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**Quantum Genomics****Quantum, en attente de QUORUM, poste ses premiers upfronts**

Quantum Genomics a donc publié ses résultats pour l'exercice 2020, année qui fut exceptionnelle en termes de partenariats (pas moins de 5). Par ailleurs, la société renforce sa trésorerie et annonce avoir initié son étude clinique REFRESH. Achat Fort avec un objectif de cours de 13,45 €.

Quantum, waiting for QUORUM, posts its first upfronts

Quantum Genomics has published its results for fiscal year 2020, which was an exceptional year in terms of partnerships (no less than 5). In addition, the company is strengthening its cash position and announces that it has initiated its REFRESH clinical study. Strong Buy with a target price of € 13.45.

Recommendation	1. Strong Buy
Closing Price on 12 Apr. 2021	4,51 €
Target Price	13,45 € (+198,4 %)

Les résultats de l'exercice 2020 de Quantum reflètent le bon millésime vécu par la société. En effet, avec la signature de 5 partenariats, une augmentation de capital, un nouvel essai de phase III, la société se trouve dans une dynamique très positive. Les essais de phase III FRESH et REFRESH dans l'hypertension devraient conduire à l'enregistrement de la molécule par les autorités réglementaires.

Quantum Genomics, avec ses deux études FRESH et REFRESH, « creuse le sillon » de l'hypertension Difficile-à-traiter/Résistante avec deux approches qui se complètent et qui, si elles étaient positives, devraient ultimement conduire les agences réglementaires à enregistrer le fribastat dans cette indication.

Nous maintenons notre opinion Achat Fort sur la valeur et ajustons notre TP à 13,45 € (ajustement du cadencement du paiement de upfronts et des milestones, nouveau nombre d'actions et nouvelles données de marchés - beta, prime de risque, taux sans risque et donc WACC).

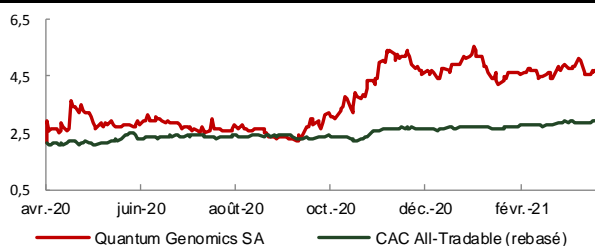
Quantum's full year 2020 results reflect the good period the company has experienced. Indeed, with the signing of 5 partnerships, a capital increase, a new phase III trial, the company is in a very positive dynamic. The FREH and REFRESH phase III trials in hypertension are expected to lead to registration of the molecule by regulatory authorities.

With its two studies, FRESH and REFRESH, Quantum Genomics is "digging the furrow" in Difficult-to-Treat/Resistant hypertension with two complementary approaches that, based on positive results, should ultimately lead regulatory agencies to register fribastat in this indication.

We maintain our Strong Buy opinion on the stock and adjust our TP to € 13.45 (adjustment of the timing of the payment of upfronts and milestones, new number of shares and new market data - beta, risk premium, risk-free rate and therefore WACC).

Performances

Absolute perf.	1 month	6 months	12 months
	-8,2 %	+ 40,7 %	+ 109,7 %

**Market data**

Reuters / Bloomberg ticker	ALQGC.PA / ALQGC.FP
Market capitalisation (€m)	121,2 M€
Enterprise value (€m)	94,1 M€
Free Float	81,4 M€ (67,1 %)
Number of shares	26 892 612
Daily volume	562 362 €
Capital turnover rate (1 year)	121,1%
High (52 weeks)	5,54 €
Low (52 weeks)	2,15 €

Current shareholding structure

Free float : 67.1 % ; Institutional investors 20.9 % ; Management : 5.0 % ;
Tethys : 3.7% ; Otium Capital: 3.3%.

Key figures

	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenues (M€)	0,4	2,3	8,6	13,3	38,5
Change (%)	-	-	279,3%	54,9%	189,9%
EBITDA (M€)	-10,5	-13,5	-2,4	-7,0	27,4
EBIT (M€)	-10,8	-13,9	-2,5	-8,1	25,3
EBIT Margin (%)	NS	NS	NS	-60,8%	65,6%
Net profit gp sh.(%)	-9,0	-11,5	-2,3	-7,0	21,2
Net margin (%)	NS	NS	NS	-52,6%	55,2%
EPS	-0,50	-0,43	-0,09	-0,26	0,80

Agenda

H1 2021 : QUORUM study results
Q4 2021: FRESH study results

Ratios

	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E
Ev / Revenues	NS	NS	11,0	7,1	2,4
EV / EBITDA	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
EV / EBIT	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
P / E	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Gearing (%)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Net debt / EBITDA	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
RCE (%)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

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2020 : Premier d'une longue série ?

En 2020, Quantum a vu ses produits d'exploitation être multipliés par 5 (+526,2%) à 2,262 M€ contre 0,361 M€. La société enregistre ainsi ses premiers revenus avec le paiement par Biolab Sanus, son partenaire sud-américain dans l'essai clinique FRESH, d'un upfront de 1,2 M€ (0,8 M€ d'accès à la technologie et 0,3 M€ de participation à l'essai clinique FRESH). Un deuxième upfront d'un montant de 0,8 M€ a été payé par Orient EuroPharma.

Par ailleurs, les charges de personnel ont légèrement reculé à 2,33 M€ contre 2,77 M€. Les charges opérationnelles se sont accrues de manière importante à 13,79 M€ contre 8,34 M€ en 2019. Cette augmentation est à mettre au crédit des essais cliniques que la société a conduit en 2020, l'essai clinique pivot FRESH ainsi que l'essai clinique de phase IIb QUORUM.

Le crédit d'impôt recherche, qui reflète l'accélération clinique, progresse en conséquence (+600 K€) à 2,147 M€ contre 1,547 M€ en 2019. Le résultat pour 2020 ressort à - 11,53 M€ contre - 9,08 M€ lors de l'exercice 2019.

Une restructuration du capital et une trésorerie en amélioration

Durant l'exercice 2020, Quantum Genomics a mis en place un financement de 8 M€ auprès de Negma Group Ltd. En décembre 2020, la société a réalisé une augmentation de capital de 20 M€, souscrite par Otium Capital, le family office de l'entrepreneur Pierre-Edouard Stérin ainsi que plusieurs investisseurs institutionnels. Une opération qui a eu pour conséquence de modifier quelque peu la structure de capital de la société. En effet, le flottant s'établit à 67,1% des 26 892 613 actions, tandis que les investisseurs institutionnels représentent 20,9% avec des actionnaires de références comme Tethys et Otium qui détiennent respectivement 3,7% et 3,3% et le management 5%. En février 2021, Orient EuroPharma a pris une participation au capital de la société pour un montant de 0,87 M€, (prix 4,83 €, émission de 180 124 actions nouvelles assorties d'une période de conservation obligatoire - lock-up - de 3 ans) démontrant ainsi son implication financière et stratégique dans le développement du firibastat.

Au 31 décembre 2020, la trésorerie de la société s'élevait à 27,1 M€ contre 11,2 M€ en décembre 2019. Toutefois, ce niveau de cash sera certainement amené à évoluer car la société devrait recevoir de ces partenaires un certain nombre d'upfronts et de milestones consécutifs à l'évolution du portefeuille clinique de Quantum (début de REFRESH et 1^{er} patient recruté).

L'étude pivot REFRESH

Cette étude, dont les premiers recrutements devraient intervenir au T2 2021, s'attache à mesurer l'efficacité à 3 mois d'une dose unique quotidienne de 1 000 mg de firibastat pour traiter les patients présentant une hypertension Difficile-à-traiter/Résistante (HTN_{DAT/R}). Par ailleurs, cette étude devrait aussi donner des informations sur la sécurité d'emploi de la molécule à long terme. En effet, l'hypertension et à fortiori l'HTN_{DAT/R} sont des pathologies chroniques pour lesquelles le recours à une médication est pour la vie durant lorsque le diagnostic est posé.

Cette étude multicentrique et multinationale (Europe, Canada, USA et Asie) devrait enrôler 750 patients présentant une HTN_{DAT/R}. Ce sont des patients, qui malgré la prise d'au moins deux (HTN_{DAT}) ou trois antihypertenseurs pour les hypertendus résistants (HTN_R), ont une hypertension non contrôlée.

2020: First of many?

In 2020, Quantum saw its revenues increased fivefold (+526.2%) to € 2.262 million from € 0.361 million. The company recorded its first revenues with the payment by Biolab Sanus, its South-American partner in the FRESH clinical trial, of a € 1.2 million upfront (€ 0.8 million for access to the technology and € 0.3 million for participation in the FRESH clinical trial). A second upfront of € 0.8 million was paid by Orient EuroPharma.

In addition, personnel expenses decreased slightly to € 2.33 million from € 2.77 million. Operating expenses increased significantly to € 13.79 million from € 8.34 million in 2019. This increase can be attributed to the clinical trials that the company conducted in 2020, the pivotal FRESH clinical trial as well as the QUORUM Phase IIb clinical trial.

The research tax credit, which reflects the clinical acceleration, has increased accordingly (+ € 600 K) to € 2.147 million against € 1.547 million in 2019. The result for 2020 is - € 11.53 million compared to - € 9.08 million in 2019.

Capital restructuring and improved cash flow

During fiscal year 2020, Quantum Genomics arranged € 8 million in financing from Negma Group Ltd. In December 2020, the company completed a € 20 million capital increase, subscribed by Otium Capital, the family office of entrepreneur Pierre-Edouard Stérin, and several institutional investors. This operation resulted in a slight change in the company's capital structure. Indeed, the free float stands at 67.1% of the 26,892,613 shares, while institutional investors represent 20.9% with reference shareholders such as Tethys and Otium holding 3.7% and 3.3% respectively, and the management 5%. In February 2021, Orient EuroPharma took a stake in the company's capital for an amount of € 0.87 million, (price € 4.83, issue of 180,124 new shares with a mandatory holding period - lock-up - of 3 years) thus demonstrating its financial and strategic involvement in the development of firibastat.

As of December 31, 2020, the company's cash position stood at € 27.1 million, compared to € 11.2 million in December 2019. However, this level of cash will certainly evolve as the company should receive a number of upfronts and milestone payments from its partners as a result of the evolution of Quantum's clinical portfolio (start of REFRESH and first patient enrolled).

The REFRESH pivotal study

This study, which is expected to recruit its first patients in Q2 2021, is designed to measure the efficacy at 3 months of a single daily dose of 1 000 mg of firibastat in the treatment of patients with Difficult-to-Treat/Resistant Hypertension (HT_{DTT/R}). In addition, this study should also provide information on the long-term safety of the molecule. Indeed, hypertension and a fortiori AHT_{DAF/R} are chronic pathologies for which the use of medication is for life when the diagnosis is made.

This multi-center, multinational (Europe, Canada, USA and Asia) study is expected to enroll 750 patients with HT_{DTT/R}. These are patients who, despite taking at least two (HT_{DTT}) or three antihypertensive drugs for resistant hypertension (HT_R), have uncontrolled hypertension.

Durant 3 mois, dans le premier bras d'environ 375 patients sur la base d'une randomisation 1:1, les patients recevront, en plus de leur traitement habituel, une dose quotidienne de 1 000 mg de firibastat, tandis que dans l'autre bras, les individus auront leur traitement usuel avec un placebo. Cet essai mesurera l'effet du firibastat sur la réduction de pression artérielle systolique mesurée automatiquement (AOBP) dans la population ayant reçu la molécule + son traitement habituel contre la population n'ayant reçu que le traitement habituel. Si le recrutement du premier patient a bien lieu au T2 2021, les premiers résultats (efficacité et sécurité à 6 mois) sont attendus en H1 2023, avec des demandes d'AMM « dans la foulée » en 2023 et une possible mise sur le marché en 2024.

Toutefois, dans notre modèle, nous estimons que « la mise en forme » des résultats aux normes des différentes agences réglementaires (ANVISA pour le Brésil, SFDA pour la Chine, MFDS en Corée du Sud, EMA, FDA...) et l'approbation par celle-ci devraient probablement prendre un peu plus de temps. Aussi, nous estimons que les approbations et le début de la commercialisation varieront en fonction des régions.

L'étude pivot FRESH

En décembre 2019, Quantum a initié un premier essai pivot en vue d'un enregistrement du firibastat dans l'hypertension Difficile-à-traiter/Résistante. Cette étude, multicentrique et internationale, menée en Europe, au Canada, aux USA et en Amérique Latine, est toujours en cours. Elle permettra de recruter à termes 500 patients, qui recevront, en plus de leur traitement en cours selon leur bras d'étude, soit du Firibastat (500 mg deux fois/jour : BID), soit un placebo et ce durant 3 mois. Le critère principal d'évaluation sera la réduction de pression artérielle systolique mesurée automatiquement (AOBP) par rapport à la valeur de départ.

Avec son partenaire, Biolab Sanus Pharmaceuticals, Quantum Genomics attend les premiers résultats d'efficacité pour le T4 2021.

L'essai de phase IIb QUORUM dans l'insuffisance cardiaque

En sus de ses deux essais dans l'hypertension artérielle, Quantum développe le firibastat dans une autre indication, l'insuffisance cardiaque.

Pour cette étude QUORUM (Quantum Genomics QCG001 or Ramipril after acute Myocardial infarction to prevent left ventricular dysfunction), les recrutements sont à ce jour terminés. Il s'agissait de suivre l'évolution de la fraction d'éjection ventriculaire gauche (FEVG) chez 294 patients randomisés, en double aveugle, traités ou non par le firibastat dans les 72 heures après un infarctus du myocarde. Ce remodelage ventriculaire a été suivi par IRM cardiaque sur une durée de 3 mois.

Les résultats préliminaires de cette étude essentielle devraient être disponibles au T2 2021.

Pour toutes ces raisons, nous maintenons notre recommandation Achat Fort, avec un objectif de cours révisé à 13,45 €.

En effet, nous avons revu le cadencement des upfronts et milestones, ainsi que des hypothèses sur le coût des essais cliniques.

De plus, la communication des résultats de QUORUM au T2 2021 devrait représenter une étape essentielle dans le processus de création de valeur.

Enfin, nous avons aussi mis à jour d'autres éléments comme le beta, la prime de risque, le taux sans risque et le nombre d'actions.

During 3 months, in the first arm of approximately 375 patients on a 1:1 randomization basis, patients will receive, in addition to their usual treatment, a daily dose of 1 000 mg of firibastat, while in the other arm, individuals will also receive their usual treatment with a placebo. This trial will measure the effect of firibastat on the automatically measured systolic blood pressure (AOBP) reduction in the population having received the molecule + its usual treatment versus the population having received only the usual treatment. If recruitment of the first patient takes place in Q2 2021, the first results (efficacy and safety at 6 months) are expected in H1 2023, with MAA filing in 2023 and a possible marketing approval in 2024.

However, in our model, we believe that "formatting" the results to the standards of the different regulatory agencies (ANVISA for Brazil, SFDA for China, MFDS in South Korea, EMA, FDA...) and approval by the latter would probably take a little longer. We therefore believe that approvals and the start of commercialization will vary according to the region.

The FRESH pivotal study

In December 2019, Quantum initiated a first pivotal trial for the registration of Firibastat in Difficult-to-Treat/Resistant Hypertension. This multi-center, international study, conducted in Europe, Canada, the U.S. and Latin America, is still ongoing. It will eventually enroll 500 patients, who will receive, in addition to their current treatment depending on their study arm, either Firibastat (500 mg twice daily: BID) or placebo for 3 months. The primary endpoint will be the reduction in automatically measured systolic blood pressure (AOBP) from baseline.

Together with its partner, Biolab Sanus Pharmaceuticals, Quantum Genomics is awaiting the first efficacy results for Q4 2021.

The QUORUM Phase IIb trial in heart failure

In addition to its two trials in hypertension, Quantum is developing firibastat in another indication, heart failure.

Enrollment in the QUORUM trial (Quantum Genomics QCG001 or Ramipril after acute myocardial infarction to prevent left ventricular dysfunction) is now completed. The aim was to follow the evolution of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) in 294 randomized, double-blind patients, treated or not treated with firibastat within 72 hours after a myocardial infarction. This ventricular remodeling was followed by cardiac MRI over 3 months.

Preliminary results from this pivotal study are expected to be available in Q2 2021.

For all these reasons, we maintain our Strong Buy recommendation, with a revised target price of € 13.45.

Indeed, we have reviewed the timing of upfront and milestones as well as assumptions on the cost of clinical trials.

In addition, the release of QUORUM's Q2 2021 results should represent a key step in the value creation process.

In addition, we have also updated other elements such as beta, risk premium, risk-free rate, and number of shares.

Important Disclosure

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Rating and target price evolution throughout the last 12 months

Date of 1 st publication	Rating	Target Price
14 th April 2021	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 13.45
3 rd February 2021	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 12.41
17 th December 2020	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 12.77
10 th December 2020	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 12.77
9 th November 2020	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 15.24
26 th October 2020	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 15.08
28 th September 2020	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 13.70

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■ Strong Buy ■ Buy □ Neutral ■ Sell ■ Strong Sell

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