25th August 2016

Healthcare

P/E

Div yield (%)

Novartis

Price CHF78.45

Bloomberg NOVN VX Reuters NOVN.VX 12-month High / Low (CHF) 94.8 / 68.5 Market Cap (CHFm) 206,097 Avg. 6m daily volume (000) 4 982 6 M 31/12/15 1 M 3 M Absolute perf. -4.7% 0.8% 8.6% -9.6% Healthcare -3.8% 0.8% 6.7% -6.9% -5.7% DJ Stoxx 600 1.4% 0.2% 7.7% 2015 2016e 2017e 2018e

16.9x

3.7%

15.5x

3.2%

13.9x

3.6%

16.2x

3.4%

BAF312 successful	in	first	SPMS	phase	III study

Fair Value CHF87 (+11%)

NEUTRAL

ANALYSIS

- Did we look at BAF312 closely enough? How big can this opportunity be? As we focused a lot on Gilenya and the potential end of exclusivity in the US in 2019, we may not have paid enough attention to the rest of Novartis' pipeline in MS. In the context of Genmab coverage, we did mention how significant the opportunity of ofumatumab was but maybe we were too shy about BAF312. Novartis itself was conservative on that front and did not even include the drug in the newsflow chart for H2 for instance.
- As such, achieving positive results with BAF312 in SPMS comes as a surprise and the market opportunity could be significant as about 500,000 patients worldwide could suffer from the disease with no drug having been studied specifically in this setting. So, EXPAND reached its primary endpoint which was reduction in disability progression compared to placebo. Its profile is slightly different from Gilenya's, is not targeting the same S1P subgroups and has a much shorter half-life. It looks closer to Actelion's ponesimod for which the success is mixed news (another S1P makes the class more popular but increases competition although SPMS and RRMS are not exactly the same markets).
- Now, it remains to be seen whether Novartis will require a confirmation study to file BAF312 or considering EXPAND was quite large already (with a 2:1 ratio meaning that about 1,000 patients received the drug) and that no comparative study can be run, maybe it can be sufficient at least in some geographies. If so, this would give Novartis' MS franchise a boost and earlier than expected as it was originally expected to be filed in 2019. With Gilenya, ofamutumab, biosimilars from Betaseron and Copaxone and now BAF312, Novartis has a great and maybe under-appreciated MS franchise for the years to come.

VALUATION

• BAF312 was not included at all in our sales model and we may have to see how we could introduce it with a reasonable PoS. Although it is not expected to make a major difference to the FV, this is a clear positive for the stock, that may participate in its revival.

NEXT CATALYSTS

• Early October – ESMO meeting with LEE011 data presentation

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NEUTRAL ratings 0%

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