-'27 and would "be bolstered with logistics, sales and customer service personnel".

The company said its Australian entity would receive a 12 percent royalty and five percent management fee on all sales, plus a 20 percent fee on manufacturing cost for the exclusive US manufacturing rights, as well as a potential distribution of dividends from profits in the US.

Firebrick said Mr Moghaddam would be paid \$C12,000 (\$A12,100) a month for leading the Nasodine US retail plan execution, with an initial term of 12 months.

The company said Mr Moghaddam would join the board of its US legal entity Firebrick Pharma Inc as executive director, with executive chair Dr Peter Molloy and executive director Dr Stephen Goodall to serve on the board of the US entity and would "play a more active role in supporting the US business, while retaining their Australian-based roles".

Firebrick was up 0.2 cents or 7.7 percent to 2.8 cents.

CONTROL BIONICS

Control Bionics says the ASX has informed it that breached Listing Rule 10.1 by entering a loan facility with substantial shareholder Phoenix Development Fund Ltd.

According to the ASX website, Listing Rule 10.1 states that an entity must ensure it does not acquire or agree to acquire "a substantial asset from or disposes of or agrees to dispose of a substantial asset to ... a related party" without shareholder approval.

Control Bionics said that it had taken a \$400,000 unsecured loan at 12 percent a year interest from Phoenix against its expected Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive, which was repaid in full in August 2026.

The company said under the terms of the loan it was required to enter into a general security agreement in favor of the lender and that it had not executed the general security agreement request based on advice received that the agreement may be in breach of ASX Listing Rule 10.1

Control Bionics said it considered the current arrangements were adequate to meet its obligations under the ASX Listing Rules.

Control Bionics was up 0.6 cents or 10.7 percent to 6.2 cents.

SOMNOMED

Naos Asset Management says it has increased its substantial shareholding in Somnomed from 11,172,767 shares (5.10%) to 13,467,061 shares (6.13%).

Syndey's Naos said that on September 25, 2026 it bought 2,294,294 shares for \$1,070,296, or 46.65 cents a share.

Somnomed fell two cents or 6.45 percent to 29 cents.

RHYTHM BIOSCIENCES

Rhythm says Gavin Fox-Smith has resigned as chair, effective immediately, with director Sue MacLeman appointed as interim chair.

Rhythm said Mr Fox-Smith advised it that “having regard to his other board commitments, he is no longer able to dedicate the time he believes the role requires, particularly as Rhythm progresses through the next phase of ... commercialization”.

The company said it would “consider longer-term chair arrangements in due course and will update the market as appropriate”.

Rhythm fell 0.1 cents or 1.2 percent to 8.2 cents.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it has appointed Peters Investments' Melissa Peters as a non-executive director, effective immediately (see above).

Memphasys said Ms Peters had more than 30 years of experience in marketing, customer engagement and business operations and had been a director of the Agency Group Australia since May 2026.