



5 November 2012

Investment summary: Targeting the wild type

Theliatinib starting Phase I trials highlights the progress that MediPharma (the 80% owned R&D unit) has made. There are five oncology projects currently in Phase I, with a number of similarly novel projects completing pre-clinical phases. These aim to be either best in class or first in class, targeting global development if suitably differentiated or fast tracked for the large domestic Chinese market if not.

Theliatinib EGFR inhibitor starts Phase I study

Theliatinib (HMPL-309), a novel small molecule inhibitor that targets the non-mutant (or wild type) EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor), has started Phase I clinical trials in non-small cell lung cancer. The study primarily examines safety and tolerability with both single and repeat doses, but monitoring of biomarkers could provide early indications of activity. The EGFR market is worth over \$5bn and is dominated by small molecules such as Roche's Tarceva and Amgen's Vectibix. These first-generation compounds tend to not perform well against wild type EGFR, whereas preclinical data showed notable potency for theliatinib.

An impressive oncology pipeline has been built up

The MediPharma R&D unit, now a fully integrated drug discovery company, has five novel oncology projects in Phase I trials. These are potentially either best in class or first in class, with the goal of global development (with a partner) if suitably differentiated, or rapid development for the domestic Chinese market. Volitinib, a c-Met inhibitor, is partnered with AstraZeneca (for a \$20m upfront fee and milestones of up to \$120m) but the remaining four (epitinib and theliatinib are EGFR inhibitors and sulfatinib and fruquintinib are VEGFR inhibitors) are unpartnered as yet. A number of other projects (targeting PI3K, Syk and FAK) are in preclinical stages.

A premium valuation is deserved

China Healthcare is the largest division. Placing a similar rating to its quoted Chinese peers (19.5x) gives a market cap of $\mathfrak{L}218m$, meaning that MediPharma, Consumer Products and the cash pile (over \$20m) are essentially in for free. A sum-of-the-parts valuation suggests a market cap of $\mathfrak{L}275m$ is justified, with scope for further upside if elements of the R&D pipeline are partnered.

Consensus estimates						
Year end	Revenue (\$m)	EBITDA (\$m)	EPS (\$)	DPS (\$)	P/E (x)	Yield (%)
12/10	134.5	2.4	(0.13)	0.00	N/A	N/A
12/11	166.9	10.3	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A
12/12e	186.2	12.4	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
12/13e	215.6	18.0	0.04	0.00	N/A	N/A

Price 450p Market cap £234m



Code HCM Listing AIM Sector Pharma & biotech Shares in issue 52.2m

Business

Hutchison China MediTech (Chi-Med) is the healthcare arm of Hutchison Whampoa, with 28% listed on AIM. The goal is to capitalise on the economic and demographic shifts in China with drugs, organic foods and consumer products.

Bull

- Chinese demographic opportunities are once-in-a-generation events.
- Domestic market demand will continue to boom despite economic uncertainty.
- A rich seam of scientific expertise and a conducive environment for research.

Bear

- Hutchison Whampoa's 72% majority shareholding limits liquidity.
- Political and economic risks remain an ever present threat in China.
- Timelines have slipped historically and product deals have not completed.

Analysts

Franc Gregori +44 (0)20 3077 5700 Robin Davison +44 (0)20 3077 5737

healthcare@edisoninvestmentresearch.co.uk

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