HEALTH INNOVATION STRATEGY

Investment manager, Julia Angeles, discusses the Baillie Gifford Health Innovation Strategy and reflects on its philosophy and the exciting opportunities ahead.

Your capital is at risk.

Julia Angeles: We believe it is time to rethink what the word 'healthcare' means. Today, innovation in healthcare is accelerating faster than ever due to the convergence of different fields of science and technology. There is a whole new breed of disruptors who will change the landscape of the sector over the next decade. This represents a tremendous investment opportunity for the committed and patient long-term investor.

The Baillie Gifford Health Innovation Strategy seeks to support this era of change by investing in innovative and pioneering companies that have the potential to bring substantial improvements to human health and healthcare systems all around the world.

This is not just another healthcare sector strategy, we are index agnostic, creating a concentrated portfolio of those companies that are bringing disruption to an antiquated sector to improve outcomes for patients. This is a thematic portfolio which is able to tap into opportunities across a broad spectrum and seeks to invest in truly sustainable, transformative and disruptive businesses.

The process of discovering and developing drugs remains hugely inefficient. Historically, developing a drug would, on average, take ten years and cost more than a billion dollars, with failure rates exceeding 90 per cent. Moreover, the learnings that could be transferred from the making of one drug to the next were very limited. This created an inefficient system, where drug pricing models reflect maximising returns on considerable research and development costs. But how can this change?

Enabled by tools that capture increasingly granular biological data, not only are companies starting to transfer learnings from the development of one drug to the next, but with the help of artificial intelligence, they are beginning to automate the process of learning itself.

These new techniques let us go after diseases that were previously undruggable, and open a new era of personalized medicine. Science fiction is becoming a reality. New modalities like mRNA, and gene editing will allow us to reprogramme our biology, turn our cells into the drug factories by working with nature rather than against it.

A new breed of smaller, agile, tech companies have the scientific ammunition to shift the status quo. Producing new medicines much faster, that are more effective and at a lower cost to the patient.



It is now time to redefine healthcare, to shift drug development away from trial and error to being data-driven, from one-size-fits-all medicine to personalised therapies, and ultimately from treatment to prevention.

Risk Factors

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