#### 22nd September 2016

#### Healthcare

#### Roche

#### Price CHF243.60

Bloomberg Reuters 12-month High Market Cap (CH Avg. 6m daily w	ا 279.3	ROG VX ROG.VX / 233.2 171,144 1,219		
	1 M	3 M	6 M 3	1/12/15
Absolute perf.	0.5%	-1.0%	2.9%	-11.9%
Healthcare	0.7%	2.7%	6.6%	-7.0%
DJ Stoxx 600	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%	-6.4%
	2015	2016e	2017e	2018e
P/E	18.1x	15.4x	14.7x	14.5x
Div yield (%)	3.3%	3.9%	4.1%	4.1%

#### Can phase II data for vanucizumab distract attention from APHINITY?

#### Fair Value CHF293 (+20%)

BUY

#### ANALYSIS

- From a meeting with Roche's management in London yesterday, we bring home the idea that APHINITY phase III results are no less central to the investment case than before and that confidence in the results is not diminishing as the finish line is approaching. And as Alan Hippe highlighted, this is what makes generalists in the asset management community reluctant to take the risk beforehand.
- Although it is not first and foremost dedicated to generalists, the upcoming release of first phase II data for vanucizumab might nevertheless be a distracting factor from this single focus in investors' mind. Vanucizumab is Roche's novel bispecific antibody using the so-called CrossMab technology and engineered as a dual-targeting inhibitor of two angiogenic factors i.e. VEGF-A (like Avastin) and Ang-2 that is perceived as a key regulator for angiogenesis escape. First-in-man results were published back in 2014 and were very encouraging. Xenograft house models validated the superiority of the bispecific vs each of the two in inhibiting tumour growth while phase I data showed a good PK/PD profile, encouraging DFS survival and an acceptable safety profile with an administration schedule of every two weeks. Roche is now expected to report the first phase II data with vanucizumab in combination with chemotherapy in metastatic colorectal cancer by year-end. Depending on the strength of the data, the development of the drug could be fast-tracked and offer Roche a true alternative and succession plan to Avastin whose patents expire towards the turn of the decade. We have no value at all for vanucizumab as of today.
- Beyond this product, we would report as a feedback from yesterday's meeting the increased confidence in Tecentriq to be a success in 2L/3L lung after BMS failed in 1L in monotherapy. Roche is similarly highly confident in Ocrevus in MS for which it is preparing a strong launch.
- Last but not least, we would bear in mind this sentence from Alan Hippe concerning a scenario whereby APHINITY fails: "we would have to answer, react and adjust". First and foremost, this refers to cost adjustments but may also include accelerated BD initiatives.

#### VALUATION

 Although APHINITY is still a few months ahead, we would consider taking that risk now (at least partially) because the share's valuation is not very demanding and because what matters above all is the result whatever it is, in that it will remove the uncertainty that has played as an overhang over the stock in 2016.

#### NEXT CATALYSTS

• 7-13th October 2016: ESMO meeting in Copenhagen

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NEUTRAL ratings 33.1%

SELL ratings 11%

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