



**What to expect from 2026?** We asked some of our journalist friends working in life sciences and healthtech. Here are answers from BioCentury, Clarivate, In Vivo, Scrip, Nature Biotech, Labiotech, Medtech Insight GlobalData, BioPharm International and Advancing RNA. We've included links to their relevant articles.

**Jeff Cranmer | BIOCENTURY**

“Innovation from Japan and Korea will increasingly attract Western drug hunters looking for assets outside the fray of the China rush.”

**David Wild | IN VIVO**

“Investors see cell and gene therapy moving from speculative bubble to a disciplined phase, favouring data rich, derisked programmes.

Venture capital is concentrated in fewer, larger rounds, with a strong preference for AI enabled, capital efficient platforms.

One time cures still face structural pricing and reimbursement hurdles, driving calls for new payment models to support sustainable returns.”

**Selective Risk Taking: Cell And Gene Therapy's Phoenix Moment**

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**Mike Ward | CLARIVATE**

“The pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors enter 2026 with cautious optimism tempered by substantial headwinds. Strong scientific momentum - exemplified by antibody-drug conjugates, targeted protein degradation, cell and gene therapies, and AI-enabled drug discovery - provides genuine innovation tailwinds. Capital markets have stabilised following 2022-2023 volatility, with strategic and financial buyers deploying capital toward clinically validated assets. Regulatory modernisation through FDA accelerated pathways and priority voucher programmes enables faster time to market for breakthrough therapies.”

**Lisa Melton | NATURE BIOTECH**

“New therapies for otherwise intractable disorders: DMD, Huntington's disease, and so many more.”

**Eleanor Malone | SCRIP**

“For the past few years the industry has been significantly exposed to macro factors – ranging from its central position in addressing a global pandemic to the huge shifts in funding for science and innovation (with tough times in the US contrasting with strong investment in China) and the ramping up of drug pricing pressures. I will be watching for how the industry addresses the unpredictability and aggressiveness of the Trump administration – will big pharma continue to strike unilateral deals on pricing or will it coalesce around a united front? Might the wider industry respond more forcefully to the assault on science? I expect China's importance as a source of innovation and deal-making will continue to grow, particularly in metabolic disease and oncology.”

**Scrip asks...**

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## Jules Adam | LABIOTECH

“There are several things I’m looking forward to in 2026. We work in an industry with long timelines, so I’m not expecting a revolution this year, but there are a few technologies that are coming together. I’ve been particularly interested in radiopharma and theranostics, which feel increasingly mature after some wins and a number of deals in 2025, and it’s an area I’ll be watching closely. Beyond that, I’m excited to discover more companies and technologies, especially in Europe, including those closing smaller funding rounds. These stories are often undercovered, and as a journalist, I hope to be more actively part of the solution in 2026.”

## Marion Webb | MEDTECH INSIGHT

“As medtech enters into 2026, I’ll be watching venture capital activity, the rising role of private equity investment in the medtech space as well as M&A activity, which is expected to accelerate as companies are looking to add AI or data-driven capabilities to gain a competitive edge. On the clinical side, I will closely follow new developments in the neurotech space, such as brain-computer interfaces, covering expected regulatory breakthroughs as well as concerns about privacy, patient safeguards and new guidelines. I will also continue to focus on other innovative areas, such as surgical robotics and liquid biopsy tests, wearables, AI-enabled technologies in imaging and radiology, and consumer diagnostics that are pushing medtech into new territory.”

## Chris Spivey | BIOPHARM INTERNATIONAL AND PHARMTECH

“2026 looks to be the year we learn to do more with less. Analytical tools in particular give this a boost. Investor sentiment has also begun to swing around in the positive direction.”

My version of 2026 Wishlist is here  
PHARMTECH

[Read more...](#)

## Anna Rose Welch | ADVANCING RNA

“Products are increasingly entering the clinic, and we anticipate that 2026 will be the year we finally learn what our different RNA modalities can do as in vivo gene therapies, in vivo CAR-Ts, personalised immunotherapies, and epigenetic editing therapies.”

Money In The Bank: Why 2025's Setbacks  
Were The Foundation RNA Needed

[Read more...](#)

## Catherine Longworth | GLOBALDATA

“I’m cautiously optimistic for 2026. And it’s not just me saying this - here are links to articles from our other editors who are all anticipating positive developments during the course of the year.”

### Biopharma's 2025 M&A boom:

Robert Barrie  
PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY

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### What 2025 reveals about medtech's next leap in 2026

Ross Law  
MEDICAL DEVICE NETWORK

[Read more...](#)

### High-value oncology deals drive China's drug licensing boom

Annabel Kartal Allen  
PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY

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### Pharma positions itself for 2026 amid an evolving US landscape

Abigail Beaney  
PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY

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