

Interim Long Report and Unaudited Financial Statements Six months ended 28 February 2021

# **AXA Framlington Biotech Fund**





# Issued by AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

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More detailed information about AXA Investment Managers' UK funds is available on the Fund Centre of our website where you can find the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document (KIID), annual reports and monthly fund factsheets at https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-centre.

<sup>\*</sup> These collectively comprise the Authorised Fund Manager's ("the Manager's") Report for the Trust.



# **Fund Objective**

The aim of AXA Framlington Biotech Fund ("the Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth.

The Fund invests in shares of listed companies, principally (meaning at least 80% of its assets) in the biotechnology, genomic and medical research industry, which the Manager believes will provide above-average returns. The Fund invests in companies of any size which can be based anywhere in the world, albeit the Fund tends to be biased towards the US as this is where the majority of biotechnology companies are based. The Manager selects shares based upon analysis of a company's financial status, quality of its management, expected profitability and prospects for growth.

The Manager has full discretion to select investments for the Fund in line with the above investment policy and in doing so may take into consideration the NASDAQ Biotechnology Price Return index.

The NASDAQ Biotechnology Price Return index is designed to measure the performance of NASDAQ stocks in the biotechnology sector. This index best represents a core component of the Managers' investment universe.

This Fund is actively managed in reference to the NASDAQ Biotechnology Price Return index, which may be used by investors to compare the Fund's performance.



### **Investment Review**

The AXA Framlington Biotech Fund outperformed the Nasdaq Biotech Index (NBI) benchmark over the last year with much of the outperformance during the first half of this period. Returning c.33% over one year and 10% over the last six months (6.8% and -0.6% relative). The performance was broad based including COVID-driven investments and returns from non-COVID-related holdings. The Fund outperformed during the volatility due to positioning in the perceived quality midcap names in the sector. Since September 2020 relative performance has been more challenging as investors took profits from strong performing sectors to increase exposure to stocks believed to benefit from the "re-opening" of economies, the so-called "re-opening trade". It has led to profit taking and outflows from the sector - and within the sector previous underperformers now outperforming.

The AXA Framlington Biotech Fund is invested across the market cap spectrum in a portfolio of about 60 stocks. This allows us to construct a Fund which has both the more defensive value names and the exciting early stage higher innovation small caps. We see an increasing interest in the larger market capitalisation (market cap) companies due to their lower valuations relative to both their long-term history and valuations of their peers. The Fund continues to identify

Top Ten Holdings	
as at 28 February 2021	%
Amgen	6.36
USA equities	
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	6.12
USA equities	
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	5.24
USA equities	
Biogen	5.20
USA equities	
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	3.85
USA equities	
Gilead Sciences	3.51
USA equities	
Illumina	3.43
USA equities	
Moderna	3.43
USA equities	
Seagen	3.21
USA equities	
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	2.75
USA equities	

and invest in compelling smaller-cap companies with disruptive technology platforms and innovative medicine pipelines. We also retain our focus holdings in the mid-cap companies across many different therapeutic areas. Although all very different, they represent investment opportunities that have shown successful commercial businesses, where we expect pipelines to offer good optionality and where management teams have demonstrated strong operational execution.

Valneva, Zai Labs and Ultragenyx all represent good examples of this and were also some of the top contributors to performance over the last year. Valneva is a European independent vaccine developer and manufacturer that we have held in the Fund now for some time. Its successful traveller vaccination business has understandably come under pressure, but it has partnered with the UK government to develop a COVID vaccine. Although slightly behind the larger companies with approved vaccines, the Valneva technology offers the potential for a whole attenuated vaccine that should not suffer the potential lower efficacy issues against variants. We await the 'phase 2' proof of concept data in the coming weeks. If successful, the team anticipates UK approval later in 2021, a remarkable achievement. The stock is up 294% over this period. Ultragenyx now has three commercial products each offering an effective treatment for severe, rare diseases. Commercial launches have not only been successful but with a strong focus on patient access and pricing for value. Ultragenyx share price is up 152% over the period. We feel it now reflects the solid commercial outlook however, we remain positive on the outlook for the group's R&D pipeline. Zai Labs is very well placed in China's rapid evolution as a centre of excellence for R&D and healthcare innovation. The current business model is likely to be the partner of choice for US biotech companies and lead Chinese commercialisation of these highly anticipated medicines. Zai Labs will also internally develop new medicines. The stock is up 168% over the period.

Two of the biggest detractors to relative performance were also mid cap companies with recently launched commercial products, Immunomedics and Moderna. Immunomedics was acquired by Gilead during the period for nearly \$20bn for its lead oncology asset. Although it was likely to be very successful we didn't own the stock as we felt the > 100% move in the stock on data and launch valued the asset fairly. Gilead's acquisition came at a further 108% premium. The Fund owns Moderna however at a smaller position than in the benchmark. The company has clearly had a very successful year operationally, being one of the first companies to develop and launch a COVID vaccine. Moderna is now a household name and the stock is up 500%. It is great to see biotech and new innovative technologies lead the way in vaccine development and commercialisation for COVID-19.



# **Investment Review (Continued)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has defined the investment landscape in 2020. In addition to the pain this last year has brought, the global pandemic has shown the astonishing ability of society to adapt to unprecedented change. It has required dynamic innovation, in areas such as technology and medicine, and has forced us to realise the intrinsic value of biotechnology.

The NBI reached an all-time high in February. Seen as the solution to the pandemic, a global investor spotlight was cast on biotechnology. The collaboration and speed with which testing, therapeutics and vaccines were developed and approved by regulators showcased what is best about the sector; the determination and desire to innovate, to improve health outcomes and to save lives. A secondary factor impacting biotech equity market performance, was the view that the focus on COVID will reduce the US government's urgency to seek more control of US drug pricing. We still believe there is strong support from both parties to move forward here, perhaps not as a priority under the circumstances, but the risk has not disappeared. Thirdly, there was also an element of catch up for a sector that has underperformed over the last four years.

The money raised in 2020 biotechnology initial public offerings was more than double any other year since the sector was formed, with valuations also close to double the average over that time. Follow on issuance was close to twice what we had seen in 2018, the previous high, with over 300 deals and 73 new public companies.

#### Outlook

The interest rate outlook and the course of the pandemic are central to near-term equity market performance. Traditionally, biotechnology stocks are thought to be at risk in a rising interest rate environment; however, the sector has historically rallied during these periods. Any risk-off macro catalysts are likely to be magnified in biotechnology in our view, due to the huge equity supply we have seen flowing into the capital markets over the last year.

Nevertheless, on a mid to long-term view we remain very constructive irrespective of the share price moves in the last year. The favourable funding environment across all aspects of the biotech ecosystem from academia to public markets should generate a plethora of emerging compelling investment opportunities, innovation has never been so strong. Further we believe the spotlight now firmly focused on this research and development from COVID-19 will remain. The new US Administration is supportive of innovation and fair access to medicines. We expect discussion on changes to the US healthcare system to continue which could pose some short-term volatility, but we continue to believe any eventual implementation will be manageable. What is more - companies that develop and sell very effective medicines, where medical need is high will likely continue to maintain robust pricing and patient access.

The long-term trends underlying healthcare utilisation are also a tailwind for biotechnology companies. Populations are now living longer and as we age, we use more healthcare. Furthermore, lifestyle changes are increasing the number of chronic conditions for which we need new long-term therapies. New geographies are emerging that hold huge potential for innovative medicines. China is now the second largest pharmaceutical market globally and making rapid progress in reforming its systems to support high efficacy, higher cost medicines. All of this should mean the sector and AXA Framlington Biotechnology Fund continues to deliver above market share price appreciation over the longer term.

### Linden Thomson 28 February 2021

Source of all performance data: AXA Investment Managers, Morningstar to 28 February 2021.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All performance figures calculated as follows: Single Priced NAV (Net Asset Value) with zero income reinvested, net of fees in GBP, gross of tax. Performance is representative of R Inc Class.



# **Portfolio Changes**

# For the six months ended 28 February 2021

Major Purchases	Cost (£'000)	Major Sales	Proceeds (£'000)
Novavax	6,356	MyoKardia	10,417
Biogen	5,964	Momenta Pharmaceuticals	9,639
SpringWorks Therapeutics	5,879	GW Pharmaceuticals ADR	8,757
Arcutis Biotherapeutics	4,823	Rocket Pharmaceuticals	8,418
Cogent Biosciences	4,291	Principia Biopharma	6,477
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	3,965	Biogen	6,415
Zogenix	3,487	Apellis Pharmaceuticals	5,444
Bicycle Therapeutics ADR	3,000	UCB	5,415
Travere Therapeutics	2,891	Arena Pharmaceuticals	4,155
Ionis Pharmaceuticals	2,686	Valneva	4,146
Other purchases	46,932	Other sales	34,003
Total purchases for the period	90,274	Total sales for the period	103,286

Stocks shown as ADR's represent American Depositary Receipts.



# **Managing Risks**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of units and the revenue from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. An initial charge is usually made when you purchase units. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of Fund investments overseas. Investment in smaller companies and newer markets offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk.

The Fund is managed in accordance with the objective set out on page 3. By investing in financial markets there are associated risks and the following explains the Manager's approach to managing those risks.

#### **RISK PROFILE**

As the Fund invests in a single sector it has the potential to be more volatile than the Fund which invests in a more diversified portfolio of equities across a range of sectors. The Fund also invests in overseas securities and therefore it may hold currencies other than sterling. As a result, exchange rate movements may cause the value of investments to fall or rise. The Fund invests in companies which are particularly vulnerable to rapidly changing technology and a relatively high risk of obsolescence caused by scientific and technological advances. Investment in biotechnology related businesses may be more volatile than investment in broader healthcare related, or other more diversified industries. The value of investments and the revenue from them is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up.

### **EQUITY RISK**

The value of shares in which the Fund invests fluctuate pursuant to market expectations. The value of such shares will go up and down and equity markets have historically been more volatile than fixed interest markets. Should the price of shares in which the Fund has invested fall, the Net Asset Value of the Fund will also fall.

Funds investing in shares are generally more volatile than funds investing in bonds or a combination of shares and bonds, but may also achieve greater returns.

Internal investment guidelines are set, if necessary, to ensure equity risk is maintained within a range deemed suitable based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### **SMALLER COMPANIES RISK**

Investments in smaller companies offers the possibility of higher return but also involve a higher degree of risk than investment in well established, larger companies. The shares of smaller companies can be more volatile which may lead to increased volatility in the Price of the Units of the Fund.

This is an inherent risk for funds invested within smaller companies. Investment guidelines (including diversification measures), scenario testing as well as other regular monitoring seek to ensure the level of risk is aligned with each individual fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### **CURRENCY RISK**

Assets of the Fund (including cash), and any income paid on those assets, may be denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund. Changes in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currency of an asset may cause the value of the asset/income (expressed in the base currency) to fall as well as rise even if there is no change of the value of such assets in its local currency. This may also cause additional volatility in the Fund's Price. It may not be possible or practicable to hedge against such exchange rate risk.

The Manager aims to reduce the risk of movements in exchange rates on the value of all or part of the assets of the Fund through the use of currency exchange transactions. The Fund may enter into currency exchange transactions either on a spot basis (i.e., exchanging at the current price) or through forward currency transactions (i.e., agreeing to purchase the



currency at an agreed price at a future date). Neither spot transactions nor forward currency transactions will completely eliminate fluctuations in the prices of the Fund's securities or in foreign exchange rates, or prevent loss if the prices of these securities should decline. The performance of the Fund may be strongly influenced by movements in foreign exchange rates because currency positions held by the Fund may not correspond with the securities positions held.

Although these transactions are intended to minimise the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit any potential gain that might be realised should the value of the hedged currency increase. Forward currency transactions may also have the effect of reducing or enhancing the Fund's performance due to the difference between the exchange rate available on such transactions compared to the current (spot) exchange rate. Under normal market conditions this difference in exchange rates is mainly caused by the different short term interest rates applicable to the currency of the assets and the base currency of the Fund. Where the interest rate applying to the foreign currency is higher than that of the Fund's base currency, this can reduce the Fund's performance and vice-versa. This impact on performance is usually far less pronounced than the effect of fluctuations of exchange rates that the use of such transactions is intended to reduce, but the impact can be significant over time, particularly where there is a wide gap between the interest rates applicable to the two currencies. The precise matching of the relevant contract amounts and the value of the securities involved will not generally be possible because the future value of such securities will change as a consequence of market movements in the value of such securities between the date when the relevant contract is entered into and the date when it matures. Therefore, the successful execution of a hedging strategy which matches exactly the profile of the investments of any Fund cannot be assured. Furthermore, it may not be possible to hedge against generally anticipated exchange or interest rate fluctuations at a price sufficient to protect the Fund from the anticipated decline in value of its assets as a result of such fluctuations.

Internal investment guidelines are set, if necessary, to ensure currency risk is maintained within a range deemed suitable based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### INDUSTRY SECTOR OR REGION RISK

The Fund may invest in a portfolio of shares which is focused towards one particular market sector or geographic region. This focus may result in higher risk when compared to the Fund that has spread or diversified investments more broadly. Some sectors and regions can experience rapid and extreme price movements when compared with movements in securities markets generally. Investors should note that Funds with a specific focus should be considered for investment as part of a wider diversified portfolio.

Internal investment guidelines seek to ensure suitable levels of diversification based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### **CHANGING TECHNOLOGY RISK**

The Fund may invest in companies which are particularly vulnerable to rapidly changing technology and a relatively high risk of obsolescence caused by scientific and technological advances. In addition, investment in, for example, internet related or biotechnology businesses may be more volatile than investment in broader based technological or healthcare related businesses or other more diversified industries.

Internal investment guidelines seek to ensure suitable levels of diversification based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.



### **RISK AND REWARD PROFILE**

Lower Risk				Hi	igher Risk	
<					$\longrightarrow$	
Potentially lower reward Potentially higher reward				her reward		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The risk category is calculated using historical performance data and may not be a reliable indicator of the Fund's future risk profile. The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may shift over time. The lowest category does not mean risk free. There has been no change from prior year.

#### WHY IS THIS FUND IN THIS CATEGORY?

The capital of the Fund is not guaranteed. The Fund is invested in financial markets and uses techniques and instruments which may be subject to sudden and significant variation, which may result in substantial gains or losses.

### **ADDITIONAL RISKS**

<u>Liquidity risk</u>: Under certain market conditions, it may be difficult to buy or sell investments for the Fund. For example, smaller company shares may trade infrequently and in small volumes and corporate and emerging market bonds may be affected by the demand in the market for such securities carrying credit risk, particularly in times of significant market stress. As a result, it may not be possible to buy or sell such investments at a preferred time, close to the last market price quoted or in the volume desired. The Manager may be forced to buy or sell such investments as a consequence of Unitholders buying or selling Units in the Fund. Depending on market conditions at the time, this could lead to a significant drop in the Fund's value.

Monthly monitoring is conducted, using an in-house liquidity tool, to ensure a high degree of confidence that Fund liquidity will meet the Fund's expected liquidity requirements. Any concerns indicated by the tool are analysed by the Manager's risk team who may also discuss the results with portfolio management staff, or other senior professionals within the firm, as needed, to ensure an appropriate scrutiny.

Based on the analysis, the Manager believes that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

Further explanation of the risks associated with an investment in this Fund can be found in the prospectus.



# **Fund Information**

### **FIVE YEAR PERFORMANCE**

In the five years to 28 February 2021, the price of R Income units, with zero income reinvested, rose by +78.34%. The NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (Capital Return) increased by +84.98% over the same time period. During the same period, the price of R Accumulation units, with net income reinvested, rose by +79.31% (Source: AXA Investment Managers and Morningstar) (Prices in GBP).

### FIVE YEAR DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (DISCRETE YEARS TO LATEST REPORTING DATE)

Date	AXA Framlington Biotech R Inc	NASDAQ Biotechnology (CR)
29 Feb 2016 - 28 Feb 2017	+25.59	+30.83
28 Feb 2017 - 28 Feb 2018	+3.66	-1.25
28 Feb 2018 - 28 Feb 2019	+6.27	+8.02
28 Feb 2019 - 29 Feb 2020	-1.77	+5.36
29 Feb 2020 - 28 Feb 2021	+31.22	+25.80

Source: AXA Investment Managers & Morningstar. Basis: Single Price NAV, with zero revenue reinvested, net of fees in GBP

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### **YIELD**

R Acc USD	Nil
R Inc	Nil
R Acc	Nil
Z Inc	Nil
Z Acc	Nil

### **CHARGES**

	Initial Charge	Annual Management Charge
R Acc USD*	Nil	1.75%
R	Nil	1.75%
Z	Nil	0.75%

<sup>\*</sup>Units in the R(USD) Class are only available at the Manager's discretion by contractual agreement.

# **ONGOING CHARGES\*\***

R Acc USD	1.82%
R Inc	1.82%
R Acc	1.82%
Z Inc	0.82%
Z Acc	0.82%

<sup>\*\*</sup>For more information on AXA's fund charges and costs please use the following link: https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-charges-and-costs



# **UNIT TRUST INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

The AXA Framlington Biotech Fund is available as a Stocks and Shares ISA through the AXA Investment Managers Stocks and Shares ISA.



# **Comparative Tables**

		R Inc			R Acc	
	28/02/2021	31/08/2020	31/08/2019	28/02/2021	31/08/2020	31/08/2019
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	240.14	222.20	176.61	239.73	221.83	176.31
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	4,192	4,010	3,921	116,619	114,387	100,955
Closing number of units	1,745,705	1,804,519	2,220,342	48,645,408	51,566,323	57,259,911
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	1.82%	1.83%	1.83%	1.82%	1.83%	1.83%
		R Acc USD				
	28/02/2021	31/08/2020	31/08/2019			
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	118.87	109.98	87.42			
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	166	238	263			
Closing number of units	139,721	216,185	301,297			
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	1.82%	1.83%	1.83%			
		Z Inc			Z Acc	
	28/02/2021	31/08/2020	31/08/2019	28/02/2021	31/08/2020	31/08/2019
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	160.00	147.31	115.92	465.87	428.93	337.54
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	25,286	23,942	18,760	354,884	326,676	274,056
Closing number of units	15,803,855	16,252,736	16,182,990	76,176,326	76,161,332	81,191,098
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	0.82%	0.83%	0.83%	0.82%	0.83%	0.83%

<sup>†</sup> Valued at bid-market prices.

<sup>^</sup> Operating charges include indirect costs incurred in the maintenance and running of the Fund, as disclosed in expenses within the Statement of Total Return. The figures used within the table have been calculated against the average Net Asset Value for the accounting period.



# **Portfolio Statement**

The AXA Framlington Biotech Fund portfolio as at 28 February 2021 consisted of the following investments, which are ordinary shares unless otherwise stated.

Holding		Market value	Total ne
		£'000	assets (%
	EUROPE (excluding UK): 7.98%		
	(31/08/2020: 8.83%)		
	Belgium: 0.00%		
	(31/08/2020: 1.29%)		
	Denmark: 0.78%		
	(31/08/2020: 1.08%)		
15,650	Genmab	3,904	0.7
		3,904	0.7
	France: 1.62%		
	(31/08/2020: 1.22%)		
850,607	Valneva	8,134	1.6
		8,134	1.6
	Cuernesy 1 OCO		
	Guernsey: 1.06% (31/08/2020: 1.04%)		
2,093,836	(31/08/2020: 1:04%) Syncona	5,329	1.0
2,033,630	Syncona	5,329	1.0
		,	-
	Ireland: 1.80%		
100.160	(31/08/2020: 1.48%)	0.004	4.0
138,462	Horizon Therapeutics	9,004	1.8
		9,004	1.8
	Netherlands: 1.92%		
	31/08/2020: 1.56%)		
39,529	Argenx ADR	9,623	1.9
		9,623	1.9
	Sweden: 0.80%		
	(31/08/2020: 1.16%)		
336,259	Swedish Orphan Biovitrum	3,987	0.8
000,200	enedian e.p.i.a.i. bieni.aiii	3,987	3.0
	NORTH ANAPOLOG OF COM		
	NORTH AMERICA: 87.65%		
	(31/08/2020: 86.90%)		
	Cayman Islands: 3.60%		
	(31/08/2020: 2.73%)		
27,849	BeiGene ADR	6,579	1.3
108,509	Zai Lab ADR	11,460	2.2
		18,039	3.6



# **Portfolio Statement(Continued)**

Holding		Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
			455045 (70)
	United States of America: 84.05% (31/08/2020: 84.17%)		
163,950	ACADIA Pharmaceuticals	5,570	1.11
99,507	Acceleron Pharma	9,681	1.93
399,810	Aeglea BioTherapeutics	2,122	0.42
193,646	Agios Pharmaceuticals	6,978	1.39
277,776	Alexion Pharmaceuticals	30,658	6.12
131,345	Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	13,782	2.75
80,328	ALX Oncology	4,769	0.95
195,043	Amgen	31,854	6.36
43,093	Apellis Pharmaceuticals	1,394	0.28
212,603	Arcutis Biotherapeutics	, 5,228	1.04
, 39,226	Arena Pharmaceuticals	2,241	0.45
130,768	Biogen	26,037	5.20
206,756	BioMarin Pharmaceutical	12,140	2.42
99,918	Blueprint Medicines	, 6,893	1.38
199,375	Celldex Therapeutics	3,906	0.78
537,669	Cogent Biosciences	3,139	0.63
246,601	Constellation Pharmaceuticals	4,728	0.94
152,758	Denali Therapeutics	6,911	1.38
319,319	Dicerna Pharmaceuticals	6,492	1.30
87,179	Esperion Therapeutics	1,732	0.35
577,743	Exelixis	9,107	1.82
390,297	Gilead Sciences	17,593	3.51
94,254	Guardant Health	10,101	2.02
53,676	Illumina	17,186	3.43
212,826	Incyte	11,990	2.39
282,630	Insmed	7,542	1.50
126,847	Ionis Pharmaceuticals	4,865	0.97
703,958	Kadmon	2,320	0.46
67,107	Karuna Therapeutics	5,822	1.16
167,211	Kura Oncology	3,227	0.64
78,072	Mersana Therapeutics	1,024	0.20
28,310	Mirati Therapeutics	3,977	0.79
295,018	Mirum Pharmaceuticals	3,964	0.79
161,162	Moderna	17,173	3.43
36,173	Novavax	5,754	1.15
596,136	Ovid Therapeutics	1,263	0.25
80,689	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	26,245	5.24
84,196	Sage Therapeutics	5,046	1.01
69,378	Sarepta Therapeutics	4,247	0.85
2,487,652	Savara	3,180	0.63
149,447	Seagen	16,104	3.21
90,486	SpringWorks Therapeutics	5,786	1.15
129,306	Travere Therapeutics	2,758	0.55
77,276	Turning Point Therapeutics	6,458	1.29
91,178	Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical	8,921	1.78
51,170	on abony than maccatical	0,521	1.70



# **Portfolio Statement(Continued)**

Holding		Market value	Total net
		£'000	assets (%)
126.024	Vertex Pharmaceuticals	10.275	2.05
126,024		19,275	3.85
548,814	X4 Pharmaceuticals	3,772	0.75
91,385	Y-mAbs Therapeutics	2,210	0.44
155,477	Zentalis Pharmaceuticals	4,511	0.90
222,171	Zogenix	3,536	0.71
		421,212	84.05
	UNITED KINGDOM: 1.71% (31/08/2020: 2.11%)		
186,827	Bicycle Therapeutics ADR	3,347	0.67
42,804	Biohaven Pharmaceutical	2,553	0.51
254,945	Freeline Therapeutics ADR	2,693	0.53
		8,593	1.71
nvestments as sho	wn in the balance sheet	487,825	97.34
Net current assets		13,322	2.66
Total net assets		501,147	100.00

Stocks shown as ADR's represent American Depositary Receipts.



# **Statement of Total Return**

# For the six months ended 28 February

			2020	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Net capital gains		41,728		15,861
Revenue	878		1,201	
Expenses	(2,695)		(2,095)	
Interest payable and similar charges	-		-	
Net revenue before taxation	(1,817)		(894)	
Taxation	(132)		(170)	
Net expense after taxation		(1,949)		(1,064)
Total return before equalisation		39,779		14,797
Equalisation		37		40
Change in net assets attributable to				
unitholders from investment activities		39,816		14,837

# **Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders**

# For the six months ended 28 February

	2021			2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders		469,253		397,956
Amounts receivable on creation of units	22,006		8,817	
Amounts payable on cancellation of units	(29,928)		(45,840)	
		(7,922)		(37,023)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders				
from investment activities		39,816		14,837
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders		501,147		375,770

The above statement shows the comparative closing net assets at 29 February 2020 whereas the current accounting period commenced 1 September 2020.



# **Balance Sheet**

# As at

	28 February 2021	31 August 2020	
	£'000	£'000	
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments	487,825	459,286	
Current assets			
Debtors	2,617	461	
Cash and bank balances	14,295	11,350	
Total assets	504,737	471,097	
LIABILITIES			
Creditors			
Bank overdrafts	24	-	
Other creditors	3,566	1,844	
Total liabilities	3,590	1,844	
Net assets attributable to unitholders	501,147	469,253	



# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Accounting policies**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association ("IMA") in May 2014, and amended in June 2017. The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL").

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020 and are described in those annual financial statements.



### **DIRECTORS' APPROVAL**

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL"), the contents of this report have been approved on behalf of AXA Investment Managers UK Limited by:

John Stainsby Director 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Amanda Prince Director 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021



# **Further Information**

### THE SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS REGULATION

The Securities Financing Transactions Regulation, as published by the European Securities and Markets Authority, aims to improve the transparency of the securities financing markets. Disclosures regarding exposure to Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs) or total return swaps will be required on all reports & accounts published after 13 January 2017. During the period to 28 February 2021 and at the balance sheet date, the Fund did not use SFTs or total return swaps, as such no disclosure is required.



# **Directory**

### The Manager

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited 22 Bishopsgate London, EC2N 4BQ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Registered in England and Wales No. 01431068.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of AXA S.A., incorporated in France.

Member of the IA.

# The Administrator and address for inspection of Register:

SS&C Financial Services International Limited and SS&C Financial Services Europe Limited SS&C House

St Nicholas Lane

Basildon Essex, SS15 5FS

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### Trustee

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited
Trustee and Depositary Services
House A, Floor 0
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175 Glasgow Road
Edinburgh, EH12 1HQ
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **Fund Accounting Administrator**

State Street Bank & Trust Company
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Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Legal advisers

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### **Auditor**

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#### **Dealing and Correspondence**

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