

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## **Big Pharma Split Corp.**

June 30, 2019



The Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure, can be obtained at your request, and at no cost, by calling us at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3V7; by visiting our website at www.harvestportfolios. com; or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

### **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. ("Harvest" or the "Manager") is a Canadian Investment Manager focused on unique income generating investment products. Harvest was founded in 2009 and is focused on developing investment products that follow the investment philosophy of:

- 1. Clear investment objectives
- 2. Transparency
- 3. Consistent income and growth

Harvest endeavours to develop investment products that are clear in their mandate and easy for our investors to understand. We strive to be transparent, so that our investors can open their financial reports and know exactly what they own. Our funds are invested to provide investors with consistent monthly or quarterly income; therefore, we seek to invest our fund portfolios in well managed companies that have a history of steady cash flow and pay dividends.

### **INVESTMENT PRODUCT**

Big Pharma Split Corp. (the "Company" or "Fund") will invest in an initially equally-weighted portfolio (the "Portfolio") comprised of Equity Securities¹ of ten issuers, selected by the Portfolio Manager¹ from the Investable Universe¹, that at the time of investment and immediately following each semi-annual reconstitution and rebalancing: (i) are listed on a North American exchange; (ii) pay a dividend; and (iii) have options in respect of its Equity Securities that, in the opinion of the Portfolio Manager, are sufficiently liquid to permit the Portfolio Manager to write options in respect of such securities. The Portfolio will be comprised primarily of the largest (as determined by market capitalization calculated in US\$) Pharmaceutical Issuers¹ in the Investable Universe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in the Fund's prospectus dated October 27, 2017.



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### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

The interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim financial statements of the Fund. For your reference, the interim financial statements of the Fund are attached to the interim management report of fund performance. You may obtain additional copies of these documents at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll free at 1-866-998-8298; by writing to us at Harvest Portfolios Group Inc., 710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3V7; or by visiting our website at www.harvestportfolios.com; or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The Fund has been created to provide investors with a unique exposure to a portfolio of Equity Securities of ten issuers, selected by the Portfolio Manager from the Investable Universe, that at the time of investment and immediately following each semi-annual reconstitution and rebalancing: (i) are listed on a North American exchange; (ii) pay a dividend; and (iii) have options in respect of its Equity Securities that, in the opinion of the Portfolio Manager, are sufficiently liquid to permit the Portfolio Manager to write options in respect of such securities. The Portfolio will be comprised primarily of the largest (as determined by market capitalization calculated in US\$) Pharmaceutical Issuers in the Investable Universe.

The investment objectives for the Preferred shares are to provide their holders with fixed cumulative preferential quarterly cash distributions in the amount of \$0.125 per Preferred share (\$0.50 per annum or 5.0% per annum on the issue price of \$10.00 per Preferred share) until December 31, 2022 (the "Maturity Date") and to return the original issue price of \$10.00 to holders on the Maturity Date.

The investment objectives for the Class A shares are to provide their holders with regular monthly non-cumulative cash distributions targeted to be \$0.1031 per Class A share representing a yield on the issue price of the Class A shares of 8.25% per annum on the issue price of \$15.00 per Class A share and to provide holders with the opportunity for growth in the net asset value per Class A share.

To achieve its investment objectives, the Company will invest in an initially equally-weighted Portfolio comprised of Equity Securities of ten issuers from the Investable Universe, eight of which will be selected by the Portfolio Manager from the ten largest (as determined by market capitalization calculated in US\$) Pharmaceutical Issuers in the Investable Universe and the remaining two issuers will be selected by the Portfolio Manager from the Investable Universe.

Harvest will semi-annually reconstitute and rebalance the Portfolio.

### **RISK**

The risks associated with investing in the Fund are as described in the prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund over the period that affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The Fund's Class A and Preferred shares returned -2.77% and 2.52%, respectively, compared to the MSCI Daily Total Return World Gross Pharmaceutical Local Index (USD) benchmark return of 8.66%.

Through the end of 2018 the broader market volatility picked up significantly on uncertainty surrounding global trade, interest rate policies and diverging views about the pace at which the global economies were slowing, and that resulted in an abrupt pull back in late December. During this time however, Healthcare reacted as it has in many past market corrections and highlighted it's defensive characteristics by being one of the best performing sub-sectors amidst the market pull back. As 2019 emerged, renewed confidence of accommodative fiscal policy and slightly muted trade rhetoric coupled with a follow through of many companies meeting and beating profit forecasts with upward revisions for 2019. This resulted in the broader market rebounding quickly and the S&P 500 Index touching an all -time high by early May. During the first six months of 2019, momentum resumed for the traditionally more cyclical Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary and Industrials sub-sectors, with each of them ending up over 20% for the period.

Healthcare on the other hand, lagged the broader market during the period. A key drug failure in an Alzheimer study put further pressure on large capitalization biotechnology stocks and resulted in the sentiment towards those companies sending valuations in many cases to all-time lows. At the same time, the Healthcare selling pressure increased significantly driven in large part by comments from Democratic Presidential candidates surrounding drug pricing and insurance reforms, including one extreme comment to eliminate private insurance, caused the selling to spread to other sub-sectors. While posturing and headline grabbing came to the forefront as the Democrats get set to vote for their next Presidential candidate, the healthcare



sector in the second quarter rebounded as it became more apparent that the practicality of such extreme comments is limited.

This coincided with continued strong earnings reports and upwards revisions to guidance for the rest of 2019 and resulted in the sector moving positive for the period, albeit behind all other sub-sectors within the S&P 500. Following the end of the period, additional proposals from the Trump administration surrounding clarity and elimination of certain drug rebating were abandoned, providing additional validation that more impactful policy proposals are likely to have little fundamental impact to the sector despite headlines causing volatility.

Despite the macro headwinds and heightened volatility, corporate balance sheets remain in solid shape while quarterly profits have continued to grow, and this was particularly evident during the period for the Health Care sector. Healthcare is considered a superior good and directly exposed to the structurally positive macro tailwind of the global aging population. It is often considered a defensive sector given the necessity of many of the underlying products and valuation metrics in many cases have compressed to attractive levels compared to historical levels for the sector and compared to the broader market.

The Fund was invested in 8 pharmaceutical companies and 2 biotechnology companies and wrote call options in accordance with its investment objectives during the period.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

State Street Trust Company Canada will replace CIBC Mellon Trust Company as the custodian of the Fund. CIBC Mellon Global Security Services Company, who currently provides accounting services in respect of the Fund will be replaced by State Street Fund Services Toronto Inc. as the valuation agent of the Fund. Both of these changes are expected to take effect on or about September 23, 2019.

There were no other recent developments during the reporting period.

### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions during the period, except for management fees and other expense reimbursements paid to Harvest, as noted below in Management and Other Fees.

### **MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FEES**

The Fund pays the Manager a management fee calculated based on the average daily net asset value ("NAV") and paid monthly in arrears, based on an annual rate of 0.75%, plus applicable taxes, of the NAV of the Fund. For these purposes, the Preferred shares are not considered a liability of the Fund. At its sole discretion, the Manager may waive management fees or absorb expenses of the Fund. The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.

#### Operating expenses

The Fund is responsible for operating expenses relating to the carrying on of its business, including custodial services, interest, taxes, legal, audit fees, transfer agency services relating to the issue and redemption of shares, and the cost of financial and other reports, costs and expenses for the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), including fees and expenses of the IRC members and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies. The Manager pays for such expenses on behalf of the Fund, except for certain expenses such as interest, and is then reimbursed by the Fund.

### Other expenses

The Manager will be reimbursed by the Fund for all reasonable costs, expenses and liabilities incurred by the Manager for performance of services on behalf of the Fund in connection with the discharge by the Manager of its duties hereunder. Such costs and expenses may include, without limitation: mailing and printing expenses for reports to shareholders and other shareholder communications; a reasonable allocation of salaries and benefits; and other administrative expenses and costs incurred in connection with the Fund's ongoing operations. These expenses were \$13,438 for the period ended June 30, 2019 (2018 - \$21,189) and are included in the shareholder reporting costs on the Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the financial statements.

### Waivers and absorptions

At its sole discretion, the Manager may waive management fees or absorb expenses of the Fund. There were no management fee waivers or expense absorptions for the period ended June 30, 2019 or 2018. The management expense ratios of the Fund with and without the waivers and absorptions are reported in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table below.



### Issue costs

Certain Offering expenses such as costs of creating the Fund, the cost of printing and preparing the prospectus, legal expenses of the Fund and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the agents together with the agent's fees payable by the Fund are included in the carrying amount of the Fund's obligation for net assets attributable to holders of redeemable Class A shares. As a result of the priority of the Preferred shares, the expenses of the Offering will effectively be borne by holders of the Class A shares (as long as the net asset value per unit exceeds the Offering price per Preferred share plus accrued and unpaid distributions) and the net asset value per Class A share will reflect the expenses of the Offering of both the Preferred Shares and Class A Shares.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORTS BY THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Independent Review Committee tabled no special reports and made no extraordinary material recommendations to management of the Fund during the period ended June 30, 2019.



### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The following tables present selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the period ended June 30, 2019 and past annual periods. This information is derived from the Fund's interim financial statements and past annual audited financial statements.

### Class A shares

THE FUND'S NET ASSETS			
PER SHARE	2019	2018	2017
Net assets - beginning of the period <sup>2</sup>	\$ 14.05	\$ 13.73	\$ 13.65
Increase (decrease) from operations			
Total revenue	0.44	0.77	0.02
Total expenses	(0.26)	(0.54)	(80.0)
Preferred share distribution	(0.22)	(0.50)	(0.05)
Preferred shares agent fees and issue costs	-	-	(0.42)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.47	(0.09)	(0.07)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	(0.87)	1.92	0.37
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>1</sup>	\$ (0.44)	\$ 1.56	\$ (0.23)
Distributions <sup>3</sup>			
Dividends	(0.62)	(1.24)	(0.10)
Total annual distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ (0.62)	\$ (1.24)	\$ (0.10)
Net assets - end of the period <sup>1</sup>	\$ 13.04	\$ 14.05	\$ 13.73

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	2019	2018	2017
Total net asset value (including Preferred shares)	\$ 24,382,353	\$ 32,251,925	\$ 32,276,788
Total net asset value – Class A shares	\$ 13,800,473	\$ 18,842,925	\$ 18,676,788
Number of Class A shares outstanding	1,058,188	1,340,900	1,360,000
Management expense ratio <sup>4</sup> – Class A shares Management expense ratio before waivers or	6.09%	6.48%	17.82%
absorptions <sup>4</sup> – Class A shares	6.09%	6.48%	17.82%
Trading expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	0.19%	0.18%	0.58%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>	17.33%	50.21%	3.33%
Net asset value per unit	\$ 23.04	\$ 24.05	\$ 23.73
Net asset value per Class A shares	\$ 13.04	\$ 14.05	\$ 13.73
Net asset value per Preferred shares	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Closing market price – Class A shares	\$ 12.14	\$ 12.38	\$ 14.15
Closing market price – Preferred shares	\$ 10.31	\$ 10.17	\$ 10.30

### **Explanatory Notes:**

- Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of shares outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from
  operations is based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding over the reporting period. It is not intended that the Fund's
  net assets per share table act as a continuity of opening and closing net assets per Class A share.
- 2. Net assets, at the commencement of operations on November 24, 2017 was \$13.65, net of agents' commissions and issuance costs of \$1.35 per share.
- 3. Distributions were paid in cash.
- 4. Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) of the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the Class A daily average net asset value during the period. The MER for the period December 31, 2017 includes agent fees of \$1,428,000, issue costs of \$408,000 and Preferred share distributions of \$70,217. Agent fees and issues costs are treated as one-time expenses and therefore were not annualized. The MER without these costs and excluding the Preferred share distribution was 4.47%. The MER without agent fees and issue costs but including the Preferred shares) is 10.34%. This MER includes agent fees, issue costs and Preferred share distribution. This MER without these costs and excluding the Preferred share distribution was 2.59%. The MER without agent fees and issue costs but including the Preferred share distribution was 4.67%.



The Class A MER for the year ended December 31, 2018 excluding the Preferred share distribution was 2.91%. The MER based on the daily average of the total net asset value (included Preferred shares) was 3.78%. This MER excluding the Preferred share distribution was 1.69%.

The Class A MER for the period ended June 30, 2019 excluding the Preferred share distribution was 2.73%. The MER based on the daily average of the total net asset value (included Preferred shares) was 3.50%. This MER excluding the Preferred share distribution was 1.57%.

- 5. The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value (including preferred shares) during the period.
- 6. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

### **Past Performance**

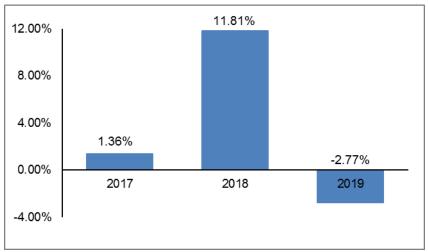
The performance information presented herein assumes all dividends of the Fund during the periods presented were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemptions, or other charges that would have reduced returns or affected performance. Past performance of the Fund is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

### YEAR-BY-YEAR RETURNS

The following charts present the Fund's performance for each of the periods shown and illustrate how the Fund's performance varied for Class A and Preferred shares. The charts show, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year except for 2019 which represents the interim period.

#### **Fund Performance**

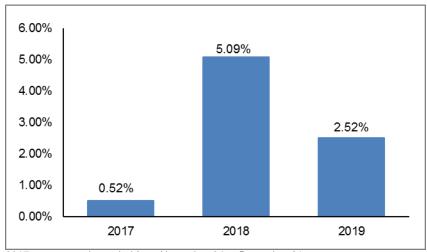
### Class A shares



2017 represents the period from November 24 to December 31



### **Preferred shares**



2017 represents the period from November 24 to December 31

### **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

The major portfolio categories and top holdings of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. A detailed breakdown of the Fund's holdings is available in the "Schedule of Investments" section of the Fund's interim financial statements.

### As at June 30, 2019

Top Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
AbbVie Inc.	18.0
Sanofi S.A. ADR	17.5
AstraZeneca PLC ADR	17.4
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	17.3
GlaxoSmithKline PLC ADR	17.3
Pfizer Inc.	17.2
Merck & Co., Inc.	17.2
Amgen Inc.	17.1
Eli Lilly and Company	17.1
Johnson & Johnson	17.0
Foreign currency forward contracts	5.5
Options	(0.3)
Cash and other assets and liabilities	(1.6)
Preferred shares	(76.7)
Total	100.0

This summary of investment portfolio may change due to the ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates of the Fund's investment portfolio are available from Harvest Portfolios Group Inc. at <a href="https://www.harvestportfolios.com">www.harvestportfolios.com</a>.



### SECTOR ALLOCATION

Sector	% of Net Asset Value
Health Care	173.1
Foreign currency forwards contracts	5.5
Options	(0.3)
Cash and other assets and liabilities	(1.6)
Preferred shares	(76.7)
Total	100.0

### **GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION**

Country of Risk	% of Net Asset Value
United States	121.0
United Kingdom	34.6
France	17.5
Foreign currency forward contracts	5.5
Options	(0.3)
Cash and other assets and liabilities	(1.6)
Preferred shares	(76.7)
Total	100.0





### **Head Office**

710 Dorval Drive, Suite 209 Oakville, Ontario L6K 3V7 Phone Number: 416.649.4541

Toll Free: 866.998.8298 Fax Number: 416.649.4542

Email: info@harvestportfolios.com

### CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's prospectus or offering memorandum. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Fund, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, the Fund does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

