

Edgar Filing: ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC - Form DFAN14A

ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC
Form DFAN14A
May 07, 2002

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant |
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant |X|
Check the appropriate box:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Proxy Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential, for Use of the |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitive Proxy Statement | Commission Only (as permitted by |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definitive Additional Materials | Rule 14a 6(e) (2)) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting Material Pursuant
to Section 240.14a-11(c) or
Section 240.14a-12 | |

ICN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Iridian Asset Management LLC
and
Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than Registrant)
Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i) (1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a) (2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

Edgar Filing: ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC - Form DFAN14A

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

FROM: Iridian Asset Management LLC
Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC

PRESS RELEASE

Letter from
Iridian Asset Management LLC and Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC
to ICN Board of Directors

Westport, CT and Short Hills, NJ. May 6, 2002. The following is the text of a letter sent to the Board of Directors of ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NYSE: ICN) on May 6, 2002 from Iridian Asset Management LLC and Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC, the investment manager for Franklin Mutual Series Fund Inc.

"Ladies and Gentlemen:"

"Your chairman, Milan Panic, during his remarks on ICN's May 2, 2002 first quarter earnings conference call, indicated that ICN might consider declaring a 'conditional dividend' of its remaining interest in Ribapharm, even before receiving a favorable ruling from the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Panic indicated that the 'conditional dividend' could occur prior to ICN's annual meeting on May 29, 2002 at which it is possible that the composition of your board will change. Mr. Panic's suggestion raises precisely the same issue to which we alerted you in our letter of April 9, 2002 regarding the possibility of a Ribapharm 'trust.'"

"As we hope you will have read in our proxy statement, we do strongly favor a timely spin-off of Ribapharm. However, we believe more strongly that a spun-off Ribapharm must be managed by qualified executives under the direction of a responsible, experienced and capable board of directors. Both the management and board of Ribapharm must be, and must be seen to be, wholly-independent, in substance not merely in form, of the influence of ICN's long-time incumbent management."

"Unless Ribapharm is both in fact and in appearance 'truly independent' in this sense, we believe that its true value will never be fully reflected in the market. It will suffer from the same chronic discount that plagues ICN, and one of the most important goals that motivated the spin-off will not have been

Edgar Filing: ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC - Form DFAN14A

achieved. We think this is already evidenced by Ribapharm's post-IPO market valuation."

"As you must also know from our proxy materials and our earlier letter to you of April 9, 2002, we believe that the composition of the present management and board at Ribapharm does not meet this standard."

"We have raised this issue with ICN shareholders in connection with the upcoming board election. We have had the opportunity in recent days to speak to the holders of a very large portion of ICN's shares and have learned that they share our views and concerns."

"As we have previously communicated to you, in our view, no spin-off (or transaction in contemplation of a spin-off, including a 'conditional dividend') should be taken or countenanced unless ICN's Board retains the authority to ensure that Ribapharm is truly independent and the ICN Board should take no steps to relinquish its ability to control Ribapharm prior to the upcoming annual meeting."

"Any such step, taken at the eleventh hour just prior to the annual meeting, will in our judgment properly be understood by ICN's shareholders as a desperate and unconvincing tactic to whitewash the reality of 18 months of unfulfilled commitments."

"Moreover, as we have also communicated to you, it is our belief that any measure eliminating or constraining the ability of the ICN Board that will be elected on May 29, 2002 to control the affairs of Ribapharm rushed into place in the midst of an election contest raising squarely the issue of how that control should be exercised, would be a blatant and transparent attempt to evade the judgment of ICN's shareholders and effectively to disenfranchise them. Under these circumstances, we believe that your fiduciary obligations to ICN's shareholders compel you not to authorize or countenance any such measure."

"We once again wish to express our every confidence that you will act in the strictest conformity, in spirit as well as form, with your duties as fiduciaries for the shareholders of ICN."

"Very truly yours,"

IRIDIAN ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

FRANKLIN MUTUAL ADVISERS, LLC

Iridian is an SEC-registered investment adviser located in Westport, CT. Iridian manages approximately \$12 billion for institutional clients, pension funds, charitable foundations and endowments, and invests primarily in mid-cap and large-cap U.S. equities.

Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC is a subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. [NYSE:BEN], a global investment organization operating as Franklin Templeton Investments. Franklin Templeton provides global and domestic investment management services through its Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series and Fiduciary Trust subsidiaries. The San Mateo, CA-based company has over 50 years of investment experience and more than \$274 billion in assets under management as of March 31, 2002. For more information, please call 1-800/DIAL BEN(R) or visit franklintempleton.com.

Edgar Filing: ICN PHARMACEUTICALS INC - Form DFAN14A

In connection with their solicitation of proxies with respect to the 2002 annual meeting of stockholders of ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("ICN"), Iridian Asset Management LLC ("Iridian") and Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC ("FMA") have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and disseminated to stockholders a definitive proxy statement dated April 18, 2002. Stockholders are advised to read the proxy statement as it contains important information. Stockholders may obtain a free copy of the proxy statement and other relevant documents filed with the SEC from the SEC website at www.sec.gov. You may also obtain a free copy of Iridian and FMA's proxy statement by contacting Mackenzie Partners in the manner described below.

Contact: For Press:
Hedda Nadler
Mount & Nadler
Tel: (212) 759-4440

For Shareholders and Institutions:
Mackenzie Partners, Inc.
Tel: Call Collect: (212) 929-5500
Toll Free: (800) 322-2885