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USA | Healthcare | Biotechnology

September 11, 2014

Jefferies

Price target \$40.00 Price \$30.74

Avalanche Biotechnologies (AAVL) Q2: Awaiting Topline Plla Data for AVA-101 in Mid-'15

Key Takeaway

With in-line Q2 financials, we await topline data from the PIIa study for AVA-101 in mid-'15 for which we have a favorable outlook. A successful outcome would further validate AAVL's gene therapy platform. Also, Genzyme (a Sanofi company) will be presenting PI/II data from its gene therapy program in wAMD at Retina Society tomorrow, however, we wouldn't naturally readthru to prospects for AVA-101 given critical differences btwn the two programs.

Awaiting Topline PIIa Trial Data for AVA-101 in Mid-'15: AAVL's lead candidate is AVA-101, a one-time subretinal injection which offers durable remission for pts with wAMD. AVA-101 induces the retinal cells to produce sFlt-1, a naturally occurring VEGF inhibitor and clinically validated target. AVA-101 has shown impressive efficacy and safety results from 8 pts from its PI study. Mean VA improvement in the +12.2 and +9.8 letters for the low- and high-dose, respectively, v. control at wk 52. Impressively, fewer pts on AVA-101 required Lucentis re-tx relative to the control (0.33 v. 3.0, respectively) (p<0.001). Moreover, the effect appears durable lasting >12 mos, and potentially for many years. The Plla trial has enrolled 32 pts, and we await topline data in mid-'15. AAVL also has potential to expand into DME and CRVO.

AVA-101 Role in Wet AMD: Anti-VEGF therapy dominates as the preferred tx of choice in wet AMD with current U.S. market size of ~\$7-8B. AVA-101 could potentially displace regular anti-VEGF injections and could be preferred tx of choice in wAMD. We estimate AVA-101 may launch in 2020 and could generate a risk-adjusted \$600M in peak U.S. sales (assuming 70% discount) in wAMD. Additional sales may also come from two add'l indications, CRVO and DME, which could generate \$725M in risk-adjusted peak U.S. sales. Ex-U.S., we estimate peak risk-adjusted royalties of \$120M, and do not include potential upfront payments/ milestones from an ex-U.S. partnership.

Q2 Financials: AAVLreported Q2 revenue of \$0.1M and GAAP EPS of (\$2.27) primarily on the company's pre-IPO share count. Cash and equivs were \$52.4M as of end of Jun '14.

Valuation/Risks

Our \$40 PT is DCF-based. Risks include clinical, manufacturing, competitive, regulatory, and commercial.

USD	Prev.	2013A	Prev.	2014E	Prev.	2015E	Prev.	2016E
Rev. (MM)		0.5		0.0		2.0		0.0
EV/Rev		NM				NM		
EPS								
Mar				(0.11)A				
Jun			(0.08)A	(2.27)A				
Sep				(0.14)				
Dec				(0.27)				
FY Dec		(1.45)	(0.61)	(3.14)		(0.72)		(0.79)
FY P/E		NM		NM		NM		NM

Financial Summary	
Net Debt (MM):	(\$159.9)
Long-Term Debt (MM):	\$0.0
Cash & ST Invest. (MM):	\$159.9
Cash/Share:	\$6.01
Cash (MM):	\$159.9
Market Data	
52 Week Range:	\$32.38 - \$22.00
Total Entprs. Value (MM):	\$657.8
Market Cap. (MM):	\$817.7
Shares Out. (MM):	26.6
Shares Out. (whivi).	20.0
Float (MM):	5.1

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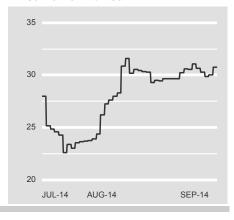
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Estimate Change

September 11, 2014

Valuation

We arrive at our \$40 price target based on a DCF valuation model, which assumes a WACC of 14%, terminal growth rate of 0% and outstanding shares of 26.8 million, driven by sales of AVA-101. We assume market entry for AVA-101 for wet AMD in 2020 assuming positive data from a Phase III program. We estimate peak sales of \$4.4 billion in the U.S. by 2026 for ophthalmic diseases including wet AMD, DME, and CRVO on an unadjusted-basis. If we apply a 70% risk discount to reflect the clinical risk of the AVA-101 program, we estimate \$1.3 billion in U.S. sales by 2026. Additionally, we expect \$79 million in royalty revenue for the same indications in 2026 using a 70% risk-discount.

AAVL's initial target population for AVA-101 will be wAMD. We estimate peak sales of \$2.0 billion in the U.S. by 2026 for wAMD on an unadjusted-basis. Applying a 70% risk discount to reflect the clinical risk of the AVA-101 program, we estimate \$602 million in U.S. sales by 2026. AAVL intends to expand AVA-101 into CRVO and DME, and we assume market entry for these indications in 2022. For CRVO, we estimate peak U.S. sales of \$510 million (unadjusted) and \$153 million in 2026 (70% risk-discount). For DME, we estimate peak U.S. sales of \$1.9 billion (unadjusted) and \$573 million by 2025 (70% risk-discount).

For rest-of-world (ROW), we estimate peak sales of \$783 million for wAMD by 2025 (unadjusted). We assume a 20% royalty for ROW sales and a 70% risk discount, translating to peak royalty revenue \$47 million in 2025. For CRVO, we estimate peak ROW sales of \$292 million in 2026 (unadjusted). Assuming a 20% royalty and 70% risk-discount, we estimate peak ROW sales of \$18 million in 2026. For DME, we estimate peak ROW sales of \$1.0 billion by 2025 (unadjusted). Under the same assumptions as wAMD and CRVO, we estimate peak ROW sales of \$60 million in 2025 in DME.

At this time, we do not model AVA-201 for wAMD or AVA-311 for juvenile X-linked retinoschisis (XLRS), and these products represent upside. We expect R&D expense to reach \$12 million by YE 2014, increasing to \$55 million by 2026 as AAVL ramps up clinical development of AVA-101 into DME and CRVO, AVA-201 and AVA-311. We expect SG&A expense to be \$2.9 million by YE 2014, increasing to \$43 million by 2026. We include \$25 million in launch expenses for AVA-101 in 2021, risk-adjusted by 70%.

Exhibit 1: DCF sensitivity analysis

Equity Value	Price/Share
\$1,528.2	\$56.95
\$1,277.4	\$47.60
\$1,074.9	\$40.06
\$910.7	\$33.94
\$777.0	\$28.96

Source: Jefferies estimates

Risks

Clinical Failure: As with all companies in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals developing treatments of the future, a clinical failure can lead to delays in approval or possibly discontinuation of programs.

Regulatory Failure: The FDA could determine the Biologic Licensing Application is inadequate for AVA-101 for wet AMD and could delay approval. Furthermore, to date the FDA has not approved any gene therapy products for any indication. There is therefore no

Estimate Change

September 11, 2014

historical precedence for approval of such products, and the FDA may deem AAVL's clinical package for AVA-101 as insufficient for approval. Any delays in approval timelines could impact our earnings estimates, price target, and/or rating.

Commercial Failure: We currently estimate peak sales of \$4.4 billion in the U.S. by 2026 for ophthalmic diseases including wet AMD, DME, and CRVO on an unadjusted-basis. If we apply a 70% risk discount to reflect the clinical risk of the AVA-101 program, we estimate \$1.3 billion in U.S. sales by 2026. Additionally, we expect \$79 million in royalty revenue for the same indications in 2026 using an 80% risk-discount. Our estimates may rely on the success of the company/partners to receive drug reimbursement from private/public payors.

Manufacturing Risks: AAVL relies on its proprietary baculovirus expression system (BVES) to produce its gene therapy products, including AVA-101. AAVL believes its BVES is efficient and scalable, with production yields up to 100x greater than those obtained by conventional AAV production system, allowing it to manufacture commercial grade production for large markets as wet AMD. If AVA-101 is approved, AAVL will need a consistent and reliable process, while limiting contamination risks, for manufacturing these candidates on large-scale for the approved patient population. Any supply or manufacturing disruption could negatively impact AVA-101 supply and sales.

Competitive Risks: Other companies are rapidly developing gene therapy product candidates in various stages of clinical development for ophthalmic diseases including wet AMD that may compete with AVA-101. If any of these product candidates have an improved therapeutic profile over AVA-101 and is approved, AVA-101's growth trajectory in the marketplace, even if approved, could be adversely impacted.

Financing Risks: We expect AAVL to have adequate cash through the majority of AVA-101's clinical development, and we model an \$80 million equity raise on 2 million shares in 2019. AAVL may need additional dilutive financing to fund the potential U.S. launch of AVA-101 and its R&D programs in additional indications.

Estimate Change

September 11, 2014

Exhibit 2: AAVL Income Statement

Avalanche Biotechnologies, Inc.

Quarterly Income Statement

	2012A	2013E			2014E			2015E	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
	FY	FY	1QA	2QA	3QE	4QE	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY							
Revenue:																		
AVA 101- U.S.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.3	96.7	360.5	724.9	1129.3	1302.4
A VA 101 - ROW royalty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	49.3	94.2	112.1	121.3
License and collaboration revenues	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total revenue, net	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.3	106.9	409.8	819.0	1,241.4	1,423.7
Costs and expenses:																		
Cost of goods sold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	26.7	102.5	204.8	297.9	327.4
Research & development	1.3	2.2	0.9	3.1	3.1	6.5	12.0	18.5	18.5	40.0	42.0	44.1	46.3	48.6	50.1	51.6	53.1	54.2
Selling, general & administrative	0.5	18	0.7	15	0.7	0.7	3.7	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	34.0	35.7	37.5	39.4	413
Total operating expenses	1.8	3.9	1.6	4.6	3.8	7.2	15.7	21.3	21.5	43.3	45.5	47.8	59.5	109.4	188.2	293.8	390.4	423.0
Income (loss) from operations	(1.8)	(3.5)	(1.6)	(4.5)	(3.8)	(7.2)	(15.7)	(19.3)	(21.5)	(43.3)	(45.5)	(47.8)	(22.2)	(2.4)	221.6	525.2	851.0	1,000.7
Other income (expense):																		
Miscellaneous (expense) income	(0.0)	(19)	(0.0)	(3.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Interest income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Interest expense	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
let profit (loss) before income taxes	(1.8)	(5.3)	(1.7)	(8.3)	(3.8)	(7.2)	(15.7)	(19.3)	(21.5)	(43.3)	(45.5)	(47.8)	(22.2)	(2.4)	221.6	525.2	851.0	1.000.7
Income tax expense (benefit)	, ,		` '	. ,		, ,		. ,	. ,	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	183.8	297.8	350.2
Income tax (%)										0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
Net Income (GAAP)	(1.8)	(5.3)	(1.7)	(8.3)	(3.8)	(7.2)	(15.7)	(19.3)	(21.5)	(43.3)	(45.5)	(47.8)	(22.2)	(2.4)	15.0	341.4	553.1	650.5
Adjusted Items (Non-GAAP)																		
Stock options	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	14.0	16.0	18.0	20.0	22.0	24.0
Depreciation and amortization expense	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Income (Non-GAAP)	(1.8)	(5.3)	(1.7)	(8.3)	(3.8)	(7.2)	(15.7)	(16.3)	(17.5)	(38.3)	(39.5)	(40.8)	(8.2)	13.6	33.0	361.4	575.1	674.5
EPS, GAAP																		
Basic	(0.50)	(145)	(0.45)	(2.27)	(0.14)	(0.27)	(3.14)	(0.72)	(0.79)	(158)	(1.65)	(1.60)	(0.74)	(0.08)	0.49	10.96	17.59	20.48
Diluted	\$ (0.50)	\$ (1.45)	\$ (0.45) \$	(2.27) \$	(0.14) \$	(0.27)	\$ (3.14)	\$ (0.72)	\$ (0.79)	\$ (1.58)	\$ (1.65)	\$ (1.60)	\$ (0.74)	\$ (0.08)	\$ 0.49	\$ 10.96	\$ 17.59	\$ 20.48
Veighted average share- Basic	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	26.6	26.6	15.1	26.8	27.1	27.4	27.6	29.9	30.2	30.5	30.8	31.1	314	318
Weighted average share- Diluted	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	26.6	26.6	15.1	26.8	27.1	27.4	27.6	29.9	30.2	30.5	30.8	31.1	31.4	318

Source: Jefferies, company data

Estimate Change

September 11, 2014

Exhibit 3: AAVL DCF analysis

Avalanche Biotechnologies

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

(All values in \$MM)	2012A	2013A	2014E	2015E	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.3	106.9	409.8	819.0	1,241.4	1,423.7
Operating Expenses	1.8	3.9	15.7	21.3	21.5	43.3	45.5	47.8	59.5	109.4	188.2	293.8	390.4	423.0
EBIT	(1.8)	(3.5)	(15.7)	(19.3)	(21.5)	(43.3)	(45.5)	(47.8)	(22.2)	(2.4)	221.6	525.2	851.0	1,000.7
(-): Taxes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	183.8	297.8	350.2
EBIAT	(1.8)	(3.5)	(15.7)	(19.3)	(21.5)	(43.3)	(45.5)	(47.8)	(22.2)	(2.4)	199.4	341.4	553.1	650.5
(+):Depreciation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(+):FAS-123 Options	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	14.0	16.0	18.0	20.0	22.0	24.0
(-): Capital expenditures	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Unlevered free cash flow	(1.8)	(3.5)	(15.7)	(16.4)	(17.6)	(38.3)	(39.6)	(40.9)	(8.3)	13.5	217.3	361.3	575.1	674.5

Source: Jefferies estimates, company data

AAVL
Estimate Change
September 11, 2014

Company Description

Avalanche Biotechnologies, Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company, focuses on discovering and developing novel gene therapies for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases based on its Ocular BioFactory platform. Its lead product candidate includes AVA-101, which is in a Phase I/IIa trial for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The company is also developing AVA-201, an anti-vascular endothelial growth factor gene therapy product candidate for the prevention of wet AMD; and AVA-311 that is in preclinical studies for the treatment of juvenile X-linked retinoschisis, a rare genetic disease of the retina with no approved therapy. Avalanche Biotechnologies, Inc. has a collaboration agreement with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. research, develop, and commercialize gene therapy products. The company was founded in 2006 and is headquartered in Menlo Park, California.

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AAVL
Estimate Change
September 11, 2014

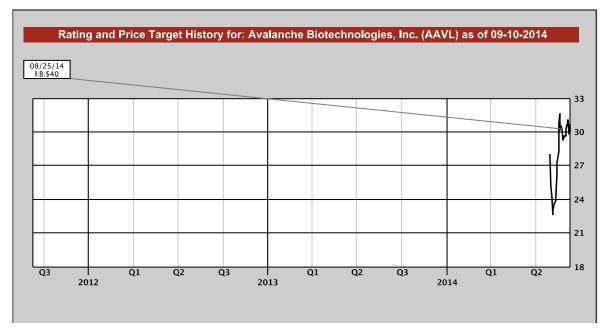
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Estimate Change September 11, 2014

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