Syncona

Syncona Update

August 2021

Syncona

Building the next generation of healthcare companies

Key Announcements

Result of Annual General Meeting and Retirement of Director
03.08.21

At the Annual General Meeting all Resolutions as set out in the 'Notice of the 2021 Annual General Meeting' were duly passed. In addition, the Company confirmed that, in line with a previous announcement, Tom Henderson has retired from the Board with effect from the close of the AGM.

Syncona announces First Quarter Update
17.08.21

Syncona announced its first quarter update with key highlights including strong clinical progress with five clinical stage companies now in the portfolio. Martin Murphy, CEO of Syncona, said: “We are pleased with the continued positive clinical progress across our companies over the period with Anaveon dosing the first patient in its clinical programme and becoming Syncona’s fifth clinical-stage business. Whilst we recognise that the share price performance of our listed holdings has brought volatility to our NAV, we remain focused on delivering value over the long-term. Our portfolio is funded to deliver important clinical milestones, which are potential key value drivers for our business over the next 12-24 months. Our companies are executing on their business and clinical plans and we have a high level of conviction in their fundamentals. We also continue to seek a wide range of exciting new opportunities to found and invest in the next generation of globally leading life science businesses."

Key Media Coverage

Syncona focuses on portfolio as net asset value drops in first quarter
Alliance News 17.08.21

Josie O’Brien of Alliance News wrote that Syncona’s portfolio is funded to "deliver important clinical milestones", as net asset value was impacted by the performance of its listed holdings in the first quarter. Josie writes that Syncona's net assets totalled £1.20bn, with a capital base of £578bn.

Achilles Therapeutics

Developing novel cancer immunotherapies targeting clonal neoantigens

Key Announcements

Achilles Therapeutics Reports Second Quarter 2021 Financial Results and Recent Business Highlights
10.08.21

Achilles announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2021 and recent business highlights. The company continued to make significant progress, presenting data at AACR and ASCO demonstrating that we can quantify the active clonal neoantigen-reactive T cell (cNeT) component and cNeT dose of the product.

Business Highlights:

- Closed an IPO valued at $175.5m.
- Enrolled first US Patient in ongoing PI/IIa CHIRON study in non-small cell lung cancer
- Strengthened the Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Board with the additions of Julie O'Neill and Markwin Velders, Ph.D.
- Received a Horizon 2020 grant as part of the Neoantigen Consortium, to collaborate on the development of a tool to predict neoantigen immunogenicity

Achilles Therapeutics Announces Grant of US and European Patents
25.08.21

Achilles Therapeutics announced that US patent US11,098,121 and European patent EP3347039B have been granted. The patents cover a method of identifying cancer patients that are likely to respond to a checkpoint inhibitor (CPI) by determining the total number of clonal neoantigens or the ratio of clonal to subclonal neoantigens in patients' cancer cells. Clonal neoantigens are neoantigens present on all tumour cells and absent from healthy tissue.

Key Media Coverage

ADRs End Higher; DiDi Global, Achilles Therapeutics Among the Actively Traded
Dow Jones 25.08.21

Kimberly Chin of Dow Jones wrote that Achilles' ADRs rose 4.2% after the company said it has been granted US and European patents for a method of identifying cancer patients that are likely to respond to a checkpoint inhibitor.

Autolus Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

Autolus and Moderna sign Option and License Agreement for access to proprietary targeting technology from Autolus
02.08.21

Autolus Therapeutics announced an agreement with Moderna, a biotechnology company pioneering messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines, granting Moderna an exclusive license to develop and commercialise mRNA therapeutics incorporating Autolus' proprietary binders for up-to four immuno-oncology targets.

Autolus Therapeutics Reports Second Quarter 2021 Financial Results and Operational Progress
05.08.21

Autolus Therapeutics announced its operational and financial results for the second quarter.

"We are very encouraged by the obe-cel data in adult acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and in B-cell non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (B-NHL) presented at the European Hematology Association (EHA) Virtual Congress in June. In adult patients with ALL, event-free survival stabilized at 50% with 12 months follow up and was sustained at 24 months. These data indicate that obe-cel may be the first stand-alone therapy in adult ALL with curative potential in a last line setting. The FELIX trial is progressing well, and we expect pivotal data during 2022," said Dr. Christian Itin, CEO of Autolus. "Additional data were presented at EHA for obe-cel in indolent B-NHL indicating a high level of clinical activity combined with a well manageable safety profile. Further data in patients with aggressive B-NHL and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) are expected by the end of the year."

Autolus Therapeutics Announces Promising Innovative Medicine (PIM) designation for obe-cel for the treatment of relapsed/refractory adult B-cell ALL
09.08.21

Autolus Therapeutics announced that it has received Promising Innovative Medicine (PIM) designation from the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for AUTO1.

“PIM designation is recognition of obe-cel as a promising candidate for the Early Access Medicines Scheme (EAMS) in the UK for the treatment of adult patients with r/r ALL, a life-threatening condition with high unmet need,” said Dr. Christian Itin, CEO of Autolus.

Autolus Therapeutics announces publication of obe-cel (AUTO1) Phase 1 ALLCAR19 data in adults with relapsed/ refractory B-ALL in Journal of Clinical Oncology
01.09.21

Autolus Therapeutics announced the publication of the obecabtagene autoleucel (obe-cel) Phase 1 ALLCAR19 data in Journal of Clinical Oncology1. Obe-cel is a fast off-rate CD19 CAR-T therapy, designed to reduce toxicity and improve engraftment1,2. ALLCAR19 is a clinical study in collaboration with Autolus' academic partner, University College London (UCL).

“Currently there are no CD19 CAR T therapies approved for use in adult B-ALL and there exists a significant unmet need for r/r B-ALL patients,” said Dr. Claire Roddie, Consultant Hematologist, UCL Cancer Institute and University College London Hospital.

Key Media Coverage

[Autolus and Moderna strike option and license accord]
The Pharma Letter 02.08.21

Shares of Autolus Therapeutics were up 12.8% at $6.00 in pre-market trading, after they announced an agreement with Moderna, granting Moderna an exclusive license to develop and commercialise mRNA therapeutics incorporating Autolus' proprietary binders for up to four immuno-oncology targets.

Autolus would be eligible to receive an undisclosed upfront payment for each target licensed by Moderna and development and commercial milestone payments for each product successfully commercialised. In addition, Autolus would be entitled to receive royalties on net sales of all products commercialized under the agreement.

"We are pleased that Moderna has selected Autolus as a partner for certain mRNA-based therapeutics in oncology indications," said Dr Martin Pulé, founder and chief scientific officer of Autolus.

[Autolus reportedly planning new $90M headquarters]
Endpoints 12.08.21

Max Gelman of Endpoints wrote that Autolus could soon find itself a new headquarters. Local officials in Stevenage, England, are reportedly expected to meet to discuss plans for allowing Autolus to build a new central office for about $90m. The space would be built on an old car park and have nearly 7,000 square feet of laboratory and other office areas. The news of the headquarter upgrade comes about 10 days after Autolus signed on to a new partnership with Moderna.

Freeline Therapeutics

Focused on developing curative gene therapies for chronic systemic diseases

Key Announcements

Freeline Provides Executive Leadership Team Update; Company to Provide Corporate Update and Second Quarter 2021 Financial Results on Monday, August 16
13.08.21

Freeline Therapeutics announced that it will provide a corporate update and report second quarter 2021 financial results. Additionally, the company announced that CMO Julie Krop, MD will be leaving the Company to pursue other opportunities. Alison Long, MD, PhD, SVP, Head of Clinical Development, will assume the role of interim CMO while an external search for a new CMO is conducted.

Freeline Appoints Michael J. Parini as Chief Executive Officer and Reports Second Quarter 2021 Financial Results
16.08.21

Freeline Therapeutics announced that Michael J. Parini has succeeded Theresa Heggie as CEO. The Company also reported financial results for the second quarter of 2021 and provided updates on its lead program FLT180a for Haemophilia B, FLT190 for Fabry disease, FLT201 for Gaucher disease Type 1 and FLT210 for Haemophilia A.

“Freeline is at the forefront of gene therapy, leveraging a platform innovation engine that holds the potential to deliver functional cures to patients who suffer from debilitating diseases,” said Mr. Parini, CEO of Freeline. “I joined Freeline to deliver on the differentiated promise of our pipeline and technology, and am honoured and excited to take the helm at this critical time for the Company.”

Key Media Coverage

BRIEF—Freeline names new CEO
The Pharma Letter 16.08.21

UK biotech Freeline Therapeutics announced the appointment of Michael Parini as CEO and executive director of the company. He succeeds Theresa Heggie, who joined Freeline in February last year to take up the post of CEO

Purespring Therapeutics

One of the first AAV gene therapy companies focused on the kidney globally

Key Announcements

Purespring strengthens senior leadership with appointment of Chief Medical Officer and Chief Development Officer
02.09.21

Purespring Therapeutics announced the appointments of Dr Ronny Renfurm as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Julian Hanak as Chief Development Officer (CDO), effective immediately.The appointments are a critical step in Purespring's plan to advance its proprietary gene therapy platform.

Quell Therapeutics

Developing engineered T regulatory (T-reg) cell therapies

Key Announcements

[Quell Therapeutics to Present at the 2021 Wedbush Pacgrow Healthcare Virtual Conference](#)
04.08.21

Quell Therapeutics announced that Iain McGill, CEO, would participate in a panel discussion, Out of Body Experience – Transplant: Two Genotypes Living in Harmony, at the Wedbush Pacgrow Healthcare Virtual Conference on Wednesday, 11 August 2021.

Key Media Coverage

[Growing list of Treg start-ups — who, what and how much more: Data Byte](#)
BioCentury 14.08.21

Karen Tkach Tuzman of BioCentury discusses the growing list of Treg start-ups, writing that Quell Therapeutics, along with Sonoma and Abata Therapeutics and are all opting for endogenously produced Tregs. She goes on to say that the start-ups are still not disclosing which tissue auto-antigens they are targeting via engineered receptors on the Treg cells.