The Toll of the Broken Antimicrobial Market

In recent years, the FDA has approved several new antimicrobials from small companies. **Today, nearly every company behind those antimicrobials has either gone bankrupt, was acquired for pennies on the dollar, or is under water.** After surviving the long, costly road of R&D and securing FDA approval for their treatment, many antimicrobial makers face the "second valley of death" — a broken market that threatens their survival.

LEGEND Merger or Acquisition | Bankrupt or Ceased Operations | Slow Down Antimicrobial R&D

2018

JUNE — Arsanis (Slow Down Antimicrobial R&D)

thepharmaletter: Arsanis value dwindles on pneumonia trial failure

2019

FEBRUARY — Motif BioSciences (Slow Down Antimicrobial R&D)

ENDPOINTS NEWS: Motif Bio's turnaround quest for once-rejected antibiotic hits the CRL wall

FEBRUARY — Aradigm (Bankrupt or Ceased Operations)

FIERCE Biotech: End of the line looms for Aradigm as it files for bankruptcy

MARCH — Arsanis (Merger or Acquisition)

thepharmaletter: X4 Pharma completes reverse merger with Arsanis

APRIL — Achaogen (Bankrupt or Ceased Operations)

CIDRAP: Achaogen bankruptcy raises worry over antibiotic pipeline

DECEMBER — Octagon Therapeutics (Slow Down Antimicrobial R&D)

ENDPOINTS NEWS: Biopharma has abandoned antibiotic development. Here's why we did, too.

2020

JANUARY — Motif BioSciences (Bankrupt or Ceased Operations)

BioSpace: Motif Bio Corporate Update - Agreement with Hercules Capital, Inc

JANUARY — Melinta Therapeutics (Bankrupt or Ceased Operations)

FIERCE Biotech: Melinta files for bankruptcy in another dark day for antibiotics

MARCH — Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals (Merger or Acquisition)

ENDPOINTS NEWS: Another antibiotic maker bites the dust, as Tetraphase is swallowed for cheap

JUNE — Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals (Merger or Acquisition)

BIOPHARMA DIVE: By $4M, La Jolla outbids Melinta for struggling Tetraphase

2022

MAY — **Entasis Therapeutics**

FIERCE Biotech

Innoviva buys struggling antibiotic biotech Entasis, as the AstraZeneca spinout preps FDA filing

JULY — **La Jolla Pharmaceutical Co.**

Pharmaceutical Technology

Innoviva enters agreement to acquire La Jolla Pharmaceutical Company

NOVEMBER — **Nabriva Therapeutics**

FIERCE Biotech

Nabriva halts R&D, lays off 40% of staff in commercial-focused pivot for survival

2023

JANUARY — **Nabriva Therapeutics**

c&en CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS

Antibiotic developer Nabriva to wind down

JUNE — **Paratek Pharmaceuticals**

BIOPHARMA DIVE

Antibiotic maker Paratek, low on cash, agrees to a buyout

2025

APRIL — **Octagon Therapeutics**

FIERCE Biotech

Octagon shuts down after R&D challenges put it behind the 8 ball

JULY — **Spexis**

allnews

Spexis declared bankrupt following moratorium on debt enforcement

AUGUST — **Melinta Therapeutics**

FIERCE Pharma

CorMedix expands infectious disease portfolio with $300M acquisition of Melinta

2026

FEBRUARY — **Seres Therapeutics**

FIERCE Biotech

Seres to lay off 30% of employees, pause lead program in latest strategic shift

MARCH — **Iterum Therapeutics**

FIERCE Pharma

Iterum initiates wind-down after failure to offload antibiotic with sluggish sales