

Stocks continued their pullback that began in mid-Feb and lasted into early March, but bottomed in the first week and from there resumed their uptrend that has been in place for awhile now. Last month we mentioned that we are starting to see more value names show up on our daily screens vs. growth stocks. The performance of those groups last month supports this. To wit, the SPX rose +4.2% while the NDX rose +1.6%. Moreover, the VLUE etf gained +6.7% while the MTUM etf lost -1.3%. So there was quite a performance differential going on.

This phenomenon has been termed “the reopening trade”, and favors those stocks that have been beaten down but have more cyclical earnings momentum. As such, if the economy is expected to accelerate, they should see a bigger delta in their earnings growth vs. more secular growth stocks. A prime example is energy stocks, which soared in March as oil prices rallied and economic data came in strong.



Past performance does not guarantee future results

Stocks liked the double-barreled stimulus that continues. The Administration passed a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill with checks going out to consumers. They also began discussions for a large infrastructure plan, which would provide additional stimulus. For its part, the Fed reiterated that it plans to hold rates at zero into 2023, and also to continue to conduct monthly asset purchases (QE) of \$120 billion per month. With all this stimulus injected into the system, it's no wonder investors are looking to put more money to work in equities (positive fund flows).

The economic recovery is also turning into a vaccine-led recovery, as the pace of Covid vaccinations in the U.S. led the world and has helped embolden the consumer. It has helped California lower their color tier that allows more businesses to open, and spurred New York and New Jersey to increase indoor dining capacity to 50%. With many industries (restaurants, concerts, sporting events, etc.) just starting to reopen for the first time in over a year, it would seem the recovery still has legs as more of the population gets vaccinated and ventures back out into the world. The wildcard of course is the potential for a resurgence in Covid cases, which we are seeing in some parts of the world but has not been a big issue here in the U.S.



# ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund

Monthly Commentary

March 2021

Our *dynamic hedge model* entered the month targeting just 60% market exposure. It got back to the 100% target exposure level mid-month, but due to the choppiness it ended the month targeting just 75% exposure, despite indexes like the S&P 500 getting back to new highs.

The **ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund** (ADOIX) returned -2.01% in March, trailing the HFRX Index which returned +0.87% last month. It was a frustrating month, as many of our portfolio stocks entered corrections around the same time. When you run a somewhat concentrated portfolio, that type of action can make it difficult to generate positive returns. To highlight the difficult environment, we would point to the FFTY etf which tracks the IBD 50 Index, which is meant to track market leaders. That fund returned -3.9% in March, far worse than the broader market. The portfolio also continues to experience a change in weightings with more value stocks being represented in our top holdings, and more growth stocks getting cut from the lineup. We think this should help the performance disparity going forward, as value stocks continue to play catch-up to growth stocks.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe out there.

*Sincerely,*

**Jordan L. Kahn, CFA**  
**Chief Investment Officer**

Sources: Standard & Poor's, Stockcharts.com, Morningstar, Briefing.com



# ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund

## Monthly Commentary

**Defined Terms:** S&P 500 Index- The S&P 500 index is an unmanaged composite of large capitalization companies. This index is widely used by professional investors as a performance benchmark for large-cap stocks. HFRX Equity Hedge Index– tracks strategies that maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity driven securities. Morningstar Long/Short Equity Category- A composite of returns produced by Morningstar which can be used to compare the returns of other mutual funds in the same category. Long– the holder of the position owns the security and will profit if the price of the security goes up. Short-Short selling is the sale of a security that is not owned by the seller, or that the seller has borrowed. Short selling is motivated by the belief that a security’s price will decline, enabling it to be bought back at a lower price to make a profit. Derivative hedge – transaction that limits investment risk with the use of derivatives such as option contracts.

Investors are not able to invest directly in the indices referenced and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. For current performance information, please visit our performance page: <http://acm-funds.com/dynamic-fund-performance/>

There is no guarantee that any investment strategy will achieve its objectives, generate profits or avoid losses.

ETF’s are subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the underlying strategy of the fund. These risks could include liquidity risk, sector risk, as well as risks associated with fixed income securities, real estate investments, and commodities, to name a few. Investments in foreign securities could subject the Fund to greater risks including, currency fluctuation, economic conditions, and different governmental and accounting standards.

**Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund. This and other important information about the Fund is contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 1- 844-798-3833. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. The ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund is distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, member.”<http://www.finra.org/>” FINRA. “<http://www.sipc.org/>” SIPC. Northern Lights Distributors, LLC and Ascendant Capital Management, LLC are not affiliated.**

## Portfolio Management



### Jordan L. Kahn, CFA

#### Chief Investment Officer

Mr. Kahn has 25 years of experience in the investment industry serving as a senior portfolio manager, equity research analyst, and investment consultant. Mr. Kahn received his Master's of Science in Financial Markets and Trading from the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology.



### Alan Savoian

#### Portfolio Manager

Alan has over 26 years of investment experience serving as a senior portfolio manager and equity analyst. Alan spent 18 years at William O'Neil & Co., where he successfully managed equities for the firm's proprietary portfolios.

## Fund Profile As of 3/31/2021

**Inception Date** 01/20/2015

**Net Assets** 97.4m

**Style** Hedged Equity

**Benchmark** HFRX Eq. Hedge Index

### Risk Metrics As of 3/31/2021

**Beta (3-year)** 0.43

**R-Squared** .49

**Standard Deviation** 11.30

**Treynor Ratio** 15.98

## Fund Overview

We strive to help our investors participate in the gains available from financial markets, while mitigating the downside risk

The ACM Dynamic Opportunity Fund is designed as a core investment for investors seeking long term capital appreciation with a short-term focus on capital preservation. The fund employs a dynamic strategy, which aims to actively participate during a rising market environment and mitigate downside risk when markets experience downturns.

## Performance

As of 3/31/2021

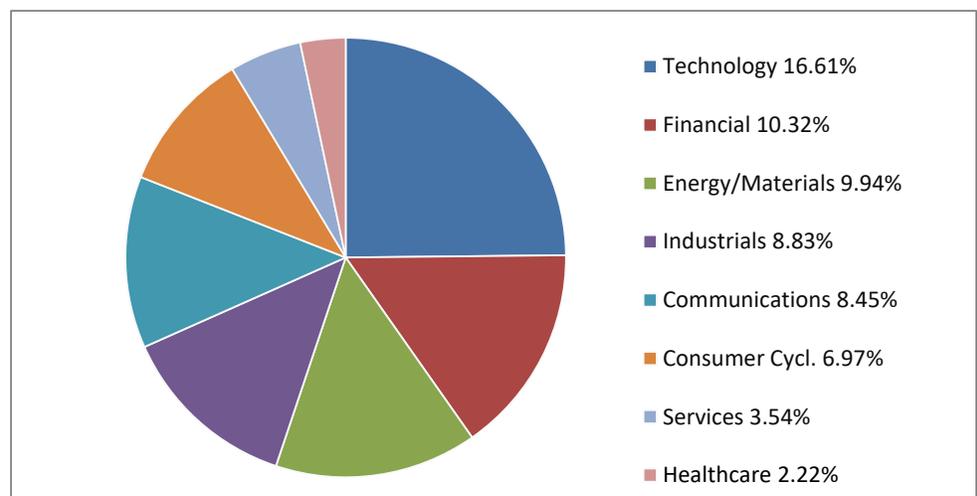
	1-mth	3-mth	YTD	1 Yr*	3 Yr*	5 Yr*	Since Inception*
<b>ADOIX</b>	-2.01%	2.29%	2.29%	34.08%	7.70%	7.93%	6.86%
HFRX Eq Hedged	0.87%	2.65%	2.65%	23.88%	2.10%	4.08%	2.51%
Morningstar L/S Category	3.03%	5.26%	5.26%	28.56%	5.98%	6.28%	4.05%
S&P 500	4.24%	5.77%	5.77%	53.71%	14.58%	14.04%	11.52%

\*As of 3/31/21

The fund's maximum sales charges for Class "A" shares is 5.75%. Investments in mutual funds involve risks. Performance is historic and does not guarantee future results. Investment principal value will fluctuate with changing market conditions so that when redeemed, shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. To obtain the most recent month end performance information or the Fund's prospectus please call the Fund at 1-844-798-3833. You can also obtain a prospectus at [www.ACM-funds.com](http://www.ACM-funds.com). Gross expense ratios are 1.95% for Class A shares and 1.70% for Class I shares. The Adviser has contractually agreed to reduce its fees and reimburse expenses of the Fund, at least until April 30, 2021, to ensure that the net annual fund operating expenses will not exceed 2.40% for Class A shares and 2.15% for Class I shares. These fee waivers and expense reimbursements are subject to possible recoupment from each Fund within three years after the fees have been waived or reimbursed. You should be aware that the Fund's past performance (before and after taxes) may not be an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future. Although Class A shares would have similar returns to Class I shares because the classes are invested in the same portfolio of securities, the returns for Class A shares are different from Class I shares because Class A shares have different expenses than Class I shares. Updated performance information is available at no cost by visiting [www.ACM-funds.com](http://www.ACM-funds.com) or by calling 1-844-798-3833. Actual Total Annual Operating Expenses of 1.95% for Class A and 1.70% for Class I from the prospectus.

## Sector Weightings

As of 3/31/2021



There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.

Top 10 Positions	
Stock	Wtg
Alphabet Inc.	2.77%
General Motors Company	2.76%
ConocoPhillips	2.47%
Amazon.com Inc.	2.40%
Lennar Corporation	2.30%
XPO Logistics Inc.	2.30%
Citigroup Inc.	2.29%
Facebook Inc.	2.13%
Vertiv Holdings Company	2.13%
Generac Holdings Inc.	2.10%

Fund Characteristics	
# Holdings	39
Avg. Market Cap	\$64,662m
Avg. P/E	19.7
Avg. ROE	15.9%
Gross Long Exposure	66.9%
Gross Short Exposure	-0.5%
Net Market Exposure	66.4%
Beta Adj. Exposure	88.4%

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk and change.

Yearly Returns	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ADOIX	5.73%	-4.67%	17.86%	-0.97%	2.36%	22.47%
HFRX Eq Hedged	-1.61%	0.10%	9.98%	-9.42%	10.71%	4.60%
Morningstar L/S Category	-2.20%	2.34%	11.18%	-6.73%	11.90%	7.89%
S&P 500	1.06%	9.54%	19.42%	-6.24%	28.88%	16.26%

\*Inception Date 1/20/2015

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Mutual Funds involve risk including possible loss of principal. Adverse changes in currency exchange rates may erode or reverse any potential gains from the Fund's investments. ETF's are subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the underlying strategy of the fund. These risks could include liquidity risk, sector risk, as well as risks associated with fixed income securities, real estate investments, and commodities, to name a few. Investments in underlying funds that own small and mid-capitalization companies may be more vulnerable than larger, more established organizations. Derivative instruments involve risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. Investments in foreign securities could subject the Fund to greater risks including currency fluctuation, economic conditions, and different governmental and accounting standards. In addition to the risks generally associated with investing in securities of foreign companies, countries with emerging markets also may have relatively unstable governments, social and legal systems that do not protect shareholders, economies based on only a few industries, and securities markets that trade a small number of issues.

Investors bear the risk that the Fund may not be able to implement its investment strategies or attract sufficient assets. Purchased put options may decline in value or expire worthless and may have imperfect correlation to the value of the Fund's portfolio securities. Written call and put options may limit the Fund's participation in equity market gains and may amplify losses in market declines. The Fund's losses are potentially large in a written put or call transaction. If unhedged, written calls expose the Fund to potentially unlimited losses. The Fund will incur a loss as a result of a short position if the price of the short position instrument increases in value between the date of the short position sale and the date on which an offsetting position is purchased. Short positions may be considered speculative transactions and involve special risks, including greater reliance on the ability to accurately anticipate the future value of a security or instrument. The Fund's losses are potentially large in a short position transaction.

Price to Earnings (P/E) is a valuation ratio of a company's current share price compared to its per share earnings. Gross Long and Short Exposure is the percentage in securities that are expected to rise and decline, respectively. Beta is a measure of systemic risk. Standard Deviation is a statistical measurement. It sheds light on the historical volatility of that investment. The greater the standard deviation of a security, the greater the variance between each price and the mean, indicating a larger price range. Treynor ratio – A performance metric for determining how much excess return was generated for each unit of risk taken on by a portfolio. HFRX Equity Hedge Index – tracks strategies that maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity driven securities. S&P 500 Index – tracks 500 individual stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry grouping, among other factors.

Investors are not able to invest directly in the indices referenced in this illustration and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges.