

BioPharma

Latest Updates

Here are this week's BioPharma updates - **August 11th, 2025.**

Funding

- [Strand Therapeutics](#) (MA, USA) raised \$153M in Series B funding to advance its pipeline of programmable mRNA therapies, including STX-001, which recently showed promising Phase 1 data in solid tumors at the 2025 ASCO Annual Meeting.
- [Minghui Pharmaceutical](#) (Shanghai, China) raised \$131M in Pre-IPO financing to advance its clinical programs—including a PD-1/VEGF bispecific antibody—and support the upcoming commercial launch of its topical JAK inhibitor in China.
- [Apreo Health](#) (CA, USA) raised \$130M in Series B financing to support its pivotal BREATHE-3 trial, regulatory activities, and early commercialization of its novel airway scaffold for treating severe emphysema.
- [Orchestra BioMed](#) (PA, USA) raised \$111M to advance transformative cardiovascular innovations and support strategic collaborations.
- [Chai Discovery](#) (CA, USA) raised \$70M in Series A funding to advance its AI platform for predicting and reprogramming biochemical interactions, targeting previously inaccessible drug candidates and onboarding select partners.
- [Positive Development](#) (VA, USA) raised \$51.5M in Series C funding to expand its developmental therapy model for autistic children and advance its proprietary technology and AI platform.
- [SNIPR Biome](#) - A CRISPR Company (Copenhagen, Denmark) raised ~\$38M in Series B funding to advance its CRISPR-based therapies targeting *Pseudomonas* infections in cystic fibrosis, antibiotic resistance, and bloodstream infections in hematologic cancer patients.
- [Maxwell Biosciences](#) (TX, USA) raised \$20M in funding to support upcoming FDA clinical trials of its immune-inspired Claromer™ molecules, expand AI-driven R&D, and scale commercialization across pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical sectors.

- [Retension Pharmaceuticals](#) (VA, USA) raised \$15M in Series B funding to support a Phase 2b trial of RTN-001, a once-daily PDE5 inhibitor for patients with uncontrolled and resistant hypertension.
- [Akysso Therapeutics](#) (MD, USA) received \$15M in federal funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to develop iSTEP-B®, a 6–12-month extended-release buprenorphine implant for opioid use disorder using its bioabsorbable subcutaneous delivery platform.
- [CHO Plus, Inc.](#) (CA, USA) received ~\$10.4M in BARDA funding through the BioMaP-Consortium to develop high-productivity CHO cell lines for manufacturing monoclonal antibodies targeting filoviruses over a 30-month period.
- [Lysoway Therapeutics](#) (MA, USA) received a \$2.93M MJFF grant to support preclinical and translational development of its brain-penetrant TRPML1 agonist for Parkinson's disease.
- [Sidra Medicine](#) (Doha, Qatar) received a \$100K G-Rex® Grant from ScaleReady to develop and implement a G-Rex centric CAR-T cell production platform for pediatric oncology, supporting GMP qualification and early access to the G-CART™ process.
- [Alveolus Bio](#) (MA, USA) raised an undisclosed amount in a strategic financing round to advance its resMIT platform and accelerate clinical development of its lead asset for COPD and other respiratory diseases.
- [Neucore Bio](#) (CA, USA) awarded a competitive grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to research the scalability of exosome-based therapeutics for genetic disease.

Emerging

- YOLO Immune (CA, USA) emerged from stealth to develop precision immunotherapies targeting serious human diseases, with initial programs focused on biologics for ophthalmology and liver conditions
- Nephronomics (CA, USA) emerged from stealth earlier this year to develop precision medicine solutions for cardio-kidney-metabolic disease care in a joint partnership with Fresenius Medical Care.

Post IPO Equity

- [180 Life Sciences](#) (CA, USA) raised \$425M through a private placement to support its Ethereum treasury strategy, including ETH accumulation, yield generation programs, and ongoing biotech, iGaming, and general corporate activities.
- [Assembly Biosciences, Inc.](#) (CA, USA) raised \$175M through an underwritten public offering and concurrent private placement to support general corporate purposes.
- [Shattuck Labs](#) (TX, USA) raised up to \$103M through a private placement to advance its SL-325 program through multiple Phase 2 trials in IBD and other autoimmune diseases.
- [Sana Biotechnology](#) (WA, USA) raised \$75M through an underwritten public offering of common stock and pre-funded warrants to support its engineered cell therapy programs and general corporate purposes.
- [ARMR Sciences Inc.](#) (NY, USA) launched a \$30M private placement to advance development of its immunotherapy platform targeting fentanyl and emerging synthetic drug threats ahead of a planned public offering.
- [BioVie Inc.](#) (NV, USA) announced a \$12M underwritten public offering to support working capital and general corporate purposes.
- [Artelo Biosciences, Inc.](#) (CA, USA) raised \$9.475M through an at-the-market PIPE to launch its SOL-centric digital asset treasury strategy and support ongoing pharmaceutical development and corporate operations.
- [Intensity Therapeutics, Inc.](#) (CT, USA) raised \$6.6M through an at-the-market offering to strengthen its balance sheet and extend its clinical development runway into the second half of 2026.
- [Longeveron Inc.](#) (FL, USA) raised \$5M through a public offering of common stock to fund clinical and regulatory development of laromestrocel, obtain approvals, advance CMC activities, and support general corporate purposes.
- [PhnyX Lab](#) (CA, USA) raised \$4M in equity funding to scale its GenAI-powered Cheiron platform and accelerate development of Cheiron Write, aimed at automating and transforming life science workflows.
- [Nicox](#) (Valbonne, France) raised ~\$3.4M to support corporate funding needs ahead of Phase 3 results for NCX 470.
- [Mainz Biomed](#) (Mainz, Germany) raised \$3M through a follow-on public offering to support its cancer diagnostic development programs.
- [Devonian Health Group Inc.](#) (QC, Canada) raised \$2.27M through a non-brokered private placement to support working capital and research and development activities related to its inflammatory disease drug pipeline.

- [ForCast Orthopedics, Inc.](#) (CO, USA) raised an undisclosed amount in equity funding to advance development of its targeted antibiotic therapies for periprosthetic joint infection using proprietary local delivery technology.
- [Fractyl Health](#) (MA, USA) announced a proposed underwritten public offering of common stock and pre-funded warrants to support its Revita and Rejuva metabolic disease programs, working capital, and general corporate purposes.

Post IPO Debt

- [MannKind Corporation](#) (CA, USA) raised up to \$500M through a senior secured credit facility from Blackstone to support the potential launch of Afrezza's pediatric indication, expand its commercial team, advance its pipeline, pursue business development, and fund general corporate activities.
- [Bioventus](#) (NC, USA) raised \$400M through a senior secured credit agreement to refinance existing debt, enhance liquidity, and reduce annual interest expenses.

Mergers and Acquisitions

- [Alcon](#) (Geneva, Switzerland) to acquire [STAAR Surgical](#) (CA, USA) for \$3.3B to expand its presence in the implantable collamer lens (ICL) market and strengthen its ophthalmic surgery portfolio.
- [Sanofi](#) (Paris, France) to acquire [Vigil Neuroscience](#) (MA, USA) for \$2.1B to strengthen its pipeline in neuroinflammatory diseases. The acquisition adds Vigil's lead candidate, VGL101, to Sanofi's portfolio, supporting its strategy to address neurodegeneration.
- [SERB Pharmaceuticals](#) (London, United Kingdom) to acquire DANYELZA US Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher and related rights from [Y-mAbs Therapeutics](#) (NY, USA) for \$412M to expand its rare disease portfolio.
- [Accord BioPharma](#) (NJ, USA) and their parent company Intas Pharmaceuticals to acquire UDENYCA from [Coherus BioSciences](#) (CA, USA) for \$35M for global expansion of their oncology biosimilar portfolio.
- [XOMA](#) (CA, USA) to acquire [LAVA Therapeutics](#) (Utrecht, Netherlands) for between \$1.16 and \$1.24 per share in cash plus a contingent value right, to expand its royalty-aggregator strategy and oncology portfolio.

- [XOMA](#) (CA, USA) to acquire [HilleVax](#) (MA, USA) for \$1.95 per share in cash plus a contingent value right to strengthen its royalty revenue base and support future growth in infectious disease treatments.
- [US WorldMeds](#) (KY, USA) to acquire [Adaptimmune's](#) (Oxford, United Kingdom) cell therapy portfolio to ensure continued patient access to Tecelra and advance development of Ite-cel.
- [Yatiri Bio](#) (CA, USA) to acquire [NGeneBioAI](#) (Seoul, South Korea) to expand its AI-powered proteomics platform and advance precision biomarker discovery.
- [Bio-Techne](#) (MN, USA) to acquire [Exosome Diagnostics](#) (MA, USA) for strategic portfolio optimization. The divestiture allows Bio-Techne to sharpen its focus on core growth areas while enabling Exosome Diagnostics to better pursue its specialized mission under new ownership.
- [Nucleus Network](#) (Melbourne, Australia) to acquire [Hammersmith Medicines Research](#) (London, United Kingdom) to expand its clinical trial capabilities in the UK. The acquisition supports Nucleus Network's global growth strategy in early-phase clinical trials.
- [Pinnaql](#) (PA, USA) to acquire [Validation & Engineering Group, Inc.](#) (TX, USA) to expand its service offerings and geographic reach in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector.
- Top-tier investor consortium (USA) to acquire [HistoSonics](#) (MN, USA) for \$2.25B to accelerate global adoption of its novel histotripsy platform. The consortium consists of K5 Global, Bezos Expeditions, [Wellington Management](#) and more private investors.
- [CorMedix](#) (NJ, USA) to acquire [Melinta Therapeutics](#) (NJ, USA) to enhance anti-infective portfolio and strengthen leadership in hospital-based therapies.

Partnerships

- [Freenome](#) (CA, USA) and [Exact Sciences](#) (WI, USA) announced an ~\$885M exclusive licensing deal for U.S. rights to Freenome's blood-based colorectal cancer screening test, with Exact accelerating commercialization and Freenome retaining rights for multi-cancer applications.
- [Astria Therapeutics](#) (MA, USA) and [Kaken Pharmaceutical](#) (Tokyo, Japan) announced a ~\$32M exclusive licensing deal for Japanese rights to navenibart, a Phase 3 monoclonal antibody for hereditary angioedema, with tiered royalties and Phase 3 cost-sharing included.

- [Janux Therapeutics](#) (CA, USA) received \$10M milestone payment from [Merck](#) (NJ, USA) upon dosing the first patient in their TRACTr collaboration program, advancing the development of tumor-activated T cell engager immunotherapies for cancer treatment.
- [MetaVia](#) (MA, USA) and [Syntekabio Inc.](#) (NY, USA) announced a research collaboration to use Syntekabio's DeepMatcher® AI platform to identify new disease targets and optimize DA-1241, MetaVia's oral GPR119 agonist for MASH and type 2 diabetes.
- [SOPHiA GENETICS](#) (Rolle, Switzerland) and [AstraZeneca](#) (Cambridge, United Kingdom) announced an expanded multi-year partnership to leverage SOPHiA's multimodal AI Factories for real-world evidence generation and predictive modeling to improve treatment outcomes for breast cancer patients.
- [Polpharma Biologics](#) (Gdańsk, Poland) and [Fresenius Kabi](#) (Germany) announced a global licensing agreement (excluding MENA) for the commercialization of PB016, a proposed biosimilar to vedolizumab (Entyvio®).
- [Kashiv BioSciences](#) (NJ, USA) and [MS Pharma](#) (Jordan) announced a license and supply agreement for ADL-018, a proposed biosimilar to Xolair® (omalizumab), granting MS Pharma rights to license, distribute, and potentially manufacture the product in the MENA region.
- [Pendopharm](#) (Montreal, Canada) and [Neuraxpharm](#) (Barcelona, Spain) announced an exclusive distribution agreement for Buccolam® (midazolam hydrochloride oromucosal solution) in Canada, following Health Canada's approval for treating prolonged, acute convulsive seizures in children.
- [Actuate Therapeutics, Inc.](#) (TX, USA), [UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#) (PA, USA), and [Incyte](#) (DE, USA) announced a clinical collaboration to evaluate elraglusib with retifanlimab and mFOLFIRINOX as frontline therapy for advanced pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
- [Pleno Inc.](#) (CA, USA) and [Slopes Bio, Inc.](#) (UT, USA) announced a commercial agreement to deploy Pleno's RAPTOR™ instrument platform for high-throughput biological target detection, including the purchase of up to five instruments and joint development of personalized health applications.
- [MAX BioPharma](#) (CA, USA) and [Revilico Inc.](#) (CA, USA) announced a drug discovery collaboration to apply Revilico's AI-enabled structure-based platform to accelerate development of oxysterol-derived therapies for MASH, IPF, and chronic inflammation.

- [Gentuity, LLC](#) (MA, USA) and [GE HealthCare](#) (IL, USA) announced a commercial collaboration to co-market and integrate their intravascular imaging technologies for interventional cardiology, aiming to expand access and adoption of Gentuity's imaging solutions in the U.S.
- [Helix](#) (CA, USA) and [Veracyte, Inc.](#) (CA, USA) announced a partnership to integrate Helix's whole-exome hereditary cancer test with Veracyte's Decipher Prostate Test, enabling urologists to access both germline and transcriptomic insights in a single clinical workflow for prostate cancer care.
- [BDC Laboratories](#) (CO, USA) and the Dilawri Cardiovascular Institute (Vancouver, Canada) announced a strategic collaboration to advance cardiovascular device development by integrating regulatory-grade bench testing with clinical research through DCI's new Center for Cardiovascular Translational Science.

Initial Public Offering (IPO)

- [Heartflow](#) (CA, USA) announced a \$316.7M upsized IPO to support its AI-driven coronary artery disease diagnostics platform.

Registered Direct Offering (RDO)

- [Ocugen](#) (PA, USA) announced a \$20M registered direct offering of common stock and warrants to advance its gene therapy programs for blindness diseases and support general corporate purposes.
- [Belite Bio](#) (CA, USA) announced a \$15M registered direct offering to support working capital and general corporate purposes.
- [VolitionRx](#) (NV, USA) announced a \$1.21M registered direct offering of common stock and warrants to support research, clinical studies, product development and commercialization, and general corporate purposes.

Closures and Layoffs

- [TFChem](#) (Val-De-Reuil, France) have announced they will close for financial reasons following two failed financing deals and a halted license agreement with AbbVie's Allergan Aesthetics.
- [BioNTech](#) (Mainz, Germany) to lay off 90 employees in R&D and corporate roles as part of a strategic alignment of its pipeline. The layoffs affect sites in Maryland and Massachusetts.

- [Precision BioSciences](#) (NC, USA) to lay off employees as part of a strategic restructuring to extend cash runway and prioritize clinical programs following Phase 1 trial results.
- [Alltrna](#) (MA, USA) to lay off employees as it prepares for clinical debut, aiming to streamline operations ahead of first-in-human trials.
- [Iovance Biotherapeutics](#) (CA, USA) to lay off under 20% of employees to extend cash runway as part of strategic restructuring.
- [Poseida Therapeutics](#) (CA, USA) to lay off 52 employees for undisclosed reasons.
- [Dewpoint Therapeutics](#) (MA, USA) to lay off 70% of employees for strategic consolidation and portfolio prioritization, including shuttering operations in Dresden and Frankfurt to focus on advancing lead gastric cancer program.
- [Tune Therapeutics](#) (NC, USA) to lay off 17 employees for strategic review of the business initiated by the new CEO.
- [Bicycle Therapeutics](#) (Cambridge, United Kingdom) to lay off 25% of its workforce for strategic cost-cutting measures to extend cash runway into 2028.