

Syncona Update

July 2022





Syncona

Building the next generation of healthcare companies

Key Media Coverage

[The investment trust sector and the Four Horsemen – a review of Q2 22](#)

City AM 13.07.22

Frank Buhagier of City AM highlights Syncona's strong Q2 performance in City AM's review of Q2 2022, as part of a recap of investment trust performance and what happened in global markets more broadly. The article comments that Syncona is one of the top five performers, being up 28% in the quarter.

Achilles Therapeutics

Developing novel cancer immunotherapies targeting clonal neoantigens

Key Announcements

[Achilles Therapeutics to lead Horizon Europe-Funded Consortium to Advance Personalized Cell Therapy Manufacturing](#)

21.07.22

Achilles announced it is leading a consortium that has been awarded a €4 million grant from Horizon Europe, the European Union's key funding program for research and innovation. The consortium, which also includes the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, will develop an innovative smart bioprocessing manufacturing platform for personalised cell therapies. **Edward Samuel, EVP, Technical Operations at Achilles Therapeutics** commented, "As a pioneer in the field of personalised cell therapies, we are excited to lend our expertise to this project which we believe can deliver significant benefits for patients."

Key Media Coverage

[Consortium awarded €4m towards platform for personalized cell therapies](#)

Labiotech 22.07.22

Liza Laws of Labiotech reports that a new consortium that has been awarded a €4 million grant from Horizon Europe is being led by Achilles Therapeutics and includes Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, Leibniz University Hannover, and the Fundacion para la Investigacion del Hospital Universitario la Fe de la Comunidad Valenciana. The consortium says that most cell therapy manufacturing platforms do not provide sufficient real-time data during production. The consortium will collaborate on the development of a manufacturing platform for personalised cell therapies that aims to incorporate advanced inline spectroscopic sensors and smart machine-learning process control systems.

Anaveon

Developing biologics to modulate the function of cytokines and provide substantial benefit to cancer patients

Key Announcements

[Anaveon appoints Dr Gary Phillips as Chief Business Officer](#)

13.07.22

Anaveon announced the appointment of Dr Gary Phillips as Chief Business Officer. Dr Phillips has three decades of leadership experience in multiple roles across the healthcare industry, most recently serving as President & Chief Executive Officer of OrphoMed. In his role at Anaveon, Dr Phillips will serve on the executive committee and will shape and oversee Anaveon's business and corporate development strategy.

[Anaveon to present new data from the Phase I/II study of ANV419 at the ESMO Congress 2022](#)

29.07.22

Anaveon announced that it will present new clinical data from the ongoing Phase I/II study of ANV419 in patients with solid tumours, as well as new pre-clinical data further elucidating the mode of action of this powerful and selective interleukin-2 (IL-2) agonist, in a poster presentation at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress 2022, taking place in Paris, September 9 – 13, 2022. Abstracts will be available online starting 00.05 CEST on Monday, September 5, 2022.

Key Media Coverage

[Former Spark exec to lead a gene therapy upstart of his own; Big Pharma marketing vet named CEO of Swiss biotech](#)

Endpoints 15.07.22

Endpoints appointments newsletter reports that Anaveon has appointed Gary Phillips as Chief Business Officer, following their \$119 million fundraiser last year. Phillips most recently served as president and Chief Executive Officer of OrphoMed.

Autolus Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

[Autolus Therapeutics to Participate in William Blair's Biotech Focus Conference 2022, New York, July 12 – 13, 2022](#)

06.07.22

Autolus announced that management will be attending William Blair's Biotech Focus Conference 2022 in New York City. Autolus' Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christian Itin, will participate in a panel discussion on 'Operationalizing Cell Therapies' and the company will also be attending one-on-one investor meetings at the event.

[Autolus Therapeutics to Report Second Quarter 2022 Financial Results on August 4, 2022](#)

21.07.22

Autolus will release its second quarter 2022 financial results and operational highlights before open of US markets on Thursday, 4 August, 2022. Management will host a conference call and webcast at 8:30 am ET/1:30 pm BST to discuss the company's financial results and provide a general business update. Conference call participants should pre-register using this [link](#) to receive the dial-in numbers and a personal PIN, which are required to access the conference call.

Freeline Therapeutics

Focused on developing curative gene therapies for chronic systemic diseases

Key Announcements

[Positive Initial Clinical Data from the B-LIEVE Dose-Confirmation Trial for FLT180a in Hemophilia B Presented at the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Congress](#)

11.07.22

Freeline presented safety and initial efficacy data from the first cohort of the Phase I/II dose-confirmation B-LIEVE trial for FLT180a, the company's gene therapy candidate for people with haemophilia B, at the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) Congress being held in London, 9-13 July 2022. The company also announced that it will be evaluating strategic options for the FLT180a programme.

Michael Parini, Chief Executive Officer of Freeline said, "Our strategy is to advance gene therapy programs that have the potential to deliver best-in-class or first-in-class treatments, while we continue to believe FLT180a has the potential to deliver a best-in-class gene therapy for people with haemophilia B, the availability of other treatment options and the need to prioritise our valuable resources dictate that we evaluate strategic options for FLT180a. These include, but are not limited to, seeking a partner that would enable the continuation of FLT180a through Phase 3 development."

The poster presented at the conference can be found [here](#).

[New England Journal of Medicine Publishes Positive Long-Term Data on Freeline's Gene Therapy Candidate FLT180a for People with Hemophilia B](#)

21.07.22

Freeline announced that the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) published positive data that expands upon previously announced long-term follow-up data for up to 3.5 years from the Phase I/II dose-finding B-AMAZE trial of the company's AAVS3 gene therapy candidate, FLT180a, for people with haemophilia B.

Key findings published in the NEJM article can be found [here](#).

Key Media Coverage

[Freeline evaluating options after no home run for Hem B gene therapy](#)

Scrip 14.07.22

Andrew McConaghie of Scrip reports that Freeline's FLT180a therapy could still prove to be the best-in-class gene therapy for haemophilia B but it is weighing up what to do next after Phase I/II data fell short of the 'home run' required. Freeline is now reviewing its options and may have to de-prioritise FLT180a if it cannot secure new funding or a big pharma partner to help move the therapy into Phase III.

[Today Programme](#)

BBC 21.07.22

Freeline's FLT180a data published in the NEJM was covered by BBC Radio 4's Today programme. You can hear it from 3.31.

[Small UK biotech touts long-term data for hemophilia B gene therapy as it attempts a comeback](#)

Endpoints 21.07.22

Aayushi Pratap of Endpoints reports that Freeline is hoping new long-term data which states a single shot of the company's gene therapy, FLT180a, led to durable responses for at least two years, will boost its case. Researchers published their findings in the NEJM. "This takes away the need to take weekly injections," **UCL professor and lead author Pratima Chowdary** tells Endpoints. "For patients eligible for

treatment the findings would mean they would potentially achieve normal levels of factor IX. This would mean they would not bleed during activities... especially during surgeries.”

[My excruciating haemophilia pain has been beaten at last – by a cutting-edge new treatment](#)

The Telegraph 25.07.22

Charlotte Lytton of The Telegraph interviews Freeline’s FLT180a haemophilia B patient Luke Pembroke, who since enrolling in a gene therapy trial two years ago, no longer has to inject himself daily. This interview follows publication in the NEJM of results of the trial in which Pembroke was involved in. Nine of the 10 participants responded successfully to the treatment, which is described as an outcome so good that researchers hope it will be rolled out to all adult sufferers within three years.

OMass Therapeutics

Using novel biochemistry techniques, native mass spectrometry and custom chemistry to deliver novel medicines against highly validated but inadequately drugged targets.

Key Announcements

[OMass Therapeutics Appoints Dr Jon Roffey as Vice President, Head of Medicinal Chemistry](#)

15.07.22

OMass announced the appointment of Jon Roffey Ph.D. as Vice President, Head of Medicinal Chemistry and a member of the company's leadership team. **Jon Roffey Ph.D., Vice President, Head of Medicinal Chemistry at OMass Therapeutics** said, "OMass has the potential to positively impact patients' lives in multiple disease areas and I look forward to working with the team at this exciting stage of the Company's development."

Key Media Coverage

[European biotech equity funding drops 36% to \\$2.15B in Q2](#)

BioWorld 05.07.22

Cormac Sheridan of BioWorld references OMass Therapeutics' fundraise of \$94 million for the development of small-molecule drugs directed at challenging membrane-bound targets, in his analysis of VC funding across Europe in Q2. He contextualises the fundraise from OMass in a wider commentary on funding in the biotech sector.

[Why Oxford biotech needs more than a shot in the arm to survive](#)

The Telegraph 09.07.22

Hannah Boland of The Telegraph reports on fundraising in the Oxford biotech ecosystem, commenting on several significant fundraises against a difficult fundraising environment. She states that in Oxford, investors are looking for real proof points, however, suggests it isn't impossible to raise capital, referring to OMass' fundraise of £75 million in April.

[Validated by early COVID shot investment, Oxford Science Enterprises clinches £250M for emerging science and spinouts](#)

Fierce Biotech 18.07.22

Gabrielle Masson of Fierce Biotech reports on Oxford Science Enterprises' £250 million fundraise to support investment in the existing portfolio, which consists of 40 companies across life sciences, health tech and deep tech sectors. In her article, she refers to Oxford Science Enterprises' historical investment in OMass.

Purespring Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

[Purespring Therapeutics and SwanBio Therapeutics announce licensing agreement for use of FunSel screening platform](#)

18.07.22

Purespring entered into a collaborative licensing agreement with SwanBio for the use of FunSel, Purespring's proprietary gene therapy search engine, which allows functional selection of therapeutic factors unconstrained by previous drug discovery bias. SwanBio will use FunSel to advance AAV-based gene therapies for use in neurological diseases. **Richard Francis, Chief Executive Officer of Purespring**, commented, "FunSel brings unique and pioneering screening capabilities and can help deliver the promise of gene therapy to non-monogenic disorders, allowing far broader patient populations to be treated than is the case with most gene therapies."

[Purespring Therapeutics Expands Senior Team with Key Appointments](#)

26.07.22

Purespring announced the expansion of the company's medical and operational capabilities with four senior appointments. Dr Pille Harrison joins as Vice President of Clinical Development, Dr Aoife Waters as Medical Director, Nick Cetateanu as Head of Operations and Andreea Iuras as Programme Manager. These appointments brought decades of expertise in both gene therapy and kidney disease, which is critical to Purespring's goal to advance its proprietary gene therapy platform to revolutionise the treatment of chronic kidney diseases.

Key Media Coverage

[Other news to note for July 19, 2022](#)

BioWorld 19.07.22

BioWorld's daily newsletter reports that Purespring entered a collaborative licensing agreement with SwanBio for the use of FunSel, Purespring's gene therapy search engine. Under the terms of the agreement, SwanBio will license the FunSel screening platform from Purespring to explore new targets for early stage pipeline programmes. SwanBio will have an option to develop any targets identified and to own and commercialise any molecules developed. Purespring will be entitled to milestones and royalties upon successful commercialisation.

[Appointments and advancements for July 26, 2022](#)

BioWorld 26.07.22

BioWorld's appointments newsletter reports that Purespring named Pille Harrison Vice President of Clinical Development, Aoife Waters Medical Director, Nick Cetateanu Head of Operations and Andreea Iuras Programme Manager.

Resolution Therapeutics

Developing macrophage cell therapies to repair organ damage, including treatment of end-stage chronic liver disease

Key Announcements

[Resolution Therapeutics Appoints Bill Symonds to its Board of Directors](#)

20.07.22

Resolution announced the appointment of Dr Bill Symonds as a Non-Executive Director of the company. **Edward Hodgkin, Partner of Syncona, Chairman and CEO of Resolution** commented, "It is a huge pleasure to welcome Bill to our Board of Directors. He is an accomplished executive with expertise in bringing transformative therapies to market and building successful development organisations. Having developed and commercialised Sovaldi and Harvoni, the leading HCV treatments, Bill brings a deep understanding of drug development in advanced liver disease."

Key Media Coverage

[Appointments and advancements for July 20, 2022](#)

BioWorld 20.07.22

BioWorld's appointments newsletter reports that Resolution added Bill Symonds to its board.

[Scots firms set for record venture capital investment](#)

The Times 02.08.22

Resolution was mentioned in a news article in The Times, referring to Scottish firms being on track to raise a record amount of capital this year, according to research from KPMG. The £10 million the company raised in its extended Series A financing in H1 2022 was cited in the article.

SwanBio Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

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18.07.22

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Key Media Coverage

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BioWorld 19.07.22

BioWorld's daily newsletter reports that Purespring entered a collaborative licensing agreement with SwanBio for the use of FunSel, Purespring's gene therapy search engine. Under the terms of the agreement, SwanBio will license the FunSel screening platform from Purespring to explore new targets for early stage pipeline programmes. SwanBio will have an option to develop any targets identified and to own and commercialise any molecules developed. Purespring will be entitled to milestones and royalties upon successful commercialisation.