

The EQ Positive Impact Portfolios invest in companies that are making a positive impact on society and the environment by providing solutions to real world problems. We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a way to map the impact of their products and services.

Our quarterly updates feature examples of these companies and funds; here we will focus on three relating to goals 10 - Reduced inequalities, 3 - Good health and well-being; and 12 - Responsible consumption and production.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The social impact of cloud technology

Achieving the global goal to an equitable and sustainable world requires the actions by change makers across public, private, and non-profit organisations. The

non-profit sector specifically is important to reach to most marginalised communities and create progress on non-investable impact themes yet suffers from various inefficiencies. Traditional methods of fundraising for social good can be costly and do not provide a method for donors to make proactive choices, for example by evaluating impact metrics as a measure of effectiveness.

Just like private businesses, charities should be able to use smart data management to get their message across and attract more business – in the form of donations or volunteer support.

FUND IN FOCUS

Hermes Impact
Opportunities Fund



Blackbaud receives investment from the Hermes Impact Opportunities Fund, which also invests in other businesses helping reduce inequalities, such as [Bank Rakyat](#) which focuses on improving financial inclusion in rural Indonesia.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Blackbaud

blackbaud

[Blackbaud](#) provides cloud-based software services for the global social good industry, including [education providers](#), [social enterprises](#) and [NGOs](#). Its modular services solve specific inefficiencies that are preventing organisations from maximising their positive impact potential. Through its smart fundraising and relationship management software, Blackbaud has significantly [improved the funds raised](#) by its charity clients, and helps engage them longer-term. On the other side, [grant makers](#) have used Blackbaud to maximise their impact through enabling communications with constituent charities, streamlining impact reporting, and communicating this to the public. Blackbaud is an innovative tech for good company, and a key enabler to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.





Developing innovative approaches to fight neurodegenerative diseases

Neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimers, Dementia and Parkinsons, are one of the greatest medical challenges of our time. While life expectancy is rising across the world, the next step is to increase healthy life expectancy in our ageing populations. It can take years for these diseases to fully compromise a patient's independence, but even early stages can take a toll on personal relationships and require dedicated care support.

Although treatments may help relieve some of the physical or mental symptoms associated with neurodegenerative diseases, there is currently no way to slow disease progression and no known cures.

FUND IN FOCUS

Baillie Gifford Health Innovation Fund



Denali therapeutics receives investment from the Baillie Gifford Health Innovation Fund. The fund also invests in other businesses contributing to revolutionary medical treatments – for example [Alk Abello](#) focusing on immunotherapy for treating and preventing allergies.

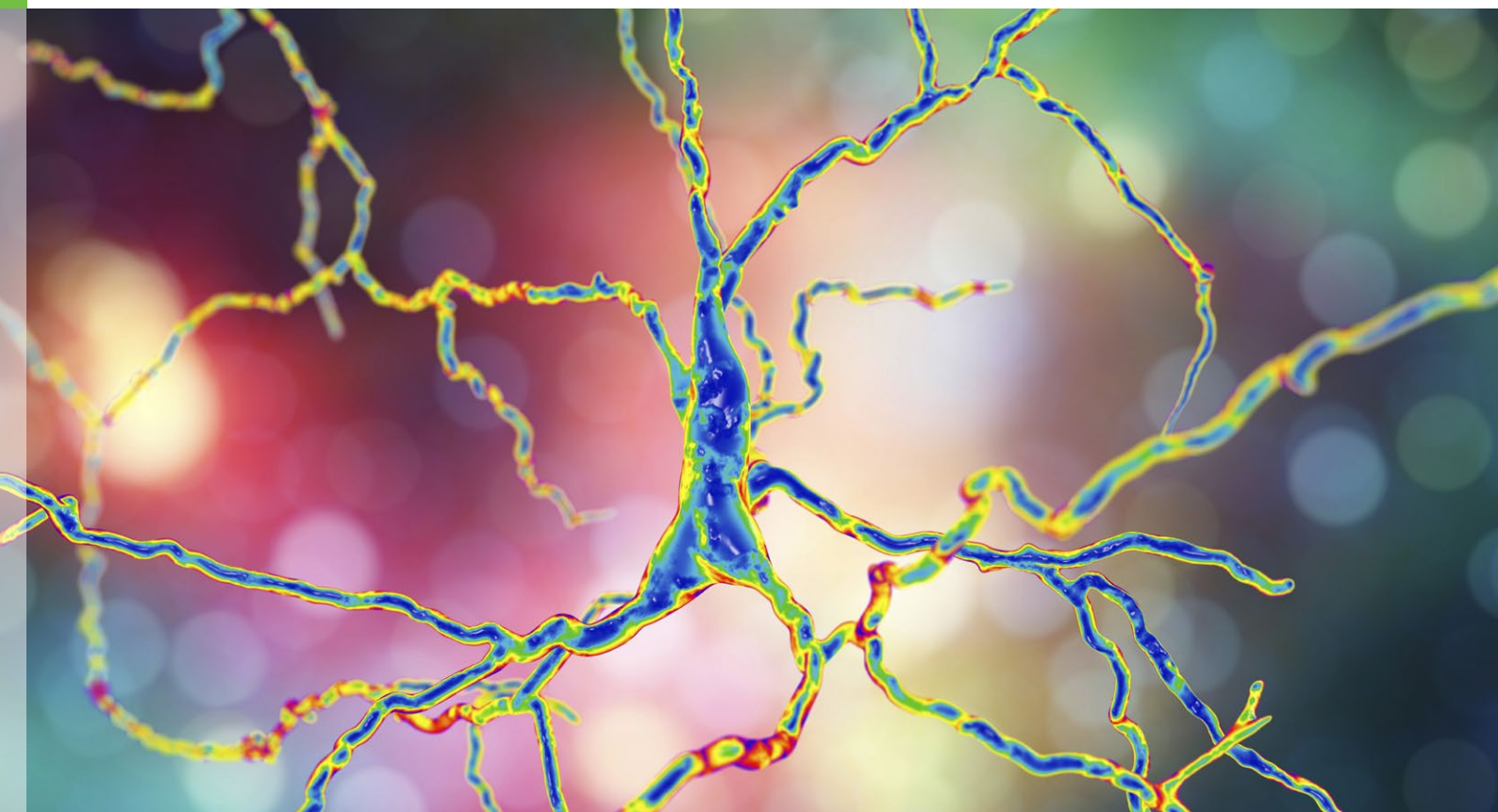
CASE STUDY

Denali Therapeutics



[Denali Therapeutics](#) is a US based, innovative biotechnology company that focuses on finding treatments for some of the most common neurodegenerative diseases. Recent advances in genetics and genomic diagnostics have highlighted specific genetic pathways that contribute to disease onset and progression. The “degenogenes”, when mutated, onset diseases like Alzheimers or Parkinsons. Denali uses this information to develop its innovative treatments in the form of brain penetrant small molecules.

Given that there still is no proven cure for neurodegenerative diseases, the company's current early stage clinical trials, [showing preliminary positive results](#), have the potential to be vastly transformative.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



How the circular economy can help heavy industry reduce emissions

Steel is an alloy of iron, improved in strength using a small fraction of carbon. As the world's most important and indispensable engineering and construction material it can be found everywhere - keeping buildings upright, trains moving, and bridges stable. The greatest demand for steel comes from rapidly growing and urbanising Asian economies, predominantly China and India. This is expected to continue to increase over the coming years.

Producing steel carries significant environmental impacts, including the effects of invasive iron ore mining on ecosystems and the carbon footprint associated with the metal extraction, and production of steel rods. Despite these adverse effects, only [about 25% of global steel production uses steel scraps or recycled sources, which can create significant emissions savings.](#)

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Schnitzer Steel Industries



[Schnitzer Steel Industries](#) plays an important part in developing a circular economy for the steel industry. Scrap metal is a continuous and valuable resource that can be re-melted and reshaped into new products countless times while providing significant economic and environmental benefits. The US based company collects, processes, and recycles metal scrap to produce high quality steel products.

Schnitzer securely dismantles a range of vehicles for scrap metal, and so prevents the release of hazardous chemicals from batteries or refrigerants with high ozone depleting properties from creating environmental damage. Despite the carbon savings from recycling, the process can still be energy intensive – this is why Schnitzer has set ambitious targets for carbon-free electricity sourcing, and has achieved [93% carbon-free electricity use in 2020.](#)

FUND IN FOCUS

Fidelity Sustainable Water & Waste Fund



Schnitzer steel industries receive investment from the Fidelity Sustainable Water and Waste Fund. Other companies in the fund that help a move to a circular economy include [Waste management Inc](#) and [Cleanaway Waste Management](#).



Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Take a look at our annual Impact Report – and calculate the impact of your own portfolio online – at: eqinvestors.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Risk warning

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The Positive Impact Portfolios are available in seven different risk profiles.

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