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October 24, 2014 - Invest in BioCryst Pharmaceuticals – By Jeffrey Hagenmeier



There has been another American who has tested positive for Ebola virus in the United States. This time it is a doctor in New York City who had just returned from West Africa.

Once again, numerous people had been potentially exposed to the virus. The location could not be worse considering the importance of the city to the world of investment and finance. Another challenge is that New York City is one of the largest cities in the world and is densely populated. Under these circumstances it is a perfect breeding ground for a virus. It is creating more anxiety about the possible spread of Ebola in the United States. This will bring about another opportunity to invest in a company that is attempting to combat these type of illnesses. The stock recommended for today is **BioCryst Pharmaceuticals**.

The stock ended yesterday with an increase of 0.49 USD (United States Dollar) a 4.19% increase. The stock had finished the day at **\$12.19** after reaching a high of \$12.45 USD and a low of \$11.80 USD. The stock had opened at \$11.82 USD. Over the last five days the stock had seen a high of \$12.47 USD a week ago, to a low of \$11.27 USD this past Monday. In the preceding month the stock has hit a high of \$12.80 USD on October 03, and a low of \$10.01 on October 13th. So there has been some volatility associated with the stock. In other words, news events will drive the valuation of the company in the short term.



BioCryst Pharmaceuticals is a American company based in Durham North Carolina. It was founded in 1986. The company had 37 employees as of 2013. BioCryst focuses on orphan and autoimmune diseases as well as **antivirals**. The most important product of the company to date was *Peramivir*. This drug was approved for use in China, Japan and Korea for influenza. In the United States it was sanctioned by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) for use in the treatment of patients hospitalized with influenza in emergency situations. This was during the 2009-10 pandemic of influenza A virus subtype H1N1.



BioCryst has been a public company since 1994. One of the most important advances for the company recently is *BCX4430*. It is an RNA dependent-RNA polymerase inhibitor that has shown broad spectrum activity for multiple viruses. Development of the drug was funded by a government grant of \$22 million USD. The money arrived in September 2013 from NIAID (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases).



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The market capitalization for BioCryst is \$847.71 million USD. Volume yesterday was seen at 1,181,863. Average volume traded over the last three months was 1.418 million shares. The 52 week range for the stock was a low of \$4.55 USD to a high of \$12.45 USD.

Given the present situation with the Ebola Virus and the competition among companies to develop, produce and bring to market drugs to combat the disease, one should set their price target for between **\$14.00 to \$15.00 USD**. This would allow for a **20% to 25% increase** in the price of the stock at this point.