Biotech Daily

Thursday October 22, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: AVITA UP 9%; ORTHOCELL DOWN 12.5%**

*** QUEENSLAND UNI JOINS US GOVERNMENT RNA PROGRAM**

*** CSL APPOINTS DEBORAH WATERHOUSE M-D, ON $2.9m PA**

*** CSL TO DEFEND VICTORIA SUPREME COURT CLASS ACTION**

*** RECCE LICENCES R327 TO ARROTEX IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND**

*** BLINKLAB STARTS MOROCCO Dx1 AUTISM SCREENING PROGRAM**

*** PATRYS OKAY TO DOSE 2nd PHASE Ia RLS-2202 COHORT**

*** LTR SPONTAN ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION STUDY APPROVAL**

*** TRIVARX APPOINTS SYNTRO STABL-IM MANUFACTURER**

*** FISHER & PAYKEL 'NO IMPACT FROM CYBER INCIDENT'**

*** GOODBYE GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES**

*** AMPLIA RECEIVES $4.8m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**

*** AROVELLA RECEIVES $4m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**

*** STARPHARMA RECEIVES $3.5m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**

*** INVEX REQUESTS 'ACQUISITION, RAISING' TRADING HALT**

*** ALTERITY 5.7m BOARD OPTIONS AGM**

*** PROTEOMICS 11.1m M-D RIGHTS, 988k SHARES AGM**

*** CYNATA LOSES DIRECTOR DR PAUL WOTTON**

*** NEUROSCIENTIFIC APPOINTS CHRIS KNEE CFO**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market fell 0.43 percent on Thursday October 22, 2026, with the ASX200 down 38.1 points to 8,793.2 points.

Eight of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 22 fell, nine traded unchanged and one was untraded. The four Big Caps were mixed.

Avita was the best, up 37 cents or 9.3 percent to $4.36, with 1.4 million shares traded. Curvebeam, Imugene and Resonance rose five percent or more; Pro Medicus was up 4.65 percent; Nova Eye climbed 3.3 percent; Aroa rose 2.9 percent; with CSL, Nanosonics and Neuren up by less than one percent.

Orthocell led the falls, down 7.5 cents or 12.5 percent to 52.5 cents, with 3.4 million shares traded. Immutep lost 8.3 percent; Atomo, Clarity, Lumos and Telix were down more than five percent; Clinuvel and Compumedics fell four percent or more; Amplia, EBR and Emvision were down more than three percent; Actinogen, Alcidion, Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Medical Developments and Starpharma shed more than two percent; 4D Medical, Mesoblast and Prescient were down more than one percent; with Cochlear, Imricor, Polynovo and Resmed down by less than one percent.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland says the US Department of Health and Human Services has selected it to join a consortium developing personalized RNA medicines.

The University of Queensland said the US Department of Health and Human Services' Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) selected its 'Base' messenger (m)RNA facility as part of a consortium of companies, universities and research institutes, with potential to receive up-to $57 million in funding.

The University said the program aimed "to build a nationwide network of US hospitals where personalized RNA medicines can be produced on demand, so patients can receive treatment within a week of diagnosis".

The University of Queensland said its Base site was part of its "Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology [and] will be leading the consortium's development of technology that analyses the accuracy and safety of each RNA medicine before it reaches a patient, a critical process known as quality control".

The University said "at the heart of the system is nanopore sequencing, a technique that reads individual RNA molecules to help verify the quality, integrity, and safety of the final product".

Base director Prof Tim Mercer said nanopore sequencing was "an approach we have developed and proven at Base, and it means one test can do what used to require many different tests".

The University of Queensland said the system prototype would "initially be designed and built at Base's laboratories where it will be able support the development of personalized mRNA medicines here in Australia".

The University said once working, the system would "then be assembled at Houston Methodist Research Institute in Texas, one of the largest health networks in the US, and installed to test RNA medicines".

"Being selected by the US Government to lead this work is a recognition of the expertise we've built at Base, and of Australia's growing capability in mRNA," Prof Mercer said.

CSL

CSL says it has appointed UK-based Deborah Waterhouse as its chief executive officer and managing-director to be paid GBP1,500,000 ($A2,860,000) a year.

CSL said that Ms Waterhouse was the first woman to head CSL since its privatization in 1994 and the first woman to lead either CSL or its predecessor the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory, since inception in 1916.

CSL said Ms Waterhouse's appointment was effective from February 1, 2027.

The company said Ms Waterhouse was "a proven commercial leader with more than 25 years of experience managing complex global specialty pharma companies across the US, the UK, continental Europe and Australia".

CSL said Ms Waterhouse was Viiv Healthcare chief executive officer, a Glaxosmithkline (GSK) joint-venture, and head of GSK Global Health.

The company said Ms Waterhouse had previously led GSK's US vaccines business and its US primary care business and had been GSK Australia and New Zealand general manager from 2008 to 2012 (see CEO interview; BD: Mar 30, 2010).

According to her Linkedin profile, Ms Waterhouse held a Bachelor of Arts from the England's University of Liverpool.

CSL said Ms Waterhouse would "retain her base in the UK [and] … will spend significant time in Australia, the US and in CSL's major markets and operational centres".

The company said Ms Waterhouse would be eligible to receive a short-term incentive and long-term incentive worth up-to 240 percent and 500 percent, respectively, of her base annual remuneration and would issue GBP7.71 million in restricted stock units as a buy-out for GSK awards to be forfeited.

CSL said Gordon Naylor would continue as chief executive officer and managing-director until February 1, 2027 and would conduct "an appropriate transition" before resuming his role as a non-executive director.

Earlier this year, the company said Dr Paul McKenzie would retire as managing-director, with director Gordon Naylor appointed in as an interim replacement on $US2,030,741 ($A2,870,517) a year (BD: Feb 10, 2026).

Today, Ms Waterhouse said CSL was "one of the great companies in our industry, and I saw what it means to Australia when I lived and worked in Melbourne".

"Its people save lives every day, from the staff who collect plasma at the donation centres to the scientists and operators who develop and manufacture the medicines and vaccines," Ms Waterhouse said.

CSL was up six cents or 0.03 percent to $196.14 with 1.2 million shares traded.

CSL

CSL says that "late in the afternoon" yesterday it was notified that group proceedings had been filed in the Supreme Court of Victoria, which names CSL as the defendant.

CSL said the proceeding was "brought on behalf of persons who acquired an interest in certain CSL securities between February 11, 2025 and May 11, 2026".

The company said the proceeding included allegations that it "breached relevant provisions of the Corporations Act (2001) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act (2001), the Australian Consumer Law and ASX Listing Rules including with respect to its continuous disclosure obligations and representations allegedly made about its medium-term performance, expected 2025-'26 revenue and net profit, and/or information about its likely 2025-'26 performance".

CSL said it considered "that it has at all times complied with its disclosure obligations, denies any liability and will vigorously defend the proceeding".

RECCE PHARMACEUTICALS

Recce says Melbourne's Arrotex Pharmaceuticals will licence and commercialize its R327G topical gel to treat diabetic foot infections in Australia and New Zealand.
Recce said Arrotex was "Australia's largest and most diversified pharmaceutical company" with a range of prescription medicines across therapeutic areas.
The company said under the 10-year agreement it would receive "a significant profit share" but did not disclose the details of the commercial terms.
Recce said Arrotex would have "exclusive commercialization rights for R327G in Australia and New Zealand and Recce will remain the exclusive manufacturer and supplier".
Recce managing-director James Graham said the agreement brought "together Recce's anti-infective development platform and Arrotex's established regulatory, market access and commercial capabilities in Australia and New Zealand".
"Arrotex is a leading regional partner with the infrastructure and healthcare relationships needed to prepare R327G for the market, subject to successful clinical development and regulatory approval," Mr Graham said.
Recce fell one cent or 2.8 percent to 34.5 cents.

BLINKLAB

Blinklab says it has begun a Morocco national autism screening program using its Dx1 smartphone-based application in Tangier, Fes and Agadir.
Earlier this year, Blinklab said its Dx1 smartphone-based application was selected for use in Morocco's nationwide early autism screening program (BD: Mar 23, 2026).
At the time, the company said it would own the data generated from the program, with all costs to be funded by the Morocco Government and the Foundation Mohammed V for Solidarity charity, chaired by Morocco's King Mohammed VI.
Today, Blinklab said its staff had travelled to Tangier to train local healthcare professionals and support the initial implementation of the program as Morocco moves from a policy framework into clinical practice.
Blinklab managing-director Dr Henk-Jan Boele said the company was "proud to see the Morocco Autism Screening Program enter its first operational phase across three major cities, bringing our technology into clinical practice".
Blinklab fell half a cent or 0.8 percent to 61.5 cents.

PATRYS

Patrys says it will begin dosing the 12-volunteer, cohort two following the completion of a safety review of cohort one in its phase Ia trial of RLS-2202.
Last year, Patrys said it would acquire Perth's Reliis Pty Ltd and its injectable quetiapine for delirium; and in August, said it had approval for a phase Ia trial of RLS-2202 injectable quetiapine in healthy volunteers (BD: Nov 26, 2025; Aug 28, 2026).
Last month, the company said it had dosed all four healthy volunteers in cohort one, with a safety, tolerability and pharmaco-kinetic review to follow (BD: Sep 29, 2026).
Today, Patrys said the safety review committee concluded that RLS-2202 showed "an acceptable safety and tolerability profile at the initial dose level and has recommended progression to the second cohort at a dose determined in accordance with the study's pre-defined dose-escalation design".
The company said final participant dosing was "on track to be completed this quarter".
Patrys was unchanged at 2.8 cents.

LTR PHARMA

LTR says it has Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee approval for an investigator-led clinical study of Spontan for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).
LTR said the study would be independently designed, led and conducted by the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Prof David Celermajer.
The company said that the study of its Spontan nasal spray formulation of vardenafil (marketed as Levitra) designed for erectile dysfunction, would evaluate whether a single dose could "rapidly reduce pulmonary vascular resistance in newly diagnosed, untreated [pulmonary arterial hypertension] patients".
LTR said that pulmonary arterial hypertension was "a serious, progressive and currently incurable disease in which narrowing of the pulmonary arteries increases resistance to blood flow and places increasing strain on the right side of the heart, potentially leading to right-heart failure".
The company said that said phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors, including vardenafil, sildenafil (Viagra) and tadalafil (Cialis), were established pulmonary arterial hypertension therapies.
LTR said that oral administration required gastro-intestinal absorption before reaching systemic circulation, with peak blood concentrations typically occurring about 30 minutes to two hours after dosing.
The company said that previous pharmaco-kinetic studies showed rapid absorption following Spontan's administration.
In 2024, LTR said patients had been prescribed its PDE5 inhibitor Spontan formulation of vardenafil, marketed as Levitra, under an Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration special access scheme (BD: Aug 16, 2024).
Today, the company said the study was funded through a research grant administered by the Sydney Local Health District.
LTR executive chair Lee Rodne said the study was "another important opportunity to evaluate LTR intra-nasal platform in a serious disease with significant unmet need and a large global market".
LTR fell 1.5 cents or 3.1 percent to 47 cents.

TRIVARX (FORMERLY MEDIBIO)

Trivarx says it has appointed Melbourne pharmaceutical manufacturer Syntro Health to undertake laboratory formulation of its Stabl-Im imaging platform for clinical use.
Last year, Trivarx said it would acquire the brain imaging technology from the Dr Daniel Tillett-founded Nucleics Pty Ltd (BD: Oct 16, 2025).
Previously, the company said it was developing its MEB-001 and single-lead electrocardiography (EEG) sleep scoring algorithms for major depressive episode.
Earlier this year, Trivarx said it produced Stabl-Im for use in a planned phase I clinical feasibility trial for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) tumors (BD: Jul 16, 2026).
Today, the company said the agreement provided it with access to established pharmaceutical formulation expertise and infrastructure as it progressed the technical and operational requirements for its planned clinical trial.
Trivarx said the Syntro Health agreement supported the planned pathway to clinical trials, with first patient enrolment expected by April 2027.
Trivarx chief executive officer Dr Danielle Meyrick said formulation for clinical use was "an important component of our preparations, and Syntro brings specialist pharmaceutical manufacturing expertise and established infrastructure to support this work".
Trivarx was unchanged at 0.8 cents.

FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE

Fisher & Paykel says there is no impact to its products, manufacturing operations or supply chain after an unauthorized and unlawful access of company emails and files.
Fisher & Paykel said it had “been made aware of unauthorized and unlawful access to two employee email accounts and a subset of company files”.
The company said there was “no evidence that the unlawful activity compromised the company’s system that maintains patient data”.
Fisher & Paykel said “some of the files accessed contained personally identifiable information and the company is in the process of notifying those affected”.
The company said it had notified relevant authorities and had “identified no evidence of ransomware or malware, believes the incident has been contained and does not expect any material impact on its financials or operations”.
Fisher & Paykel fell 23 cents or 0.6 percent to $39.63 with 407,483 shares traded.

GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES

The ASX says Genetic Technologies will be removed from the Official List under Listing Rule 17.12, as the company has been “suspended from trading for … two years".
The ASX said the removal was effective from the beginning of trading today.
In 2024, the company went into voluntary administration; and later, sold its Genetype cancer and disease risk assessment test business for $625,000 to Rhythm Biosciences and its Easy DNA and Affinity DNA direct-to-consumer businesses for $525,000 to Endeavour DNA Inc (BD: Nov 20, Dec 16, 2024; Jan 19, 20, Feb 5, 2025).
Last year, the administrators said a shareholder meeting overwhelmingly approved a deed of company arrangement from Sydney’s Benelong Capital for Walker Capital to acquire 88 percent of the company and its board resigned (BD: May 14, 2025)
Later, Genetic Technologies said that after 25 years as a biotechnology company, it would become a “wealth advisory business” (BD: Jun 10, 2025).
In March, Genetic Technologies said it had ended the acquisition of Ellerfield Wealth and Walker Capital Private Wealth, now Ellerfield Private Wealth (BD: Mar 24, 2026).
Genetic Technologies was in a suspension and last traded at 3.9 cents.

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Amplia says it has received $4,778,236 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government’s Research and Development Tax Incentive program.
Amplia said the incentive related to expenditure for the year to March 31, 2026 related to its ongoing clinical trials of narmafotinib in pancreatic cancer patients.
The company said the funds would be used to progress both its clinical trials of narmafotinib as well as its Lilly combination studies and additional activities.
Amplia fell 0.3 cents or 3.7 percent to 7.8 cents with 5.9 million shares traded.

AROVELLA THERAPEUTICS

Arovella says it has received $4.03 million from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government’s Research and Development Tax Incentive.
Arovella said the incentive related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2026, with the funds to strengthen its “cash position as it progresses development of its asset and the dosing of its first patient”.
Arovella fell 0.2 cents or 3.9 percent to 4.9 cents with 1.8 million shares traded.

STARPHARMA HOLDINGS

Starpharma says it has received $3.5 million from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government's Research and Development Tax Incentive.
Starpharma fell one cent or 2.1 percent to 47 cents with 4.1 million shares traded.

INVEX THERAPEUTICS

Invex has requested a trading halt "immediately pending the release of a material acquisition and capital raising announcement".
Trading will resume on October 26, 2026, or on an earlier announcement.
Invex last traded at 10.5 cents.

ALTERITY THERAPEUTICS

Alterity says its annual general meeting will vote to issue 5,700,008 options to managing-director Dr David Stamler, chair Julian Babaczy and three directors.
Alterity said investors would vote to issue Dr Stamler 3,700,008 options; and 500,000 options, each, to Mr Babarczy and directors Ann Cunningham, Lawrence Gozlan and Peter Marks, exercisable at $1.00 each within five years from issue.
The company said the options were in addition to Dr Stamler's $US525,000 pay ($A748,500), Mr Babarczy's $120,000 yearly remuneration and Ms Cunningham, Mr Gozlan and Mr Marks' $80,000 yearly fees, each.
Alterity said the meeting would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect directors Mr Marks and Mr Gozlan, approve the placement capacity, appoint the auditor and approve Dr Stamler's termination benefits.
The meeting will be held online and at Level 7, 500 Collins Street, Melbourne on November 20, 2026 at 11am (AEDT).
Alterity was up one cent or 3.9 percent to 26.5 cents.

PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES

Proteomics says its annual general meeting will vote to issue managing-director David Morris 6,550,896 sign-on-rights, 4,550,000 performance rights and 987,881 shares.
Earlier this year, Proteomics said it appointed Mr Morris as its chief executive officer and managing-director, to be paid $450,000 a year (BD: Jan 18, 2026).
Today, the company said investors would vote to issue Mr Morris 987,881 shares in lieu of his short-term cash incentive, valued at $108,667; 5,796,058 sign-on options, exercisable at $1.062 within five years and 754,838 sign-on performance rights, vesting three years from the grant date.
Proteomics said the meeting would also vote to issue Mr Morris 4,500,000 performance rights, equal to 100 percent of his base salary and vesting on milestones.
The company said shareholders would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect Dr James Williams and Paul House as directors and approve the additional 10 percent placement capacity.
The meeting will be held at the Harry Perkins Institute, Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, 6 Verdun Street, Perth on November 20, 2026 at 9.30am (AWST).
Proteomics was unchanged at 11.5 cents.

CYNATA THERAPEUTICS

Cynata says Dr Paul Wotton will resign as a director, effective from the conclusion of its annual general meeting on November 25, 2026.
Cynata said Dr Wotton had been a director since June 2016 and was chair from February 2017 to August 2020.
Cynata was untraded at 1.1 cents.

NEUROSCIENTIFIC BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Neuroscientific says it has appointed Chris Knee as its chief financial officer, effective from October 26, 2026.
Neuroscientific said Mr Knee was an accountant with more than 20 years of experience in finance, executive, company secretary and director roles with ASX-listed companies.
According to his Linkedin profile, Mr Knee held a Bachelor of Communications from Melbourne's La Trobe University.
Neuroscientific fell 0.2 cents or 3.3 percent to 5.8 cents.