Biotech Daily

Monday October 26, 2026

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

*** ASX UP, BIOTECH DOWN: BOTANIX UP 8%; MICRO-X DOWN 23%**

*** FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CSIRO DISEASE PREPAREDNESS LAB**

*** MAYNE Q1 REVENUE DOWN 2% TO $96m; PROFIT DOWN 8% TO $60m**

*** MACH7 Q1 RECEIPTS UP 58% TO $7m**

*** INVEX TO ACQUIRE REKOVER FOR SCRIP; $10m PLACEMENT**

*** IMMUTEP: 'EFTI MEETS QUALITY-OF-LIFE ENDPOINTS'**

*** ADHERIUM, FLASS PARTNER FOR HAILIE ASTHMA MONITORING**

*** GENETIC SIGNATURES, MICROBA MERGER SHARE RATIO**

*** ACTINOGEN RECEIVES $11m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**

*** INOVIQ RECEIVES $1.8m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE**

*** LTR AGM UP-TO 22% OPPOSE CHAIR OPTIONS**

*** GORDON NAYLOR TO REPLACE CSL CHAIR DR BRIAN MCNAMEE**

*** CURVEBEAM APPOINTS DAN PRYOR DIRECTOR**

*** CYCLOPHARM TO LOSE DIRECTOR DIANNE ANGUS**

*** PAINCHEK LOSES DIRECTOR, EX-CHAIR JOHN MURRAY**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.17 percent on Monday October 26, 2026, with the ASX200 up 14.7 points to 8,809.9 points. Thirteen of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 17 fell, eight traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Botanix was the best, up 0.1 cents or 8.3 percent to 1.3 cents, with 12.9 million shares traded. Emvision climbed 4.45 percent; Racura was up 3.8 percent; Cyclopharm, Dimerix, Imricor, Nanosonics and Starpharma rose two percent or more; Lumos and Pro Medicus were up more than one percent; with 4D Medical, Artrya, Clarity and Mesoblast up by less than one percent.

Micro-X led the falls, down 1.2 cents or 22.6 percent to 4.1 cents, with 1.45 million shares traded. Imugene lost 7.9 percent; Actinogen and Medical Developments shed more than six percent; Prescient was down 5.6 percent; Compumedics, Curvebeam, Neuren and Polynovo fell four percent or more; Cochlear, Optiscan, Orthocell and Saluda were down more than three percent; Amplia, Aroa and Telix shed more than two percent; Clinuvel was down 1.5 percent; with Avita, CSL and Resmed down by less than one percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says it has made a “significant investment” in a laboratory wing at CSIRO’s Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness in Geelong, Victoria.

A joint media release from the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Tim Ayres and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said construction had begun on the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation’s (CSIRO) Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness laboratory.

The media release said that the Government had provided an additional $387.4 million for the CSIRO in the 2026-’27 Budget, “on top of its nearly $1 billion annual funding”.

According to a media release from Minister Ayres in May, the Government said it would “also fund the crucial work of the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness by supporting stage two of the Geelong facility’s modernization and refurbishment”.

At that time, the Federal Government said the Centre would receive “a further $38 million, ongoing from 2030-’31, to continue safeguarding Australia’s agricultural industries against biosecurity threats”.

Today, the Government did not disclose the amount allocated to the construction of the laboratory.

The Federal Government said the infrastructure would “strengthen Australia’s scientific capability to detect, investigate and respond to emerging disease threats, protecting human and animal health, agriculture, trade and the broader economy”.

The Government said the Centre for Disease Preparedness was “a cornerstone of Australia’s biosecurity system, providing the specialized scientific capability needed to detect and respond to some of the most significant disease threats facing Australia”.

The media release said that the laboratory was “underscored by the H5 avian influenza, bird flu, outbreak, with the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) providing emergency animal disease testing services for governments”.

The Federal Government said the refitted laboratory would “be delivered in two stages, allowing the ACDP’s critical diagnostic and research work to continue throughout construction”.

The Government said that stage one was “expected to be completed in 2029, when selected ACDP activities will relocate into the new wing; and stage two refurbishment can begin”.

The Federal Government said the facility would “continue to operate under its rigorous regulatory, safety and security requirements throughout the project”.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said Geelong’s Centre for Disease Preparedness was “one of the world’s leading facilities for research into infectious diseases and we are proud to be backing its vital work”.

“The upgrades to the Centre will support Australian scientific research, detection and response, measures which are vital to our nation’s security,” Mr Marles said.

“It’s also great news for local jobs and the growth of our economy here in Geelong,” Mr Marles said.

Senator Ayres said the Federal Government was backing “Australian science and the scientists and researchers whose work makes our country stronger and safer”.

“The Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness is a scientific capability of enormous national importance,” Senator Ayres said.

“The outbreak of bird flu demonstrates exactly why Australia needs the expertise and facilities to detect and respond quickly to serious disease threats,” Senator Ayres said.

“That’s why we’ve invested to upgrade the ACDP’s critical infrastructure, backing the CSIRO and its scientists to continue the world-class research that protects Australians, our agricultural industries and our economy,” Senator Ayres said.

MAYNE PHARMA

Mayne says unaudited revenue for the three months to September 30, 2026 fell 2.05 percent to $95.7 million, with gross profit down 7.7 percent to $60.3 million.
Mayne said its revenue result reflected “solid growth in women’s health, offset by a decline in dermatology branded sales from anticipated competitive erosion”.
The company said during the three months it had invested $US500,000 ($A710,940) in its Adelaide Apothecary Lexington facility and paid $US650,000 ($A924,230) in the US’ Attorneys General settlement payment.
Mayne said Bijuva hormone replacement therapy revenue rose eight percent to $US4.5 million, Imvexxy vaginal insert sales were up 39 percent to $US8.5 million and Nextstellis oral contraceptive sales rose 17 percent to $US14.7 million, with Annovera hormonal vaginal ring contraceptive sales down 27 percent to $US5.9 million.
Mayne chief executive officer Aaron Gray said the three-month period “delivered continued strong prescription growth across our women’s health portfolio driven by our growth strategy and saw further momentum in Distributerx”.
“With a clearer legal backdrop and focused investment behind our growth opportunities, Mayne is well-positioned for the remainder of 2026-’27,” Mr Gray said.
The company said three-month earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) fell 51.8 percent to $5.3 million due to planned investment in women’s health commercialization to support the menopause and contraception categories as well as an expected reduction in dermatology revenue.
Mayne was up three cents or 1.2 percent to $2.48.

MACH7 TECHNOLOGIES

Mach7 says receipts from customers for the three months to September 30, 2026 rose 58.1 percent to $7,237,000, compared to the previous corresponding period.
Mach7 said the increase in customer receipts from sales and licences of its electronic medical record workflow software was due to “customer growth and ongoing focus on disciplined cash collection”.
The company said during the period it had continued developing its next-generation Flamingo product, designed to extend its “enterprise imaging capabilities with a more flexible, modular approach to imaging infrastructure and clinical workflow”.
Last year, Mach7 said it had a five-year licence with Unitypoint Health for its “new Flamingo Architecture products” worth about $600,000 a year (BD: Dec 3, 2025).
At the time, a spokesperson for the company told Biotech Daily that Flamingo was “a workflow system complementary to its existing picture archiving and communication systems including vendor neutral archive and Eunity viewer”.
Today, Mach7 managing-director Teri Thomas said the company started 2026-’27 “with a stronger financial foundation, delivering our fourth consecutive quarter of positive operating cash flow … [and] our next-generation Flamingo architecture represents an important evolution in how customers can work with Mach7”.
“Rather than requiring healthcare organizations to undertake large, complex imaging infrastructure projects, we are building a modular portfolio that allows them to address specific clinical and operational needs, adopt new capabilities incrementally and expand over time,” Ms Thomas said.
The company said it had a positive cash flow of $344,000 for the three months, with cash and cash equivalents of $19,315,000 at September 30, 2026 compared to $18,911,000 at September 30, 2025.
Mach7 was up one cent or 4.2 percent to 25 cents.

INVEX THERAPEUTICS

Invex says it will acquire Rekover Therapeutics and its repurposed nalfurafine for scrip and will raise up-to $10 million in two placements to fund related clinical trials.
Invex said Wellington, New Zealand's Rekover Therapeutics had designed a 75-to-195-patient, phase IIa randomized, placebo-controlled study of nalfurafine in patients with relapsed, remitting multiple sclerosis and chronic optic neuropathy.
The company said it would acquire Rekover for 45,000,000 shares and 91,250,000 performance rights, vesting on study and regulatory milestones.
Invex said nalfurafine was "an approved anti-itch drug used in Japan and Korea for patients on dialysis" and Rekover had licences to patents in the US, Europe, Australia and Russia relating to the use of nalfurafine for demyelinating diseases.
The company said it would raise $900,000 at 8.0 cents a share in a preliminary placement and hoped for a further $9,100,000 at 8.0 cents a share in a conditional placement, subject to shareholder approval and completion of the acquisition.
Invex said the $9,100,000 placement; included $4,500,000 from Dr Andrew Forrest's Tattarang Pty Ltd-related Tenmile, which held 11.77 percent of company; and would issue 9,500,000 options to Tenmile exercisable at 14 cents each within three years.
Invex said the funds would be "principally" used for the phase IIa trial of nalfurafine.
The company said CSP Capital Group lead manager to the placement.
Invex said the acquisition was "a natural fit with the company's existing business … repurposing of an existing drug for the treatment of neurological conditions".
The company said it would appoint the Rekover-nominated Dr Robert Peach as a director, subject to completing the acquisition; and Tenmile would have a right to nominate a director for as long as it held at least 10 percent of the shares on issue.
Invex was up 1.5 cents or 14.3 percent to 12 cents.

IMMUTEP

Immutep says its 40-patient, phase II soft tissue sarcoma trial shows efti, Keytruda and radio-therapy led to a "significant improvement" in quality-of-life post-surgery ($p = 0.008$).
In 2025, Immutep said the investigator-led sarcoma trial met its primary endpoint, with median 51.5 percent tumor hyalinization/fibrosis ($p < 0.001$) (BD: May 26, 2025).
Today, the company said the secondary endpoint, health-related quality of life data was assessed using the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire Core 30 (EORTC QLQ-C30); all 38 evaluable patients completed the QLQ-C30 at baseline, and between 29 and 38 patients completed it at each subsequent assessment.
Immutep said general health "remained stable throughout the observation period, with no statistically significant deterioration in any measured scale during treatment".
The company said "the QLQ-C30 summary score showed a statistically significant improvement after surgery of 6.0 points ($p = 0.008$)"; while "role and social functioning showed statistically significant improvements after surgery of 12.7 points ($p = 0.02$) and 8.1 points ($p = 0.02$), respectively".
Immutep said "patient-reported fatigue was statistically significantly lower than at baseline after surgery, by up-to 14.2 points ($p = 0.001$)".
The company said "investigators concluded that the regimen demonstrated "no significant detriment to overall [quality of life] during treatment".
Immutep said the data was being presented in a poster at the European Society for Medical Oncology Congress, held from October 23 to 27, 2026 in Madrid, Spain.
Immutep was unchanged at 2.3 cents with 1.8 million shares traded.

ADHERIUM

Adherium says Orlando's Florida Lung, Asthma and Sleep Specialists (FLASS) will use its Hailie Smartinhalers for remote monitoring of asthma and lung disease.

Adherium said FLASS was an independent pulmonary and critical care practice in central Florida providing "comprehensive pulmonary and critical care services, including asthma and sleep medicine, to patients across several locations in the greater Orlando area".

The company said the roll-out of its Hailie Smartinhalers would "begin at FLASS locations across Central Florida, with Adherium providing implementation, clinical applications, and patient onboarding support".

Adherium did not disclose the commercial terms of the agreement.

Adherium chief executive officer John Perry said FLASS was "exactly the kind of partner we look for, an independent, physician-led group that leads its market in clinical excellence and isn't afraid to innovate on behalf of its patients".

"Following the strong results our partners are seeing across the country, this partnership extends the reach of the Hailie platform into central Florida and continues our momentum in building the standard of digital respiratory care in the US," Mr Perry said.

Adherium was up 0.4 cents or 6.35 percent to 6.7 cents.

GENETIC SIGNATURES, MICROBA LIFE SCIENCES

Genetic Signatures (GSS) says Microba shareholders will receive about 0.475 GSS shares for every Microba share held, compared to the previous 0.654 GSS shares.

In an addendum to its annual general meeting notice, Genetic Signatures said the change in the ratio related to the revised terms of the proposed scheme and that the change equated to it issuing up-to about 340,700,000 consideration shares.

Last month, Genetic Signatures (GSS) and Microba announced a merger through a scheme of arrangement, with Genetic Signatures to issue Microba about $39.3 million in scrip; Microba shareholders to hold about 67 percent of GSS and GSS holders about 33 percent, post-merger (BD: Sep 22, 2026).

Last week, they said they agreed in principle, for Microba shareholders to hold 60 percent of GSS and current GSS investors to hold 40 percent (BD: Oct 21, 2026).

The meeting to approve the scheme will be held at Gadens, Level 29, 8 Chifley Square, Sydney on November 16, 2026 at 9am (AEDT).

Genetic Signatures fell 0.4 cents or 4.7 percent to 8.1 cents.

Microba fell 0.1 cents or 2.7 percent to 3.6 cents.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen says it has received $10,838,793 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government's Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Actinogen said the incentive related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2026 and that it had repaid a $4.3 million Endpoints Capital loan.

Earlier this year, the company said it had received a $4.3 million second tranche of its Endpoints Capital loan secured against its expected Research and Development Tax Incentive (BD: Jan 27, 2026).

Today, Actinogen said the incentive provided funding prior to the release of results from its pivotal phase IIb/III trial of Xanamem in Alzheimer's disease in "mid-November".

Actinogen fell 0.3 cents or 6.5 percent to 4.3 cents with nine million shares traded.

INOVIQ

Inoviq says it has received $1,782,000 from the Australian Taxation Office under the Federal Government's Research and Development Tax Incentive program.
Inoviq said the incentive related to research and development expenditure for the year to June 30, 2026, excluding certain overseas based costs.
Inoviq was up half a cent or 3.7 percent to 14 cents.

LTR PHARMA

LTR says its annual general meeting passed all eight resolutions with 21.84 percent of the meeting against the issue of options to executive chair Lee Rodne.
Last month, LTR said shareholders would vote to issue Mr Rodne 2,000,00 options and 1,000,000 options, each, to directors Dr Julian Chick and Maja McGurie, exercisable at 67.4 cents within four years (BD: Sep 23, 2026).
Today, the company said the issue of options to Mr Rodne was opposed by 4,174,832 votes (21.84%), with 14,936,958 votes (78.16%) in support.
LTR said the adoption of the employee incentive plan and remuneration report faced 20.05 percent and 17.01 percent opposition, respectively, with the remaining resolutions all passed more easily by more than 95.19 percent of the meeting in favor.
According to its most recent filing, LTR had 182,274,622 shares on issue, meaning the votes against Mr Rodne's options amounted to 2.3 percent of the company, not sufficient to requisition extraordinary general meetings.
LTR fell half a cent or 1.1 percent to 44 cents.

CSL

CSL says chair Dr Brian McNamee will retire from the board on March 31, 2027, with director Gordon Naylor elected as the next chair of the company.
In 2017, CSL said it appointed former chief executive officer Dr McNamee as chair following the retirement of six-year chair Prof John Shine (BD: Dec 13, 2017).
At the time, the company said that Dr McNamee was its chief executive officer and managing-director for 23 years before retiring in 2013 and led the former Commonwealth Serum Laboratories from Australian Government ownership, through privatization and listing on the ASX to becoming an industry leader.
Today, CSL said the board "unanimously decided … [Mr Naylor was] the person best placed, most qualified and trusted to lead them".
Last year, the company said it had appointed Mr Naylor as a director; and earlier this year, said Dr Paul McKenzie would retire as managing-director with Mr Naylor appointed as an interim replacement (BD: Dec 3, 2025; Feb 10, 2026).
Last week, CSL said it had appointed from February 1, 2027, Deborah Waterhouse as its managing-director, the first woman to lead either CSL or its predecessor the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory since inception in 1916 (BD: Oct 22, 2026).
Today, the company said Mr Naylor would continue as interim managing-director until February 1, 2027 before resuming his role as a non-executive director and chair-elect.
CSL said it had appointed non-executive director Carolyn Hewson to the role of senior independent director, effective from March 31, 2027, as Mr Naylor would not be initially considered as an independent chair due to his executive role in the past year.
Ms Hewson said the board acknowledged and celebrated Dr McNamee's "enormous contribution to CSL since the company's inception".
CSL fell $1.56 or 0.8 percent to $195.14 with 1.4 million shares traded.

CURVEBEAM A.I.

Curvebeam says it has appointed Dan Pryor as a non-executive director, effective from October 25, 2026.

Curvebeam said Mr Pryor had more than 30 years of experience in the industrial and medical device sectors and had worked for Enovis Corporation and Danaher Corporation, as well as the Carlyle Group.

The company said Mr Pryor held a Bachelor of Arts from Williamstown, Massachusetts' Williams College and a Master of Business Administration from Cambridge, Massachusetts' Harvard Business School.

Curvebeam fell 0.1 cents or 4.8 percent to two cents.

CYCLOPHARM

Cyclopharm says five-year non-executive director Dianne Angus has informed the board of her decision to retire, effective from November 30, 2026.

Cyclopharm was up one cent or 2.8 percent to 37 cents.

PAINCHEK

Painchek says non-executive director and former chair John Murray has retired from the board, effective immediately.

Earlier this year, Painchek said it appointed 4D Medical chair Lil Bianchi as its non-executive chair, replacing Mr Murray who continued as a director (BD: May 25, 2026).

Painchek fell half a cent or 6.4 percent to 7.3 cents.