PEPTIDE NEWS

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SUMMARY

Recent **clinical and regulatory advances** underscore a rapidly accelerating peptide therapeutics landscape, driven by transformative efficacy in obesity and by expanding innovation in macrocyclic modalities. Leaders such as Eli Lilly, AbbVie, Roche, and Novo Nordisk are advancing next-generation incretin and non-incretin (e.g., amylin-based) therapies, while innovators including Aktis Oncology are extending peptides into radioligand therapy (RLT).
On the **business front**, ecosystem consolidation and partnering are accelerating, with CordenPharma's acquisition of AmbioPharm and collaborations spanning Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Parabilis, and Unnatural Products, alongside capital deployment by Full-Life Technologies, Syneron Bio, and licensing from ZonsenPepLib highlighting strong momentum in macrocyclics, radiotherapeutics, and AI-driven discovery. Meanwhile, China continues to scale innovation hubs and global manufacturing, with its peptide market projected to reach ~¥1.42 trillion (~$200B), driven primarily by surging demand for metabolic disease treatments.

BREAKING NEWS

June 9, 2026 | Perpetual Medicines and Third Rock Ventures announced a development candidate delivered in under 18 months, validating their computational physics and AI-driven drug discovery platform. By combining rigorous physics-based modeling with predictive AI, the approach bypasses traditional iterative bottlenecks of empirical drug design. This triggers a milestone payment and highlights accelerated R&D productivity. A second program is already progressing through lead optimization. *Read more*

June 4, 2026 | Peptide biotech Parabilis Medicines has unveiled plans for an IPO on Nasdaq under the ticker PBLS. It could raise up to $476.4 million, following a recent partnership with Regeneron. The company plans to offer 25 million shares at the midpoint price of $18 per share, with proceeds primarily funding the advancement of its lead candidate, zolucatetide, into Phase 3 trials for desmoid tumors. Formerly known as FogPharma, Parabilis intends to list on Nasdaq under the ticker PBLS. *Read more*

CLINICAL AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

May 21, 2026 | Eli Lilly and Company reported strong Phase 3 TRIUMPH-1 results for its triple-agonist retatrutide, demonstrating substantial and clinically meaningful weight loss across all doses in adults with obesity or overweight without diabetes. At 80 weeks, patients receiving the 12 mg dose achieved an average weight reduction of 70.3 lbs (28.3%), with 45.3% losing at least 30% of body weight, levels typically associated with bariatric surgery, while those on 9 mg and 4 mg lost 64.4 lbs (25.9%) and 47.2 lbs (19.0%), respectively. In an extension study, individuals with baseline BMI ≥35 on the 12 mg dose reached up to 85.0 lbs (30.3%) weight loss at 104 weeks. *Read more*

May 04, 2026 | Aktis Oncology announced initiation of a Phase 1b clinical trial of AKY-2519, a B7-H3–targeted miniprotein radioconjugate, in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), including both PLUVICTO®-naïve and experienced cohorts,

as part of a broader two-trial strategy that also includes a planned basket study in lung, colorectal, and other high B7-H3–expressing solid tumors; preliminary results expected in 2027. AKY-2519 is its second clinical-stage miniprotein radioconjugate alongside AKY-1189, which is also in Phase 1b development. *Read more*

April 28, 2026 | Zealand Pharma announced that Boehringer Ingelheim's glucagon/GLP-1 dual agonist survodutide delivered compelling Phase 3 results in the SYNCHRONIZE-1 trial, achieving up to 16.6% mean weight loss (≈39.2 lb / 17.8 kg) over 76 weeks in adults with obesity or overweight without type 2 diabetes, significantly outperforming placebo (3.2%; p<0.0001). *Read more*

April 16, 2026 | A major FDA peptide policy shift was underway. The FDA is actively reviewing the lifting of regulatory restrictions on several peptides, including Melanotan II (MT-II), BPC-157 (osteogenesis and bone healing), and MOTS-C (anti-aging), with a major advisory decision expected at the Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee (PCAC) meeting in July 2026. Up to approximately 14 previously restricted peptides could be reintroduced under regulated compounding pathways, though not as fully approved drugs. This development signals a potential reopening of clinical and commercial pathways for certain non-approved peptides. Please feel free to raise any concerns about this policy shift. *Read more*

March 26, 2026 | U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Awiqli (insulin icodec-abae), injection 700 units/mL, the first and only once-weekly, long-acting basal insulin, from Novo Nordisk, marking the first and only once-weekly basal insulin for adults with Type 2 Diabetes. Awiqli® offers a more convenient alternative that may better align with patient preferences and adherence. *Read more*

March 18, 2026 | Protagonist Therapeutics announced that Johnson & Johnson has received U.S. FDA approval for ICOTYDE™ (icotrokinra), the first and only oral IL-23 receptor–targeted peptide for treating moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis in adults and adolescents (≥12 years, ≥40 kg) eligible for systemic therapy or phototherapy. The once-daily therapy demonstrated complete skin clearance and a favorable safety profile across four Phase 3 trials involving over 2,500 patients. Under their longstanding collaboration with Janssen Biotech, Johnson & Johnson will commercialize ICOTYDE, while Protagonist receives a $50 million milestone payment and remains eligible for up to $580 million in additional milestones plus tiered royalties of 6–10% on global net sales, with the top royalty tier of 10% applying to sales above $4 billion. *Read more*

March 9, 2026 | Regeneron Pharmaceuticals reported positive topline Phase 3 results of Olatorepatide, a dual GLP-1/GIP receptor agonist, in adults with obesity or overweight, where once-weekly treatment led to statistically significant weight reduction versus placebo and up to 19% mean body-weight loss at 48 weeks, with up to 97% of participants achieving at least 5% weight loss. The randomized, double-blind study enrolled 604 patients across 33 sites and met both co-primary endpoints across 5 mg, 10 mg, and 15 mg doses, while also showing a favorable gastrointestinal tolerability profile, with low rates of nausea (<10%) and vomiting (<5%) and fewer discontinuations than comparable dual incretin trials. Olatorepatide from Hansoh Pharma and trials are conducted in China. Regeneron holds ex-China rights under its licensing agreement, while Hansoh retains Greater China rights, and the company plans to initiate its global registrational program later this year. *Read more*

Mar 09, 2026 | AbbVie announced positive topline results from a Phase 1 multiple ascending dose study of ABBV-295, a long-acting amylin analog, demonstrating clinically meaningful, dose-dependent weight loss of approximately 7.8% to 9.8% over 12–13 weeks across weekly, biweekly, and monthly dosing regimens, compared to negligible changes with placebo. The therapy was generally well tolerated at all dose levels, with no serious adverse events reported and mostly mild, transient gastrointestinal side effects occurring early in treatment. These findings support continued development of ABBV-295 as a potentially differentiated, non-incretin-based therapy for chronic weight management. *Read more*

March 04, 2026 | Roche reported positive Phase II results from the ZUPREME-1 trial of petrelintide, an investigational once-weekly amylin analog for overweight and obesity, demonstrating statistically significant and clinically meaningful weight loss across all five dose arms versus placebo in 493 participants (mean BMI 37 kg/m²). Weight reduction reached up to 10.7% at week 42 compared to 1.7% with placebo ($p<0.001$), with effects sustained beyond the 28-week primary endpoint. The data support further development of petrelintide as both a mono-therapy and a combination agent for chronic weight management, with female participants exhibiting greater weight loss than male participants. *Read more*

Feb 27, 2026 | The FDA approved once-weekly YUVIWEL® (navepegritide) by Ascendis Pharma for children aged 2 years and older with achondroplasia, making it the first and only therapy designed to provide continuous systemic exposure to C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) over a weekly dosing interval to increase linear growth in this population under the Accelerated Approval Program. The therapy, a once-weekly prodrug of CNP, targets overactive FGFR3 signaling underlying achondroplasia and is expected to become commer-cially available in early Q2 2026.

Jan 05, 2026 | Novo Nordisk's announced Wegovy® pill, the first oral GLP-1 medicine for weight loss in adults, is broadly available across the United States following FDA approval in December 2025. In the OASIS 4 trial, the tablet demonstrated an average weight loss of about 17% if patients remained on treatment (and ~14% regardless of discontinuation), compared with ~2–3% for placebo, when used alongside diet and exercise. The once-daily pill is offered at an introductory self-pay price of $149 per month for the 1.5 mg starting dose and is being distributed through 70,000+ pharmacies nationwide, including CVS and Costco, as well as telehealth platforms. *Read more*

BUSINESS AND COLLABORATIONS

May 27, 2026 | Basel-based CordenPharma agreed to acquire AmbioPharm, a U.S.-headquartered peptide CDMO with facilities in South Carolina and Shanghai, strengthening its global manufacturing footprint. By integrating AmbioPharm's assets, CordenPharma improves supply flexibility, scale-up pathways, and regional manufacturing options for customers, positioning itself to better meet surging demand—particularly from GLP-1 therapeutics. *Read more*

May 18, 2026 | Parabilis Medicines entered a strategic multi-target collaboration with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals to develop novel Antibody-Helicon™ Conjugates (AHCs), combining Parabilis's cell-penetrant Helicon™ peptide platform with Regeneron's antibody expertise to address historically "undruggable" intracellular targets. The agreement includes $125 million up front to Parabilis along with up to ~$2.2 billion in potential milestone payments and tiered royalties on future sales. Regeneron will lead development, manufacturing, and commercialization, positioning the collaboration to advance a new class of targeted therapeutics across multiple disease areas. Parabilis plans an IPO to fund tumor drug's phase 3 push. *Read more*

May 18, 2026 | Full-Life Technologies announced the closing of a $150 million financing package led by Vivo Capital, with participation from SK Biopharmaceuticals and multiple existing investors, to accelerate its evolution into a fully integrated global radiotherapeutics company. Proceeds will advance key clinical-stage assets, including the potentially best-in-class [^{225}Ac]-FL-020 for prostate cancer and the first-in-class [^{225}Ac]-FL-261 for solid tumors, while supporting the expansion of its UniRDC™-derived pipeline, which is expected to reach three differentiated clinical programs by year-end 2026. *Read more*

March 31, 2026 | Syneron Bio, a Beijing-based intelligent platform-driven macrocyclic peptide drug discovery company, announced the successful close of a $150 million Series B financing led by an international life sciences fund and others to support further advancement of Syneron's proprietary Synova™ macrocyclic peptide discovery platform and accelerate its diversified pipeline toward clinical development. *Read more*

Feb 18, 2026 | Unnatural Products, Inc. (UNP) announced a research collaboration and licensing agreement with Novartis to develop macrocyclic peptide therapeutics against historically "undruggable" targets, initially focused on cardiovascular disease. The partnership combines UNP's AI-enabled macrocycle discovery platform—integrating computational design, high-throughput synthesis, and direct-to-biology screening—with Novartis' global development and commercialization capabilities. Under the terms, UNP is eligible for up to $100 million in upfront and pre-IND milestones, up to $1.7 billion in development, regulatory, and commercial milestones, and tiered royalties ranging from mid-single to low double percentages on net sales. *Read more*

Jan 13, 2026 | Zonsen PepLib, a China and Boston-based biotech, announced a worldwide license agreement with Novartis for an undisclosed internally developed peptide-based radioligand therapy (RLT) asset, under which Novartis gains exclusive global rights and will lead all development and commercialization activities. The partnership leverages Novartis' established leadership in RLTs to advance the program into its next stage, with the asset expected to complement its existing oncology portfolio and potentially deliver a new targeted treatment option for patients worldwide. Under the terms, PepLib will receive a $50 million upfront payment and is eligible for additional development, regulatory, and sales milestone payments, as well as tiered royalties on future global net sales.

Jan 06, 2026 | AstraZeneca is investing up to $18.5bn (including $1.2bn upfront) in a major collaboration with CSPC Pharmaceutical Group to access sustained-release delivery technology and AI-enabled peptide drug discovery capabilities aimed at accelerating its weight management strategy. The deal grants AstraZeneca exclusive global rights to eight preclinical obesity assets, including SYH2082, a long-acting GLP-1/GIP receptor agonist with potential once-monthly dosing. The partnership marks one of the largest transactions in the obesity and metabolic disease space, underscoring the growing strategic importance of next-generation peptide therapeutics and long-acting incretin-based therapies. *Read more*

KEY STRATEGIC TAKEAWAY FOR 2026

Mid-2026 represents a regulatory and strategic inflection point for peptide therapeutics in the U.S., with forthcoming FDA decisions poised to reshape the competitive landscape. While GLP-1–based therapies remain the dominant commercial anchor, the field is rapidly expanding beyond metabolic disease into cardiovascular, CNS, inflammatory, and oncology indications. In parallel, high-value modalities, including macrocyclic and oral peptides, are gaining clinical and partnership validation, reinforcing their translational potential. Concurrently, the AI-driven drug discovery ecosystem is becoming more structured, spanning pure AI-peptide startups and broader AI-first peptide-based drug discovery companies such as Peptilogics, Ardigen, Syneron Bio and Perpetual Medicines, Tandem AI, Absci, and Isomorphic Labs, just to name a few.

Strategically, large pharmaceutical companies are leveraging GLP-1-driven cash flows to build diversified, multi-modality pipelines. Industry leaders continue to set benchmarks in efficacy and delivery, while emerging players differentiate through novel biology and platform innovation. At the same time, major incumbents are expanding through partnerships and portfolio optimization to access high-growth segments.

China is rapidly consolidating its role as both a manufacturing powerhouse and fast-follower innovator, particularly in oncology and GLP-1 generics following patent expiration.