

US Biopharmaceuticals

The Priority Review – Week of February 19th

Industry Overview

Strong start for large caps as headline risk subsides

Sector performance was strong through 4Q earnings with healthy generalist interest based on our inbounds. We'd note there's been a divergence between large caps and SMIDs (DRG +10% YTD, NBI flat, SPX+4%), driven by Lilly, Merck, AbbVie, and Royalty's recovery after a tough few year (see our 4Q23 earnings tracker). Larger cap biotech has been a laggard this year, as Gilead, Biogen, and Moderna have had weaker starts to the year, while Amgen has avoided downward pressure with their obesity candidate. Management teams aren't presently worried about supply chain risk or policy, as they believe IP march in rights won't gain much momentum in Washington while the discounting from the IRA won't be official until 9/1 for the 10 drugs affected in 2026. We don't think these will lead to a new worry for the group, and don't see major headline risk for Biopharma for most the year (unusual for an election year). We still large cap multiples as reasonable at 15x with mid to high single digit earnings growth (ex-Lilly).

Zepbound taking share, fastest grow GLP-1 through 13 weeks

We've launched our GLP-1 script analysis (click here for our GLP-1 tracker), and are pleased to see Zepbound demand exceeding Mounjaro through their first 13 weeks on the market. Zepbound is now approaching the steep part of Mounjaro's launch curve, but we think the consistent growth of on/off label Mounjaro scripts suggests obesity demand should remain meaningfully higher vs diabetes given the high unmet medical need and persistence rates (we suspect 3-5 years for Mounjaro in Diabetes). We could see Zepbound share eclipsing Novo's Wegovy by the summer assuming supply for both is still stable. There are still many upcoming events to tune in for Lilly in 2H including sleep apnea / heart failure data and Alzheimer's approval, keeping us bullish on the stock.

Moderna 4Q weaker on COVID/ Amlyx a SMID favorite

Moderna's 4Q results were weaker on lower Covid vaccine sales (see out note on Moderna earnings here), although that shouldn't be a surprise as US vaccine rates fell y/y,. Modern has an EU tender offer for up to 36M doses per year over the next 4 years, which may lead COVID upside. We're one step closer on a decision for accelerated approval on Moderna's INT cancer vaccine as 1) they have longer durability results, 2) will likely complete enrollment for 1 of 2 pivotal trials by the end of the year, and 3) have started to build out their manufacturing facility. For RSV Moderna believes that its safety and pre-filled, syringes provide a differentiated commercial profile with the longterm durability and comfort with PFE/GSK's vaccines could be a bigger commercial hurdle.. See our note on Moderna's RSV vaccine here As we approach SMID earnings, we'd like to highlight Amylyx – we saw modest growth in 4Q Relyviro had stable net patients and discontinuation rates. Phoenix remains the key focus, as the expected May data readout is a binary with a favorable risk/reward given the low probability of an absolute failure and, in the worst case, a validation of prior data. (see our thoughts on Amylx's 4Q23 here) Next week Bristol is hosting a sell side breakfast on Monday where they'll set the framework for their new launches and recent deals. Pfizer is hosting an oncology day on Thursday, and while we don't expect new data we think they'll showcase the commercial upside from Seagen's portfolio and earlier stage assets. Pfizer and Bristol are weak on LOE concerns and while deals will shorten the pain period from patent expirations, success will come from execution on new launches. We're neutral on both, as we prefer growthier biopharma names like Lilly, Vertex, and Merck.

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23 February 2024

Equity
United States
Biopharmaceuticals



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2024 outlook

- 2024 US Biopharma Outlook report
- 2024 Company Profiles report
- Bristol (BMY) Downgrade note
- Kymera (KMYR) Downgrade note
 LianBio (LIAN) Downgrade note

4Q23 earnings reports

- J&J: Initial thoughts on the JNJ 4023 results and thoughts post the JNJ 4023 call
- Merck: Initial thoughts on MRK 4023 results and thoughts post the 4023 MRK call
- Bristol: <u>Initial Thoughts on BMY 4Q23 results</u> and <u>thoughts post the BMY 4Q23 call</u>
- AbbVie: Initial thoughts on ABBV 4Q23 results and thoughts post the ABBV 4Q23 call
- Pfizer: Initial thoughts on PFE 4Q23 results and thoughts post the PFE 4Q23 call
- Amgen: Initial thoughts on AMGN 4023 results and thoughts post the AMGN 4023 call
- Regeneron: <u>Initial thoughts on REGN 4Q23 results</u> and <u>thoughts post the REGN 4Q23</u> call
- Lilly: Initial thoughts on LLY 4023 results and thoughts post the LLY 4023 call
- Vertex: Initial thoughts on VRTX 4Q23 results and thoughts post the VRTX 4Q23 call
- Gilead: Initial thoughts on GILD 4Q23 results and thoughts post the GILD 4Q23 call
- Biogen: <u>Initial thoughts on BIIB 4023 results</u> and <u>thoughts post the BIIB 4023 call</u>
- Royalty: <u>Thoughts post the RPRX 4Q23 call</u>
- Moderna: Initial thoughts on MRNA 4023 results and thoughts post the MRNA 4023 call
- BioMarin: Initial thoughts on BMRN 4Q23 results and thoughts post the BMRN 4Q23 call

4Q23 earnings read-through notes

- Sanofi: Sanofi read-through to our coverage
- Novo: Novo read-through to our coverage
- Roche: Roche read-through to our coverage
- GlaxoSmithKline: GSK read-through to our coverage

4Q23 earnings tracker

- Week 1&2: Weeks 1&2 Earnings Tracker and Weeks 1&2 Quotes Tracker
- Week 3: Week 3 Earnings Tracker and Week 3 Quotes tracker
- Week 4: Week 4 Earnings Tracker and Week 4 Quotes tracker
- Week 5: Week 5 Earnings Tracker

Key takes from JPM Healthcare Conference

- JPM Healthcare Conference Day 1 takeaways
- JPM Healthcare Conference Day 2 takeaways
- JPM Healthcare Conference Day 3 & 4 takeaways

Key takes from our Vegas Healthcare Conference

- Vegas Healthcare Conference Day 1 takeaways
- Vegas Healthcare Conference Day 2 take aways
- Vegas Healthcare Conference wrap up

Upcoming catalysts, investor days and regulatory dates

- Bristol Sell side Breakfast, February 26, 2024
- Pfizer Oncology R&D Day, February 29, 2024

Abbreviations:

IRA: Inflation Reduction Act MS: Multiple sclerosis

CD47: Protein

TNBC: Triple negative breast cancer HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus



CROI: Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections

PREP: HIV therapy

RSV: Respiratory syncytial virus KOL: Key opinion leader CMO: Chief Medical Officer

INT: Individualized Neoantigen Therapy



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