Syncona

Syncona Update

January 2022

Syncona

Building the next generation of healthcare companies

Key Media Coverage

Adventurous investing: my 14 years of hits — and misses
Financial Times 05.01.22

David Stevenson documented his investment hits and misses over the past 14 years in his Adventurous Investor column. On biotech, he refers to his early investment in Syncona. David comments that the shares have doubled since his initial investment and expresses his belief that they have much further to go.

34 value stock tips for 2022
Interactive Investor 11.01.22

Graeme Evens reports on Peel Hunt's best value stocks for 2022. Peel Hunt highlighted the appeal of Syncona, which recently generated £334 million from the sale of gene therapy business Gyroscope to Swiss drugs giant Novartis. Peel Hunt said: "In Syncona, we see an excellent way for the generalist to play pipeline biotech: a company run by specialists with a track record of company building, academic excellence, and corporate execution."

Seize these investment trust bargains in 2022
MoneyWeek 17.01.22

Max King picks a selection of the best investment trusts to buy for 2022. He reported that private equity start-up specialist Syncona received a boost from the sale of gene-therapy firm Gyroscope to Novartis at a premium price in December. The fund now trades on a reasonable premium to NAV, while its strategy is being vindicated.

Life sciences podcast: Clusters beyond OxCam Arc needed, says FTSE250 VC pioneer Syncona
Property Week 21.01.22

In the first of a series of PropCast episodes dedicated to the life sciences, Kaleigh Haeg from Source Bioscience and Science Kode, and Syncona's Alex Hamilton discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the UK's burgeoning life sciences sector in an episode recorded at the end of 2021. You can listen to this podcast via *Apple Podcasts* or *Spotify* or *SoundCloud*.

BIA Report: UK biotech financing in 2021
UK BioIndustry Association 27.01.22

The BioIndustry Association published its report on UK biotech financing in 2021. The report featured Quell, Gyroscope and Cambridge Epigenetix in the top UK venture deals, and Achilles in the top UK biotech IPOs. There is also commentary from Autolus' incoming Chief Financial Officer, Lucinda Crabtree, on page 19.

Achilles Therapeutics

Developing novel cancer immunotherapies targeting clonal neoantigens

Key Announcements

Achilles Therapeutics Provides Business Update and Outlook for 2022
13.01.22

Achilles announced a business update and its outlook for 2022. As part of this update, Achilles reported that it plans to use its new, higher-dose manufacturing process, VELOS™ Process 2, for the manufacture of clonal neoantigen (cNeT) products in the UK, France, Germany, Spain, and the US. As previously reported at medical congresses in 2021, VELOS Process 2 can increase cell yield to enable delivery of higher doses of cNeT in Achilles's two ongoing clinical trials, CHIRON in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and THETIS in melanoma.

Key Media Coverage

JPM Day 3: AbbVie Sees Bright Future Ahead, vTv, Gritstone and Achilles
BioSpace 13.01.22

Alex Kowen reports on Achilles following its presentation at JP Morgan. Alex states that Achilles has a number of anticipated milestones set for 2022, including an Investigational New Drug application for its T cell therapy, an expansion of its manufacturing capacity in the UK at the Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult, and the establishment of an R&D centre in the US.

Autolus Therapeutics

Developing next generation programmed T cell therapies for the treatment of cancer

Key Announcements

Autolus Therapeutics to Present at Conferences During January 2022
05.01.22

Autolus announced it would be presenting at the following virtual conferences in January:

- Dr Lucinda Crabtree, Senior Vice President, Finance, will present at the H.C. Wainwright BioConnect Conference, where an on-demand webcast will be available on Monday, January 10, 2022, starting at 7.00 am ET
- Dr Christian Itin, Chief Executive Officer, will present at the 40th annual J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 8.15 am ET

The presentations are available on the investor relations section of Autolus' website at https://www.autolus.com

Autolus Therapeutics announces 2022 priorities
10.01.22

Autolus announced its 2022 corporate priorities and provided guidance. "We are on track to complete patient recruitment in the FELIX study of obe-cel in adult ALL patients with the first data expected around the middle of the year," said Dr Christian Itin, Chief Executive Officer of Autolus. "This study is the key driver for the company over the coming months and we are working diligently to shape the product profile and the commercial strategy of obe-cel, whilst laying the foundation for progressing our other differentiated CAR T cell products. We are very excited about the year ahead, which could be a transformational year for Autolus."

Autolus Therapeutics announces retirement of chief financial officer and succession plan
10.01.22

Autolus announced that Andrew J. Oakley plans to retire from his position as Chief Financial Officer with effect from 31 March 2022 and will concentrate on non-executive director roles. He currently serves on the Boards of Union Therapeutics A/S and Novaremed AG. Andrew will remain a senior advisor to Autolus until March 2023. Dr Lucinda Crabtree, senior vice president of finance at Autolus, will be appointed Chief Financial Officer following his retirement.

Key Media Coverage

BioSpace Movers & Shakers, Jan. 14
BioSpace 14.01.22

Alex Keown reports in the BioSpace appointments newsletter that Andrew J. Oakley will retire as Chief Financial Officer of Autolus in 2022. Lucinda Crabtree will then assume responsibility for the role. Crabtree joined Autolus in January 2020 and currently serves as senior vice president of Finance.

Freeline Therapeutics

Focused on developing curative gene therapies for chronic systemic diseases

Key Announcements

Michael Parini to present at conferences during January 2022
04.01.22

Freeline announced that Chief Executive Officer Michael Parini would be presenting at the following virtual conferences:

- H.C. Wainwright BioConnect Conference, where an on-demand webcast will be available on January 10, 2022, starting at 7:00 a.m. EST
- 40th Annual J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference where a live audio webcast of the presentation will be available on January 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. EST

Presentations are available on the Investors section of Freeline's website.

Freeline Announces FDA Clearance of Investigational New Drug Application for FLT201 for Gaucher Disease Type 1
06.01.22

Freeline announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared its Investigational New Drug application for FLT201 as an investigational gene therapy for the treatment of Gaucher disease Type 1. Freeline initiated the Phase I/II dose-finding trial of FLT201 at the end of 2021 in Europe and expects to dose two patients in the first dose cohort in the first half of 2022, with initial safety and biomarker data from the first cohort expected in Q3 2022. Freeline expects to report data on all dosed patients, including those dosed in Q3, prior to year-end 2022.

Freeline to Present on Its Fabry and Gaucher Disease AAV-Based Gene Therapies at the 18th Annual WORLDSymposium™
27.01.22

Freeline announced that it will deliver a platform presentation and two poster presentations at the 18th Annual WORLDSymposium™, a research conference dedicated to lysosomal storage diseases, taking place February 7-11, 2022 in San Diego, California. The presentations will include updated data from the company's ongoing Phase I/II MARVEL-1 clinical trial evaluating FLT190 for the treatment of patients with Fabry disease and the clinical trial design for GALILEO-1, a Phase I/II safety and efficacy study of FLT201 in adult patients with Gaucher disease Type 1.

Freeline Appoints Henning R. Stennicke, PhD, as Chief Scientific Officer to Lead Research and Discovery
03.02.22

Freeline announced the expansion of its executive leadership team with the appointment of Henning R. Stennicke, PhD, as Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), effective 1 March 2022. He will be based in Stevenage, UK, and report to Michael Parini, Freeline's Chief Executive Officer, as part of the executive leadership team. As CSO, Dr Stennicke will lead the research and advancement of the company's innovative science and platform technology.

Key Media Coverage

Regulatory actions for Jan. 7, 2022
BioWorld 07.01.22

BioWorld's regulatory action newsletter reports that the Food and Drug Administration cleared the Investigational New Drug for Freeline Therapeutics' FLT-201, an AAV capsid containing an expression cassette that encodes for a glucocerebrosidase variant (GCasevar85) for treatment of Gaucher disease.

Two gene therapy players launch IPOs on stormy stock market
Labiotech 21.01.22

Jonathan Smith reports on gene therapy IPOs, referencing that the last major European gene therapy IPO came from Freeline Therapeutics in late 2020.

Gyroscope Therapeutics

Developing gene therapies and surgical delivery systems for retinal diseases

Key Announcements

Novartis Fourth Quarter and Full Year Results 2021
02.02.22

Novartis published its Fourth Quarter and Full Year Results 2021 and held a webcast for analysts and investors. Novartis's acquisition of Gyroscope was highlighted on slide 16 of the webcast, at 12 mins 30 seconds. The slide deck and webcast can be accessed here.

Key Media Coverage

Lilly pours more money into genetic treatments for neurological diseases
BioPharma Dive 06.01.22

Jacob Bell reports in his article on Eli Lilly, that with its potential to treat an enormous range of diseases, genetic medicine has become a focal point for many large drug companies. Jacob refers to Novartis, and its plans to spend $800 million to purchase privately held Gyroscope Therapeutics, which is developing a gene therapy for an eye disorder that can lead to blindness.

Novartis Sticks With Bolt-Ons As Biotech Bubble Bursts
Scrip 02.02.22

Following Novartis's Q4 financial results, Novartis's Chief Executive Officer, Vas Narasimhan, discusses Novartis's acquisition strategy in an interview with Scrip. He mentions the Gyroscope transaction as an indication of the company's commitment to gene therapy.

Neogene Therapeutics

Pioneering the development of next-generation, fully personalized engineered T cells therapies for a broad spectrum of cancers

Key Announcements

Neogene Therapeutics Announces Exclusive License with the National Cancer Institute for a Portfolio of T Cell Receptors (TCR) Targeting KRAS and TP53 Mutations for the Treatment of Cancer
11.01.22

Neogene announced an exclusive, worldwide license agreement with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), an institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for a portfolio of TCRs targeting KRAS and TP53 mutations for the treatment of patients with cancer. These TCRs were discovered in the laboratory of Steven Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Surgery at the NCI and a pioneer in the fields of immunotherapy and gene therapy for patients with advanced cancers. This portfolio of TP53 and KRAS targeted T cell therapies complements Neogene's proprietary neoantigen TCR discovery and T cell engineering platform.

Key Media Coverage

Jan. 11 Quick Takes: Roche cash infusion brings Freenome's overall haul to $1.1 billion
BioCentury 12.01.22

BioCentury's newsletter reports that Neogene has exclusively licensed a portfolio of T cell receptors (TCRs) targeting KRAS and p53 from the National Cancer Institute that could form the basis of new therapeutic modalities against the challenging targets that sidestep small molecule resistance mechanisms. The company has exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise a portfolio of autologous and allogeneic CRISPR engineered T cell therapies expressing the TCRs, which were discovered in Stephen Rosenberg's lab.

Quell Therapeutics

Developing engineered T regulatory (T-reg) cell therapies

Key Announcements

Quell Therapeutics Announces Presentation at the 40th Annual J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference
06.01.22

Quell announced that management will present a company overview at the 40th Annual J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference, being held virtually, on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 12:00 pm ET.

SwanBio Therapeutics

Developing leading-edge medicines to deliver dramatic clinical efficacy for the treatment of neurological diseases

Key Announcements

SwanBio Therapeutics Announces FDA Investigational New Drug Clearance for First AAV-Based Gene Therapy for the Treatment of Adrenomyeloneuropathy
25.01.22

SwanBio announced that its Investigational New Drug application for its lead candidate, SBT101, for the treatment of adrenomyeloneuropathy (AMN), was cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. SBT101 is the first AAV-based gene therapy in development specifically designed for people living with AMN, an adult-onset degenerative spinal cord disease caused by mutations in the ABCD1 gene. SwanBio plans to initiate a randomised, placebo-controlled Phase I/II clinical trial designed to assess the safety and explore the efficacy of SBT101 in patients with AMN in the second half of 2022.

Key Media Coverage

FDA Pulls on the reins for Mustang's gene therapy as others advance
BioSpace 25.01.22

Alex Keown reports that SwanBio's gene therapy for the treatment of adrenomyeloneuropathy (AMN) has been cleared for a Phase I/II study. SwanBio's lead candidate SBT101 is the first AAV-based gene therapy in development designed to compensate for the disease-causing ABCD1 mutation in AMN patients.