

Syncona Update

February 2022



Syncona

Building the next generation of healthcare companies

Key Announcements

[Third Quarter Update](#)

10.02.22

Syncona announced its quarterly update covering the period from 01 October to 31 December 2021. Highlights included:

- Sale of Gyroscope Therapeutics for up to \$1.5 billion, highlighting the Syncona model in action
- Net assets of £1,339.7 million, a 16 per cent growth in NAV in Q3; uplifts from sale of Gyroscope and financings in Quell Therapeutics and Anaveon partially offset by share price movements in listed holdings
- Five significant financings announced in the period, raising a total of \$674 million of capital to further support the growing portfolio, with \$93 million committed by Syncona
- Continued clinical and operational progress made by portfolio companies, with Autolus, Freeline and Achilles presenting clinical data updates, and Quell and SwanBio expected to enter the clinic in CY2022
- Continued appointment of healthcare leaders across the portfolio, with Syncona Limited also strengthening its own Board with the appointments of Dr Julie Cherrington and Dr Cristina Csimma
- Capital base of £496.5 million at 31 December 2021

Martin Murphy, CEO of Syncona, said: "It has been a period of significant activity within the portfolio, with multiple financings, further clinical progress, and our third successful exit to date. The proposed sale of Gyroscope to Novartis for up to \$1.5 billion shows our continued ability to build globally competitive businesses and deliver strong risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders."

[Syncona completes sale of Gyroscope to Novartis](#)

18.02.22

Syncona announced the completion of the sale of Gyroscope to Novartis. Key highlights include:

- Up-front cash payment of \$800 million (£587 million) has been paid. In addition, up to \$700 million (£514 million) in cash is potentially due upon the achievement of certain milestones
- Transaction generates upfront cash proceeds of \$442 million (£325 million) for Syncona's holding in Gyroscope
- Syncona's risk adjusted and discounted valuation of the milestone payments from the transaction is \$64 million (£47 million)

Syncona is also positioned to benefit from any future commercialisation of Gyroscope's lead programme via a low single digit royalty on future sales revenue.

Key Media Coverage

[Share tip: Syncona offers a chance to back the next science stars](#)

The Sunday Times 13.02.22

Sabah Meddings of The Sunday Times chose Syncona as a share tip, suggesting that it offers a risk-adjusted way to invest in early-stage science. Meddings refers Syncona's third quarter update, where the company's net asset value rose by 16% to c. £1.4 billion, following a catalyst rich third quarter.

In her tip, Sabah emphasises recent successes including the sale of gene therapy start-up Gyroscope, to Novartis for up to \$1.5 billion, the \$87 million early-stage financing of Clade Therapeutics, Blackstone Life Sciences committing up to \$250 million in Autolus, and a further financing of Quell. Investors are



encouraged to look beyond the existing value of Syncona's holdings to the returns that could be achieved should its early-stage bets succeed and become blockbuster cures.

[Trust Watch: 'Cheap' growth & income funds in the turmoil](#)

CityWire 18.02.22

Gavin Lumsden of CityWire included Syncona in his weekly newsletter, noting that Syncona's share price increased by 7% in the week, after a strong third-quarter update, defying the biotech downturn with a 16% investment return in the last three months of the year.

[All trades: Syncona announces sale of portfolio company to Novartis](#)

Pharma Times 18.02.22

Pharma Times reported that Syncona announced the closing of the sale of Gyroscope to Novartis. The company has been sold to Novartis, for up to \$1.5 billion, stating that the upfront cash payment of \$800 million has been paid.

The transaction generates upfront cash proceeds of \$442 million for Syncona's holding in Gyroscope, which strengthens Syncona's capital base, as it continues to build and fund its portfolio of life science companies. Syncona was set up to address the absence of long-term funding in UK life science, through creating globally competitive, sustainable companies. Syncona's balance sheet underpins their strategy, allowing them to take a long-term view as we look to improve the lives of patients with no or poor treatment options, build sustainable life science companies, and deliver strong risk-adjusted returns to shareholders.

Achilles Therapeutics

Developing novel cancer immunotherapies targeting clonal neoantigens

Key Announcements

[Achilles Therapeutics Strengthens Scientific Advisory Board with Appointment of Alena Gros, Ph.D. and Ben Creelan, M.D.](#)

07.02.22

Achilles strengthened its Scientific Advisory Board with the appointments of Dr Alena Gros (currently Principal Investigator of the Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy Group at Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology in Barcelona) and Dr Ben Creelan (leading medical oncologist and clinical and translational research physician in the thoracic oncology department at Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL).

[Achilles Therapeutics Reports Fourth Quarter and Year-End 2021 Financial Results and Recent Business Highlights](#)

01.03.22

Achilles announced its full year results for the 2021 financial year. The announcement highlighted that Achilles expects to report patient data from higher dose cNeT as monotherapy, and cNeT in combination with checkpoint inhibitor in the second half of 2022. The cash position of the company at 31 December 2021 was \$266 million.

Key Media Coverage

[BioSpace Movers & Shakers, Feb. 11](#)

BioSpace 11.02.22

Alex Keown reports in the BioSpace newsletter that Alena Gros and Ben Creelan joined the Scientific Advisory Board of Achilles Therapeutics. Gros serves as Principal Investigator of the Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy Group at Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology in Barcelona. Creelan is a medical oncologist and clinical and translational research physician at Moffitt Cancer Center and serves as Principal Investigator for numerous clinical trials.

[Top 10 Biotech Companies in Stevenage, UK's Hidden Life Sciences Gem](#)

Labiotech 16.02.22

Clara Rodríguez Fernández of Labiotech included Achilles in her report on the top biotech companies based in Stevenage. Achilles is described as developing personalised T cell therapies against cancer that use a type of immune cells known as tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs).

Autolus Therapeutics

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

Key announcements

[Autolus Therapeutics Announces Publication Describing Novel Cell Programming Technology](#)

03.02.22

Autolus announced the publication of an article in BioTechniques describing a novel technology that provides for very low levels of expression of one gene module, while maintaining high levels of expression of other gene modules expressed from the same promotor.

Key Media Coverage

[Top 10 Biotech Companies in Stevenage, UK's Hidden Life Sciences Gem](#)

Labiotech 16.02.22

Clara Rodríguez Fernández of Labiotech included Autolus in her report on the top biotech companies based in Stevenage. Autolus is described as a spin-out of University College London, developing CAR T cell therapies for cancer.

Clade Therapeutics

Discovering and delivering scalable next generation induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived medicines

Key Media Coverage

[BioCentury's 2021 class of emerging cell therapy companies](#)

BioCentury 12.02.22

Danielle Golovin of BioCentury included Clade in BioCentury's class of emerging cell therapy companies. Clade genetically engineers Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) before their differentiation so that they can evade a patient's immune system, resulting in longer persistence with reduced likelihood of rejection. The change is made early enough in the process to enable Clade to use cells from the same source to create T cells, B cells or NK cells, opening up the possibility of addressing a broad range of indications. Syncona led Clade's \$87 million series A round in November.

Freeline Therapeutics

Focused on developing curative gene therapies for chronic systemic diseases

Key Announcements

[Freeline Presents on Its Fabry and Gaucher Disease AAV-Based Gene Therapies at the 18th Annual WORLDSymposium™](#)
08.02.22

Freeline announced data demonstrating that FLT190 in Fabry disease was well tolerated with promising early signs of efficacy. The company also released further information on the clinical trial design for its Phase I/II safety and efficacy study of FLT201 in adult patients with Gaucher disease Type 1.

Key Media Coverage

[In the clinic for Feb. 10, 2022](#)
BioWorld 10.02.22

In BioWorld's daily newsletter, it reported that Freeline has released updated data from the company's Fabry disease MARVEL-1 study, which showed a well-tolerated, dose-dependent increase in plasma α -Gal A levels and durable α -Gal A levels sustained for up to two years in two patients.

[Top 10 Biotech Companies in Stevenage, UK's Hidden Life Sciences Gem](#)
Labiotech 16.02.22

Clara Rodríguez Fernández of Labiotech included Freeline in her report on the top biotech companies based in Stevenage. Freeline develops gene therapies for chronic genetic diseases. In late 2021 Freeline obtained positive preliminary data from two ongoing Phase I/II clinical trials in haemophilia B and Fabry disease. In early 2022, the company will be starting a third Phase I/II clinical trial in Gaucher disease.

Gyroscope Therapeutics

Developing gene therapies and surgical delivery systems for retinal diseases

Note – Gyroscope is no longer a Syncona portfolio company and moving forwards will not form a part of these reports.

Key Announcements

[Completion of Gyroscope acquisition by Novartis](#)

18.02.22

Gyroscope announced that Novartis had completed the acquisition of the company for an upfront payment of \$800 million and milestone payments of up to \$700 million, potentially due upon the achievement of certain milestones.

Key Media Coverage

[Other news to note for Feb. 22, 2022](#)

BioWorld 22.02.22

BioWorld's daily newsletter reports that Syncona completed the sale of Gyroscope to Novartis. The transaction includes up-front cash payment of \$800 million and in addition, up to \$700 million in cash is potentially due upon the achievement of certain milestones. The transaction generates up-front cash proceeds of \$442 million for Syncona's holding in Gyroscope. Syncona is also positioned to benefit from any future commercialisation of Gyroscope's lead program via a low single digit royalty on future sales revenue.

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 to present at upcoming conferences](#)

21.02.22

OMass announced the following upcoming conference presentations from members of its leadership team:

- Rosamond Deegan, CEO of OMass, will be attending the **Sachs 15th Annual European Life Sciences CEO Forum (ELSF)** on March 1-2, virtual
 - Panel discussion on 'Early Stage Innovation & Investment' – March 1 between 16.30- 17.35 CET
 - Showcase presentation available to confirmed event participants
- Rosamond Deegan will also be presenting at the **Oppenheimer 32nd Annual Healthcare Conference** on March 15-17, virtual
 - Corporate presentation – March 17 between 11:20 – 11:50 am EST
- Dr Ali Jazayeri, CSO of OMass, will be attending the **GPCRs – Targeted Drug Discovery Summit** on March 22-24, virtual
 - Presentation on 'Application of Structural Mass Spectrometry to GPCR Drug Discovery' – March 23rd between 10:00 – 10:30 am EST
- Rosamond Deegan will be attending the **LSX World Congress** on May 10-11, London
 - Panel discussion on 'Dressing for Success Early as a Biopharma Start-up' – May 11 between 11:40 – 12:30 BST

[OMass's OdyssION™ Drug Discovery Platform Makes Progress in Drugging the Undruggable, including Gasdermin D](#)

28.02.22

OMass provided an updated on its proprietary drug discovery platform, OdyssION™ and its progress in identifying novel medicines against intractable or inadequately drugged membrane and complex-bound proteins. Early data and progress in its gasdermin D program underline the power of the platform.

Quell Therapeutics

Developing engineered T regulatory (T-reg) cell therapies

Key Media Coverage

[Tregs and gene regulation define Sangamo's next act](#)

BioCentury 09.02.22

Lauren Martz of BioCentury refers to Quell and the company's expected H1 2022 trial start for QEL-001, a CAR Treg against the same target for HLA-mismatched liver transplant, in her article on gene editing company Sangamo, as Sangamo shifts gears to focus on a leadership opportunity in the emerging regulatory T cell therapy space.

[BioCentury's 2021 class of emerging cell therapy companies](#)

BioCentury 12.02.22

Danielle Golovin of BioCentury included Quell in BioCentury's class of emerging cell therapy companies. Quell is addressing a key safety concern with the ability to lock cells into the Treg suppressive phenotype so that they don't become T effector cells. The company is also using undisclosed strategies for improving Treg potency and persistence through cell engineering. Quell's lead program, QEL-001, is a CAR Treg therapy directed against HLA-A2 to treat liver transplant patients. It's slated to begin Phase I testing in this half.

Resolution Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

[Resolution Therapeutics Strengthens its Team with Two New Appointments](#)

17.02.22

Resolution announced the appointments of Victor Dillard (ex founder of Desktop Genetics) as VP Corporate Development, and Lorna Peers (ex CFO of Censo Biotechnologies Ltd) as VP Finance. Both have spent their careers in the biotech industry and bring extensive experience in their respective fields.

Key Media Coverage

[BioCentury's 2021 class of emerging cell therapy companies](#)

BioCentury 12.02.22

Danielle Golovin of BioCentury included Resolution in BioCentury's class of emerging cell therapy companies. The Syncona-backed, London-based company was launched in August with £26.6 million to develop macrophage cell therapies. Resolution will initially develop autologous cell therapies. The company's initial indication is compensated cirrhosis, but it will also assess whether the cells have potential in other fibrotic diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis and chronic kidney disease.

SwanBio Therapeutics

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

Key Announcements

[FDA Grants Fast Track Designation to SBT101](#)

17.02.22

Swan announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had granted Fast Track designation to its lead candidate, SBT101, for the treatment of adrenomyeloneuropathy (AMN). The Fast Track process is designed to facilitate the development and expedite the review of investigational treatments that demonstrate the potential to address unmet medical needs in serious or life-threatening conditions.

[AAN Curtain Raiser](#)

04.03.22

SwanBio announced that the company will present data supporting the clinical advancement of its lead candidate, SBT101, at the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 2022 Annual Meeting. The meeting is being held in Seattle April 2-7, 2022, and virtually April 24-26, 2022.

"The data we plan to present at AAN, along with the proof of principle data presented at ESGCT last year, formed the basis of our Investigational New Drug application, which was recently cleared by the FDA," said Karen Kozarsky, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of SwanBio Therapeutics.

Key Media Coverage

[Regulatory actions for Feb. 17, 2022](#)

BioWorld 17.02.22

BioWorld reports in its daily newsletter that the FDA has granted fast track designation, for SBT-101, SwanBio's AAV-based gene therapy.