



CORE COMMENTARY

1Q 2019
AS OF MAR 31, 2019

In the first quarter, the Core composite had a preliminary gross return of 10.88% (net of fees 10.74%) compared to 13.65% for the S&P 500 Index.

Below you will find the portfolio's best and worst performing stocks in the quarter.

<u>Best Securities</u>	<u>Average Weight</u>	<u>**Contribution to Portfolio Return</u>
Celgene	2.89%	+0.73%
Western Digital	2.73%	+0.39%
Lam Research	2.54%	+0.37%
Liberty Broadband	2.31%	+0.26%
Cisco Systems	3.03%	+0.21%

<u>Worst Securities</u>	<u>Average Weight</u>	<u>**Contribution to Portfolio Return</u>
Biogen	2.93%	-0.84%
CVS Health	2.79%	-0.76%
Amgen	3.14%	-0.40%
QUALCOMM	2.27%	-0.33%
Berkshire Hathaway	3.31%	-0.25%

**Contribution calculation methodology is available upon request

Stock selection in Health Care, Communication Services, Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, Financials and Consumer Staples all contributed negatively to the relative performance of the strategy during the quarter as well as being absent Energy and Real Estate. Stock selection in Information Technology and being absent Materials and Utilities were positive contributors.

Biogen (BIIB), in the Health Care sector, was the strategy's largest underperformer during the quarter. Quarterly results were impacted by the discontinuation of the aducanumab global Phase 3 Alzheimer's trials. The company stated that the decision was not based on safety concerns but that the trials weren't likely to achieve the goal upon completion. Subsequently, BIIB announced a \$5 billion repurchase program in addition to the \$1.7 billion remaining in the plan. Overall, the company looks attractively valued, has high economic returns, and has reduced its share count near 11% over the past three years.

Offsetting the loss in Biogen was our Celgene (CELG) holding. Celgene experienced operational challenges in 2018 when the FDA refused to file their application for MS Treatment, Ozanimod. However, investors were pleasantly surprised on January 3, 2019 when Bristol-Myers Squibb and Celgene announced that they entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Bristol-Myers Squibb would acquire Celgene in a cash and stock transaction with an equity value of approximately \$74 billion. The acquisition was validated when Institutional Shareholder Services approved the transaction at the end of March leading initial detractors to withdraw their opposition.

As of March 31, 2019, the portfolio was overweight Health Care, Financials, Industrials, Information Technology, and Communication Services and underweight Consumer Staples, and Consumer Discretionary. The portfolio was absent investments in Utilities, Materials, Energy and Real Estate.

We thank you for your support and we appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Sector characteristics and security performance reflect information for a representative account from the Core composite over the time period. Results for accounts in the composite may vary over time, due to timing, cash flows, among others things. The information provided should not be considered a specific recommendation to purchase or sell any securities and is subject to change. Gross composite performance figures shown are based on time-weighted rates of return, and are net of transaction costs. The net composite performance figures shown reflect gross performance less investment management fees, net of transaction costs. Our advisory fees are disclosed in Form ADV, Part 2 A. All returns reflect the reinvestment of investment income (dividends and/or interest) and capital gains. At the time of publication, the highlighted holdings are "current" holdings of the composite. The holdings identified do not represent all securities purchased or sold for advisory clients during the relevant time periods. We make no representations that securities purchased, sold, or held in the composite or client accounts will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities in this commentary. A complete list of holdings for the preceding 12-month period is available upon request. The securities mentioned are selected solely as the largest contributors and detractors to performance of the composite. Estimates and certain information contained in this commentary are based upon proprietary research and should not be considered as investment advice. The S&P 500 Index is a widely recognized capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the large-capitalization sector of the U.S. stock market. Index performance information was furnished by unaffiliated third party, is deemed reliable, and is believed to be accurate, but not guaranteed and the information is subject to correction. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.**