

The Biotech Growth Trust PLC



Portfolio Manager



Geoffrey Hsu



Richard Klemm

Information as at 31 August 2019

www.biotechgt.com

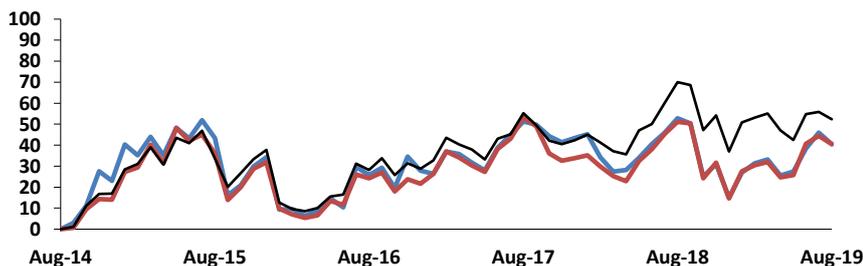
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Investment Objective and Benchmark Index

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) +52.4%

Net Asset Value per share (total return) +40.6%

Share Price (total return) +40.5%

Source: Morningstar, Index - Bloomberg.

Commentary

In August, the NAV per share was down 2.8%, the share price was down 3.7% and the benchmark NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (sterling adjusted) was down 2.3%.

Biotechnology underperformed the broader markets in August. China trade tensions dominated macro headlines during the month, with initial fears of a trade war easing into month-end with the resumption of talks between the U.S. and China. Following a historic interest rate cut in July, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell continued to signal an additional rate cut before year-end, in line with previous dovish commentary. Political rhetoric around drug pricing and Medicare for All continued ahead of the third U.S. Democratic Presidential debate in September, though we view many of the proposed plans as untenable.

In August, Celgene divested its psoriasis drug Otezla to Amgen for \$13.4 billion in order to resolve FTC concerns over the company's proposed acquisition by Bristol-Myers Squibb. We view the deal as likely to close by the end of 2019, in line with guidance from the companies. More broadly, we believe the concerns raised by the FTC surrounding the potential anticompetitive nature of Celgene's Otezla and Bristol-Myers Squibb's clinical-stage TYK2 inhibitor in psoriasis may signal a more conservative stance from the agency regarding proposed M&A transactions.

Deciphera, Vertex and Hansoh Pharmaceutical were the top positive contributors to performance during the month. Deciphera shares were strong after the company reported impressive Phase 3 data with ripretinib in fourth-line gastrointestinal stromal tumors showing a strong benefit in progression-free survival. We believe ripretinib is a best-in-class product and anticipate approval of the drug in 2020. Vertex shares appreciated after the company reported strong commercial performance of its portfolio of cystic fibrosis treatments, and also the announcement of a FDA Priority Review for its triple combination regimen, which we expect to be approved by March 2020. Shares of Hansoh outperformed in anticipation of strong 1H19 results.

Sarepta, MeiraGTx and Mirati were the largest negative contributors to performance during the month. Sarepta shares were weak after the unexpected rejection of its Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy treatment golodirsen by the FDA. We believe the issues raised by the FDA are addressable and anticipate a resolution by early 2020; we also continue to see value in Sarepta's robust gene therapy pipeline, with multiple data readouts in 2020. MeiraGTx shares underperformed after the company announced a surprise secondary offering of shares. We continue to view MeiraGTx as an underappreciated biotechnology company with strong strategic expertise across multiple aspects of gene therapy. Shares of Mirati declined ahead of the presentation of additional clinical data from a competitor to the company's KRAS inhibitor, MRTX849. We anticipate initial data from MRTX849 to be impressive and believe the KRAS inhibitor class could constitute a multi-billion dollar market opportunity.

Biographies

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. Geoff 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.

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. Richard 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.

Portfolio Manager Profile

Portfolio management services are provided by OrbiMed Capital LLC (OrbiMed). OrbiMed is owned by six principals, including Geoff Hsu. The U.S.-based firm employs over 80 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 visits and developing an understanding of 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 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 conducts its affairs so that its shares can be recommended by independent financial advisers ("IFAs") to retail private investors. The shares are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's ("FCA's") restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in a UK-listed investment trust.

The Biotech Growth Trust PLC

10 Largest Holdings at 31 August 2019 (% of total investments)

Name	Total
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	9.5
Neurocrine Biosciences	8.0
Amgen	5.0
Deciphera Pharmaceuticals	4.7
Gilead Sciences	4.1
MeiraGTx	3.9
Exelixis	3.9
Sarepta Therapeutics	3.7
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	3.6
Hansoh Pharmaceuticals	3.6
Total	50.0

Geographical Breakdown as at 31 August 2019 (%)

North America	81.8%
Other	11.0%
Continental Europe	5.7%
*Unquoted	0.8%
United Kingdom	0.7%
Total	100.0%

* No more than 10% of gross assets will be invested in direct unquoted investments at the time of acquisition. The Company may also invest or commit for investment a maximum of US\$15m, after the deduction of proceeds of disposal and other returns of capital, in private equity funds managed by the Company's Portfolio Manager or an affiliate thereof.

Source: All portfolio information sourced from Frostrow Capital LLP

Discrete Performance – Calendar Years (%)

Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	YTD
NAV	43.1	15.6	-7.6	9.9	-14.3	22.5
Share Price	44.9	9.1	-4.7	12.1	-19.9	22.3
Index	42.6	17.8	-6.5	10.5	-3.8	11.3

Standardised Discrete Performance (%)

Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	Aug 14- Aug 15	Aug 15- Aug 16	Aug 16- Aug 17	Aug 17- Aug 18	Aug 18- Aug 19
NAV	36.1	-8.7	23.3	-1.3	-7.0
Share Price	43.4	-12.3	20.4	1.0	-8.1
Index	33.7	-4.1	21.1	9.5	-10.3

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 www.biotechgt.com. 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 in 2020).

www.biotechgt.com

Fast Facts

As at 31 August 2019

Launch Date	June 1997
AIC Sector	Biotechnology & Healthcare
	Date of Appointment of OrbiMed 19 May 2005
Annual Management Fee (payable by the Company)	0.65% of net assets <u>plus</u> 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	46,200,962 Ordinary Shares of 25p

Trust Characteristics

Number of Holdings	44
Total Net Assets (£m)	£387.2m
Market Capitalisation (£m)	£357.6m
Dividend Policy	It is not anticipated that the Company will pay a dividend
Gearing (AIC basis)	7.2%
Leverage**	
Gross & Commitment	107.2%
Share Price (p)	774.00
NAV (p)	837.99
(Discount) / Premium	(7.6%)

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

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

Codes

Sedol	0038551
ISIN	GB0000385517
Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)	549300Z41EP32MI2DN29
Global Intermediary Identification Number (GIIN)	U1MQ70.99999.SL.826
Bloomberg	BIOG LN
EPIC	BIOG

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