

Gareth Powell, Head of Healthcare and
James Douglas, Fund Manager
Polar Capital Global Healthcare Trust

Gareth Powell (GP), Head of the Polar Capital Healthcare Team

My name is Gareth Powell and I am head of the healthcare team at Polar Capital. I joined all the way back in 2007 to set up the healthcare unit and we now run six different products. We have a great team, with five fund managers, three analysts and an executive assistant. The team has vast experience of investing in different subsectors of healthcare, particularly in areas like biotechnology and medical devices.

James Douglas (JD), Fund Manager, Polar Capital Global Healthcare Trust

The Trust was originally launched back in 2010, and at that time, the team felt that the pharmaceutical sector in particular was trading on relatively attractive valuations, carrying quite high dividend yields and thought there would be a rerating. That actually proved to be quite prescient. Then in 2017, the Board took the view that the income mandate attached to the original version of the Trust was maybe holding the managers back, so they changed the mandate from income to a focus on growth.

GP: Right now, we are very optimistic about healthcare. One of the structural positives of the Trust is the ability to use leverage to supercharge potential returns from investing in the sector. Another is the potential to manage any discount. Yet another is that we have a very focused vehicle allowing broad exposure to healthcare in a multi-cap way. Bringing all the positive aspects together, both structural and for the sector itself, we think the Trust is a very positive vehicle for investors to gain exposure to healthcare.

JD: In terms of timing of the corporate action, there are really two aspects to it. First, the second phase of the Trust carried a fixed life, and the Board recently announced that they are going to go to shareholders with a proposal for a corporate reorganisation. Second, Polar Capital really tries to be investment led, and we think there is a compelling opportunity for the healthcare sector in the near and the medium term.

GP: The Polar Capital Global Healthcare Trust (PGCH) is positioned to benefit from the trends we are seeing. We feel there is an inflection point in terms of the demographics really impacting the sector. The emerging market story on volume utilisation is very powerful. New product cycles are incredibly important – 80% of the investment universe in healthcare is product companies. The other aspect is we are starting to see M&A activity pick up again. Valuations are really good. Sentiment is negative, which is a positive from a contrarian point of view. The one key aspect to highlight is we have had over the past nine to 12 months, four major overhangs sitting on the sector which really relate to what has been going on with the US administration. We are starting to see those overhangs clear and if they can fully, we see an opportunity for the valuations of healthcare stocks to really expand.

JD: So the proposal for the new Trust, or I guess we can call it 'PGCH version three', is actually very similar to version two. We have made tweaks rather than material changes. In terms of market capitalisation, greater than 70% of the assets will be in stocks with a market cap above £10bn at the time of putting them in the portfolio, or – putting it another way – up to 30% of the Trust will be in small and mid-caps.

GP: Other key aspects of the Trust include dividends being paid twice a year, the opportunity for leverage up to 15% and the ability to use stock buybacks to effectively manage the discount. We are proposing to move from a fixed-life structure to a tender offer beginning in 2031 and on a five-year rolling basis thereafter. There is a new proposed fee structure with tiering on the annual management charge and removal of the performance fees.

JD: The long-term objectives of the Trust are very consistent with the previous version, really looking to generate long-term growth from a portfolio of global healthcare companies. In terms of the impact on shareholders, we are hoping it is de minimis, as it is a very consistent approach. We are hoping in the very short term there will be very little in terms of disruption to the current shareholders and how they view the sector.

GP: These proposed changes for the investment trust are done with the aim of being shareholder-friendly and allowing us to create a vehicle that maximises our opportunity to invest in the healthcare sector.

Gareth Powell and James Douglas

November 2025

Polar Capital Global Healthcare Trust plc (the "Company")

The Company is an investment company with investment trust status and its shares are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's ("FCA") restrictions on the promotion of non-mainstream investment products. The Company conducts its affairs, and intends to continue to conduct its affairs, so that the exemption will apply.

The Company is an Alternative Investment Fund under the EU's Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive 2011/61/EU as it forms part of UK law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

The Investment Manager

Polar Capital LLP is the investment manager of the Company (the "Investment Manager"). The Investment Manager is authorised and regulated by the FCA and is a registered investment adviser with the United States' Securities and Exchange Commission.

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- **Investors' capital is at risk and there is no guarantee the Company will achieve its objective.**
- **Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.**
- The value of investments may go down as well as up.
- Investors might get back less than they originally invested.
- The value of an investment's assets may be affected by a variety of uncertainties such as (but not limited to): (i) international political developments; (ii) market sentiment; and (iii) economic conditions.
- The shares of the Company may trade at a discount or a premium to Net Asset Value.
- The Company may use derivatives which carry the risk of reduced liquidity, substantial loss and increased volatility in adverse market conditions.
- The Company invests in assets denominated in currencies other than the Company's base currency and changes in exchange rates may have a negative impact on the value of the Company's investments.
- The Company invests in a concentrated number of companies based in one sector. This focused strategy can lead to significant losses. The Company may be less diversified than other investment companies.
- The Company may invest in emerging markets where there is a greater risk of volatility than developed economies, for example due to

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Find out more



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