# The Biotech Growth Trust PLC



Portfolio Manager







**Richard Klemm** 

**Geoffrey Hsu** 

Information as at 30 June 2018

www.biotechgt.com

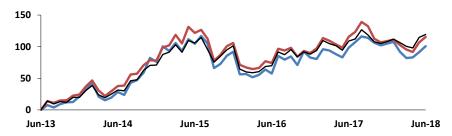
# @BiotechGT

### **Investment Objective and Benchmark Index**

The Biotech Growth Trust PLC seeks capital appreciation through investment in the worldwide biotechnology industry. Performance is measured against its benchmark index, the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (sterling adjusted).

# **Five Year Performance (%)**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed; an investor may receive back less than the original amount invested.



Benchmark: NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (sterling adjusted) +119.2%

Net Asset Value per share (total return) +115.8%

Share Price (total return) +100.8% Source: Morningstar, Index - Bloomberg.

#### Commentary

In June, the NAV per share was up 4.3%, the share price was up 4.9% and the benchmark NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (sterling adjusted) was up 2.1%.

Biotech strength continued in June, with investors largely shrugging off political commentary around drug pricing. Major data updates were presented from several companies at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting in June, including positive data from Deciphera and Immunomedics. The month of June also marked an uptick in new IPOs in biotech, including Avrobio, a gene therapy company which the Company invested in. New technologies like gene therapy remain a significant area of investor interest, and the Company has a number of portfolio holdings focused on gene therapy in particular. Deciphera, Vertex and Aerie were the top positive contributors to performance during the month. Deciphera shares appreciated following the presentation of strong data in gastrointestinal stromal tumors at the ASCO meeting. Vertex shares outperformed during June due to weak competitor data in cystic fibrosis, further bolstering the company's position as the leader in the space. Vertex remains a top position in the portfolio due to our continued favorable outlook on their cystic fibrosis franchise. Shares of Aerie were strong due to impressive early prescription trends for Rhopressa, the company's treatment for elevated intraocular pressure. Rhopressa is a first-in-class glaucoma drug with a novel mechanism of action, which we believe will ultimately lead to widespread use by physicians. Insmed, Acadia and Amicus were the largest negative contributors to performance during the month. Insmed shares underperformed due to concerns over an upcoming FDA Advisory Committee meeting regarding the company's inhaled antibiotic ALIS. We continue to believe the company will garner a positive vote at the FDA panel in August. Acadia shares were weak following continued media scrutiny and an ongoing FDA investigation over the safety of the company's Parkinson's Disease psychosis treatment Nuplazid. Shares of Amicus underperformed due to a European regulatory update requiring an additional clinical trial for AT-GAA in Pompe disease prior to filing for approval.

While it's unclear whether political rhetoric over drug pricing will increase as the U. S. mid-term elections approach in November, thus far the Trump administration's announced policies on drug pricing appear to be relatively benign for the biotech industry. We continue to focus on innovative small and midcap companies while still maintaining a significant weight in large cap biotech, which are trading at historic low valuations. We believe pipeline developments and M&A could rerate the large cap biotech sector in the near term and reverse their recent underperformance. As an example, there has been growing investor attention recently on Alzheimer's disease, as investors anticipate some Phase 3 data releases in this therapeutic area over the next 12-18 months. Biogen, currently the largest holding in the portfolio, has a couple of late-stage assets in Alzheimer's that we believe could transform the long-term growth outlook for the company. With no disease modifying treatments for Alzheimer's approved to date, we believe a successful Alzheimer's drug could open up a multi-billion dollar market.

Any opinions on individual stocks are those of the Company's Portfolio Manager and no reliance should be given on any such views. Any research in this document has been procured and may have been acted upon by OrbiMed Capital LLC for its own purposes. The results are being made available to you only incidentally. The views expressed herein do not constitute investment or any other advice and are subject to change. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Frostrow Capital LLP and no assurances are made as to their accuracy.

#### **Biographies**

Richard D. Klemm, Ph.D., CFA, is a Public Equity Partner at OrbiMed focused on biotechnology companies. He completed a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in molecular biology in 2000. Dr. Klemm has published scientific articles in the fields of DNA replication and transcription. He received a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1994 with majors in molecular and cell biology and economics.

Geoffrey C. Hsu, CFA, is a General Partner of OrbiMed, having joined in 2002 as a biotechnology analyst. Prior to joining OrbiMed, he worked as an analyst in the healthcare investment banking group at Lehman Brothers. Mr. Hsu received his A.B. degree summa cum laude from Harvard University and holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Prior to business school, he spent two years studying medicine at Harvard Medical School.

#### **Portfolio Manager Profile**

Portfolio management services are provided by OrbiMed Capital LLC (OrbiMed). OrbiMed is owned by six principals, including Geoffrey Hsu. The U.S.-based firm employs over 90 experienced investment professionals who between them have extensive scientific, medical, financial and operational expertise. They employ a bottom-up stock selection process driven by intensive proprietary research, which involves company developing an understanding of visits and commercial prospects and development programmes for individual drugs. The firm covers some 600 international pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, two thirds of which are actively researched. OrbiMed is registered as an investment adviser under the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). SEC registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

#### **Investment Policy**

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Company invests in a diversified portfolio of shares and related securities in biotechnology companies on a worldwide basis. The Company will not invest more than 15% of the value of its gross assets in any one individual stock at the time of acquisition. It will not invest more than 10% of the value of its gross assets in direct unquoted investments at the time of acquisition. This limit does not include any investment in private equity funds managed by the Portfolio Manager or any affiliates of such entity. Up to US\$15m, after the deduction of proceeds of disposal and other returns of capital, may be invested in private equity funds managed by OrbiMed Capital LLC or an affiliate. The Company's borrowing policy is that borrowings will not exceed 20% of the Company's net assets. The Company may be unable to invest directly in certain countries. In these circumstances, the Company may gain exposure to companies in such countries by investing indirectly through swaps. Where the Company invests in swaps, exposure to underlying assets will not exceed 5% of the gross assets of the Company at the time of entering into the contract.

#### **Discount Control Mechanism**

The Directors have adopted an active discount management policy to establish and support an improved rating in the Company's shares through the use of share buybacks, with a view to limiting the discount to NAV per share at which the shares trade to no more than 6%. Shares bought back will be cancelled.

## The Biotech Growth Trust PLC

## 10 Largest Holdings at 30 June 2018 (% of total investments)

Name	Total
Biogen	10.3
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	9.8
Celgene	7.8
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	6.5
Illumina	5.2
Gilead Sciences	3.9
Aerie Pharmaceuticals	3.5
Amgen	3.5
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	3.5
Deciphera Pharmaceuticals	3.3
Total	57.3

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#### **Fast Facts**

As at 30 June 2018

Launch Date	June 1997
AIC Sector	Biotechnology & Healthcare
Date of App	pointment of OrbiMed 19 May 2005
Annual Management	Fee (payable by the Company)
0.65% of ne	t assets plus 0.30% of market cap.
	<u>plus</u> £60,000
Performance fee	See Annual Report for details
Ongoing charges*	1.1%
Continuation Vote	At AGM in 2020; every 5 years
Year / Half Year	31 March / 30 September
Capital Structure	55,745,643 Ordinary Shares of 25p

# Sector Breakdown as at 30 June 2018 (%)

Total	100.0%
United Kingdom	0.5%
Unquoted	0.8%
Other	1.5%
Continental Europe	9.3%
North America	87.9%

Source: All portfolio information sourced from Frostrow Capital LLP

#### **Discrete Performance - Calendar Years (%)**

Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	YTD
NAV	63.5	43.1	15.6	-7.6	9.9	3.3
Share Price	60.1	44.9	9.1	-4.7	12.1	-2.0
Index	62.4	42.6	17.8	-6.5	10.5	5.5

## Standardised Discrete Performance (%)

Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	Jun 13- Jun 14	Jun 14- Jun 15	Jun 15- Jun 16	Jun 16- Jun 17	Jun 17- Jun 18
NAV	37.8	61.0	-21.4	24.1	-0.1
Share Price	28.3	59.6	-23.0	25.9	1.2
Index	31.6	56.5	-17.4	22.9	4.9

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed.

Source: NAV (total return; fully diluted) & Share Price (total return) – Morningstar. Index - Bloomberg.

#### **Risk Warnings**

This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute an offer or invitation to purchase shares in the Company and has not been prepared in connection with any such offer or invitation. Before investing in the Company, or any other investment product, you should satisfy yourself as to its suitability and the risks involved, and you may wish to consult a financial adviser.

Any return you receive depends on future market performance and is uncertain. The Company does not seek any protection from future market performance so you could lose some or all of your investment. Shares of the Company are bought and sold on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). The price you pay or receive, like other listed shares, is determined by supply and demand and may be at a discount or premium to the underlying net asset value of the Company. Usually, at any given time, the price you pay for a share will be higher than the price you could sell it. For further information on the principal risks the Company is exposed to please refer to the Company's Annual Report or Investor Disclosure Document available at <a href="https://www.biotechgt.com">www.biotechgt.com</a>. The Company can borrow to purchase investments, this could potentially magnify any losses or gains made by the Company.

#### **Important Information**

The Biotech Growth Trust PLC is a public limited company whose shares are premium listed on the LSE and is registered with HMRC as an investment trust. The Company has an indeterminate life, although shareholders consider and vote on the continuation of the Company every five years (the next such vote will be held will be 2020).

This financial promotion is issued by Frostrow Capital LLP which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

#### **Trust Characteristics**

Number of Holdings	45
Total Net Assets (£m)	£459.3m
Market Capitalisation	
(£m)	£431.5m
Dividend Policy	It is not anticipated that the
	Company will pay a dividend
Gearing (AIC basis)	8.7%
Leverage**	
Gross & Commitment	108.7%
Share Price (p)	774.00
NAV (p)	823.91
(Discount) / Premium	(6.1%)
***	

\*Calculated at the financial year end, includes management fees and all other operating expenses, excludes performance fees.

#### Codes

Sedol	0038551
ISIN	GB0000385517
Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)	549300Z41EP32MI2DN29
Global Intermediiaries Indentification Number (GIIN)	U1MQ70.99999.SL.826
Bloomberg	BIOG LN
Epic	BIOG

### **How to Contact Us**

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<sup>\*\*</sup>The Board has set the leverage limit for both the Gross and the Commitment basis at 130% of the Company's Net Asset Value.