Equity Research

Flash Comment



March 10, 2015 IMDZ-NASDAQ--Outperform (1) / V

Biotechnology

IMDZ: Denial Of Theravectys's Preliminary Injunction A Positive Step Towards Reducing Minor Legal Overhang

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Sector Rating: Biotechnology, Market Weight

**This morning in an 8-K IMDZ announced that a preliminary injunction requested by Theravectys SA to prevent IMDZ from using its lentiviral vectors was denied.

**Recall in July 2014, Theravectys had filed a lawsuit against IMDZ related to an alleged interference with the contractual relationship with Belgian company Henogen, with which Theravectys apparently had an exclusive relationship to manufacture Theravectys' lentivirus-based therapeutic vaccine against HIV. Though we are not lawyers, we had felt reassured after speaking with IMDZ that there was no intentional interference with Theravectys' and Henogen's exclusivity agreement; additionally, the viral vector being used by Theravectys is different than that of IMDZ, and the manufacturing protocol was devised by IMDZ (Henogen was hired as only a contract manufacturer).

**Though the full outcome of the trial will be determined in a trial encompassing full arguments, potentially 3Q15, the fact that the evidence did not support a preliminary injunction is a step in the right direction, in our view.

**BOTTOM LINE: Though the lawsuit is not a major overhang, denial of Theravectys's preliminary injunction is a positive step in our view towards reducing any potential concerns. We continue to believe IMDZ is an underappreciated, differentiated small-cap oncology company that represents a less expensive alternative to more "mainstream" T-cell focused IO companies, and remain buyers of the stock.

Immune Design Corp. (IMDZ-NASDAQ)

Price as of 3/9/2015: \$25.48

FY 14 EPS: \$-2.44 FY 15 EPS: \$-2.07 Shares Out.: 15.8 MM Market Cap.: \$402.58 MM

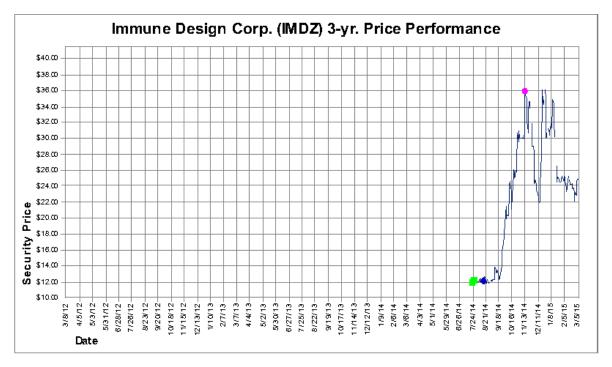
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Required Disclosures



	Date	Publication Price (\$)	Rating Code	Val. Rng. Low	Val. Rng. High	Close Price (\$)
	7/24/2014		IPOat \$12.00			
	8/18/2014		Abrahams, M.D.			
•	8/18/2014	12.41	1	17.00	18.00	12.13
•	11/13/2014	30.67	1	35.00	37.00	35.97

Source: Wells Fargo Securities, LLC estimates and Reuters data

Symbol Key

- Rating Downgrade
- Rating Upgrade
 Valuation Range Change
- Initiation, Resumption, Drop or Suspend
 Analyst Change
- Split Adjustment

Rating Code Key

1 Outperform/Buy SR Suspended 2 Market Perform/Hold NR Not Rated 3 Underperform/Sell NE No Estimate

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IMDZ: Risks include ZVex's failure to show clinical efficacy, a safety signal, competition, and manufacturing.

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O = **Overweight:** Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

M = Market Weight: Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

U = Underweight: Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

VOLATILITY RATING

V = A stock is defined as volatile if the stock price has fluctuated by +/-20% or greater in at least 8 of the past 24 months or if the analyst expects significant volatility. All IPO stocks are automatically rated volatile within the first 24 months of trading.

As of: March 10, 2015

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