



i-Watch Rating System:

- No concern(s)
- Moderate concern(s) requiring frequent and close monitoring
- Serious concern(s) that require a full review and may lead to removal from the fund platform

Date 3/1/2024

Fund Manager Invesco

i-Watch Status ● **On-Watch**

Product(s) Impacted:

Manulife Fidelity Global Fund

Summary

- In September 2023, Fidelity Investments Canada ('FIC or the Firm') announced that Jeremy Podger, Portfolio Manager ('PM') on the Fund, will be retiring from active portfolio management on March 31, 2024, for personal reasons. Following Podger's retirement, he will remain as a Senior Advisor in the Firm, where he will continue to provide the leadership and mentorship to investment colleagues.
- As of February 28, 2024, Patrice Quirion was appointed by the Firm to manage the Fund following Podger's retirement. Quirion will be working closely with Podger to ensure a seamless transition of responsibilities.
- Global Manager Research ('GMR') has downgraded the rating of the Manulife Fidelity Global Fund ('the Fund') from In Good Standing to On-Watch.

Impact

Podger joined the Firm in February 2012, and he is based in London, U.K. He first assumed PM responsibilities on the Fund in November 2014 and has been managing global equity mandates since 1990. He joined Threadneedle in 2003, where he was Head of Global Equities and managed their Global Select Fund. During his tenure, Podger also managed a number of other retail and institutional funds including Global Extended Alpha Funds. Prior to that, Podger was a PM at Investec for seven years and managed their Global Free Enterprise and Global Strategic Value Funds which had similar objectives to those of the Fidelity Global Special Situations Fund and FF World Fund. He started his career as a pan-European Fund Manager for Saudi International Bank in 1987 followed by a period managing European and Global equities at Mirage Resources.

Podger first took over this strategy in November 2014. Over time, the PM has built a core supporting group to help him in terms of idea generation, bottom-up research and day-to-day portfolio management activities to manage this core global equity portfolio. For this reason, in December 2022, GMR had removed the Fund from the Closely-Monitored List ('CML') as concerns with the Fund's key person risks and consistency of the investment approach were alleviated.

As of February 28, 2024, Quirion was appointed by the Fund to manage the Fund following Podger's retirement. Quirion is an experienced portfolio manager specializing in global and international equities. He has been a portfolio manager since 2013 and brings nearly 20 years of industry experience. Quirion has established a successful track record managing several funds, including the Fidelity Global Concentrated Equity Fund, which is a core diversified global equity mandate that the Fund will follow going forward.

Under Quirion's management starting April 1, 2024, the Fund will undergo several changes. The strategy will focus on companies that exhibit a combination of quality (predictable, durable, high returns, growing businesses) and reasonable valuations (trading below normalized long-term fair value), different from Podger's focus on three pillars (Change, Value and Franchise). The portfolio is expected to be more concentrated as a result, holding 50-70 names instead of 100-120 under Podger's management. The changes are expected to impact the performance blueprint of the Fund.

Closing Remarks

Due to the change in PM as well as the change in strategy focus and performance blueprint of the Fund, GMR has downgraded the Fund from In Good Standing to On-Watch to reflect our heightened concerns. Close monitoring is required after Quirion takes over the strategy to evaluate the full extent of impact.



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