# **Equity Research**

## Flash Comment



September 25, 2014 IMDZ-NASDAQ--Outperform (1) / V

Biotechnology

# IMDZ: Halo Effect From Successful Fund Raising From A Competing Technology Company?

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Sector Rating: Biotechnology, Market Weight

IMDZ traded higher today (+12.7% vs. -1.8% BTK), we believe due to renewed enthusiasm for the cancer immuno-therapy space in general, and specifically, due to an outsized Series A financing (\$104MM) announced for a U.K./U.S. company, Adaptimmune, which is developing an NY-ESO-1 based T-cell cancer immuno-therapy. Recall, IMDZ's lead product, LV305, is also NY-ESO-1 targeted immuno-therapy using its proprietary platform ZVex.

\*\*We believe Adaptimmune's successful fund raising reflects high investor enthusiasm for the cytotoxic T cell mediated immuno-therapy and also provides some validation for NY-ESO-1 based immuno-therapy approach, which we believe overall bodes well for IMDZ.

\*\*Adaptimmune's platform is somewhat different from that of IMDZ (and CAR-T). Adapimmune technology is based on genetically modified autologous T-cells carrying a recombinant T cell receptor specific for a tumor antigen (e.g., NY-ESO-1).

\*\*While we believe Adaptimmune's technology is one of several promising immuno-therapy approaches worth watching, we believe IMDZ's has several features that could be differentiated compared to recombinant TCR or CAR-T approaches. We believe ZVex's in vivo delivery and "off-the-shelf" approach could provide some advantages over a more "personalized"-requires autologous cells and HLA matching--and complex genetic modifications and immune (lymphodepletion) manipulations associated with recombinant T cell and CAR-T.

\*\*BOTTOM LINE: We continue to believe IMDZ's differentiated platform has a strong scientific basis and holds promise as a novel immune-oncology cancer therapeutic approach, and expect shares to appreciate as initial data emerge in early 2015.

Immune Design Corp. (IMDZ-NASDAQ)

Price as of 9/25/2014: \$14.25

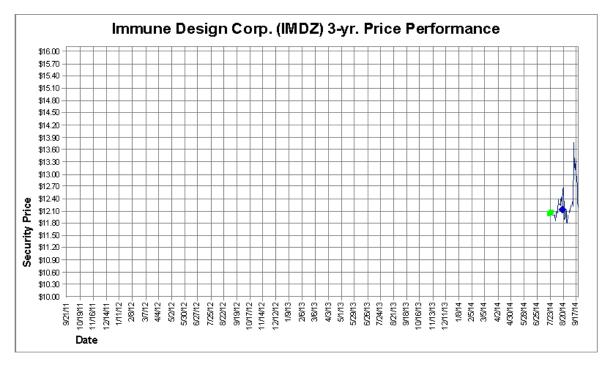
FY 14 EPS: \$-2.03 FY 15 EPS: \$-1.39 Shares Out.: 15.8 MM Market Cap.: \$225.15 MM

Please see Disclosure Appendix for rating definitions, important disclosures, and required analyst certifications.

All estimates/forecasts are as of 09/25/14 unless otherwise stated.

### DISCLOSURE APPENDIX

# **Required Disclosures**



	Date	Publication Price (\$)	Rating Code	Val. Rng. Low	Val. Rng. High	Close Price (\$)
	7/24/2014	IPO at \$12.00				
	8/18/2014	Abrahams, M.D.				
•	8/18/2014	12.41	1	17.00	18.00	12.13

Source: Wells Fargo Securities, LLC estimates and Reuters data

#### Symbol Key

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

#### Rating Code Key

- Outperform/Buy SR Suspended Market Perform/Hold NR Not Rated Underperform/Sell NE No Estimate
- Additional Information Available Upon Request

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Immune Design Corp. currently is, or during the 12-month period preceding the date of distribution of the research report was, a client of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC wells Fargo Securities, LLC provided investment banking services to Immune Design Corp.

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

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- **2 = Market Perform:** The stock appears appropriately valued, and we believe the stock's total return will be in line with the market over the next 12 months. HOLD
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#### **SECTOR RATING**

- **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.

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