

## Small Cap Core Equity

Bottom-up fundamental approach focused on investing across the Growth/Value spectrum

### Strategy Overview

<b>Firm AUM:</b>	\$188.0B
<b>Strategy AUM:</b>	\$2.2B
<b>Inception Date:</b>	April 30, 1998
<b>Number of Holdings:</b>	Typically 110-135
<b>Benchmark:</b>	Russell 2000® Index
<b>Available Vehicles:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutional Separate Account</li> <li>▪ Collective Investment Trust</li> </ul>

### Team Members

#### Portfolio Managers

Average Experience: 22 years

Jason M. Swiatek, CFA

Sheetal M. Prasad, CFA

Eric Sartorius, CFA

#### Dedicated Analysts: 5

Average Experience: 17 years

### Highlights

- We have a deep and experienced team dedicated to our small and midcap strategies, focused on understanding business models and investing in companies with long-term appreciation potential. We buy businesses rather than just stocks.
- We spend time evaluating the appropriate values for our investments even before we buy them. Our price targets allow us to maintain a disciplined approach to buying and selling stocks.
- We explore investment opportunities outside conventional boundaries. We are willing and able to investigate controversial or complex stories which may be misunderstood and not followed by Wall Street.
- A research-intensive approach is used to build diversified portfolios with stocks in a variety of industries and sectors that have attractive valuations and should experience solid earnings growth on an intermediate term basis in our view.
- The team focuses on business evaluation to identify companies with the majority of the following criteria. This list is fluid and focuses on what is most relevant to our current thinking.
  - Strong competitive positions
  - Quality management teams
  - Positive industry dynamics
  - Balance sheet flexibility and strength
  - Strong earnings growth prospects

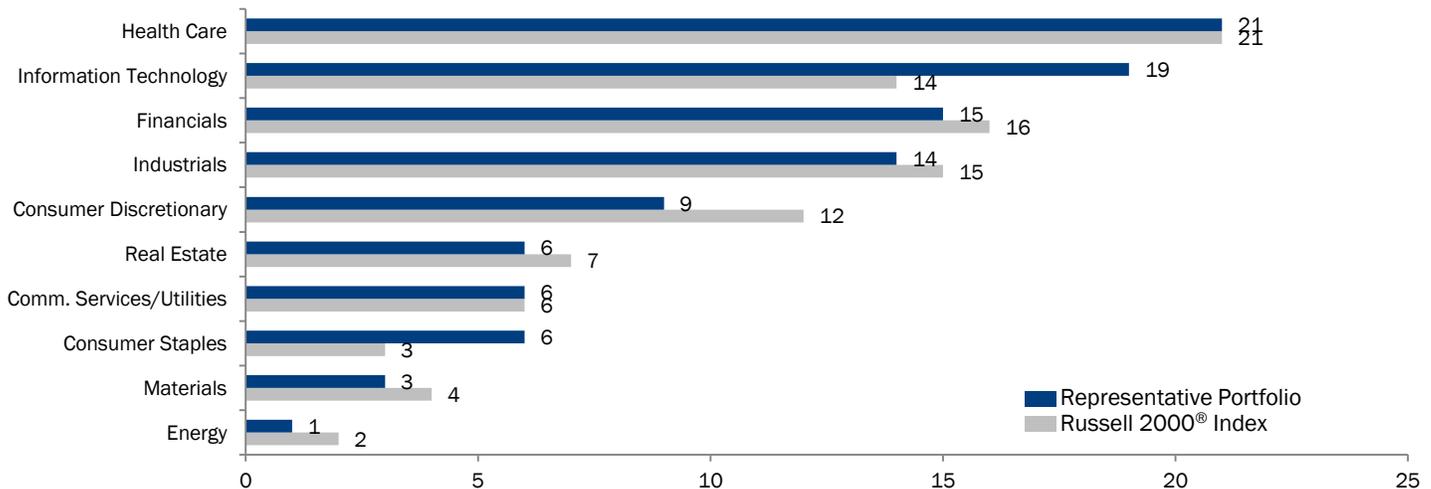
### Performance

	2Q20	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
Small Cap Core Equity Composite (Gross)	36.9%	-0.4%	5.1%	5.3%	12.2%	9.4%
Small Cap Core Equity Composite (Net)	36.7	-1.0	4.5	4.7	11.6	8.7
Russell 2000® Index	25.4	-6.6	2.0	4.3	10.5	6.5

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Source: Jennison/Mellon Analytical Solutions. Inception of Small Cap Core Equity Composite: 4/30/98. Periods greater than one year are annualized. See disclosures for important information.

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Sector Allocation



For ease of reference, certain similar GICS sectors have been grouped together. Source: Jennison/Melon Analytical Solutions. Cash excluded. See disclosures for important information.

Equity Characteristics	Representative Portfolio	Russell 2000® Index	Largest Holdings	
Weighted Avg. Market Cap	\$3.4 bil.	\$2.1 bil.	Livongo Health	2.6
Median Market Cap	\$2.5 bil.	\$0.6 bil.	Bandwidth	2.6
Dividend Yield	1.0%	1.7%	Inphi	2.2
Number of Holdings	127	2,005	Saia	2.0
			QTS Realty Trust	1.7
			Wingstop	1.6
			Q2 Holdings	1.6
			NextEra Energy Partners	1.5
			Darling Ingredients	1.5
			Varonis Systems	1.5
				18.7%

Source: Jennison/Melon Analytical Solutions. See disclosures for important information.

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Largest Absolute Impact (2Q)	Average Weight	Total Return	Contribution to Return	Average Weight	Total Return	Contribution to Return
<b>Top Five</b>				<b>Bottom Five</b>		
Livongo Health	2.0%	164%	2.15	Brookline	0.4%	-9%
Bandwidth	2.4%	89%	1.86	Kontoor	0.2	-7
Horizon Therapeutics	1.7%	88%	1.22	National Storage	1.0	-2
HubSpot	1.8%	68%	1.10	Ameris Bancorp	1.0	0
Wingstop	1.5%	75%	1.01	Thermon Group	0.3	-3

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Source: FactSet. The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended by Jennison during the time period shown. A complete list of holdings and how each contributed to the representatives portfolio's return is available upon request. See disclosures for important information.

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## Overview

Equities markets rebounded strongly from a precipitous decline in the first quarter triggered by the initial spread of COVID-19, but the pandemic's economic damage continued to accumulate. US first-quarter GDP provided a preliminary gauge of the toll, contracting 5.0%, down sharply from growth of 2.1% in the previous quarter.

The Russell 2000® Index recorded its third best quarter in history, with a return of 25.4%. This was its best quarter since Q1 1991. Among Russell's US equity indices, growth continued to outperform value across capitalizations and small caps outperformed mid and large caps. We believe this could continue as smaller caps should benefit more from an improving economy and credit markets. High yield spreads peaked on March 18, 2020, which has historically been a bullish sign for small caps.

The Jennison Small Cap Core Equity Composite enjoyed its single best absolute and relative quarter since its inception. In the representative portfolio, stock selection added value in almost every sector relative to the index. Holdings in health care contributed the most to performance led by names in health care technology and pharmaceuticals. Holdings in software and semiconductors drove outperformance in information technology, while financials and communication services contributed meaningfully to absolute and relative performance.

An underweight in consumer discretionary detracted from relative performance. Reflective of the strong market backdrop, no holding detracted more than a few basis points.

## Key Contributors

- Specifically, **Livongo Health** is a healthcare services company that develops applied health signals for the treatment of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, weight management, and behavioral health. First quarter earnings exceeded their pre-announced estimates. In our view, we are at an inflection point in the delivery of healthcare, where virtual or remote care is no longer the last option, but is instead becoming the first line or the standard of care. We believe Livongo Health's first in market advantage, brand name recognition in the marketplace, and strong return on investment (ROI) bode well for future growth.
- **Horizon Therapeutics** has transitioned from a specialized pharmaceutical firm to a successful rare disease company. The primary growth drivers for the next two to three years are Krystexxa (for uncontrollable gout) and Tepezza (for thyroid eye disease). The company's first quarter sales of \$356 million were well above consensus. In our view, Horizon Therapeutics has further upside potential from M&A (both as a buyer and a seller), as it has a very attractive balance sheet and two products that we believe could drive substantial revenue growth in the coming years.
- **Bandwidth, Inc.** is a diversified telecommunications company that sells software application programming interfaces for voice and messaging. The company's shares rallied as it reported robust first quarter revenue growth and year-over-year customer growth, both of which easily exceeded expectations. We believe the pandemic's push to remote work is advantageous for Bandwidth as it is an option to use when you cannot utilize internet audio for a video call.

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## Key Detractors

- **National Storage Affiliates Trust** is a real estate investment trust (REIT) that owns, operates and acquires self-storage facilities. Self-storage REITs as a whole experienced a difficult second quarter given the headwinds associated with COVID-19. While valuations in many cases are inexpensive, this is being overshadowed by the uncertain environment. While dividends are being sought out in a zero-rate environment, a number of REITs have already suspended or cut their payouts, a trend that could continue. While shares modestly declined during the second quarter, the company has outperformed many of its peers and recently started rolling out more sophisticated information technology and other tools to its Participating Regional Operators. We like the company's focus on markets outside the top 10, as its markets tend to be less impacted by new supply.
- **Kontoor Brands** is an American clothing company that markets denim clothing under the Lee, Wrangler and Rock & Republic brand names. Shares were hurt by a weak retail. Management believes it has better retail exposure than its peers given significantly less exposure to department stores. In our view, the retail channel inventory position will improve in the second half of the year and consumers will seek value brands. Wrangler/Lee significantly outperformed its competitors from 2008-2009 and, if consumer seek value, Kontoor's brands have the potential to outperform.
- **Brookline Bancorp** is a multi-bank holding company with branches throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Its shares declined as core earnings and net interest margins fell short of expectations. Reserves also increased given COVID-related provisions and other commitments. In our view, management has focused on slowly improving the business mix from thrift-like to more of a commercial focus. We participated in a capital raise two years ago that was intended to provide for an acceleration in growth, both organic and inorganic. Going forward, our investment thesis revolves around stable growth and maintaining a modest premium valuation as a potential takeover target.

## Outlook

A troubling new surge in viral infection rates in several states has led to second thoughts about moving forward with scheduled, phased-in reopenings in the US. Europe and most of Asia have been more successful in containing the spread, while conditions in much of Africa and South America are acute at best. Encouraging progress in developing a vaccine has been made, but it will likely be some time before one is approved and widely available for treatment. Ramped-up testing and compliance with social-distancing guidelines seem to be prerequisites for broad economic reopening.

Given the high degree of uncertainty, companies are taking a cautious approach to near-term business planning. Many companies are likewise suspending financial guidance for now with the hope of greater clarity later this year.

We have spent the past several months attempting to assess the impact of COVID-19 on holdings by speaking with the management teams of each of the companies held in the portfolio. Our conversations have been helpful in understanding the immediate effects, but precise estimations of the virus's impact over the balance of 2020 and longer-term are not yet possible given the substantially greater than normal uncertainty.

As economic and market uncertainty rise, we continue to identify those companies that have strong fundamentals and might outgrow market averages. We believe this favors our disciplined and bottom-up investment approach that focuses on identifying these above average growers with reasonable valuations. While we've taken some profits in companies which have rebounded significantly, overall our exposure has increased in communication services, consumer discretionary, health care and information technology to reflect where we see the best opportunities in the new environment due to COVID.

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