Market Pulse

June 2026

Northern BioStrategies

Market Highlights

- Record M&A, IPO activity and recovering VC funding signal renewed investor confidence, with biotech revenues projected to grow ≥12% in 2026 despite ongoing consolidation.
- Large pharma continues to pursue strategic partnerships and acquisitions, with focus areas including oncology, immunology, gene therapy and precision medicine, alongside growing interest in China’s biotech ecosystem.
- Positive clinical breakthroughs in oncology, mRNA vaccines, CRISPR and biomarker-driven diagnostics, coupled with reforms to improve trial efficiency and patient access, are strengthening the life sciences landscape.

Investment and M&A Activity

- **M&A:** Merck KGaA acquire Bio-Techne for $11.3B, marking its largest deal since 2014 and expanding its life sciences footprint in research tools, cell/gene therapy, and precision diagnostics.
- **IPO:** Parabilis Medicines raised a record $670M Nasdaq IPO to fund its phase 3 desmoid tumor drug zolucatetide, reflecting renewed investment in later-stage, clinically de-risked biotechs.
- **Partnership:** Eli Lilly expanded its Abbisko Therapeutics R&D partnership with up to $1.9B in milestones and royalties, leveraging China’s biotech ecosystem for multi-target discovery and early development.

Academic & Clinical Insights

- Positive clinical data from Roche supports the use of blood-based biomarkers to identify Alzheimer’s patients eligible for treatment, reducing reliance on PET scans.
- BioNTech’s clinical results show that its personalised mRNA cancer vaccines continue to generate durable immune responses across multiple oncology studies.
- Regeneron and Intellia Therapeutics released positive gene-editing updates, reporting continued safety and efficacy progress for their in vivo CRISPR therapies in rare diseases.

Investor and Market Sentiment

- **M&A Momentum:** EY projects biotech revenues will grow at least 12% in 2026, driven by record M&A and licensing activity, recovering IPOs/VC funding, and China deals, even as consolidation reduces company numbers.
- **Deal limit:** The main constraint on further M&A expansion is the availability of differentiated, near-term commercial assets, particularly in cardiometabolic, immunology, oncology, and RNA-based modalities.
- **VC:** In H1 2026, cancer and immunology biotechs captured over 40% of venture funding rounds and ~$3.9B of the $9B+ invested, cementing them as the dominant VC focus.

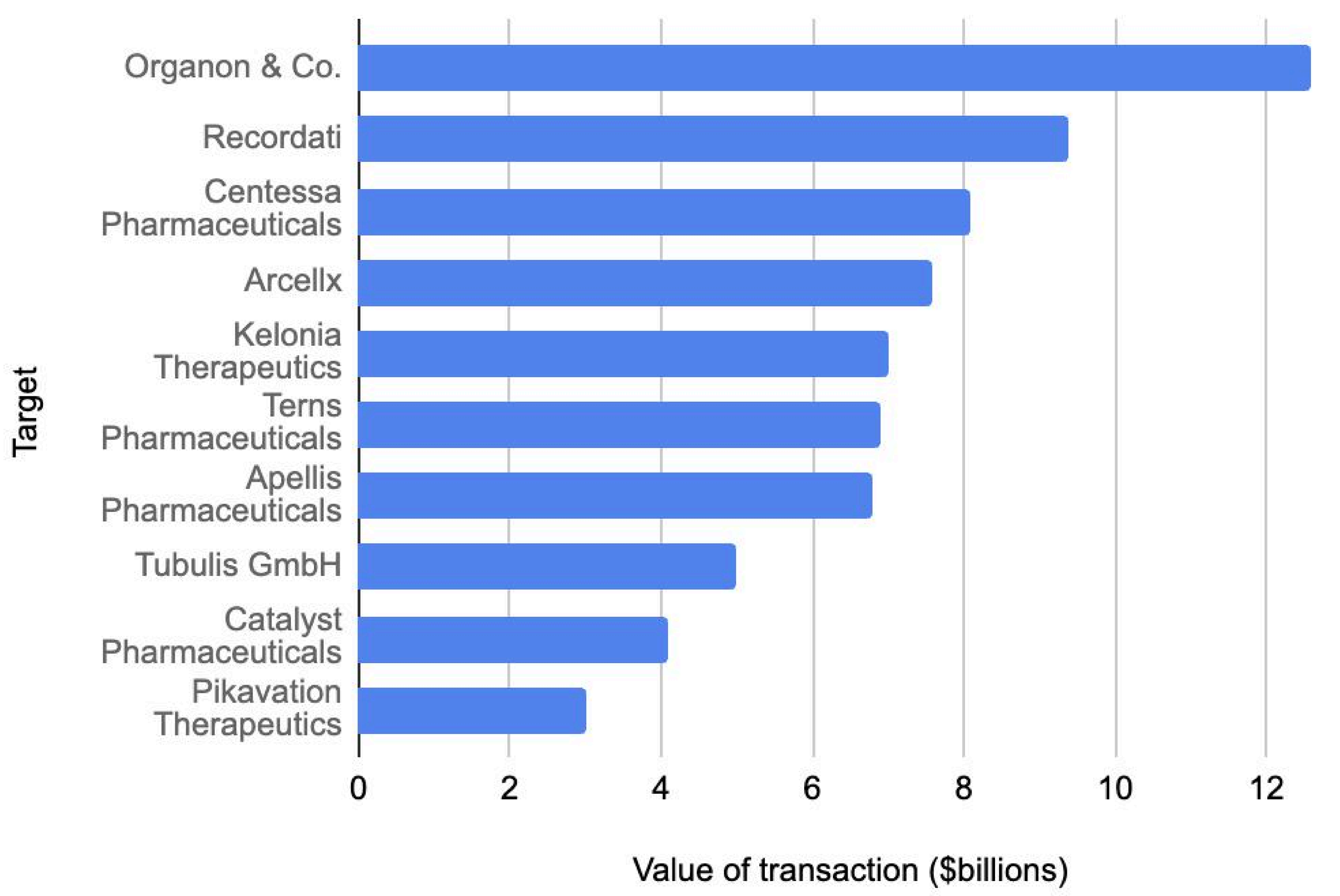
Regulatory & Policy

- UK Government announced >£3B in life sciences investment, including commitments from Moderna, BioNTech, UCB and Convatec, plus reforms to accelerate clinical trials and patient access to innovative medicines.
- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) advanced its ACT EU programme, introducing further improvements to the Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS) to streamline multinational clinical trials across Europe.
- The EMA strengthened international regulatory collaboration, expanding partnerships with African regulators to improve access to medicines and vaccines during public health emergencies.

Company Spotlights (Revolution Medicines)

- **Landmark Phase III success:** Daraxonrasib nearly doubled overall survival in metastatic pancreatic cancer, marking one of the biggest oncology breakthroughs presented at ASCO 2026.
- **Validation of RAS-targeted therapies:** Positive results reinforce RAS as a viable drug target, accelerating momentum behind next-generation precision oncology treatments.
- **Commercial and partnership potential:** Strong late-stage data significantly reinforces Revolution Medicines' lead programme, strengthening its regulatory, investment and partnering outlook.

Top 2026 Pharmaceutical and Life Science Deals



(Source: PwC; 17th June, 2026)

Regional Activity (Northern England)

- **Global showcase:** The Northern Health Science Alliance promoted the North of England as a leading health innovation hub at HLTH Europe.
- **Collaboration focus:** Northern NHS trusts, universities and combined authorities showcased the breadth of health research and innovation capability across the region.
- **International visibility:** The event aimed to attract research partnerships and inward investment into the region.