

HBM UCITS (Lux) Funds-HBM Global Biotechnology Fund-A Cap-USD

ISIN (LU1540961759)

Overview

While September has historically been the worst month for stocks, the major indexes bucked the trend this year, with the MSCI World Index (+1.7%) pushing through to new highs at the end of the month - to finish the quarter with a gain of 6.5%. September started no different to August, with some notable selling early on then giving way to a rally later in the month. The negative stock price reaction during the early days was driven by concerns over economic growth after a slew of soft data, especially on the employment market, which showed smaller-than-expected jobs creation, and a continued contraction in manufacturing activity. Overall, investors gained confidence on the US Fed's recent pivot on interest rates and on the belief that the Central Bank might remain quite dovish over the remaining months of 2024 and next year. In a bold move, the US Fed lowered rates by half a percentage point mid-month, a decrease that exceeded earlier expectations. Chair Powell characterised the substantial rate cut as a "recalibration" rather than a hasty response to an emergency. Investors interpreted this as a sign that the Fed is committed to establishing a new "neutral" stance without necessarily being compelled by a weakening economy. The macro backdrop and re-emerging risk-on sentiment last month benefitted growth sectors at the expense of the more defensive segments of the market such as healthcare. Similar dynamic was also present within the healthcare sector. However, the biotechnology sector was not (yet) a beneficiary of the Fed's pivot on interest rates. Clinical and regulatory developments were rather disappointing (e.g. Regeneron, Biomarin) and larger M&A activities remained absent, although confidence in the sector is returning, as reflected in higher levels of financing and tentative signs that the IPO window is re-opening.

Portfolio performance

The NAV of the main share class (A Cap USD) decreased by 2.0%, marginally outperforming the benchmark NASDAQ Biotechnology Index ("NBI"), which closed 2.3% lower for the month. Performance in the portfolio was mixed – single positions moved on stock specific news. Biohaven (+26.8%), Arcellx (+21.5%), Denali (+19.2%) and Beigene (+17.1%) contributed most positively to the funds' NAV. A little more than a year after the FDA refused to review the NDA (new drug application) for Biohaven's drug Troriluzole for the treatment of rare disease spinocerebellar ataxia, new and positive phase III data supposed to have changed the treatment's momentum. The upbeat results came as a surprise to analysts and investors, with the stock escaping from sideways trading and the company prepping an NDA for a Q4 2024 submission. Only a few days later Biohaven closed a \$287.5m follow-on offering. Arcellx shares rose on no specific news. Enthusiasm is building around pipeline candidate anito-cel, a cell therapy in mid-stage clinical testing designed to treat multiple myeloma. Analysts highlight that Arcellx's production method is expected to be faster and more reliable compared to competitors like Legend and J&J's CARVYKTI, an about to be a blockbuster drug. Denali shares moved higher on regulatory progress, while Beigene was a beneficiary from the rapidly improving sentiment towards Chinese market. From the largest positions, Gilead (+6.1%) and Argenx (+3.7%) were the main performers. Shares of Gilead prolonged their momentum lately post quarterly results and with regard of the upcoming launch of PrEP treatment for the prevention of HIV. Argenx benefited from lacklustre data of potential competing drug Uplinza (developed by Amgen) in gMG. In contrast, Regeneron (-11.3%) and AstraZeneca (-11.1%) were detractors from performance. Regeneron shares were down in reaction to a judge denying the company's preliminary injunction against Amgen's Eylea biosimilar. Amgen notes 1) Pavblu does not infringe on Regeneron's patent and was approved in August and 2) they will announce their launch timing in due-course, but did not specify exact timelines. Some analysts expect an at-risk launch. Astra and Daiichi Sankyo's investigational antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) datopotamab deruxtecan suffered a double blow in late-stage trials. It first failed to significantly outperform the standard-of-care chemotherapy docetaxel in treating NSCLC (non-small-cell lung cancer). And then it failed to show notable improvement in overall survival compared to chemotherapy in breast cancer. Analysts had expected datopotamab deruxtecan to potentially become one of Astra's best-selling drugs. Among smaller weighted holdings, Biomarin (-22.9%), Celldex (-17.8%), Rocket Pharma (-13.7%) and Genmab (-13.5%) contributed most negatively to the fund's NAV. Biomarin shares lost around a fifth of their value following solid data from a potential competitor to the achondroplasia drug Voxzogo.

Portfolio changes

The fund stays overweight SMID cap versus large cap biotech as we continue to believe valuations for emerging biotech companies are significantly dislocated, even given prevailing interest rates. We invest mostly unconstrained by the fund's benchmark NBI ("active share" around 120%), but remain committed to a "barbell" approach, i.e. sub-index weighted holdings of large cap names are balanced by overweighted SMID cap stocks that have either: a) excellent growth prospects, or b) convincing potential for M&A.

Fund Outlook

Equity markets delivered an impressive comeback in the second-half of last month. The prospect of lower short-term borrowing rates has lent support to stock valuations. Interestingly, the recently closed third quarter 2024 saw a shift in market leadership. Value stocks and small to mid-cap companies outperformed their growth and large-cap counterparts, potentially signalling a broadening of the market rally beyond the dominant tech sector. A "soft landing" for the US economy, where inflation has largely been tamed from highs without triggering a recession is widely considered the base case scenario. This optimism was bolstered by a healthy growth of the gross domestic product number (GDP). The latest September Job's report showed the labor market remains robust, even amid signs it has cooled. Market participants anticipate further easing, with expectations of another 50 basis point cut before the year's end. However, these expectations may be more aggressive than a "soft landing" scenario typically warrants. We should be aware that this divergence between market expectations and economic realities could potentially lead to volatility if the Fed's actual policy path deviates from these optimistic projections. Overall, we expect biotechnology to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the lower interest rate environment. While biotech has underperformed the rest of the health care sector YTD, there are signs of improvement, such as funding conditions and increased IPO activity in biotech. Although large-cap pharma takeouts have been limited, this could change in the coming year.

ALLGEMEINE INFORMATIONEN

Fondsmanager	HBM Partners AG
Depotbank	Bank Pictet & Cie (Europe) AG, Succursale de Luxembourg
Rechtsform	UCITS V Luxembourg Sicav
Länderzulassungen	AT, CH, DE, FR, GB, LI, LU
Auflegungsdatum	30. Dezember 2011
Anteilklassen	A Cap-EUR, A Cap-USD, P Cap-EUR, P Cap-USD
NIW Berechnung	Täglich, "Forward Pricing"
Order-Annahmeschluss	T-1 Tag / 16.00 Uhr CET
Verwaltungsgebühr	1.50% p.a.
TER	2.59% p.a.
Max. Ausgabeaufschlag	3.00% zugunsten des Vertriebsträgers
Max. Rücknahmegerühr	0.00% zugunsten des Vertriebsträgers
ISIN	LU1540961759
Bloomberg	HBMGACU LX
Publikationsmedien	www.fundinfo.com
Verwaltungsgesellschaft	FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A. – Ein Unternehmen der Pictet-Gruppe
Sitz	Luxembourg
Basiswährung	USD

Nicht alle Kosten werden angezeigt. Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Prospekt.

Quelle: FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A. – Part of Pictet Group

HBM UCITS (Lux) Funds-HBM Global Biotechnology Fund-A Cap-USD ISIN (LU1540961759)

MSCI:

Source and Copyright: MSCI ESG Rating: Produced by MSCI ESG, Research as of May 31, 2023

Citywire:

Quelle und Copyright: Citywire. HBM Partners AG wird von Citywire in der Kategorie Biotechnologie für ihre rollierende risikoadjustierte Performance über den Zeitraum vom 30.06.2014 bis 30.06.2021 mit «BRONZE» bewertet.

Quelle und Copyright: Citywire. Ivo Staijen wird von Citywire für seine risikobereinigte 3-Jahres-Performance für den Zeitraum 30. September 2021 - 30. September 2024 mit + bewertet.

Morningstar:

© Morningstar, Inc. Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Die in diesem Dokument enthaltenen Informationen: (1) sind Eigentum von Morningstar; (2) dürfen weder kopiert noch verbreitet werden, und (3) es wird keine Garantie bezüglich ihrer Richtigkeit, Vollständigkeit oder Aktualität abgegeben. Weder Morningstar noch ihre Content-Anbieter haften für Schäden oder Verluste, die aus der Verwendung dieser Informationen entstehen. Dieser Fonds ist nicht in allen Rechtsgebieten für das Angebot oder den Vertrieb zugelassen.

Verteiler in der Schweiz: FundPartner Solutions (Suisse) SA, Route des Acacias 60, CH-1211 Genf / Zahlstelle in der Schweiz: Banque Pictet & Cie SA, Route des Acacias 60, CH-1211 Genf 73/ Zahl- und Informationsstelle in Österreich: Erste Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen AG, Am Belvedere 1, 1100 Wien, Österreich / Zahl- und Informationsstelle in Deutschland: Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft, Taunusanlage 12, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Bundesrepublik Deutschland / Zahl- und Informationsstelle in Liechtenstein: LLB Fund Services AG, Äulestraße 80, Postfach 1238, 9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein / Zentralstelle in Frankreich: BNP Paribas Securities Services Paris, 9 rue du Débarcadère, 93500 Pantin / Facilities Agent im Vereinigten Königreich: 42 Brook Street, W1K5DB London.

Der in vorliegendem Dokument erwähnte Fonds (nachstehend der „Fonds“) gewährleistet nicht, dass die in diesem Bericht enthaltenen Daten (nachstehend die „Daten“) vollständig, richtig oder frei von Fehlern oder Auslassungen sind. Der Fonds haftet unter keinen Umständen für den vorliegenden Bericht. Diese Marketingmitteilung wird vom Fonds oder von autorisierten Vertriebsstellen ausschließlich zu Informationszwecken herausgegeben und stellt kein Angebot zur Zeichnung von Anteilen des Fonds dar. Zeichnungen des Fonds, ein Investmentfonds luxemburgischen Rechts (SICAV), sollten in jedem Fall ausschließlich auf der Grundlage des aktuellen Prospekts, des Basisinformationsblatts („BiB“), der Satzung sowie des aktuellen Jahres- oder Halbjahresberichts sowie nach Beratung durch einen unabhängigen Finanz-, Rechts-, Buchhaltungs- und Steuerexperten erfolgen. Interessenten können die vorgenannten Unterlagen in Deutsch, Englisch und Französisch, kostenlos bei der vorgenannten örtlichen Stelle sowie in den Geschäftsräumen des Fonds, 15, avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxemburg, erhalten. Eine Übersicht über die Rechte der Anleger finden Sie unter folgendem Link: <https://www.pictet.com/content/dam/www/documents/legal-and-notes/fundpartner-solutions/fps-summary-of-investors-rights.pdf.coredownload.pdf>.