

## Kura Oncology

# The verdict is in—KOMET-007 launches, with support for combo activity

Maintain Rating: BUY | PO: 31.00 USD | Price: 18.60 USD

## Solid safety/ tolerability adds confidence to combinability

We look for KURA shares to trade with meaningful strength this morning after the company reported positive initial updates from KOMET-007, its phase 1 of menin inhibitor ziftomenib in combination with SoCs "7+3" and ven/ aza in KMT2Ar and NPM1m AML. To be fair, we'd argue expectations had admittedly been high heading into the readout given positive readthroughs from last week's private placement (YTD: KURA +29% vs. NBI +3%). Still, we think today's updates exceeded the already bullish expectations. Indeed, while admittedly early and despite being tested in a higher-risk population, ziftomenib looks very well-tolerated overall, with no DS, QTc, or DDIs. That being said, we think investor focus was largely on AEs leading to dose interruptions or reductions especially after myelosuppressive-related AEs resulted in per-protocol intermittent dosing of rival Syndax's revumenib in SAVE, a related ven/ HMA combo study (our thoughts on SAVE and ASH investor presentation). In contrast, Kura reported no additive myelosuppressive-related AEs beyond the SoC backbone, with no dose interruptions/reductions thus far, allowing progression to the 400mg dose. While certainly still early, we think these results lend further support for ziftomenib's potentially improved combo profile—the basis of our positive thesis—with solid readthroughs to the commercial opportunity in the frontline and maintenance settings. With further upside from additional data updates at EHA/ ASH later this year, we continue to like the near-term set up for Kura; Reiterate Buy and \$31 PO.

Kura is hosting a call this morning at 8am ET: (800) 715-9871; ID: 7854712

## While early, efficacy signals also trending positive

This mornings' update also included meaningful updates on efficacy. Indeed, despite relatively early (n=20; treated at the lowest 200mg dose), signals were trending positively. With a CR rate of 100% in the 1L "7+3" cohort (n=5), the data far exceed managements thresholds for success (CR/CRh 60-90%: 4 NPM1m and 1 KMT2Ar). Responses also looked solid in the R/R population treated with ven/ aza (n=15): CR/CRh of 60% (3/5) in NPM1m and 50% in KMT2Ar (2/4) menin-inhibitor naïve patients, both of which met management's thresholds for success: CR/CRi for R/R ven/aza 40-60%. Admittedly, the 53% ORR in R/R zifto + ven/ aza cohort looks less robust vs. Syndax's 100% ORR in SAVE; still, we'd highlight CR/CRh rates remain the gold standard for physicians—with KOLs noting MLFS/ PRs are not generally accepted as responses.

## Improved DS confirms dosing strategy, bolstering upside

Also of note, Kura reported zero incidence of DS, a key update that the dosing strategy— 7 days of SoC backbone prior to layering of ziftomenib—is working. We think today's update represents the "best-case" scenario, exceeding managements thresholds for success (i.e., low to mid double digits grade ≥ 3 DS) and likely assuaging investor concerns over the potential for development in the KMT2Ar population (see our KOMET-007 preview). Recall the KMT2Ar population, high rates of clinically meaningful DS including a grade 5 event—de-railed prior monotherapy development in R/R AML.

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#### 30 January 2024

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#### Stock Data

Price Objective

Price

Date Established 11-Aug-2023 Investment Opinion 7.41 USD - 21.40 USD 52-Week Range Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out 1,381 USD / 74.3 (mn) Free Float 93.7% Average Daily Value (mn) 32.73 USD BofA Ticker / Exchange KURA / NAS

18.60 USD

31.00 USD

Bloomberg / Reuters KURA US / KURA.OQ ROF (2023F) -36.2% Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A) -9.6%

### **Abbreviations:**

**SoC:** standard of care

KMT2Ar/ NPM1m: mutant subgroups AML: acute myeloid leukemia

**DS:** differentiation syndrome

AEs: adverse events SoC: standard of care **HMA:** hypomethylating agent LoS: likelihood of success

**EHA:** European Hematology Agency **ASH:** American Society of Hematology **ORR:** overall response rates

CR/CRh/CRi: complete response/ with partial hematologic recovery/ with

incomplete count recovery **KOL:** key opinion leader

MLFS: morphological leukemia-free state

PR: partial response 1L: frontline

R/R: relapsed/ refractory

TRAE/TEAE: treatment-related/ treatment-

emergent adverse events **DLT:** dose-limiting toxicities

## Price objective basis & risk

## Kura Oncology (KURA)

Our 12-month price objective (PO) is based on our NPV analysis of revenue forecasts and estimated margin assumptions. We model ziftomenib with the first approval in NPM1m R/R AML in 2025 (LOS 65%), followed by 1L NPM1m in 2028 (LOS 40%), and 1L KMT2Am in 2029 (LOS 30%). We also model tipifarnib in HNSCC with a LOS of 40%. We assume a collective value for the pipeline. Given a WACC of 10%, in line with peers of similar size and risk, and a terminal growth rate between -25% and -50%, based on the timeline, we estimate a value of \$31/ share PO, supporting our Buy rating.

## Upside Risks to our PO

1) initial approval of ziftomenib in R/R NPM1m AML, 2) by robust efficacy in frontline, 3) favorable efficacy/ safety profile in 1L KMT2Ar AML, 4) durable response in maintenance AML 4) competitive safety and administrative profile, 5) tolerable safety profile of tipifarnib combinations, with no evidence of overlapping TEAEs, and 6) strong commercial support from payers/ community-based providers to broadly administer portfolio candidates.

## Downside Risks to our PO

1) failure to achieve approval for ziftomenib in R/R NPM1m AML, 2) poor risk/ benefit of KMT2Ar AML beyond R/R, especially due to emergence of meaningful DS, 3) lack of clinically meaningful efficacy in frontline and/ or maintenance settings, 4) limited differentiation between ziftomenib and revumenib, 5) DLTs associated with tipifarnib combos, 6) regulatory delays, and 7) commercial pushback from payers and providers.

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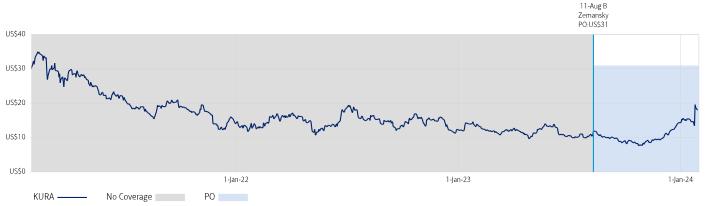
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## **Important Disclosures**

### Kura (KURA) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

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Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	234	60.94%	Buy	115	49.15%
Hold	80	20.83%	Hold	36	45.00%
Sell	70	18.23%	Sell	29	41.43%

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
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