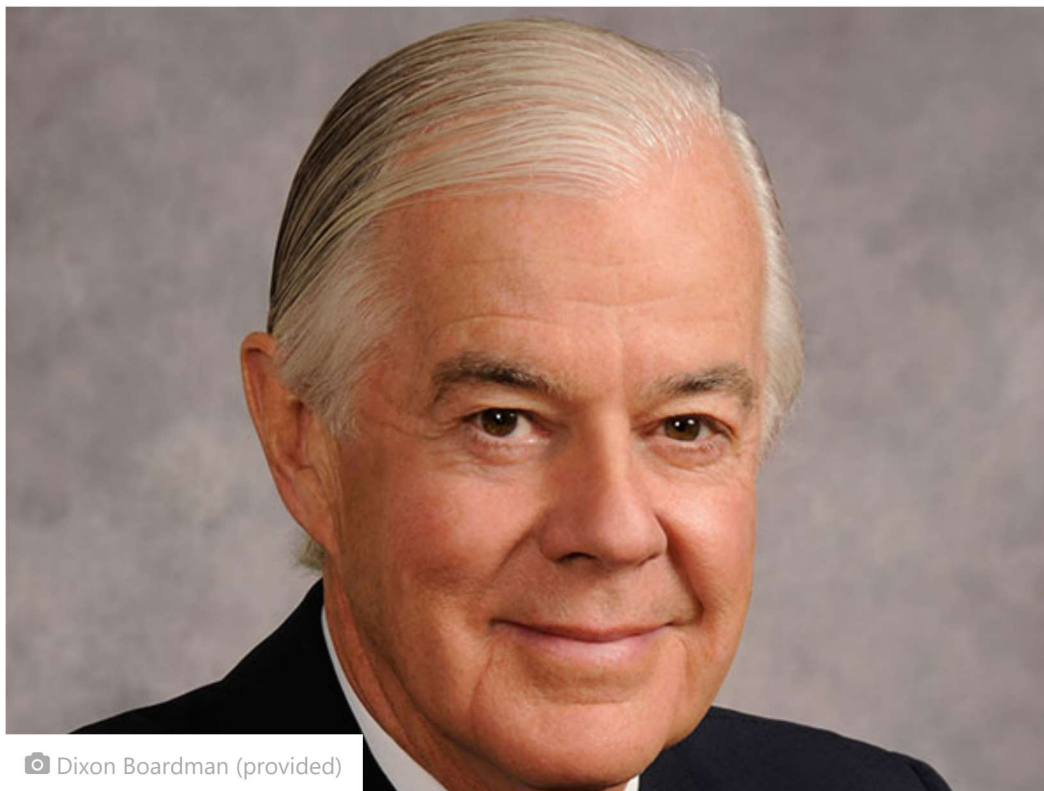


FoHFs Optima outlines key interests in Asia, healthcare and long/short strategies



Susan Barreto • February 2, 2021 📖 2 minutes read



📷 Dixon Boardman (provided)

Optima Asset Management is outlining a number of compelling opportunities in the hedge fund arena for the coming year, with Founder and CEO Dixon Boardman seeing some strategies benefiting from very strong secular trends.

The strategies Boardman sees leading the way in 2021 are: Asia, especially China and India; healthcare, and lastly, concentrated stock picking by leading long/short equity managers.

As the growth stocks such as Facebook, Amazon and Tesla seemingly stole the show in 2020, Boardman said that last year was one of outperformance by long/short equity hedge funds that were positioned to capitalize on trends and dislocations. "This is especially striking, given that many investors have become disenchanted with hedge funds during the late stage of the bull market

preceding 2020," said Boardman, who is also the vice chairman of the Forbes Family Trust.

FWM Holdings, the parent of The Forbes Family Trust acquired Optima Group in 2019. The Forbes Family Trust and Optima now have combined assets of more than \$11 billion.

In an exclusive interview with *Alternatives Watch* [one year ago](#), Boardman saw investors at a crossroads, but he for one had not lost faith in what hedge funds have to offer. After more than three decades investing in hedge funds, he remains as bullish as ever on hedge funds.

"The bottom line is that hedge funds are back. However, this is not a 'do-it-yourself' hobby. Successful investing in alternatives requires experience and insight," Boardman added. "And Optima is committed to honing its skills in this area every day."

Asia last year was up 28% in U.S. dollar terms, according to the Optima, which has a strong view that China and India stand out not only as the fastest growing markets in the region, but in the world. This is driven on economic segments such as tech and retail that are currently undergoing a rapid transformation.

Optima relies on an unnamed manager with long experience in the region and a deep understanding of the secular growth trends.

"We believe that this is an ideal way to participate in the Age of Asia," Boardman said. "Because there will be 'winners' and 'losers' along the way, a long/short approach to equities has the potential to add value and take advantage of short-term volatility."

In healthcare, the long-term growth trends remain strong as well. The firm [launched](#) last year a healthcare-focused fund, the Optima Healthcare and Biotechnology strategy, in association with the Forbes Family Trust and invested in five underlying long/short equity managers. Here, Boardman points to the sector being driven by new drug discoveries and treatments in areas such as gene therapy, immune-oncology and orphan drugs.

Turning to ascertaining stock-picking prowess, which Boardman is no stranger to, he said that concentrated bets have potential across growth, value, opportunistic and event-driven strategies. Moving forward the opportunity set remains with high-conviction and research-driven investment ideas, he said.



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