

H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS  
Form N-CSRS  
June 06, 2014

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-06565

H&Q Life Sciences Investors  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

02109  
(Zip code)

2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 617-772-8500

Date of fiscal year end: September 30

Date of reporting period: October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

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**ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.**

See Semiannual Report as of March 31, 2014.

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**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

*Semiannual Report*

March 31, 2014

*(Unaudited)*

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To our Shareholders:

On March 31, 2014, the net asset value (NAV) per share of the Fund was \$21.70. During the six month period ended March 31, 2014, total return at NAV of the Fund was 11.79%, with distributions reinvested. The total investment return at market with distributions reinvested was 17.35% during the same period. Thus, the Fund's market return exceeded the NASDAQ Biotech Index (NBI) for the six month period. The NBI outperformed the Fund's NAV return for the six month period. The Fund's Market return was higher than the S&P 500 Index return for the six month period. However, the Fund's NAV return underperformed the S&P 500 Index return during the six month period ending March 31, 2014. Comparisons to relevant indices are listed below.

| <b>Investment Returns</b> | <b>Six Months<br/>Ended 3/31/14</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| At Market                 | 17.35%                              |
| At Net Asset Value        | 11.79%                              |
| NASDAQ Biotech Index      | 12.90%                              |
| S&P 500 Index             | 12.50%                              |

**Investment Highlights**

Our current (early to mid May 2014) view of the healthcare market in general and biotechnology in particular hasn't changed much from that expressed in our November 2013 annual report to shareholders. That is, we are optimistic about the future of the sector. It seems clear to us that the biotechnology sector is maturing. In our view, the quality and breadth of NBI companies has advanced materially in both importance and value of products produced compared to 10 years ago when the biotechnology sector was better characterized merely as providing the promise of delivering a wide range of products with associated sales and earnings.

At the end of 2013, for example, 6 of the top 10 drugs (by worldwide sales) were of biotechnology origin. Aggregate 2013 sales of these products were in excess of \$48B. Moreover, we estimate that aggregate 2013 sales for the biotechnology sector exceeded \$80B. This suggests that the biotech sector has really come of age. More broadly, we estimate that approximately 75% companies in the NBI index had 2013

revenues of \$10M or more. Furthermore, approximately 24% of these companies were profitable. This is a dramatic change from ten years ago when the majority of NBI companies could reasonably be characterized as "story" stocks whose valuation depended, in large part, on the promise of future sales and earnings.

We and others see significant future growth in sales and earnings in the biotech sector. For example, based on their estimates of peak sales potential for identifiable products being launched or in late stage clinical trials, one large investment bank sees, potential peak sales of more than \$80B. If these peak sales were to occur, biotech sector sales could more than double in the coming years.

Moreover, based on these kinds of estimates, the consensus of sell side analysts is that earnings growth in the biotech sector will exceed that of nearly all other sectors of the economy. For us, this adds up to a solid future for our sector.

Having said all this, we recognized in our recent annual report letter that valuations in the sector, while still below historic highs, were getting a little high. We noted the possibility that a correction might occur. This prediction came to pass, sort of. Subsequent to that letter, the NBI continued to advance. By late February 2014, the NBI had advanced by approximately 20% to approximately 2850, where it reached a local high. A subsequent pull back of approximately 20% did occur to a level in the range of 2300 leaving the index at approximately the same level it had been at when we last wrote to you. One can never predict what will happen next, but after recovering a significant fraction of the pullback, we are cautiously optimistic that we have, in the first half of May 2014, reached a stable level from which, based on the fundamentals described above, one can project a reasonable likelihood of continued advance over the intermediate term.

In support of our view, we note that several favorable trends continue. For example, we note that the FDA continues to approve new and differentiated products that appear to meaningfully benefit patients. In addition, merger and acquisition (M&A) activity continues. We also note that the Affordable Care Act (i.e., ACA), appears to have increased the number of insured individuals by at least four million compared to those that had some form of insurance previously. Such an increase in covered lives should increase the unit growth of drug sales. In addition, the political wrangling over the relative value of the ACA had previously been thought of as a potential headwind for our sector. At worst, this headwind has been meaningfully reduced.

While we are generally optimistic about the near term there have been, as always, balancing negatives. At the moment, we see general market

and political concerns about drug pricing as having the potential to negatively influence sector sentiment. We note that recent uproar over the pricing of Sovaldi, a drug produced by Gilead Sciences, Inc. which cures Hepatitis C, is a potential catalyst for a broad discussion of drug pricing and provides an opportunity for those who feel that drugs are overpriced to express those views. While we think that there are some drugs priced at levels that one can question, we don't think Sovaldi is a good example. However, given the nominal \$84K price for a twelve week course of therapy and the unprecedented commercial success of the drug in its early launch (it is on track to be the most successful drug ever), Sovaldi has caused concern, not so much about its value to individual patients suffering from Hepatitis C, but rather about the drug's overall economic impact on the healthcare system. At the moment, we don't think the Sovaldi launch will be impaired by a macro drug pricing discussion, but we do think that its success may catalyze a broader discussion of drug pricing. (Note that Gilead, the Company that sells Sovaldi is the Fund's largest position.) Generally we would welcome a broad discussion of drug pricing as we believe it would demonstrate a positive cost/benefit for most drugs. But there is always a possibility that such a discussion will become politicized. This could negatively affect sector sentiment, a situation we would not welcome.

With regard to FDA approvals and M&A activity, two trends that are favorable to healthcare, we note there has been good progress. The FDA approved 26 new drug products in 2013, a solid number. As noted above, M&A has been quite favorable. Since the beginning of the Fund's fiscal year on October 1, 2013, through March 30, 2014, at least 33 deals of significant size (> \$100M) totaling approximately \$24B have occurred. We expect this trend to continue. We note that at least one mega deal involving two of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer, Inc. and AstraZeneca, has been proposed. Independent of whether that transaction is ultimately completed, it is evidence for a general interest in business combination in the healthcare space. It is our view that high levels of M&A have benefitted sector sentiment. We would also note that while we have seen some softening most lately, there has been a continued interest in biotech IPOs (including the recent public offerings of Celladon Corporation and MacroGenics, Inc., Fund venture holdings at the time of their respective IPOs) also bodes well for sentiment in the sector.

### **Portfolio Highlights**

In general, we saw a significant number of positive clinical and regulatory events for products developed by the Fund's public holdings during the six month period ending March 31, 2014. For example, the

FDA approved Gilead's Sovaldi in Hepatitis C, Celgene Corporation's Otezla for psoriatic arthritis, Biomarin Pharmaceutical Inc.'s VIMIZIM in Marqui A syndrome, and Pharmacyclics, Inc.'s IMBRUVICA for chronic lymphocytic leukemia. We also saw, among other events, positive clinical data for Biogen Idec, Inc.'s ISIS-SMNRX in spinal muscular atrophy, Medivation, Inc.'s XTANDI in pre-chemotherapy prostate cancer, positive clinical data for Gilead's PI3K drug, idelalisib, in both indolent non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Amgen, Inc. and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s antibodies targeting PSCK9 for cholesterol metabolism and Puma Biotechnology, Inc.'s Neratinib in breast cancer.

In addition to events in the larger and more established companies in the Fund's portfolio, we also saw significant progress in the emerging holdings of the Fund. Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s recent deal with Sanofi involving the development of drugs to treat rare diseases and Sangamo BioSciences, Inc.'s recent clinical data demonstrating the use of its technology to effect a relatively durable "cure" of HIV in a specific patient population are examples of this progress.

While it is our judgment that in recent months positive events outweighed negative ones there were, as always, balancing events that were not favorable. Probably the most impactful was the identification of cardiovascular and other side effects associated with the use of ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Iclusig drug in hematologic cancers. These side effects have significantly reduced potential commercial use of this drug. In addition, FDA concerns about Amarin Corporation's VASCEPA for use in control of abnormally high triglyceride levels have delayed and will possibly preclude the label expansion and ultimate commercial success of the product.

### **Proposed Rights Offering**

On March 11, 2014, the Fund authorized a Rights Offering to increase assets in the Fund. This offering is consistent with our general view of the prospects for our sector and will enable the Fund to accomplish several things. First and foremost, it will allow us to take greater advantage of current progress in the healthcare sector by allowing greater investments in novel biotechnology products, specialty and generic pharmaceuticals companies, medical devices, healthcare information services, and other innovative medical technology companies. As described above, we think the sector is poised for continued price appreciation due to many of the things we have written to you about in the past such as (i) demographic trends, (ii) recent developments in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology industries relating to products that have or will extend or



improve the quality of patients' lives, and (iii) the recent passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which may result in volume and utilization increases. For more information about the Rights Offering in the Fund, we refer you to our SEC filings.

### **Investment Changes**

During the six month period ended March 31, 2014, within the public portfolio, the Fund established positions in several companies including BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc., PerkinElmer, Inc., Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., PTC Therapeutics, Inc., Pharmacyclics, bluebird bio, Inc., Sangamo and Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. During the same six month period, the Fund exited its position in several companies including Hologic, Inc., Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp., Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc., ARIAD, Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Medivation, Gentium, SpA., Foundation Medicine, Inc. and Warner Chilcott plc.

During the same six month period, within the venture portfolio, the Fund made follow-on investments in Neurovance, Inc., Palyon Medical Corporation and Celladon. During this period, MacroGenics, and Celladon went public.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call us at (617) 772-8500.

Daniel R. Omstead, PhD  
President

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

**LARGEST HOLDINGS BY ISSUER  
(Excludes Short-Term Investments)**

*As of March 31, 2014*

| <b>Issuer - Sector</b>  | <b>% of Net Assets</b> |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Gilead Sciences, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>           | 9.9%                   |
| <b>Celgene Corporation</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>             | 6.1%                   |
| <b>Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i> | 6.0%                   |
| <b>Amgen, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>                     | 5.1%                   |
| <b>Biogen Idec, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>               | 5.0%                   |
| <b>Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>   | 4.6%                   |
| <b>Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</b><br><i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals</i>    | 3.3%                   |
| <b>Incyte Corporation</b><br><i>Drug Discovery Technologies</i>                     | 3.2%                   |
| <b>Actavis plc</b><br><i>Generic Pharmaceuticals</i>                                | 2.9%                   |
| <b>Perrigo Company plc</b><br><i>Generic Pharmaceuticals</i>                        | 2.3%                   |

**SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION (% of Net Assets)**

*As of March 31, 2014*



**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

| <b>CONVERTIBLE AND<br/>NON-CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES<br/>AND WARRANTS - 8.2% of Net Assets</b> |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| <b>SHARES</b>   | <b>Convertible Preferred and Warrants<br/>(Restricted) <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> - 6.6%</b> |           |
|   | <b>VALUE</b>  |           |
|   | <i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals - 0.7%</i>  |           |
| 2,568,939   | EBI Life Sciences, Inc. Series A <sup>(c)</sup>   | \$ 13,102 |
| 2,862,324   | Euthymics Biosciences, Inc. Series A <sup>(c)</sup>   | 1,099,991 |
| 2,568,939   | Neurovance, Inc. Series A <sup>(c)</sup>  | 199,863   |
| 12,106,416  | Neurovance, Inc. Series A-1 <sup>(c)</sup>  | 941,879   |
|   |   | 2,254,835 |
|   | <i>Healthcare Services - 1.3%</i>   |           |
| 3,589,744   | PHT Corporation Series D <sup>(c)</sup>   | 2,800,000 |
| 802,996   | PHT Corporation Series E <sup>(c)</sup>   | 1,349,033 |
| 99,455  | PHT Corporation Series F <sup>(c)</sup>   | 273,501   |
|   |   | 4,422,534 |
|   | <i>Medical Devices and Diagnostics - 4.6%</i>   |           |
| 2,338,198   | AlterG, Inc. Series C   | 958,661   |
| 79,330  | CardioKinetix, Inc. Series C  | 1,116,094 |
| 142,574   | CardioKinetix, Inc. Series D  | 542,779   |
| 439,333   | CardioKinetix, Inc. Series E  | 1,250,781 |
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup>  | CardioKinetix, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 12/11/19)   | 0         |
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup>  | CardioKinetix, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 6/03/20)  | 0         |
| 2,161,090   | Dynex Technologies, Inc. Series A   | 641,844   |
| 98,824  | Dynex Technologies, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 4/01/19)                                       | 0         |
| 7,877   | Dynex Technologies, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 5/06/19)                                       | 0         |
| 2,021,388   | IlluminOss Medical, Inc. Series C-1   | 775,000   |
| 3,661,706   | Inshitra Medical, Inc. Series C   | 1,550,000 |
| 2,446,016   | Labcyte, Inc. Series C  | 1,743,765 |
| 107,178   | Labcyte, Inc. Series D  | 88,915    |
| 2,161,090   | Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. Series A   | 1,480,995 |
| 98,824  | Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 4/01/19)                                     | 0         |
| 7,877   | Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. warrants<br>(expiration 5/06/19)                                     | 0         |
| 9,606,373   | Palyon Medical Corporation Series A <sup>(c)</sup>  | 9,606     |
| 18,832,814  | Palyon Medical Corporation Series B <sup>(c)</sup>  | 1,306,997 |

|                    |  |   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup> | Palyon Medical Corporation warrants<br>(expiration 4/26/19) <sup>(c)</sup><br>The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. | 0 |
|--------------------|--|---|

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**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

(continued)

| <b>SHARES</b>               | <b>Convertible Preferred and Warrants<br/>(Restricted) <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> - continued</b> | <b>VALUE</b>      |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 43,478                      | TherOx, Inc. Series H  | \$ 435            |
| 99,646                      | TherOx, Inc. Series I  | 997               |
| 3,280,000                   | Tibion Corporation Series B  | 8,692             |
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup>          | Tibion Corporation warrants<br>(expiration 07/12/17)   | 0                 |
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup>          | Tibion Corporation warrants<br>(expiration 10/30/17)   | 0                 |
| N/A <sup>(d)</sup>          | Tibion Corporation warrants<br>(expiration 11/28/17)   | 0                 |
| 2,606,033                   | Veniti, Inc. Series A <sup>(c)</sup>   | 2,385,302         |
| 1,307,169                   | Veniti, Inc. Series B <sup>(c)</sup>   | 1,196,452         |
|                             |  | 15,057,315        |
|                             | <b>TOTAL CONVERTIBLE<br/>PREFERRED<br/>AND WARRANTS</b>  | <b>21,734,684</b> |
| <b>PRINCIPAL<br/>AMOUNT</b> | <b>Convertible Notes - 1.5%</b>  |                   |
|                             | <i>Drug Discovery Technologies - 0.0%</i>  |                   |
| \$ 700,000                  | deCode Genetics, Inc.<br>3.5%, due 4/15/11 <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>                             | 0                 |
|                             | <i>Pharmaceuticals - 1.5%</i>  |                   |
| 1,500,000                   | Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,<br>2.75% due 12/15/18 <sup>(g)</sup>                                 | 1,488,750         |
| 2,000,000                   | Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,<br>7.50% due 5/1/19 <sup>(g)</sup>                                   | 3,610,000         |
|                             | <b>TOTAL CONVERTIBLE NOTES</b>   | <b>5,098,750</b>  |
|                             | <i>Non-Convertible Notes (Restricted)<sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> - 0.1%</i>                        |                   |
|                             | <i>Medical Devices and Diagnostics - 0.1%</i>  |                   |
| 238,286                     | Tibion Corporation Non-Cvt.<br>Promissory Note, 0.00%, due 12/31/18                                  | 238,286           |
| 28,211                      | Tibion Corporation Non-Cvt.<br>Promissory Note, 0.00%, due 12/31/18                                  | 28,211            |
|                             | <b>TOTAL NON-CONVERTIBLE<br/>NOTES</b>   | <b>266,497</b>    |
|                             | <b>TOTAL CONVERTIBLE<br/>AND NON-CONVERTIBLE<br/>SECURITIES<br/>AND WARRANTS</b>                     | <b>27,099,931</b> |

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(Cost \$31,486,502)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

(continued)

| SHARES  | COMMON STOCKS AND<br>WARRANTS - 87.2%   | VALUE        |
|---------|---|--------------|
|         | <i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals - 59.6%</i>   |              |
| 34,546  | Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | \$ 1,309,639 |
| 72,520  | Aegerion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 3,344,622    |
| 101,245 | Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 15,402,402   |
| 58,923  | Alkermes plc <sup>(b)</sup>   | 2,597,915    |
| 61,595  | Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 4,135,488    |
| 136,594 | Amgen, Inc.   | 16,847,504   |
| 42,165  | Auxilium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 1,146,045    |
| 683,260 | BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc.<br><sup>(b)</sup>  | 5,766,715    |
| 54,182  | Biogen Idec, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 16,572,648   |
| 94,354  | BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 6,435,886    |
| 73,955  | bluebird bio, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 1,681,737    |
| 145,261 | Celgene Corporation <sup>(b)</sup>  | 20,278,436   |
| 300,856 | Celladon Corporation (Restricted) <sup>(a) (b)</sup>  | 3,048,273    |
| 4,940   | Celladon Corporation warrants<br>(Restricted, expiration 10/10/18) <sup>(a) (b)</sup>               | 50,052       |
| 1,892   | Ceres, Inc. warrants<br>(Restricted, expiration 9/05/15) <sup>(a) (b)</sup>                         | 0            |
| 47,364  | Clovis Oncology, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 3,280,904    |
| 75,914  | Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 5,553,109    |
| 464,770 | Gilead Sciences, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 32,933,602   |
| 107,776 | Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 1,281,457    |
| 12,743  | MacroGenics, Inc. (Restricted) <sup>(a) (b)</sup>   | 319,174      |
| 243,920 | MEI Pharma, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 2,714,830    |
| 757,050 | Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 3,815,532    |
| 57,912  | Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 932,383      |
| 82,900  | NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 2,481,197    |
| 113,100 | OncoGenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 1,330,056    |
| 37,500  | OncoGenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.<br>warrants<br>(Restricted, expiration 10/22/15) <sup>(a) (b)</sup> | 30,000       |
| 16,537  | Pharmacyclics, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 1,657,338    |
| 79,150  | PTC Therapeutics, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 2,068,981    |
| 57,604  | Puma Biotechnology, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 5,998,881    |
| 66,387  | Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 19,934,688   |
| 47,400  | Sangamo BioSciences, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 856,992      |
| 283,628 | Verastem, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>   | 3,060,346    |



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|         |  |             |
|---------|--|-------------|
| 153,029 | Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 10,822,211  |
|         |  | 197,689,043 |
|         | <i>Drug Delivery - 2.1%</i>  |             |
| 213,300 | Heron Therapeutics, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup>  | 2,967,003   |
| 103,333 | Heron Therapeutics, Inc. warrants<br>(Restricted, expiration 7/01/16) <sup>(a) (b)</sup> | 833,280     |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

(continued)

| SHARES    | <i>Drug Delivery - continued</i>  | VALUE        |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| 575,640   | IntelliPharmaceutics International Inc.<br>(b) (c)  | \$ 2,532,816 |
| 319,800   | IntelliPharmaceutics International Inc.<br>warrants (Restricted,<br>expiration 2/01/16) (b) (a) (c) | 521,274      |
|           |   | 6,854,373    |
|           | <i>Drug Discovery Technologies - 3.2%</i>   |              |
| 196,868   | Incyte Corporation (b)  | 10,536,376   |
| 46        | Zyomyx, Inc. (Restricted) (a) (b)   | 11           |
|           |   | 10,536,387   |
|           | <i>Financial Services - 0.0%</i>  |              |
| 3,939,544 | Sarossa Capital plc (b) (f)   | 118,221      |
|           | <i>Generic Pharmaceuticals - 12.6%</i>  |              |
| 46,815    | Actavis plc (b)   | 9,636,868    |
| 255,050   | Akorn, Inc. (b)   | 5,611,100    |
| 99,469    | Impax Laboratories, Inc. (b)  | 2,627,971    |
| 147,916   | Mylan, Inc. (b)   | 7,222,738    |
| 50,279    | Perrigo Company plc (f)   | 7,776,150    |
| 122,830   | Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (b)  | 2,870,537    |
| 115,118   | Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (e)   | 6,082,835    |
|           |   | 41,828,199   |
|           | <i>Healthcare Services - 0.2%</i>   |              |
| 148,148   | InnovaCare Health, Inc. (Restricted) (a)<br>(b) (g)   | 777,777      |
|           | <i>Medical Devices and Diagnostics - 5.3%</i>   |              |
| 226,902   | Accuray, Inc. (b)   | 2,178,259    |
| 130,000   | Cercacor Laboratories, Inc. (Restricted)<br>(a) (b)   | 93,057       |
| 17,668    | IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (b)  | 2,144,895    |
| 47,854    | Illumina, Inc. (b)  | 7,113,976    |
| 68,058    | PerkinElmer, Inc.   | 3,066,693    |
| 139       | Songbird Hearing, Inc. (Restricted) (a)<br>(b)  | 93           |
| 24,884    | Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.   | 2,992,052    |
|           |   | 17,589,025   |
|           | <i>Pharmaceuticals - 4.2%</i>   |              |
| 41,773    | Endo International PLC (b)  | 2,867,716    |
| 232,784   | Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (b)  | 2,867,899    |
| 46,724    | Shire plc (e)   | 6,939,916    |

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|         |   |            |
|---------|---|------------|
| 140,800 | Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. <sup>(b)</sup> | 1,258,752  |
|         |   | 13,934,283 |

**TOTAL COMMON STOCKS  
AND WARRANTS**

|                      |  |             |
|----------------------|--|-------------|
| (Cost \$166,929,382) |  | 289,327,308 |
|----------------------|--|-------------|

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

(continued)

| <b>SHARES</b>           | <b>EXCHANGE TRADED FUND - 2.0%</b>   | <b>VALUE</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| 28,710                  | iShares Nasdaq Biotechnology ETF   | \$ 6,788,479  |
|                         | <b>TOTAL EXCHANGE TRADED FUND</b>  |               |
|                         | (Cost \$5,686,722)   | 6,788,479     |
| <b>PRINCIPAL AMOUNT</b> | <b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT - 2.1%</b>  |               |
|                         | Repurchase Agreement, State Street Bank and Trust Co., repurchase value \$6,834,000, 0.00%, dated 03/31/14, due 04/01/14 (collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note 0.250%, due 02/28/21, market value \$6,970,893) | 6,834,000     |
| \$ 6,834,000            |  |               |
|                         | <b>TOTAL SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>  |               |
|                         | (Cost \$6,834,000)   | 6,834,000     |
|                         | <b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS BEFORE MILESTONE INTERESTS - 99.5%</b>  |               |
|                         | (Cost \$210,936,606)   | 330,049,718   |
| <b>INTEREST</b>         | <b>MILESTONE INTERESTS (Restricted)<sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup> - 0.0%</b>  |               |
|                         | <i>Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals - 0.0%</i>   |               |
| 1                       | Targegen Milestone Interest  | 68,860        |
|                         | <i>Medical Devices and Diagnostics - 0.0%</i>  |               |
| 1                       | Xoft Milestone Interest  | 0             |
|                         | <b>TOTAL MILESTONE INTERESTS</b>   |               |
|                         | (Cost \$3,546,572)   | 68,860        |
|                         | <b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS - 99.5%</b>   |               |
|                         | (Cost \$214,483,178)   | 330,118,578   |
|                         | <b>OTHER ASSETS IN EXCESS OF LIABILITIES - 0.5%</b>  |               |
|                         |  | 1,573,285     |
|                         | <b>NET ASSETS - 100%</b>   | \$331,691,863 |

(a) Security fair valued. See Footnote 4 for Fair Value Measurements.

(b) Non-income producing security.

(c) Affiliated issuers in which the Fund holds 5% or more of the voting securities (total market value of \$14,629,816).

(d) Number of warrants to be determined at a future date.

(e) American Depository Receipt

(f) Foreign security.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

*(Unaudited)*

(continued)

(g) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

MARCH 31, 2014

*(Unaudited)*

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS:</b>   |                       |
| Investments in unaffiliated issuers, at value<br>(cost \$195,328,270)  | \$ 315,419,902        |
| Investments in affiliated issuers, at value<br>(cost \$15,608,336)   | 14,629,816            |
| Milestone interests, at value<br>(cost \$3,546,572)  | 68,860                |
| <b>Total Investments</b>   | <b>330,118,578</b>    |
| Cash   | 798                   |
| Dividends and interest receivable  | 101,193               |
| Receivable for investments sold  | 1,643,742             |
| Prepaid expenses   | 38,492                |
| Other assets (see Note 1)  | 328,359               |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>332,231,162</b>    |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>  |                       |
| Accrued advisory fee   | 318,653               |
| Accrued shareholder reporting fees   | 50,191                |
| Accrued other  | 170,455               |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>   | <b>539,299</b>        |
| Contingencies and Commitments (see Note 5)   |                       |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>  | <b>\$ 331,691,863</b> |
| <b>SOURCES OF NET ASSETS:</b>  |                       |
| Shares of beneficial interest, par value \$.01 per<br>share, unlimited number of shares authorized,<br>amount paid in on 15,287,376 shares issued and<br>outstanding | \$ 189,805,524        |
| Accumulated net investment loss  | (3,189,066)           |
| Accumulated net realized gain on investments,<br>milestone interests and options   | 29,440,005            |
| Net unrealized gain on investments and<br>milestone interests  | 115,635,400           |
| <b>Total net assets (equivalent to \$21.70 per share<br/>based on 15,287,376 shares outstanding)</b>   | <b>\$ 331,691,863</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS***SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**(Unaudited)*

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>INVESTMENT INCOME:</b>                               |               |
| Dividend income (net of foreign tax of \$11,591)        | \$ 380,177    |
| Interest and other income                               | 84,939        |
| Total investment income                                 | 465,116       |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>  |               |
| Advisory fees   | 1,764,145     |
| Legal fees  | 107,723       |
| Administration and auditing fees                        | 92,674        |
| Trustees' fees and expenses                             | 86,413        |
| Custodian fees  | 47,402        |
| Shareholder reporting                                   | 40,450        |
| Transfer agent fees                                     | 28,515        |
| Other (see Note 2)                                      | 73,033        |
| Total expenses  | 2,240,355     |
| Net investment loss                                     | (1,775,239)   |
| <b>REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS):</b>             |               |
| Net realized gain (loss) on:                            |               |
| Investments in unaffiliated issuers                     | 26,285,866    |
| Investments in affiliated issuers                       | 265,130       |
| Closed or expired option contracts written              | 41,337        |
| Net realized gain                                       | 26,592,333    |
| Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)        |               |
| Investments in unaffiliated issuers                     | 13,043,531    |
| Investments in affiliated issuers                       | 1,859,285     |
| Milestone interests                                     | (4,233,124)   |
| Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)        | 10,669,692    |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)                 | 37,262,025    |
| Net increase in net assets<br>resulting from operations | \$ 35,486,786 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

|   | Six months ended<br>March 31, 2014<br>(Unaudited) | Year ended<br>September 30,<br>2013 |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN<br/>NET ASSETS RESULTING<br/>FROM OPERATIONS:</b> |   |                                     |
| Net investment loss   | (\$ 1,775,239)                                    | (\$ 3,169,959)                      |
| Net realized gain   | 26,592,333  | 23,967,387                          |
| Change in net unrealized<br>appreciation  | 10,669,692  | 63,847,870                          |
| Net increase in net assets<br>resulting from operations                         | 35,486,786  | 84,645,298                          |
| <b>DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS<br/>FROM:</b>                                  |   |                                     |
| Net realized capital gains  | (12,358,107)                                      | (19,047,353)                        |
| Total distributions   | (12,358,107)                                      | (19,047,353)                        |
| <b>CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS:</b>  |   |                                     |
| Reinvestment of distributions<br>(292,605 and 566,146 shares,<br>respectively)  | 6,274,009   | 9,611,077                           |
| Total capital share transactions  | 6,274,009   | 9,611,077                           |
| Net increase in net assets  | 29,402,688  | 75,209,022                          |
| <b>NET ASSETS:</b>  |   |                                     |
| Beginning of period   | 302,289,175                                       | 227,080,153                         |
| End of period   | 331,691,863                                       | 302,289,175                         |
| Accumulated net investment<br>loss included in net assets at<br>end of year     | (\$ 3,189,066)                                    | (\$ 1,413,827) <sup>(a)</sup>       |

(a) Reflects reclassifications to the Fund's capital accounts to reflect income and gains available for distribution under income tax regulations.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

*(Unaudited)***CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Purchases of portfolio securities           | (\$ 67,662,411) |
| Purchases to close option contracts written | (159,380)       |
| Net maturities of short-term investments    | (4,135,971)     |
| Sales of portfolio securities               | 79,674,858      |
| Proceeds from option contracts written      | 93,441          |
| Interest income received                    | 72,848          |
| Dividend income received                    | 356,918         |
| Other operating receipts (expenses paid)    | (2,191,989)     |
| Net cash provided from operating activities | 6,048,314       |

**CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Cash distributions paid                | (6,084,098) |
| Net cash used for financing activities | (6,084,098) |

NET DECREASE IN CASH (35,784)

CASH AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD 36,582

CASH AT END OF PERIOD \$ 798

**RECONCILIATION OF NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS****RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH****PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Net increase in net assets resulting from operations                     | \$ 35,486,786 |
| Purchases of portfolio securities  | (67,662,411)  |
| Purchases to close option contracts written                              | (159,380)     |
| Net maturities of short-term investments                                 | (4,135,971)   |
| Sales of portfolio securities  | 79,674,858    |
| Proceeds from option contracts written                                   | 93,441        |
| Accretion of discount  | (29)          |
| Net realized gain on investments and options                             | (26,592,333)  |
| Increase in net unrealized appreciation<br>(depreciation) on investments | (10,669,692)  |
| Increase in dividends and interest receivable                            | (35,321)      |
| Increase in accrued expenses   | 45,180        |
| Decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets                            | 3,186         |
| Net cash provided from operating activities                              | \$ 6,048,314  |

Noncash financing activities not included herein consist of reinvested distributions to shareholders of \$6,274,009.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

|   | Six months<br>ended<br>March 31, 2014<br>(Unaudited) | 2013    | 2012      | Years ended September 30, |           |         |
|---|--|---------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
|   |  |         |           | 2011                      | 2010      | 2009    |
| <b>OPERATING PERFORMANCE FOR A SHARE<br/>OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT EACH PERIOD</b> |  |         |           |                           |           |         |
| Net asset<br>value per<br>share,<br>Beginning<br>of period                      | \$ 20.16   | \$15.74 | \$11.70   | \$11.51                   | \$11.32   | \$13.18 |
| Net<br>investment<br>loss (1)   | (0.12)   | (0.22)  | (0.09)(2) | (0.19)(3)                 | (0.09)(4) | (0.15)  |
| Net<br>realized<br>and<br>unrealized<br>gain (loss)                             | 2.48   | 5.94    | 5.54      | 1.26                      | 0.53      | (1.03)  |
| Total<br>increase<br>(decrease)<br>from<br>investment<br>operations             | 2.36   | 5.72    | 5.45      | 1.07                      | 0.44      | (1.18)  |
| Distributions to shareholders from:   |  |         |           |                           |           |         |
| Net<br>realized<br>capital<br>gains   | (0.82)   | (1.30)  | (1.49)    | (1.01)                    | (0.29)    | (0.10)  |
| Return of<br>capital<br>(tax basis)   |  |         |           |                           |           | (0.58)  |
| Total<br>distributions  | (0.82)   | (1.30)  | (1.49)    | (1.01)                    | (0.29)    | (0.68)  |
| Increase<br>resulting<br>from<br>shares<br>repurchased                          |  |         | 0.08      | 0.13                      | 0.04      |         |
| Net asset<br>value per<br>share,<br>end of<br>period                            | \$ 21.70   | \$20.16 | \$15.74   | \$11.70                   | \$11.51   | \$11.32 |

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|   |           |          |            |            |            |         |
|---|-----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Per share market value, end of period     | \$ 21.75  | \$ 19.25 | \$ 15.39   | \$ 10.46   | \$ 9.59    | \$ 9.23 |
| Total investment return at market value   | 17.35%*   | 34.96%   | 64.66%     | 19.15%     | 7.05%      | (5.56%) |
| <b>RATIOS</b>                             |           |          |            |            |            |         |
| Expenses to average net assets            | 1.39%**   | 1.47%    | 1.72%      | 1.77%      | 1.52%      | 1.58%   |
| Net investment loss to average net assets | (1.10%)** | (1.26%)  | (0.64%)(2) | (1.54%)(3) | (0.79%)(4) | (1.38%) |
| <b>SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>                  |           |          |            |            |            |         |
| Net assets at end of period (in millions) | \$ 332    | \$ 302   | \$ 227     | \$ 171     | \$ 251     | \$ 249  |
| Portfolio turnover rate                   | 15.68%*   | 42.23%   | 77.70%     | 93.57%     | 57.45%     | 82.88%  |

\* Not Annualized

\*\* Annualized

(1) Computed using average shares outstanding.

(2) Includes special dividends from three issuers in the aggregate amount of \$0.13 per share. Excluding the special dividends, the ratio of net investment loss to average net assets would have been (1.58%).

(3) Includes a special dividend from an issuer in the amount of \$0.02 per share. Excluding the special dividend, the ratio of net investment loss to average net assets would have been (1.66%).

(4) Includes a special dividend from an issuer in the amount of \$0.06 per share. Excluding the special dividend, the ratio of net investment loss to average net assets would have been (1.28%).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

*(Unaudited)*

*(1) Organization and Significant Accounting Policies*

H&Q Life Sciences Investors (the Fund) is a Massachusetts business trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a diversified closed-end management investment company. The Fund's investment objective is long-term capital appreciation through investment in companies in the life sciences industry (including biotechnology, pharmaceutical, diagnostics, managed healthcare and medical equipment, hospitals, healthcare information technology and services, devices and supplies), agriculture and environmental management. The Fund invests primarily in securities of public and private companies that are believed by the Fund's Investment Adviser, Tekla Capital Management LLC (the Adviser), to have significant potential for above-average growth.

The preparation of these financial statements requires the use of certain estimates by management in determining the Fund's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates and such differences could be material. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund, which are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). Events or transactions occurring after March 31, 2014, through the date that the financial statements were issued, have been evaluated in the preparation of these financial statements.

*Investment Valuation*

Shares of publicly traded companies listed on national securities exchanges or trading in the over-the-counter market are typically valued at the last sale price, as of the close of trading, generally 4 p.m., Eastern time. The Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Trustees") have established and approved fair valuation policies and procedures with respect to securities for which quoted prices may not be available or which do not reflect fair value. Shares of publicly traded companies for which market quotations are not readily available, such as stocks for which trading has been halted or for which there are no current day sales, or whose quoted price may otherwise not reflect fair value, are valued in good faith by the Adviser using a fair value process pursuant to policies and procedures approved by the Trustees described below. Restricted securities of companies that are publicly traded are typically valued based on the closing market quote on the valuation date adjusted for the impact of the restriction as determined in good faith by the Adviser also using fair valuation policies and procedures approved by the Trustees described below. Non-exchange traded warrants of publicly traded companies are typically valued using the Black-Scholes model, which incorporates both observable and unobservable inputs. Short-term investments with a maturity of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Convertible preferred shares, warrants or convertible note interests in private companies, milestone interests, other restricted securities, as well as shares of publicly traded companies for which market quotations are not available or which do not reflect fair value, are typically valued in good faith, based upon the recommendations made by the Adviser pursuant to fair valuation policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. The Adviser has a Valuation Sub-Committee comprised of senior management which reports to the Valuation Committee of the Board at least quarterly. Each fair value determination is based on a consideration of relevant factors, including both observable and unobservable inputs. Observable and unobservable inputs the Adviser considers may include (i) the existence of any contractual restrictions on the disposition of securities; (ii) information obtained from the company, which may include an analysis of the company's financial statements, the company's products or intended



**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

markets or the company's technologies; (iii) the price of the same or similar security negotiated at arm's length in an issuer's completed subsequent round of financing; (iv) the price and extent of public trading in similar securities of the issuer or of comparable companies; or (v) a probability and time value adjusted analysis of contractual term. Where available and appropriate, multiple valuation methodologies are applied to confirm fair value. Significant unobservable inputs identified by the Adviser are often used in the fair value determination. A significant change in any of these inputs may result in a significant change in the fair value measurement. Due to the uncertainty inherent in the valuation process, such estimates of fair value may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the investments existed, and differences could be material. Additionally, changes in the market environment and other events that may occur over the life of the investments may cause the gains or losses ultimately realized on these investments to be different from the valuations used at the date of these financial statements.

*Options on Securities*

An option contract is a contract in which the writer (seller) of the option grants the buyer of the option, upon payment of a premium, the right to purchase from (call option) or sell to (put option) the writer a designated instrument at a specified price within a specified period of time. Certain options, including options on indices, will require cash settlement by the Fund if the option is exercised. The Fund enters into option contracts in order to hedge against potential adverse price movements in the value of portfolio assets, as a temporary substitute for selling selected investments to lock in the purchase price of a security or currency which it expects to purchase in the near future as a temporary substitute for purchasing selected investments, or to enhance potential gain.

The Fund's obligation under an exchange traded written option or investment in an exchange-traded purchased option is valued at the last sale price or in the absence of a sale, the mean between the closing bid and asked prices. Gain or loss is recognized when the option contract expires, is exercised or is closed.

If the Fund writes a covered call option, the Fund foregoes, in exchange for the premium, the opportunity to profit during the option period from an increase in the market value of the underlying security above the exercise price. If the Fund writes a put option it accepts the risk of a decline in the market value of the underlying security below the exercise price. Over-the-counter options have the risk of the potential inability of counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts. The Fund's maximum exposure to purchased options is limited to the premium initially paid. In addition, certain risks may arise upon entering into option contracts including the risk that an illiquid secondary market will limit the Fund's ability to close out an option contract prior to the expiration date and that a change in the value of the option contract may not correlate exactly with changes in the value of the securities or currencies hedged.

All options on securities and securities indices written by the Fund are required to be covered. When the Fund writes a call option, this means that during the life of the option the Fund may own or have the contractual right to acquire the securities subject to the option or may maintain with the Fund's custodian in a segregated account appropriate liquid securities in an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities underlying the option. When the Fund writes a put option, this means that the Fund will maintain with the Fund's custodian in a segregated account appropriate liquid securities in an amount at least equal to the exercise





**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

price of the option. The Fund may use option contracts to gain or hedge exposure to financial market risk.

Transactions in call options written for the six months ended March 31, 2014 were as follows:

|   | Contracts | Premiums |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Options outstanding, September 30, 2013             |           | \$       |
| Options written                                     | 378       | 41,579   |
| Options terminated in closing purchase transactions | (22)      | (2,420)  |
| Options exercised                                   |           |          |
| Options expired                                     | (356)     | (39,159) |
| Options outstanding, March 31, 2014                 |           | \$       |

| Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815 | Statement of Assets and Liabilities Location | Statement of Operations Location  |
|--|--|---|
| The Fund held no open options written contracts at March 31, 2014. |  |   |
|  |  | Net realized gain on investments in unaffiliated issuers                                |
|  |  | (\$107,276)   |
|  |  | Net realized gain on closed or expired option contracts written                         |
|  |  | \$ 41,337   |
|  |  | Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments in unaffiliated issuers |
|  |  | \$ 0  |
|  |  | Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on option contracts written            |
|  |  | \$ 0  |

*Milestone Interests*

The Fund holds financial instruments which reflect the current value of future milestone payments the Fund may receive as a result of contractual obligations from other parties. The value of such payments are adjusted to reflect the estimated risk based on the relative uncertainty of both the timing and the achievement of individual milestones. A risk to the Fund is that the milestones will not be achieved and no payment will be received by the Fund. The milestone interests were received as part of the proceeds from the sale of two private companies. Any payments received are treated as a reduction of the cost basis of the milestone interest with payments received in excess of the cost basis treated as a realized gain. The contractual obligations with respect to the TargeGen Milestone Interest provide for payments at various stages of the development of TargeGen's principal product candidate as of the date of the sale. The contractual obligations with respect to the Xoft Milestone Interest provide for a payment based upon the cumulative net revenue of certain of the company's products over a three-year period following the sale.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

The following is a summary of the impact of the milestone interests on the financial statements as of and for the six months ended March 31, 2014:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Milestone interests, at value                               | \$ 68,860     |
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Net unrealized gain on investments and milestone interests  | (\$3,477,712) |
| Statement of Operations, Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on milestone interests | (\$4,233,124) |
| <i>Other Assets</i>  |               |

Other assets in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities consists of amounts due to the Fund at various times in the future in connection with the sale of investments in five private companies.

*Investment Transactions and Income*

Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Gains and losses from sales of investments are recorded using the "identified cost" method. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis, adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date, less any foreign taxes withheld. Upon notification from issuers, some of the dividend income received may be redesignated as a reduction of cost of the related investment if it represents a return of capital.

The aggregate cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of investment securities (other than short-term investments) for the six months ended March 31, 2014 totaled \$49,962,870 and \$63,445,263, respectively.

*Repurchase Agreements*

In managing short-term investments the Fund may from time to time enter into transactions in repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund's custodian takes possession of the underlying collateral securities from the counterparty, the market value of which is at least equal to the principal, including accrued interest, of the repurchase transaction at all times. In the event of default or bankruptcy by the other party to the agreement, realization and/or retention of the collateral by the Fund may be delayed.

*Distribution Policy*

Pursuant to a Securities and Exchange Commission exemptive order, the Fund has implemented a fixed distribution policy (the Policy) that permits the Fund to make quarterly distributions at a rate set by the Board of Trustees. Under the current Policy, the Fund intends to make quarterly distributions at a rate of 2% of the Fund's net assets to shareholders of record. The Fund intends to use net realized capital gains when making quarterly distributions, if available, but the Policy would result in a return of capital to shareholders if the amount of the distribution exceeds the Fund's net investment income and realized capital gains. If taxable income and net long-term realized gains exceed the

amount required to be distributed under the Policy, the Fund will at a minimum make distributions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Previously, for the period April 5, 2010 to November 1, 2010, the Fund had made quarterly distributions at a rate of 1.25% of the Fund's net assets. The Trustees suspended the Policy on August 4, 2009 and reinstated the Policy on April 5, 2010. Prior to August 4, 2009, the Fund made quarterly distributions at a rate of 2% of the Fund's net assets. The Policy has been established by the Trustees and may be changed by them without shareholder approval. The Trustees regularly review the Policy and the

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

distribution rate considering the purpose and effect of the Policy, the financial market environment, and the Fund's income, capital gains and capital available to pay distributions.

The Fund's policy is to declare quarterly distributions in stock. The distributions are automatically paid in newly-issued full shares of the Fund unless otherwise instructed by the shareholder. Fractional shares will generally be settled in cash, except for registered shareholders with book entry accounts of the Fund's transfer agent who will have whole and fractional shares added to their accounts. The Fund's transfer agent delivers an election card and instructions to each registered shareholder in connection with each distribution. The number of shares issued will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the distribution by the lower of net asset value or market price on the pricing date. If a shareholder elects to receive a distribution in cash, rather than in shares, the shareholder's relative ownership in the Fund will be reduced. The shares reinvested will be valued at the lower of the net asset value or market price on the pricing date. Distributions in stock will not relieve shareholders of any federal, state or local income taxes that may be payable on such distributions. Additional distributions, if any, made to satisfy requirements of the Internal Revenue Code may be paid in stock, as described above, or in cash.

*Share Repurchase Program*

In March 2013, the Trustees approved the renewal of the repurchase program to allow the Fund to repurchase up to 12% of its outstanding shares in the open market for a one year period beginning July 11, 2013. Prior to this renewal, in March 2012, the Trustees approved the renewal of the share repurchase program to allow the Fund to repurchase up to 12% of its outstanding shares for a one year period beginning July 11, 2012. The share repurchase program is intended to enhance shareholder value and potentially reduce the discount between the market price of the Fund's shares and the Fund's net asset value.

During the six months ended March 31, 2014, the Fund did not repurchase any shares through the repurchase program.

During the year ended September 30, 2013, the Fund did not repurchase any shares through the repurchase program.

*Federal Taxes*

It is the Fund's policy to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute to its shareholders substantially all of its taxable income and its net realized capital gains, if any. Therefore, no Federal income or excise tax provision is required.

As of March 31, 2014, the Fund had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition or disclosure. The Fund's federal tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a period of three years.

*Distributions*

The Fund records all distributions to shareholders on the ex-dividend date. Such distributions are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from GAAP. These differences include temporary and permanent differences from losses on wash sale transactions, installment sale adjustments and ordinary loss netting to reduce short term capital gains. Reclassifications are made to the Fund's capital accounts to reflect income and gains available for distribution under income tax regulations.

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

*Statement of Cash Flows*

The cash amount shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is the amount included in the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities and represents cash on hand at March 31, 2014.

*Indemnifications*

Under the Fund's organizational documents, its officers and Trustees may be indemnified against certain liabilities and expenses arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the Fund enters into agreements with service providers that may contain indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these agreements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. However, based on experience, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

*(2) Investment Advisory and Other Affiliated Fees*

The Fund has entered into an Investment Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement) with the Adviser. Pursuant to the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at the rate when annualized of (i) 2.50% of the average net assets for the month of its venture capital and other restricted securities up to 25% of net assets and (ii) for all other net assets, 0.98% of the average net assets up to \$250 million, 0.88% of the average net assets for the next \$250 million, 0.80% of the average net assets for the next \$500 million and 0.70% of the average net assets thereafter. The aggregate fee would not exceed a rate when annualized of 1.36%.

The Fund has entered into a Services Agreement (the Agreement) with the Adviser. Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Fund reimburses the Adviser for certain services related to a portion of the payment of salary and provision of benefits to the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer. During the six months ended March 31, 2014, these payments amounted to \$22,530 and are included in the other category in the Statement of Operations, together with insurance and other expenses incurred to unaffiliated entities. Expenses incurred pursuant to the Agreement as well as certain expenses paid for by the Adviser are allocated to the Fund in an equitable fashion as approved by the Trustees of the Fund.

The Fund pays compensation to Independent Trustees in the form of a retainer, attendance fees, and additional compensation to Board and Committee chairpersons. The Fund does not pay compensation directly to Trustees or officers of the Fund who are also officers of the Adviser.

*(3) Other Transactions with Affiliates*

An affiliate company is a company in which the Fund holds 5% or more of the voting securities. Transactions with such companies during the six months ended March 31, 2014 were as follows:

| Issuer | Value on<br>September 30, 2013 | Purchases | Sales | Income | Value on<br>March 31, 2014 |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|----------------------------|
|        | \$ 13,102                      |           |       |        | \$ 13,102                  |



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|   |               |           |           |      |              |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|------|--------------|
| EBI Life Sciences, Inc.                 |               |           |           |      |              |
| Euthymics Biosciences, Inc.             | 1,099,991     |           |           |      | 1,099,991    |
| IntelliPharmaCeutics International Inc. | 1,659,680     |           | \$624,297 |      | 3,054,090    |
| Neurovance, Inc.                        | 738,080       | \$404,770 |           |      | 1,141,742    |
| Palyon Medical Corporation              | 1,319,874     |           |           |      | 1,316,603    |
| PHT Corporation                         | 4,308,088     |           |           |      | 4,422,534    |
| Veniti, Inc.                            | 3,581,754     |           |           |      | 3,581,754    |
|   | \$ 12,720,569 | \$404,770 | \$624,297 | \$ 0 | \$14,629,816 |

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(continued)

*(4) Fair Value Measurements*

The Fund uses a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. The three-tier hierarchy of inputs is summarized in the three broad levels. Level 1 includes quoted prices in active markets for identical investments. Level 2 includes prices determined using other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, credit risk, etc.). Level 3 includes prices determined using significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments). These inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of March 31, 2014 to value the Fund's net assets. For the six months ended March 31, 2014, there were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2. The Fund accounts for transfers between levels at the beginning of the period.

| Assets at Value   | Level 1        | Level 2      | Level 3      | Total        |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Convertible and Non-Convertible Securities and Warrants |                |              |              |              |
| Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals                      |                |              | \$ 2,254,835 | \$ 2,254,835 |
| Drug Discovery Technologies                             |                |              | 0            | 0            |
| Healthcare Services                                     |                |              | 4,422,534    | 4,422,534    |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics                         |                |              | 15,323,812   | 15,323,812   |
| Pharmaceuticals   |                | \$ 5,098,750 |              | 5,098,750    |
| Common Stocks and Warrants                              |                |              |              |              |
| Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals                      | \$ 194,241,544 |              | 3,447,499    | 197,689,043  |
| Drug Delivery   | 5,499,819      |              | 1,354,554    | 6,854,373    |
| Drug Discovery Technologies                             | 10,536,376     |              | 11           | 10,536,387   |
| Financial Services                                      | 118,221        |              |              | 118,221      |
| Generic Pharmaceuticals                                 | 41,828,199     |              |              | 41,828,199   |
| Healthcare Services                                     |                |              | 777,777      | 777,777      |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics                         | 17,495,875     |              | 93,150       | 17,589,025   |
| Pharmaceuticals   | 13,934,283     |              |              | 13,934,283   |
| Exchange Traded Fund                                    | 6,788,479      |              |              | 6,788,479    |
| Short-term Investment                                   |                | 6,834,000    |              | 6,834,000    |

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|                                    |                |               |               |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Milestone Interest                 |                |               |               |                |
| Biotechnologies/Biopharmaceuticals |                |               | 68,860        | 68,860         |
| Medical Devices<br>and Diagnostics |                |               | 0             | 0              |
| Other Assets                       |                |               | 328,359       | 328,359        |
| Total                              | \$ 290,442,796 | \$ 11,932,750 | \$ 28,071,391 | \$ 330,446,937 |

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*MARCH 31, 2014*

(continued)

The following is a reconciliation of Level 3 assets for which significant unobservable inputs were used to determine fair value.

| Level 3 Assets  | Balance as of September 30, 2013 | Net Realized gain (loss) and change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) | Cost of purchases and conversions | Proceeds from sales and conversions | Net transfers in (out of) Level 3 | Balance as of March 31, 2014 |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Convertible and Non-Convertible Securities and Warrants</b>  |                                  |   |                                   |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Biotechnologies/<br>Biopharmaceuticals/<br>Healthcare Services  | \$ 4,011,705                     | (\$ 686,157)  | \$ 412,450                        | (\$2,384,163)                       | \$                                | \$ 2,254,835                 |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 4,308,088                        | 114,447   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 4,422,535                    |
| Common Stocks and Warrants  |                                  |   |                                   |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Biotechnologies/<br>Biopharmaceuticals/<br>Drug Delivery<br>Drug Discovery Technologies/<br>Healthcare Services | 15,587,351                       | (54,049)  | 4,797                             | (214,287)                           |                                   | 15,323,812                   |
| Biotechnologies/<br>Biopharmaceuticals/<br>Drug Delivery<br>Drug Discovery Technologies/<br>Healthcare Services | 4,125                            | 780,558   | 2,662,816                         |                                     |                                   | 3,447,499                    |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 544,434                          | 810,120   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 1,354,554                    |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 11                               |   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 11                           |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 777,777                          |   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 777,777                      |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 86,150                           | 7,000   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 93,150                       |
| <b>Milestone Interests</b>  |                                  |   |                                   |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Biotechnologies/<br>Biopharmaceuticals/<br>Medical Devices and Diagnostics                                      | 4,291,294                        | (4,222,435)   |                                   |                                     |                                   | 68,859                       |
| Medical Devices and Diagnostics   | 10,690                           | (10,690)  |                                   |                                     |                                   | 0                            |
|   | 327,115                          |   | 1,483                             | (239)                               |                                   | 328,359                      |

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Other  
Assets

|       |              |                |             |               |    |              |
|-------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|----|--------------|
| Total | \$30,849,740 | (\$ 3,261,206) | \$3,081,546 | (\$2,598,689) | \$ | \$28,071,391 |
|-------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|----|--------------|

Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) from investments still held as of March 31, 2014 (\$ 2,575,711)

The following is a quantitative disclosure about significant unobservable inputs used in the determination of the fair value of Level 3 assets.

|   | Fair Value<br>at 3/31/2014 | Valuation Technique             | Unobservable Input         | Range<br>(Weighted<br>Average) |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Private<br>Companies<br>and Other<br>Restricted<br>Securities |                            | Adjusted Public<br>market price | None                       | N/A                            |
|   | \$ 4,895,110               | Capital asset pricing<br>model  | Discount Rate              | 12%-37%<br>(17.87%)            |
|   | 15,276,203                 |                                 | Price to sales<br>multiple | 0.2-16.8<br>(2.54)             |
|   |                            |                                 | Revenue growth<br>rate     | 10%-300%<br>(48.95%)           |
|   | 6,448,357                  | Independent valuation           | None                       | N/A                            |
|   | 1,451,721                  | Probability adjusted<br>value   | Probability of events      | 10%-99%<br>(15.32%)            |
|   |                            |                                 | Timing of events           | 0-4.83<br>(1.30) years         |
|   | \$ 28,071,391              |                                 |                            |                                |

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(continued)

*(5) Private Companies and Other Restricted Securities*

The Fund may invest in private companies and other restricted securities if these securities would currently comprise 40% or less of net assets. The value of these securities represents 8% of the Fund's net assets at March 31, 2014.

At March 31, 2014, the Fund had commitments of \$775,000 relating to additional investments in one private company.

The following table details the acquisition date, cost, carrying value per unit, and value of the Fund's private companies and other restricted securities at March 31, 2014. The Fund on its own does not have the right to demand that such securities be registered.

| Security (#)                       | Acquisition Date     | Cost         | Carrying Value per Unit | Value      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>AlterG, Inc.</b>                |                      |              |                         |            |
| Series C Cvt. Pfd.                 | 4/12/13              | \$ 1,427,152 | \$ 0.41                 | \$ 958,661 |
| <b>CardioKinetix, Inc.</b>         |                      |              |                         |            |
| Series C Cvt. Pfd.                 | 5/22/08              | 1,653,315    | 14.07                   | 1,116,094  |
| Series D Cvt. Pfd.                 | 12/10/10             | 545,940      | 3.81                    | 542,779    |
| Series E Cvt. Pfd.                 | 9/14/11              | 1,253,611    | 2.85                    | 1,250,781  |
| Warrants (expiration 12/11/19)     | 12/10/09,<br>2/11/10 | 123          | 0.00                    | 0          |
| Warrants (expiration 6/03/20)      | 6/03/10,<br>9/01/10  | 123          | 0.00                    | 0          |
| <b>Celladon Corporation</b>        |                      |              |                         |            |
| Common                             | 1/27/12              | 1,783,202    | 10.13                   | 3,048,273  |
| Warrants (expiration 10/10/18)     | 10/10/13             | 56           | 10.13                   | 50,052     |
| <b>Cercacor Laboratories, Inc.</b> |                      |              |                         |            |
| Common                             | 3/31/98              | 0            | 0.72                    | 93,057     |
| <b>Ceres, Inc.</b>                 |                      |              |                         |            |
| Warrants (expiration 9/05/15)      | 9/5/07               | 20           | 0.00                    | 0          |
| <b>Dynex Technologies, Inc.</b>    |                      |              |                         |            |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                 | 1/3/12††             | 199,963      | 0.30                    | 641,844    |
| Warrants (expiration 4/01/19)      | 1/3/12††             | 60           | 0.00                    | 0          |
| Warrants (expiration 5/06/19)      | 1/3/12††             | 5            | 0.00                    | 0          |
| <b>EBI Life Sciences, Inc.</b>     |                      |              |                         |            |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                 | 12/29/11††           | 13,597       | 0.01                    | 13,102     |
| <b>Euthymics Biosciences, Inc.</b> |                      |              |                         |            |

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|   |                          |           |       |           |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                      | 7/14/10 -<br>5/21/12     | 2,635,558 | 0.38  | 1,099,991 |
| Heron Therapeutics, Inc. Warrants       |                          |           |       |           |
| (expiration 7/01/16)                    | 6/30/11                  | 555       | 8.06  | 833,280   |
| IlluminOss Medical, Inc.                |                          |           |       |           |
| Series C-1 Cvt. Pfd.                    | 9/26/12                  | 775,482   | 0.38  | 775,000   |
| InnovaCare Health, Inc. Common          |                          |           |       |           |
|   | 12/21/12††               | 643,296   | 5.25  | 777,777   |
| Insightra Medical, Inc.                 |                          |           |       |           |
| Series C Cvt. Pfd.                      | 4/29/13                  | 1,553,253 | 0.42  | 1,550,000 |
| IntelliPharmaCeutics International Inc. |                          |           |       |           |
| Warrants (expiration 2/01/16)           | 1/31/11                  | 115       | 1.63  | 521,274   |
| Labcyte, Inc.                           |                          |           |       |           |
| Series C Cvt. Pfd.                      | 7/18/05                  | 1,283,959 | 0.71  | 1,743,765 |
| Series D Cvt. Pfd.                      | 12/12/12                 | 68,608    | 0.83  | 88,915    |
| MacroGenics, Inc.                       |                          |           |       |           |
| Common                                  | 10/10/13                 | 879,556   | 25.05 | 319,174   |
| Magellan Diagnostics, Inc.              |                          |           |       |           |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                      | 11/28/06 -<br>10/01/09   | 1,010,827 | 0.69  | 1,480,995 |
| Warrants (expiration 4/01/19)           | 4/3/09                   | 358       | 0.00  | 0         |
| Warrants (expiration 5/06/19)           | 5/12/09                  | 29        | 0.00  | 0         |
| Neurovance, Inc.                        |                          |           |       |           |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                      | 12/29/11††<br>10/11/12 - | 202,963   | 0.08  | 199,863   |
| Series A-1 Cvt. Pfd.                    | 10/10/13                 | 943,258   | 0.08  | 941,879   |
| OncoGenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.         |                          |           |       |           |
| Warrants (expiration 10/22/15)          | 10/22/10                 | 0         | 0.80  | 30,000    |
| Palyon Medical Corporation              |                          |           |       |           |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.                      | 4/28/09                  | 2,068,781 | 0.00† | 9,606     |
| Series B Cvt. Pfd.                      | 6/28/13                  | 1,312,161 | 0.07  | 1,306,997 |
| Warrants (expiration 4/26/19)           | 4/25/12                  | 0         | 0.00  | 0         |

**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MARCH 31, 2014

(continued)

| Security (#)                     | Acquisition Date      | Cost         | Carrying Value per Unit | Value        |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>PHT Corporation</b>           |                       |              |                         |              |
| Series D Cvt. Pfd.               | 7/23/01               | \$ 2,804,181 | \$ 0.78                 | \$ 2,800,000 |
| Series E Cvt. Pfd.               | 9/12/03 -<br>10/19/04 | 627,548      | 1.68                    | 1,349,033    |
| Series F Cvt. Pfd.               | 7/21/08               | 81,729       | 2.75                    | 273,501      |
| <b>Songbird Hearing, Inc.</b>    |                       |              |                         |              |
| Common                           | 12/14/00              | 2,003,239    | 0.67                    | 93           |
| <b>Targen Milestone Interest</b> |                       |              |                         |              |
|                                  | 7/20/10               | 2,960,669    | 68,860                  | 68,860       |
| <b>TherOx, Inc.</b>              |                       |              |                         |              |
| Series H Cvt. Pfd.               | 9/11/00 -<br>8/21/07  | 2,001,787    | 0.01                    | 435          |
| Series I Cvt. Pfd.               | 7/8/05                | 386,639      | 0.01                    | 997          |
| <b>Tibion Corporation</b>        |                       |              |                         |              |
| Series B Cvt. Pfd.               | 2/23/11               | 905,158      | 0.00†                   | 8,692        |
| Warrants (expiration 7/12/17)    | 7/12/12               | 0            | 0.00                    | 0            |
| Warrants (expiration 10/30/17)   | 10/30/12              | 0            | 0.00                    | 0            |
| Warrants (expiration 11/28/17)   | 11/28/12              | 0            | 0.00                    | 0            |
| Non-Cvt. Promissory Note         | 7/12/12               | 239,081      | 100                     | 238,286      |
| Non-Cvt. Promissory Note         | 4/12/13               | 28,216       | 100                     | 28,211       |
| <b>Veniti, Inc.</b>              |                       |              |                         |              |
| Series A Cvt. Pfd.               | 2/28/11               | 2,271,713    | 0.92                    | 2,385,302    |
| Series B Cvt. Pfd.               | 5/24/13               | 1,197,289    | 0.92                    | 1,196,452    |
| <b>Xoft Milestone Interest</b>   |                       |              |                         |              |
|                                  | 1/5/11                | 585,903      | 0.00                    | 0            |
| <b>Zyomyx, Inc.</b>              |                       |              |                         |              |
| Common                           | 2/19/99 -<br>1/12/04  | 2,601,013    | 0.25                    | 11           |
|                                  |                       | \$38,950,091 |                         | \$27,743,032 |

(#) See Schedule of Investments and corresponding footnotes for more information on each issuer.

† Carrying value per unit is greater than \$0.00 but less than \$0.01.

†† Interest received as part of a corporate action for a previously owned security.







## H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS

### INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT APPROVAL

The Investment Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement) between the Fund and the Adviser provides that the Advisory Agreement will continue in effect so long as its continuance is approved at least annually by (i) the Trustees of the Fund or the shareholders by affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares and (ii) a majority of the Trustees of the Fund who are not interested persons (the Independent Trustees), by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

On March 28, 2014, the Board, and the Independent Trustees voting separately, determined that the terms of the Advisory Agreement are fair and reasonable and approved the continuance of the Advisory Agreement as being in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. In making its determination, the Board considered materials that were specifically prepared by the Adviser at the request of the Board and Fund counsel for purposes of the contract review process, including comparisons of (i) the Fund's performance to its benchmark, the NASDAQ Biotech Index (NBI), and to other investment companies, (ii) the Fund's expenses and expense ratios to those of a peer group of other investment companies, and (iii) the Adviser's profitability with respect to its services for the Fund to the profitability of other investment advisers. The Trustees took into account that the Adviser presently provides investment management services only to the Fund and to H&Q Healthcare Investors and does not derive any benefit from its relationship with the Fund other than receipt of advisory fees pursuant to the Advisory Agreement. The Board also received and reviewed information throughout the year about the portfolio performance, the investment strategy, the portfolio management team and the fees and expenses of the Fund.

In approving the Advisory Agreement, the Board considered, among other things, the nature, extent, and quality of the services to be provided by the Adviser, the investment performance of the Fund and the Adviser, the costs of services provided and profits realized by the Adviser and its affiliates, and whether fee levels reflect economies of scale for the benefit of Fund shareholders and the extent to which economies of scale would be realized as the Fund grows. The Board reviewed information about the foregoing factors and considered changes, if any, in such information since its previous approval. The Board also evaluated the financial strength of the Adviser and the capability of the personnel of the Adviser, specifically the strength and background of its investment analysts. Fund counsel provided the Board with the statutory and regulatory requirements for approval and disclosure of investment advisory agreements. The Board, including the Independent Trustees, evaluated all of the foregoing and, considering all factors together, determined in the exercise of its business judgment that the continuance of the Advisory Agreement is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The following provides more detail on certain factors considered by the Trustees and the Board's conclusions with respect to each such factor.

The nature, extent and quality of the services to be provided by the Adviser. On a regular basis the Board considers the roles and responsibilities of the Adviser as a whole, along with specific portfolio management, support and trading functions the Adviser provides to the Fund. The Trustees considered the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Adviser to the Fund. The Trustees continue to be satisfied with the quality and value of the investment advisory services provided to the Fund by the Adviser, and, in particular, the management style and discipline followed by the Adviser and the quality of the Adviser's research, trading, portfolio management and compliance and administrative personnel. The Board also took into account the Adviser's commitment to continue to build out its infrastructure, including

## H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS

### INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT APPROVAL

(continued)

development of a staff adequate in number, experience and qualifications to meet the future demands of the Fund (and H&Q Healthcare Investors) for investment management services.

The investment performance of the Fund and the Adviser. On a regular basis the Board reviews performance information for the Fund and discusses the Fund's investment strategy with the Adviser. The Trustees reviewed performance information for the Fund over the past one-, two-, three-, four-, five-, six-, seven-, eight-, nine-, and ten-year periods. Although the NBI's performance exceeded the Fund's returns by net asset value and stock price in most of the reported periods, The Trustees noted that the returns by net asset value and by stock price of the Fund (including venture capital investments) were more comparable to the performance of the NBI (which includes only public companies) over the longer periods. In addition, the Fund's returns by net asset value and by stock price exceeded the performance of the S&P 500 Index and the S&P 1500 Healthcare Index for the reported periods, and the Fund's performance compares well to a peer group of 31 healthcare funds for the reported periods. The Trustees continue to be satisfied with the investment performance of the Fund and the Adviser.

The costs of services to be provided and profits to be realized by the Adviser from its relationship with the Fund. The Trustees considered the various services provided by the Adviser to the Fund and reviewed comparative information regarding the expenses and expense ratios of the Fund and a peer group of other investment companies. The Trustees noted that the Adviser's fees are within the range of fees presented in the comparative information and noted that a portion of the Fund's investment portfolio is invested in venture and restricted securities, a portfolio management service that can command higher management fees than those charged by the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement. The Trustees also considered financial information provided by the Adviser, including financial statements of the Adviser and a comparison of the Adviser's profitability with respect to its services for the Fund to the profitability of other investment advisers. Based on the information provided to and evaluated by the Trustees, the Trustees concluded that the fees charged by the Adviser are fair and reasonable in light of the quality and nature of the services provided by the Adviser and that the profitability of the Adviser's relationship with the Fund has not been excessive. The fees charged by the Adviser are within a reasonable range of fees as compared to fees charged by other investment advisers, and the services provided by the Adviser and the amounts paid under the Advisory Agreement are sufficiently favorable in comparison to the services rendered and fees charged by others for similar services to warrant a finding that fees to be paid by the Fund are fair.

Whether fee levels reflect economies of scale and the extent to which economies of scale would be realized as the Fund grows. The Trustees considered that the Advisory Agreement provides for breakpoints in the advisory fees so that the Fund will share the benefits of the economies of scale that would inure to the Adviser as the Fund's assets increase. The Trustees reviewed the net assets of the Fund over the last five years, the recent investment performance of the Fund, and the management fees of other funds with similar investment objectives. Given the asset size of the Fund, and as economies of scale are still modest at current Fund asset levels, the Trustees determined that the Fund's breakpoint schedule is satisfactory and fair. The Trustees also noted that the Adviser has voluntarily agreed to waive a portion of advisory fees to which it otherwise would be entitled under the Advisory Agreement for a one-year period, if the rights offering recently announced by the Trust is completed, and that the Adviser's compensation is subject to annual review by the Board.

## **H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

### **PRIVACY NOTICE**

If you are a registered shareholder of the Fund, the Fund and Tekla Capital Management LLC, the Fund's investment adviser, may receive nonpublic personal information about you from the information collected by the transfer agent from your transactions in Fund shares. Any nonpublic personal information is not disclosed to third parties, except as permitted or required by law. In connection with servicing your account and effecting transactions, the information received may be shared with the investment adviser and non-affiliates, including transfer agents, custodians or other service companies. Access to your nonpublic personal information is restricted to employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. To maintain the security of your nonpublic personal information, physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards are in place that comply with federal standards. The policies and practices described above apply to both current and former shareholders.

If your Fund shares are held in "street name" at a bank or brokerage, we do not have access to your personal information and you should refer to your bank's or broker's privacy policies for a statement of the treatment of your personal information.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures and information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available (i) without charge, upon request by calling 1-800-451-2597; (ii) by writing to Tekla Capital Management LLC at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109; (iii) on the Fund's website at [www.Teklacap.com](http://www.Teklacap.com); and (iv) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The Fund's complete Schedule of Investments for the first and third quarters of its fiscal year will be filed quarterly with the SEC on Form N-Q. This Schedule of Investments will also be available on the Fund's website at [www.Teklacap.com](http://www.Teklacap.com), or the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The Fund's Form N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC or by calling 1-800-SEC-0330.

### **DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

The Fund has a fixed distribution policy as described in the Notes to Financial Statements. For more information contact your financial adviser.

### **PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D., Christopher F. Brinzey, M.B.A., Frank Gentile, Ph.D. and Jason C. Akus, M.D./M.B.A. are members of a team that analyzes investments on behalf of the Fund. Dr. Omstead exercises ultimate decision making authority with respect to investments.

### **HOUSEHOLDING**

A number of banks, brokers and financial advisers have instituted "householding". Under this practice, which has been approved by the SEC, only one copy of shareholder documents may be delivered to multiple shareholders who share the same address and satisfy other conditions. Householding is intended to reduce expenses and eliminate duplicate mailings of shareholder documents. If you do not want the mailing of your shareholder documents to be combined with those of other members of your household, please contact your bank, broker or financial adviser.





**H&Q LIFE SCIENCES INVESTORS**

New York Stock Exchange Symbol: HQL  
NAV Symbol: XHQLX

2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
(617) 772-8500  
www.teklacap.com

**Officers**

Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D., President  
Laura Woodward, CPA, Chief Compliance Officer,  
Secretary and Treasurer

**Trustees**

Michael W. Bonney  
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.  
Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D.  
Oleg M. Pohotsky  
William S. Reardon, CPA  
Uwe E. Reinhardt, Ph.D.  
Lucinda H. Stebbins, CPA

**Investment Adviser**

Tekla Capital Management LLC

**Administrator & Custodian**

State Street Bank and Trust Company

**Transfer Agent**

Computershare, Inc.

**Legal Counsel**

Dechert LLP

Shareholders with questions regarding share transfers may call

**1-800-426-5523**

Daily net asset value may be obtained from  
our website ([www.teklacap.com](http://www.teklacap.com)) or by calling







**Item 2. CODE OF ETHICS.**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

**ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

**ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

**ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

**ITEM 6. INVESTMENTS.**

The Registrant's Schedule of Investments is included as part of the Report to Shareholders filed under Item 1 of this form.

**ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

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**ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

**ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.**

| Period                                  | (a) Total No.<br>of Shares<br>Purchased (1) | (b) Average<br>Price Paid per<br>Share | (c) Total No.<br>of Shares<br>Purchased as<br>Part of<br>Publicly<br>Announced Plans<br>or Programs | (d) Maximum No.<br>of Shares that<br>May Yet Be<br>Purchased Under<br>the Plans or<br>Programs |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Month #1 (Oct. 1, 2013 - Oct. 31, 2013) |   |  |   |  |
| Month #2 (Nov. 1, 2013 - Nov. 30, 2013) |   |  |   |  |
| Month #3 (Dec. 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2013) |   |  |   |  |
| Month #4 (Jan. 1, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2014) |   |  |   |  |
| Month #5 (Feb. 1, 2014 - Feb. 28, 2014) |   |  |   |  |
| Month #6 (Mar. 1, 2014 - Mar. 31, 2014) |   |  |   |  |
| Total                                   |   |  |   |  |

(1) On June 30, 2011, the share repurchase program was announced, allowing the Registrant to repurchase up to 12% of its outstanding shares for a one year period beginning July 11, 2011. On March 21, 2013, the share repurchase program was renewed, allowing the Registrant to repurchase up to 12% of its outstanding shares for a one year period beginning July 11, 2013. On March 28, 2014, the Trustees approved the renewal of the repurchase program to allow the Registrant to repurchase up to 12% of its outstanding shares in the open market for a one year period beginning July 11, 2014.

**ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.**

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the Registrant's Board of Trustees, where those changes were implemented after the Registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 7(d)(2)(ii)(G) of Schedule 14A, or this Item.

**ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.**

(a) In the opinion of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, based on their evaluation which took place within 90 days of this filing, the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures are adequately designed and are operating effectively to ensure (i) that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to them by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared; and (ii) that information required to be disclosed by the registrant on Form N-CSR is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time period specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's

rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Registrant's most recent second fiscal quarter that have materially affected or that are reasonably likely to materially affect the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

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**ITEM 12. EXHIBITS**

(a)(1) Code of Ethics - Not applicable to this semi-annual filing.

(a)(2) Certification of the Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 is attached hereto (Exhibit 1).

(a)(3) Certification of the Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 is attached hereto (Exhibit 2).

(b) Certifications pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto (Exhibit 3).

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