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# Putnam Global Health Care Fund

**Semiannual report**

**2 | 28 | 17**



This **global sector fund** invests in stocks of health-care companies worldwide.

FUND SYMBOL  
CLASS A  
PHSTX

# Putnam Global Health Care Fund

## Semiannual report

2 | 28 | 17

Message from the Trustees	1
About the fund	2
Interview with your fund's portfolio managers	5
Your fund's performance	9
Your fund's expenses	11
Terms and definitions	13
Other information for shareholders	14
Financial statements	15

**Consider these risks before investing:** International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Emerging market securities carry illiquidity and volatility risks. Investments in small and/or midsize companies increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. The health-care industries may be affected by technological obsolescence, changes in regulatory approval policies for drugs, medical devices or procedures, and changes in governmental and private payment systems. The fund concentrates on a limited group of industries and is non-diversified. Because the fund may invest in fewer issuers, it is vulnerable to common economic forces and may result in greater losses and volatility. Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. The use of short selling may result in losses if the securities appreciate in value. Risks associated with derivatives include increased investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) and, in the case of over-the-counter instruments, the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. Stock prices may fall or fail to rise over time for several reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions, changes in government intervention in financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer or industry. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

## Message from the Trustees

April 6, 2017

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

The early months of 2017 have been generally positive for investor sentiment and financial market performance. Many market indexes have achieved new record highs with relatively low volatility, in contrast to the bouts of uncertainty and turbulence that tested global financial markets in 2016. It is worth noting, however, that the exuberance that greeted the new year calmed somewhat as investors reconsidered a number of ongoing macroeconomic and political risks. In addition, many bond investors remained cautious as the potential for inflation increased.

As always, we believe investors should continue to focus on time-tested strategies: maintain a well-diversified portfolio, keep a long-term view, and do not overreact to short-term market fluctuations. To help ensure that your portfolio is aligned with your goals, we also believe it is a good idea to speak regularly with your financial advisor. In the following pages, you will find an overview of your fund's performance for the reporting period as well as an outlook for the coming months.

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the arrival of Catharine Bond Hill and Manoj P. Singh to your fund's Board of Trustees. Dr. Hill and Mr. Singh bring extensive professional and directorship experience to their role as Trustees, and we are pleased to welcome them.

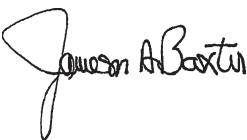
Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Respectfully yours,



**Robert L. Reynolds**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Putnam Investments



**Jameson A. Baxter**

Chair, Board of Trustees



## About the fund

# Seeking growth from health-care stocks in markets worldwide

For investors seeking growth potential, the health-care sector offers many opportunities. It spans a wide range of industries, each with a unique set of advantages. Health care is also a complex and rapidly changing sector, which means fundamental research and specialized expertise are critical for selecting stocks.

### Putnam Global Health Care Fund is managed by a team of health-care sector analysts



**Samuel Cox**  
Co-Director of Equity Research  
Portfolio Manager  
Industry since 2002  
At Putnam since 2014



**Isabel Buccellati**  
Portfolio Manager  
Industry since 1994  
At Putnam since 2012

**Michael J. Maguire, CFA**  
Portfolio Manager  
Industry since 2001  
At Putnam since 2009  
(Photo not available.)

“ We believe a number of trends support continued growth in the sector, including an exceptional level of innovation from many companies. ”

### The fund’s managers conduct rigorous investment research to find promising stocks across an array of industries in markets worldwide



#### BIOTECHNOLOGY AND PHARMACEUTICALS

There is an impressive level of innovation in this industry, where companies are developing, testing, and marketing groundbreaking treatments for health issues and diseases.



#### HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES

This subsector includes businesses that are seeking to deliver high-quality care at a reasonable cost, including hospitals and health insurers such as HMOs.



#### EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

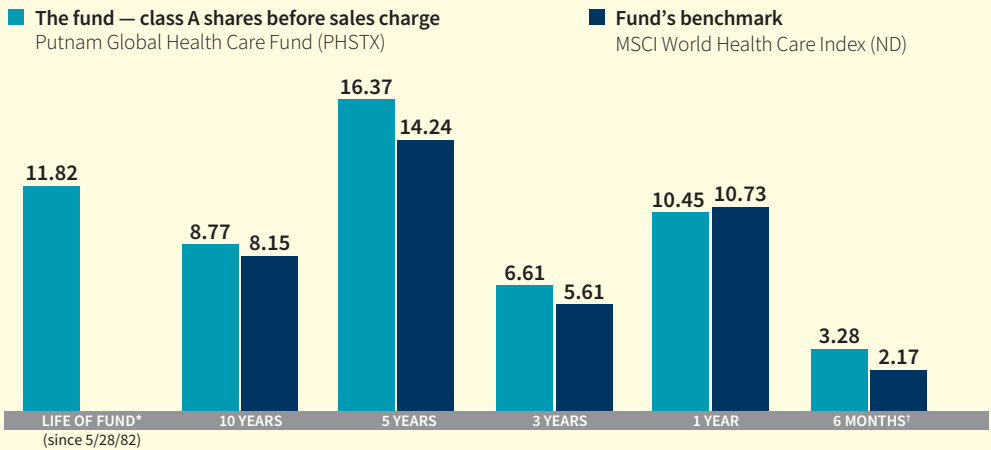
This industry includes medical technology companies that develop innovative products such as surgical equipment, coronary stents, artificial heart valves, and replacement hips and knees.

#### A time-tested track record

Since 1982, Putnam Global Health Care Fund has sought to capitalize on the growth potential of stocks in the health-care sector. The fund invests in businesses at different stages of growth, from small, rapidly growing companies to large, established global corporations.

## Performance history as of 2/28/17

### Annualized total return (%) comparison

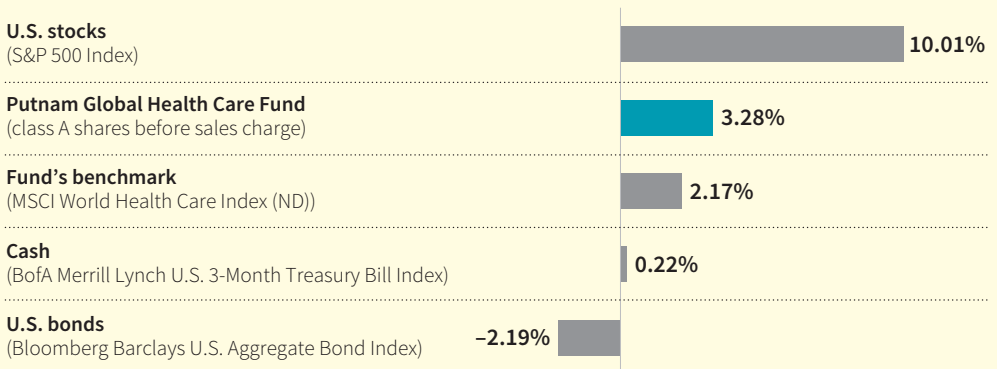


Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance of class A shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Fund returns in the bar chart do not reflect a sales charge of 5.75%; had they, returns would have been lower. See below and pages 9–11 for additional performance information. For a portion of the periods, the fund had expense limitations, without which returns would have been lower. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, visit [putnam.com](http://putnam.com).

\* The fund's benchmark, the MSCI World Health Care Index (ND), was introduced on 1/1/01, which post-dates the inception of the fund's class A shares.

† Returns for the six-month period are not annualized, but cumulative.

### Recent broad market index and fund performance



This comparison shows your fund's performance in the context of broad market indexes for the six months ended 2/28/17. See above and pages 9–11 for additional fund performance information. Index descriptions can be found on page 13.

## Interview with your fund's portfolio managers

Sam Cox, Isabel Buccellati, and Mike Maguire discuss the investing environment and fund performance for the six-month period ended February 28, 2017, and provide an outlook for health-care stocks in the months ahead.



**Samuel Cox**  
Portfolio Manager

Sam is Co-Director of Equity Research at Putnam. He has an M.B.A. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. Sam joined Putnam in 2014 and has been in the investment industry since 2002.



**Isabel Buccellati**  
Portfolio Manager

Isabel holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in Business Administration from the European Business School in Oestrich-Winkel, Germany. She joined Putnam in 2012 and has been in the investment industry since 1994.

**Michael J. Maguire, CFA**  
Portfolio Manager  
(Photo not available.)

Mike is an Analyst at Putnam. He has an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in Accounting from Boston College. Mike joined Putnam in 2009 and has been in the investment industry since 2001.

### How was the environment for health-care investing during the six-month reporting period ended February 28, 2017?

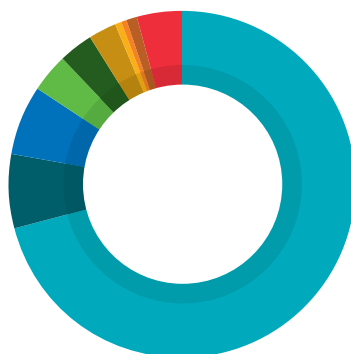
**SAM** Conditions were challenging for the sector, as health-care stocks worldwide endured declines after an extended period of advances. U.S. health care was the weakest-performing sector of the S&P 500 Index for the 2016 calendar year. The period was most difficult for the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, where concerns about drug pricing caused these stocks to underperform other health-care stocks as well as the broader market. Pricing drew more attention as candidates in the U.S. presidential election focused on prescription drug affordability. Despite the challenges, health-care stocks worldwide delivered modest gains for the six-month period.

### How did the fund perform for the period?

**SAM** As with the overall health-care sector, the fund faced headwinds, but we are pleased to report that it returned 3.28% for the period, outperforming its benchmark, the MSCI World Health Care Index [ND], which returned 2.17%. Within the fund's portfolio, our stock selection helped results in all subsectors, with the exception of health-care services.

## Global composition

● United States	70.9%
● Switzerland	6.9
● United Kingdom	6.5
● Japan	3.6
● France	3.2
● Germany	2.6
● Spain	0.6
● China	0.5
● Other countries	1.0
● Cash and net other assets	4.2



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 2/28/17. Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, short-term securities, and other unclassified assets in the portfolio. Summary information may differ from the information in the portfolio schedule notes included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the exclusion of as-of trades, if any, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time.

## Top 10 holdings

HOLDING (PERCENTAGE OF FUND'S NET ASSETS)	COUNTRY	OVER/UNDERWEIGHT VS. BENCHMARK
<b>Celgene Corp. (6.8%)</b>	United States	4.6%
<b>Merck &amp; Co., Inc. (5.9%)</b>	United States	1.7%
<b>Amgen, Inc. (5.6%)</b>	United States	2.6%
<b>Novartis AG (4.1%)</b>	Switzerland	0.1%
<b>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (3.9%)</b>	United States	1.7%
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson (3.8%)</b>	United States	-3.9%
<b>Danaher Corp. (3.6%)</b>	United States	2.4%
<b>Eli Lilly &amp; Co. (3.6%)</b>	United States	1.7%
<b>Biogen, Inc. (3.5%)</b>	United States	2.0%
<b>Sanofi (3.2%)</b>	France	0.9%

This table shows the fund's top 10 holdings by percentage of the fund's net assets as of 2/28/17. Short-term investments and derivatives, if any, are excluded. Holdings may vary over time.

## Could you discuss some stocks or strategies that helped fund performance relative to the benchmark?

**ISABEL** The strategy that contributed most to performance versus the benchmark was our decision to avoid investing in Novo Nordisk, a Denmark-based health-care company that specializes in diabetes care. The company faced considerable generic competition for many of its products and lowered its expectations for future growth, resulting in declines for the stock.

**MIKE** Among stocks that were in the fund's portfolio, the top contributor for the period was ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, which specializes in treatments for cancer patients. We originally added ARIAD to the portfolio due to the strength of its drug pipeline, and particularly its hematology products — one currently on the market as well as two promising drugs in late-stage development. Toward the close of the period, ARIAD was acquired by Takeda Pharmaceutical, and we sold the position before period-end.

**SAM** Another portfolio highlight was our investment in Celgene, a maker of treatments for cancer and immune-inflammatory diseases. The company has had solid success with its pipeline drugs, particularly with Revlimid, its treatment for multiple myeloma. We believe a number of Celgene products have the potential to drive long-term revenue and earnings growth for the company, including Otezla, a treatment for psoriasis and arthritis that has been gaining market share.

Also worth noting is our decision to avoid drug distributors such as McKesson, which performed poorly. For some time, we believed that weakening prices for generic drugs would create headwinds for distributors, and our strategy to steer clear of them proved beneficial.

## What are some holdings that detracted from returns?

**SAM** The top detractor for the period was the stock of Gilead Sciences, a biopharmaceutical company that has had great success with Sovaldi and Harvoni, its two hepatitis C drugs.

“ We are looking at factors that we believe can drive a company's growth beyond price increases, such as higher demand for drugs and treatments. ”

### Sam Cox

Despite the success of these products, Gilead has projected much lower-than-expected earnings growth going forward, in anticipation of smaller patient volumes as more people are expected to be cured of this infectious disease.

Also dampening performance was the fund's underweight position versus the benchmark in health insurer UnitedHealth Group. The stock performed well due in part to unsuccessful merger attempts by two of the company's key competitors.

An overweight position in Mylan Pharmaceuticals also held back fund returns. Mylan focuses on generic drugs, which, as I mentioned, have been struggling with price deflation. In recent years, generic drug pricing has been declining at a rate of 9% to 11% and there have been fewer opportunities to create generic versions of best-selling branded drugs. By the close of the period, Mylan had been sold from the portfolio.

## As the fund enters the second half of its fiscal year, what is your outlook for the health-care sector?

**SAM** Although health-care stocks have faced challenges recently, we believe a number of trends may support continued growth across the sector over the longer term. Companies of all sizes have been developing breakthrough drugs and treatments, and we have been seeing what we believe are impressive levels of innovation. We are particularly optimistic about growth in the areas of hematology, oncology, cardiology, and orphan diseases — which are rare conditions that affect a relatively small number of people. In addition, through our fundamental, bottom-up research process, we have uncovered many stocks that we believe



are attractively priced relative to their long-term growth potential.

We believe the sector still faces challenges, including increased competitive pressure among generic drug companies, which has led to some earnings weakness. Also, the focus on prescription drug affordability is expected to remain under the Trump administration, and could continue to hinder performance of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, in our view. In light of this, we are looking at factors that we believe can drive a company's growth beyond price increases, such as higher demand for its drugs and treatments.

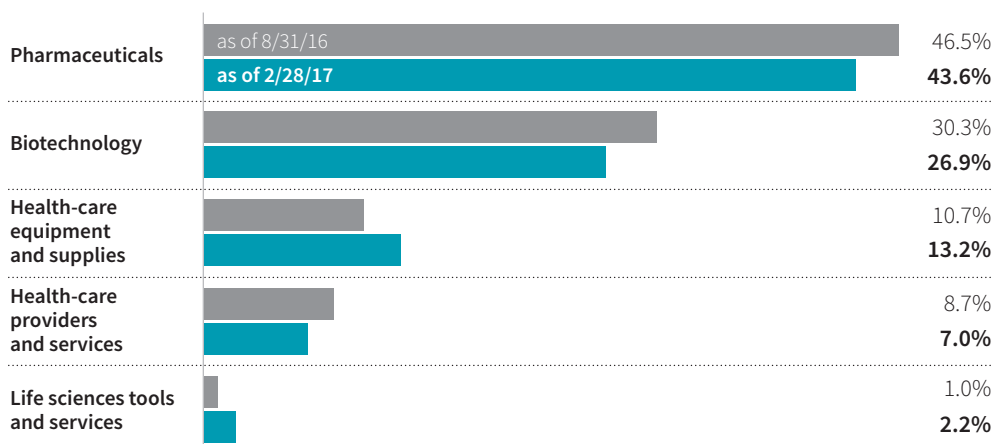
Looser regulation under the Trump administration could also benefit health-care industries that have been held back by tight restrictions on mergers and acquisitions [M&A]. A friendlier M&A environment could lead to greater consolidation and improved performance in areas such as managed care.

### Thank you all for your time and insights today.

*The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Putnam Management and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice.*

*Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.*

## Comparison of top industry weightings



This chart shows how the fund's top weightings have changed over the past six months. Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets. Current period summary information may differ from the portfolio schedule included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the exclusion of as-of trades, if any, the use of different classifications of securities for presentation purposes, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time.

## Your fund's performance

This section shows your fund's performance, price, and distribution information for periods ended February 28, 2017, the end of the first half of its current fiscal year. In accordance with regulatory requirements for mutual funds, we also include performance information as of the most recent calendar quarter-end and expense information taken from the fund's current prospectus. Performance should always be considered in light of a fund's investment strategy. Data represent past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance information does not reflect any deduction for taxes a shareholder may owe on fund distributions or on the redemption of fund shares. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit the Individual Investors section at putnam.com or call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581. Class R and Y shares are not available to all investors. See the Terms and Definitions section in this report for definitions of the share classes offered by your fund.

### Fund performance Total return for periods ended 2/28/17

	Annual average (life of fund)	10 years	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year	6 months
<b>Class A (5/28/82)</b>									
Before sales charge	11.82%	131.88%	8.77%	113.38%	16.37%	21.16%	6.61%	10.45%	3.28%
After sales charge	11.63	118.54	8.13	101.11	15.00	14.20	4.52	4.10	-2.66
<b>Class B (3/1/93)</b>									
Before CDSC	11.56	118.35	8.12	105.56	15.50	18.46	5.81	9.64	2.91
After CDSC	11.56	118.35	8.12	103.56	15.28	16.15	5.12	4.89	-1.55
<b>Class C (7/26/99)</b>									
Before CDSC	10.98	115.13	7.96	105.53	15.50	18.45	5.81	9.62	2.90
After CDSC	10.98	115.13	7.96	105.53	15.50	18.45	5.81	8.65	1.98
<b>Class M (7/3/95)</b>									
Before sales charge	11.20	120.64	8.24	108.14	15.79	19.36	6.08	9.91	3.02
After sales charge	11.08	112.92	7.85	100.85	14.97	15.18	4.82	6.06	-0.59
<b>Class R (1/21/03)</b>									
Net asset value	11.54	126.16	8.50	110.72	16.08	20.25	6.34	10.17	3.14
<b>Class Y (4/4/00)</b>									
Net asset value	11.96	137.76	9.05	116.03	16.65	22.07	6.87	10.72	3.39

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. After-sales-charge returns for class A and M shares reflect the deduction of the maximum 5.75% and 3.50% sales charge, respectively, levied at the time of purchase. Class B share returns after contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) reflect the applicable CDSC, which is 5% in the first year, declining over time to 1% in the sixth year, and is eliminated thereafter. Class C share returns after CDSC reflect a 1% CDSC for the first year that is eliminated thereafter. Class R and Y shares have no initial sales charge or CDSC. Performance for class B, C, M, R, and Y shares before their inception is derived from the historical performance of class A shares, adjusted for the applicable sales charge (or CDSC) and the higher operating expenses for such shares, except for class Y shares, for which 12b-1 fees are not applicable.

For a portion of the periods, the fund had expense limitations, without which returns would have been lower. Class B share performance reflects conversion to class A shares after eight years.

## Comparative index returns For periods ended 2/28/17

	Annual average (life of fund)	10 years	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year	6 months
<b>MSCI World Health Care Index (ND)</b>	—*	118.84%	8.15%	94.61%	14.24%	17.78%	5.61%	10.73%	2.17%

Index results should be compared with fund performance before sales charge, before CDSC, or at net asset value.

\* The fund's benchmark, the MSCI World Health Care Index (ND), was introduced on 1/1/01, which post-dates the inception of the fund's class A shares.

## Fund price and distribution information For the six-month period ended 2/28/17

Distributions	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class M	Class R	Class Y		
Number	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Income	\$0.263	—	—	\$0.024	\$0.092	\$0.415		
Capital gains								
Long-term gains	5.084	\$5.084	\$5.084	5.084	5.084	5.084		
Short-term gains	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.347</b>	<b>\$5.084</b>	<b>\$5.084</b>	<b>\$5.108</b>	<b>\$5.176</b>	<b>\$5.499</b>		
Share value	Before sales charge	After sales charge	Net asset value	Net asset value	Before sales charge	After sales charge	Net asset value	Net asset value
8/31/16	\$58.56	\$62.13	\$40.08	\$47.13	\$48.50	\$50.26	\$55.45	\$61.91
2/28/17	\$54.64	\$57.97	\$35.70	\$42.95	\$44.39	\$46.00	\$51.54	\$58.00

The classification of distributions, if any, is an estimate. Before-sales-charge share value and current dividend rate for class A and M shares, if applicable, do not take into account any sales charge levied at the time of purchase. After-sales-charge share value, current dividend rate, and current 30-day SEC yield, if applicable, are calculated assuming that the maximum sales charge (5.75% for class A shares and 3.50% for class M shares) was levied at the time of purchase. Final distribution information will appear on your year-end tax forms.

## Fund performance as of most recent calendar quarter Total return for periods ended 3/31/17

	Annual average (life of fund)	10 years	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year	6 months
<b>Class A (5/28/82)</b>									
Before sales charge	11.79%	133.37%	8.84%	105.49%	15.49%	24.43%	7.56%	8.08%	2.49%
After sales charge	11.60	119.95	8.20	93.67	14.13	17.27	5.45	1.86	-3.40
<b>Class B (3/1/93)</b>									
Before CDSC	11.53	119.76	8.19	97.93	14.63	21.65	6.75	7.29	2.10
After CDSC	11.53	119.76	8.19	95.93	14.40	19.28	6.05	2.65	-2.31
<b>Class C (7/26/99)</b>									
Before CDSC	10.95	116.51	8.03	97.90	14.63	21.65	6.75	7.26	2.10
After CDSC	10.95	116.51	8.03	97.90	14.63	21.65	6.75	6.31	1.20
<b>Class M (7/3/95)</b>									
Before sales charge	11.16	122.02	8.30	100.39	14.91	22.55	7.01	7.54	2.23
After sales charge	11.05	114.25	7.92	93.38	14.10	18.26	5.75	3.77	-1.35
<b>Class R (1/21/03)</b>									
Net asset value	11.51	127.62	8.57	102.89	15.20	23.48	7.28	7.80	2.36
<b>Class Y (4/4/00)</b>									
Net asset value	11.92	139.31	9.12	108.08	15.78	25.36	7.83	8.36	2.63

See the discussion following the fund performance table on page 9 for information about the calculation of fund performance.

## Your fund's expenses

As a mutual fund investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees, distribution fees (12b-1 fees), and other expenses. Using the following information, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You may also pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads) and redemption fees, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial representative.

### Expense ratios

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class M	Class R	Class Y
Total annual operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/16*	1.09%	1.84%	1.84%	1.59%	1.34%	0.84%
Annualized expense ratio for the six-month period ended 2/28/17	1.10%	1.85%	1.85%	1.60%	1.35%	0.85%

Fiscal-year expense information in this table is taken from the most recent prospectus, is subject to change, and may differ from that shown for the annualized expense ratio and in the financial highlights of this report.

Expenses are shown as a percentage of average net assets.

\* Restated to reflect current fees resulting from a change to the fund's investor servicing arrangements effective 9/1/16.

## Expenses per \$1,000

The following table shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in each class of the fund from 9/1/16 to 2/28/17. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming *actual returns* and expenses.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class M	Class R	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$5.54	\$9.31	\$9.31	\$8.05	\$6.80	\$4.29
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,032.80	\$1,029.10	\$1,029.00	\$1,030.20	\$1,031.40	\$1,033.90

\* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 2/28/17. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the period; and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year.

## Estimate the expenses you paid

To estimate the ongoing expenses you paid for the six months ended 2/28/17, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 9/1/16, call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

### How to calculate the expenses you paid

**Value of your investment on 9/1/16** ÷ **\$1,000** X **Expenses paid per \$1,000** = **Total expenses paid**

**Example** Based on a \$10,000 investment in class A shares of your fund.

**\$10,000** ÷ **\$1,000** X **\$5.54** (see preceding table) = **\$55.40**

## Compare expenses using the SEC's method

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has established guidelines to help investors assess fund expenses. Per these guidelines, the following table shows your fund's expenses based on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a *hypothetical 5% annualized return*. You can use this information to compare the ongoing expenses (but not transaction expenses or total costs) of investing in the fund with those of other funds. All mutual fund shareholder reports will provide this information to help you make this comparison. Please note that you cannot use this information to estimate your actual ending account balance and expenses paid during the period.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class M	Class R	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$5.51	\$9.25	\$9.25	\$8.00	\$6.76	\$4.26
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,019.34	\$1,015.62	\$1,015.62	\$1,016.86	\$1,018.10	\$1,020.58

\* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 2/28/17. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the six-month period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the six-month period; and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year.

## Terms and definitions

### Important terms

**Total return** shows how the value of the fund's shares changed over time, assuming you held the shares through the entire period and reinvested all distributions in the fund.

**Before sales charge**, or net asset value, is the price, or value, of one share of a mutual fund, without a sales charge. Before-sales-charge figures fluctuate with market conditions, and are calculated by dividing the net assets of each class of shares by the number of outstanding shares in the class.

**After sales charge** is the price of a mutual fund share plus the maximum sales charge levied at the time of purchase. After-sales-charge performance figures shown here assume the 5.75% maximum sales charge for class A shares and 3.50% for class M shares.

**Contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC)** is generally a charge applied at the time of the redemption of class B or C shares and assumes redemption at the end of the period. Your fund's class B CDSC declines over time from a 5% maximum during the first year to 1% during the sixth year. After the sixth year, the CDSC no longer applies. The CDSC for class C shares is 1% for one year after purchase.

### Share classes

**Class A shares** are generally subject to an initial sales charge and no CDSC (except on certain redemptions of shares bought without an initial sales charge).

**Class B shares** are not subject to an initial sales charge and may be subject to a CDSC.

**Class C shares** are not subject to an initial sales charge and are subject to a CDSC only if the shares are redeemed during the first year.

**Class M shares** have a lower initial sales charge and a higher 12b-1 fee than class A shares and no CDSC.

**Class R shares** are not subject to an initial sales charge or CDSC and are available only to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

**Class Y shares** are not subject to an initial sales charge or CDSC, and carry no 12b-1 fee. They are generally only available to corporate and institutional clients and clients in other approved programs.

### Comparative indexes

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** is an unmanaged index of U.S. investment-grade fixed-income securities.

**BofA Merrill Lynch U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index** is an unmanaged index that seeks to measure the performance of U.S. Treasury bills available in the marketplace.

**MSCI World Health Care Index (ND)** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets in the health-care sector. Calculated with net dividends (ND), this total return index reflects the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using a tax rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties.

**S&P 500 Index** is an unmanaged index of common stock performance.

Indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and do not account for fees. Securities and performance of a fund and an index will differ. You cannot invest directly in an index.

## Other information for shareholders

### Important notice regarding delivery of shareholder documents

In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations, Putnam sends a single copy of annual and semiannual shareholder reports, prospectuses, and proxy statements to Putnam shareholders who share the same address, unless a shareholder requests otherwise. If you prefer to receive your own copy of these documents, please call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581, and Putnam will begin sending individual copies within 30 days.

### Proxy voting

Putnam is committed to managing our mutual funds in the best interests of our shareholders. The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30, 2016, are available in the Individual Investors section of [putnam.com](http://putnam.com), and on the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581.

### Fund portfolio holdings

The fund will file a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Form N-Q on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, the fund's Form N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about the SEC's website or the operation of the Public Reference Room.

### Trustee and employee fund ownership

Putnam employees and members of the Board of Trustees place their faith, confidence, and, most importantly, investment dollars in Putnam mutual funds. As of February 28, 2017, Putnam employees had approximately \$482,000,000 and the Trustees had approximately \$136,000,000 invested in Putnam mutual funds. These amounts include investments by the Trustees' and employees' immediate family members as well as investments through retirement and deferred compensation plans.

## Financial statements

**These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, constitute the fund's financial statements.**

**The fund's portfolio** lists all the fund's investments and their values as of the last day of the reporting period. Holdings are organized by asset type and industry sector, country, or state to show areas of concentration and diversification.

**Statement of assets and liabilities** shows how the fund's net assets and share price are determined. All investment and non-investment assets are added together. Any unpaid expenses and other liabilities are subtracted from this total. The result is divided by the number of shares to determine the net asset value per share, which is calculated separately for each class of shares. (For funds with preferred shares, the amount subtracted from total assets includes the liquidation preference of preferred shares.)

**Statement of operations** shows the fund's net investment gain or loss. This is done by first adding up all the fund's earnings — from dividends and interest income — and subtracting its operating expenses to determine net investment income (or loss). Then, any net gain or loss the fund realized on the sales of its holdings — as well as any unrealized gains or losses over the period — is added to

or subtracted from the net investment result to determine the fund's net gain or loss for the fiscal period.

**Statement of changes** in net assets shows how the fund's net assets were affected by the fund's net investment gain or loss, by distributions to shareholders, and by changes in the number of the fund's shares. It lists distributions and their sources (net investment income or realized capital gains) over the current reporting period and the most recent fiscal year-end. The distributions listed here may not match the sources listed in the Statement of operations because the distributions are determined on a tax basis and may be paid in a different period from the one in which they were earned. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal year.

**Financial highlights** provide an overview of the fund's investment results, per-share distributions, expense ratios, net investment income ratios, and portfolio turnover in one summary table, reflecting the five most recent reporting periods. In a semiannual report, the highlights table also includes the current reporting period.



## The fund's portfolio 2/28/17 (Unaudited)

<b>COMMON STOCKS (95.3%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Biotechnology (26.7%)</b>		
Acceleron Pharma, Inc. †	112,700	\$3,011,344
Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. †	240,400	31,552,500
Amgen, Inc.	453,635	80,080,187
Biogen, Inc. †	171,100	49,379,460
BioMarin Pharmaceutical, Inc. †	223,000	20,946,390
Blueprint Medicines Corp. † <sup>S</sup>	89,500	3,148,610
Celgene Corp. †	785,500	97,017,105
ChemoCentryx, Inc. † <sup>S</sup>	180,888	1,197,479
China Biologic Products, Inc. (China) † <sup>S</sup>	58,889	5,782,900
Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc. †	146,831	1,365,528
Gilead Sciences, Inc.	417,323	29,412,925
Grifols SAADR (Spain)	493,000	8,578,200
Immune Design Corp. †	17,644	89,984
Shire PLC (United Kingdom)	574,591	34,608,117
Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, Inc. † <sup>S</sup>	58,406	4,969,182
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. †	90,900	8,237,358
		<b>379,377,269</b>
<b>Commercial services and supplies (0.7%)</b>		
Stericycle, Inc. † <sup>S</sup>	127,500	10,567,200
		<b>10,567,200</b>
<b>Food and staples retail (2.2%)</b>		
AIN Holdings, Inc. (Japan)	120,100	8,627,060
Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.	265,400	22,925,252
		<b>31,552,312</b>
<b>Health-care equipment and supplies (13.2%)</b>		
Becton Dickinson and Co.	243,900	44,645,895
Boston Scientific Corp. †	1,397,700	34,313,535
C.R. Bard, Inc.	123,700	30,336,188
Danaher Corp.	597,700	51,133,235
Edwards Lifesciences Corp. †	48,500	4,560,940
Intuitive Surgical, Inc. †	24,700	18,203,900
Penumbra, Inc. †	54,400	4,177,920
		<b>187,371,613</b>
<b>Health-care providers and services (7.0%)</b>		
AmerisourceBergen Corp. <sup>S</sup>	119,700	10,953,747
Cigna Corp.	135,000	20,101,500
Fresenius Medical Care AG & Co., KGaA (Germany)	70,936	5,902,998
Henry Schein, Inc. †	69,000	11,837,640
Humana, Inc.	89,400	18,885,750
Sinopharm Group Co. (China)	310,800	1,437,313
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	182,600	30,198,388
		<b>99,317,336</b>
<b>Health-care technology (—%)</b>		
HTG Molecular Diagnostics, Inc. † <sup>S</sup>	84,092	229,571
		<b>229,571</b>
<b>Life sciences tools and services (2.2%)</b>		
Agilent Technologies, Inc.	479,400	24,593,220
Illumina, Inc. †	42,900	7,181,460
		<b>31,774,680</b>

<b>COMMON STOCKS (95.3%)* cont.</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals (43.3%)</b>		
Aspen Pharmacare Holdings, Ltd. (South Africa)	230,928	\$4,988,608
Astellas Pharma, Inc. (Japan)	1,689,700	22,740,900
AstraZeneca PLC (United Kingdom)	690,259	39,776,235
Aurobindo Pharma, Ltd. (India)	532,762	5,407,572
Bayer AG (Germany)	284,402	31,274,455
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.	973,400	55,201,514
Eli Lilly & Co.	614,300	50,870,183
GlaxoSmithKline PLC (United Kingdom)	903,175	18,469,218
Jazz Pharmaceuticals PLC †	217,300	28,818,326
Johnson & Johnson	439,300	53,686,853
Merck & Co., Inc.	1,274,000	83,918,380
Nippon Shinyaku Co., Ltd. (Japan)	117,800	6,354,248
Novartis AG (Switzerland) †	750,136	58,555,944
Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. †§	171,100	7,477,070
Pfizer, Inc.	991,940	33,844,993
Roche Holding AG (Switzerland)	165,543	40,332,924
Sanofi (France)	535,038	46,099,387
Shionogi & Co., Ltd. (Japan)	283,600	13,878,969
Zoetis, Inc.	267,456	14,258,079
		<b>615,953,858</b>
<b>Total common stocks (cost \$973,772,380)</b>		<b>\$1,356,143,839</b>

<b>CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS (0.5%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
Ovid Therapeutics, Inc. 144A Ser. B, 8.00% (acquired 8/10/15, cost \$4,307,310) (Private) †ΔΔF	691,382	\$4,200,146
Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. 7.00% cv. pfd. (Israel)	5,649	3,518,197
<b>Total convertible preferred stocks (cost \$9,956,310)</b>		<b>\$7,718,343</b>

<b>U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATIONS (—%)*</b>	<b>Principal amount</b>	<b>Value</b>
U.S. Treasury Notes 2.250%, 11/15/25 †	\$660,000	\$659,690
<b>Total U.S. treasury obligations (cost \$659,690)</b>		<b>\$659,690</b>

<b>WARRANTS (—%)* †</b>	<b>Expiration date</b>	<b>Strike price</b>	<b>Warrants</b>	<b>Value</b>
Neuralstem, Inc. Ser. J (acquired 1/3/14, cost \$0.25) ΔΔF	1/3/19	\$3.64	245,519	\$—
<b>Total warrants (cost \$—)</b>				<b>\$—</b>

<b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (6.4%)*</b>		<b>Principal amount/ shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC 0.97% †	Shares	34,583,925	\$34,583,925
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund 0.76% †	Shares	55,398,889	55,398,889
State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund, Premier Class 0.46% †	Shares	150,000	150,000
U.S. Treasury Bills 0.514%, 5/4/17 †		\$130,000	129,888
U.S. Treasury Bills 0.490%, 3/9/17 †		411,000	410,961
U.S. Treasury Bills 0.508%, 3/2/17		1,081,000	1,080,987
<b>Total short-term investments (cost \$91,754,638)</b>			<b>\$91,754,650</b>

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	
<b>Total investments (cost \$1,076,143,018)</b>	<b>\$1,456,276,522</b>

## Key to holding's abbreviations

ADR American Depository Receipts: represents ownership of foreign securities on deposit with a custodian bank

## Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from September 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* and references to "OTC", if any, represent over-the-counter.

\* Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$1,423,731,773.

† This security is non-income-producing.

Δ This security is restricted with regard to public resale. The total fair value of this security and any other restricted securities (excluding 144A securities), if any, held at the close of the reporting period was \$4,200,146, or 0.3% of net assets.

Δ This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on certain derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.

d Affiliated company. See Notes 1 and 5 to the financial statements regarding securities lending. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

F This security is valued by Putnam Management at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. Securities may be classified as Level 2 or Level 3 for ASC 820 based on the securities' valuation inputs (Note 1).

i This security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts (Note 1).

L Affiliated company (Note 5). The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

P This security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period (Note 1).

S Security on loan, in part or in entirety, at the close of the reporting period (Note 1).

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$280,926 to cover certain derivative contracts.

Unless otherwise noted, the rates quoted in Short-term investments security descriptions represent the weighted average yield to maturity.

144A after the name of an issuer represents securities exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

The dates shown on debt obligations are the original maturity dates.

## DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY <sup>Δ</sup>

Distribution of investments by country of risk at the close of the reporting period, excluding collateral received, if any (as a percentage of Portfolio Value):

United States	74.9%	Germany	2.6%
Switzerland	7.0	Spain	0.6
United Kingdom	6.5	China	0.5
Japan	3.6	Other	1.1
France	3.2	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Δ Methodology differs from that used for purposes of complying with the fund's policy regarding investments in securities of foreign issuers, as discussed further in the fund's prospectus.

**FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 2/28/17 (aggregate face value \$74,925,081) (Unaudited)**

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)
<b>Bank of America N.A.</b>						
	Euro	Buy	3/16/17	\$25,436,199	\$25,692,916	\$(256,717)
<b>Citibank, N.A.</b>						
	Danish Krone	Buy	3/16/17	11,890,955	12,029,075	(138,120)
<b>Credit Suisse International</b>						
	Japanese Yen	Buy	5/17/17	13,673,069	13,531,817	141,252
<b>HSBC Bank USA, National Association</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	4/19/17	12,271,458	11,615,874	655,584
<b>JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.</b>						
	Swiss Franc	Buy	3/16/17	12,051,617	12,055,399	(3,782)
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$398,217</b>

ASC 820 establishes a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of the fund's investments. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Valuations based on quoted prices for identical securities in active markets.

Level 2: Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the fund's net assets as of the close of the reporting period:

Investments in securities:	Valuation inputs		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stocks*:			
Consumer staples	\$31,552,312	\$—	\$—
Health care	1,314,024,327	—	—
Industrials	10,567,200	—	—
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>1,356,143,839</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Convertible preferred stocks	—	3,518,197	4,200,146
U.S. treasury obligations	—	659,690	—
Warrants	—	—	—
Short-term investments	55,548,889	36,205,761	—
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$1,411,692,728</b>	<b>\$40,383,648</b>	<b>\$4,200,146</b>
Other financial instruments:	Valuation inputs		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Forward currency contracts	\$—	\$398,217	\$—
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$398,217</b>	<b>\$—</b>

\*Common stock classifications are presented at the sector level, which may differ from the fund's portfolio presentation.

During the reporting period, transfers within the fair value hierarchy, if any, did not represent, in the aggregate, more than 1% of the fund's net assets measured as of the end of the period. Transfers are accounted for using the end of period pricing valuation method.

At the start and close of the reporting period, Level 3 investments in securities represented less than 1% of the fund's net assets and were not considered a significant portion of the fund's portfolio.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of assets and liabilities 2/28/17 (Unaudited)

### ASSETS

Investment in securities, at value, including \$32,797,339 of securities on loan (Note 1):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$986,160,204)	\$1,366,293,708
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$89,982,814) (Notes 1 and 5)	89,982,814
Cash	5
Foreign currency (cost \$12) (Note 1)	12
Dividends, interest and other receivables	3,565,971
Foreign tax reclaim	1,111,300
Receivable for shares of the fund sold	1,302,810
Receivable for investments sold	125,511
Unrealized appreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1)	796,836
Prepaid assets	59,414
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,463,238,381</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payable for shares of the fund repurchased	1,303,530
Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	670,121
Payable for custodian fees (Note 2)	32,370
Payable for investor servicing fees (Note 2)	377,626
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	536,416
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	5,364
Payable for distribution fees (Note 2)	570,370
Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1)	34,583,925
Collateral on certain derivative contracts, at value (Note 1)	809,690
Unrealized depreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1)	398,619
Other accrued expenses	218,577
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>39,506,608</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$1,423,731,773</b>

### REPRESENTED BY

Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1 and 4)	\$991,665,384
Undistributed net investment income (Note 1)	1,356,715
Accumulated net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	50,237,247
Net unrealized appreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	380,472,427
<b>Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding</b>	<b>\$1,423,731,773</b>

(Continued on next page)

## Statement of assets and liabilities *cont.*

### COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND OFFERING PRICE

Net asset value and redemption price per class A share (\$1,272,016,688 divided by 23,281,253 shares)	\$54.64
Offering price per class A share (100/94.25 of \$54.64)*	\$57.97
Net asset value and offering price per class B share (\$30,124,448 divided by 843,892 shares)**	\$35.70
Net asset value and offering price per class C share (\$52,762,250 divided by 1,228,417 shares)**	\$42.95
Net asset value and redemption price per class M share (\$11,690,458 divided by 263,378 shares)	\$44.39
Offering price per class M share (100/96.50 of \$44.39)*	\$46.00
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R share (\$3,403,997 divided by 66,046 shares)	\$51.54
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class Y share (\$53,733,932 divided by 926,398 shares)	\$58.00

\*On single retail sales of less than \$50,000. On sales of \$50,000 or more the offering price is reduced.

\*\*Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of operations Six months ended 2/28/17 (Unaudited)

<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	
Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$96,573)	\$8,947,147
Interest (including interest income of \$81,722 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 5)	86,598
Securities lending (net of expenses) (Notes 1 and 5)	237,458
<b>Total investment income</b>	<b>9,271,203</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	4,376,407
Investor servicing fees (Note 2)	1,209,299
Custodian fees (Note 2)	31,953
Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	35,432
Distribution fees (Note 2)	2,030,189
Administrative services (Note 2)	24,204
Other	278,785
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,986,269</b>
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(19,990)
<b>Net expenses</b>	<b>7,966,279</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>1,304,924</b>
Net realized gain on investments (Notes 1 and 3)	76,755,093
Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(4,357,681)
Net unrealized appreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies during the period	577,645
Net unrealized depreciation of investments during the period	(33,254,509)
<b>Net gain on investments</b>	<b>39,720,548</b>
<b>Net increase in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$41,025,472</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of changes in net assets

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	Six months ended 2/28/17*	Year ended 8/31/16
<b>Operations</b>		
Net investment income	\$1,304,924	\$4,909,250
Net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions	72,397,412	109,918,602
Net unrealized depreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(32,676,864)	(246,871,015)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>41,025,472</b>	<b>(132,043,163)</b>
Distributions to shareholders (Note 1):		
From ordinary income		
Net investment income		
Class A	(5,753,021)	(593,607)
Class B	—	(22,160)
Class C	—	(33,894)
Class M	(5,773)	(6,609)
Class R	(5,628)	(1,878)
Class Y	(345,252)	(27,703)
Net realized short-term gain on investments		
Class A	—	(24,947,068)
Class B	—	(931,322)
Class C	—	(1,424,463)
Class M	—	(277,735)
Class R	—	(78,911)
Class Y	—	(1,164,240)
From net realized long-term gain on investments		
Class A	(111,212,763)	(154,603,298)
Class B	(3,973,018)	(5,771,636)
Class C	(5,883,404)	(8,827,752)
Class M	(1,222,876)	(1,721,194)
Class R	(310,995)	(489,033)
Class Y	(4,227,953)	(7,215,089)
Increase from capital share transactions (Note 4)	14,580,575	38,124,291
<b>Total decrease in net assets</b>	<b>(77,334,636)</b>	<b>(302,056,464)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of period	1,501,066,409	1,803,122,873
<b>End of period</b> (including undistributed net investment income of \$1,356,715 and \$6,161,465, respectively)	<b>\$1,423,731,773</b>	<b>\$1,501,066,409</b>

\*Unaudited.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**Financial highlights** (For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Period ended	INVESTMENT OPERATIONS				LESS DISTRIBUTIONS							RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss) <sup>a</sup>	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	Total from investment operations	From net investment income	From net realized gain on investments	Total distributions	Redemption fees	Non-recurring reimbursements	Net asset value, end of period	Total return at net asset value (%) <sup>c</sup>	Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) <sup>d</sup>	Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%)	Portfolio turnover (%)
<b>Class A</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$58.56	.06	1.36	1.42	(.26)	(5.08)	(5.34)	—	—	\$54.64	3.28*	\$1,272,017	.55*	.11*	21*
August 31, 2016	71.32	.21	(4.75)	(4.54)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	58.56	(7.23)	1,336,219	1.13 <sup>f</sup>	.35 <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	67.02	.12	10.27	10.39	(.31)	(5.78)	(6.09)	—	—	71.32	16.29	1,590,624	1.10	.17	20
August 31, 2014	55.14	.28	17.95	18.23	(.22)	(6.13)	(6.35)	—	—	67.02	35.30	1,374,677	1.14	.47	22
August 31, 2013	45.03	.40	12.65	13.05	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	55.14	30.48	1,099,241	1.21	.80	30
August 31, 2012	44.32	.36	5.55	5.91	(.99)	(4.22)	(5.21)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	45.03	15.34	923,021	1.28	.85	25
<b>Class B</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$40.08	(.10)	.80	.70	—	(5.08)	(5.08)	—	—	\$35.70	2.91*	\$30,124	.92*	(.26)*	21*
August 31, 2016	51.75	(.17)	(3.28)	(3.45)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	40.08	(7.93)	35,044	1.88 <sup>f</sup>	(.40) <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	50.25	(.31)	7.59	7.28	—	(5.78)	(5.78)	—	—	51.75	15.42	40,640	1.85	(.58)	20
August 31, 2014	42.85	(.13)	13.66	13.53	—	(6.13)	(6.13)	—	—	50.25	34.28	33,532	1.89	(.28)	22
August 31, 2013	35.87	.02	9.90	9.92	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	42.85	29.48	29,588	1.96	.05	30
August 31, 2012	36.28	.03	4.43	4.46	(.66)	(4.22)	(4.88)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	35.87	14.51	26,017	2.03	.09	25
<b>Class C</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$47.13	(.11)	1.01	.90	—	(5.08)	(5.08)	—	—	\$42.95	2.90*	\$52,762	.92*	(.26)*	21*
August 31, 2016	59.40	(.20)	(3.85)	(4.05)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	47.13	(7.92)	59,280	1.88 <sup>f</sup>	(.40) <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	56.89	(.34)	8.63	8.29	—	(5.78)	(5.78)	—	—	59.40	15.40	72,939	1.85	(.57)	20
August 31, 2014	47.79	(.14)	15.37	15.23	—	(6.13)	(6.13)	—	—	56.89	34.30	35,165	1.89	(.27)	22
August 31, 2013	39.68	.02	11.03	11.05	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	47.79	29.50	23,851	1.96	.05	30
August 31, 2012	39.64	.04	4.90	4.94	(.69)	(4.22)	(4.91)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	39.68	14.50	17,562	2.03	.10	25
<b>Class M</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$48.50	(.06)	1.05	.99	(.02)	(5.08)	(5.10)	—	—	\$44.39	3.02*	\$11,690	.79*	(.14)*	21*
August 31, 2016	60.74	(.08)	(3.94)	(4.02)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	48.50	(7.67)	12,513	1.63 <sup>f</sup>	(.15) <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	57.97	(.20)	8.81	8.61	(.06)	(5.78)	(5.84)	—	—	60.74	15.68	16,014	1.60	(.33)	20
August 31, 2014	48.48	(.01)	15.63	15.62	—	(6.13)	(6.13)	—	—	57.97	34.64	14,205	1.64	(.02)	22
August 31, 2013	40.12	.13	11.17	11.30	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	48.48	29.81	10,741	1.71	.30	30
August 31, 2012	40.03	.13	4.95	5.08	(.78)	(4.22)	(5.00)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	40.12	14.77	9,518	1.78	.35	25
<b>Class R</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$55.45	(.01)	1.27	1.26	(.09)	(5.08)	(5.17)	—	—	\$51.54	3.14*	\$3,404	.67*	(.01)*	21*
August 31, 2016	68.12	.06	(4.51)	(4.45)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	55.45	(7.45)	3,891	1.38 <sup>f</sup>	.10 <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	64.31	(.05)	9.83	9.78	(.19)	(5.78)	(5.97)	—	—	68.12	15.99	8,350	1.35	(.07)	20
August 31, 2014	53.16	.13	17.26	17.39	(.11)	(6.13)	(6.24)	—	—	64.31	34.98	5,578	1.39	.23	22
August 31, 2013	43.63	.26	12.21	12.47	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	53.16	30.11	3,754	1.46	.54	30
August 31, 2012	43.11	.26	5.38	5.64	(.91)	(4.22)	(5.13)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	43.63	15.09	3,046	1.53	.63	25
<b>Class Y</b>															
February 28, 2017**	\$61.91	.14	1.45	1.59	(.42)	(5.08)	(5.50)	—	—	\$58.00	3.39*	\$53,734	.42*	.24*	21*
August 31, 2016	74.75	.38	(5.00)	(4.62)	(.03)	(8.19)	(8.22)	—	—	61.91	(6.98)	54,119	.88 <sup>f</sup>	.58 <sup>f</sup>	16
August 31, 2015	69.96	.32	10.72	11.04	(.47)	(5.78)	(6.25)	—	—	74.75	16.57	74,556	.85	.42	20
August 31, 2014	57.30	.46	18.68	19.14	(.35)	(6.13)	(6.48)	—	—	69.96	35.64	46,440	.89	.74	22
August 31, 2013	46.58	.55	13.11	13.66	—	(2.94)	(2.94)	— <sup>b</sup>	—	57.30	30.79	29,916	.96	1.05	30
August 31, 2012	45.68	.48	5.74	6.22	(1.11)	(4.22)	(5.33)	— <sup>b</sup>	.01 <sup>e</sup>	46.58	15.64	20,913	1.03	1.11	25

See notes to financial highlights at the end of this section.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Financial highlights *cont.*

\* Not annualized.

\*\* Unaudited.

- <sup>a</sup> Per share net investment income (loss) has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.
- <sup>b</sup> Amount represents less than \$0.01 per share.
- <sup>c</sup> Total return assumes dividend reinvestment and does not reflect the effect of sales charges.
- <sup>d</sup> Includes amounts paid through expense offset and brokerage service arrangements, if any (Note 2). Also excludes acquired fund fees and expenses, if any.
- <sup>e</sup> Reflects a non-recurring reimbursement pursuant to a settlement between the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) and Canadian Imperial Holdings, Inc./CIBC World Markets Corp. which amounted to \$0.01 per share outstanding on November 29, 2011.
- <sup>f</sup> Reflects a voluntary waiver of certain fund expenses in effect during the period. As a result of such waivers, the expenses of each class reflect a reduction of less than .01% as a percentage of average net assets per share for each class (Note 2).

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Notes to financial statements 2/28/17 (Unaudited)

Within the following Notes to financial statements, references to “State Street” represent State Street Bank and Trust Company, references to “the SEC” represent the Securities and Exchange Commission, references to “Putnam Management” represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund’s manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC and references to “OTC”, if any, represent over-the-counter. Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from September 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

Putnam Global Health Care Fund (the fund) is a Massachusetts business trust, which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a non-diversified open-end management investment company. The goal of the fund is to seek capital appreciation. For this non-diversified fund concentrating in the health care industries, the fund invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of large and midsize companies worldwide that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. Under normal circumstances, Putnam Management invests at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in securities of companies in the health care industries. This policy may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Potential investments include companies that manufacture health care supplies or provide health care-related services, and companies in the research, development, production and marketing of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products. The fund may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which Putnam Management places on the company. Putnam Management may also consider other factors that it believes will cause the stock price to rise. Putnam Management may consider, among other factors, a company’s valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. Putnam Management may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes, and may engage in short sales of securities.

The fund offers class A, class B, class C, class M, class R and class Y shares. The fund registered class T shares in February 2017, however, as of the date of this report, class T shares had not commenced operations and are not available for purchase. Effective April 1, 2017, purchases of class B shares will be closed to new and existing investors except by exchange from class B shares of another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment. Class A and class M shares are sold with a maximum front-end sales charge of 5.75% and 3.50%, respectively. Class A shares generally are not subject to a contingent deferred sales charge, and class M, class R and class Y shares are not subject to a contingent deferred sales charge. Class B shares, which convert to class A shares after approximately eight years, are not subject to a front-end sales charge and are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge if those shares are redeemed within six years of purchase. Class C shares are subject to a one-year 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge and do not convert to class A shares. Class R shares, which are not available to all investors, are sold at net asset value. The expenses for class A, class B, class C, class M and class R shares may differ based on the distribution fee of each class, which is identified in Note 2. Class Y shares, which are sold at net asset value, are generally subject to the same expenses as class A, class B, class C, class M and class R shares, but do not bear a distribution fee. Class Y shares are not available to all investors.

In the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts that may include agreements to indemnify another party under given circumstances. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be, but have not yet been, made against the fund. However, the fund’s management team expects the risk of material loss to be remote.

The fund has entered into contractual arrangements with an investment adviser, administrator, distributor, shareholder servicing agent and custodian, who each provide services to the fund. Unless expressly stated otherwise, shareholders are not parties to, or intended beneficiaries of these contractual arrangements, and these contractual arrangements are not intended to create any shareholder right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the fund.

Under the fund’s Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted against or on behalf of the Putnam Funds, including claims against Trustees and Officers, must be brought in state and federal courts located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations. Actual results could differ from those

estimates. Subsequent events after the Statement of assets and liabilities date through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements.

Investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses and expenses of the fund are borne pro-rata based on the relative net assets of each class to the total net assets of the fund, except that each class bears expenses unique to that class (including the distribution fees applicable to such classes). Each class votes as a class only with respect to its own distribution plan or other matters on which a class vote is required by law or determined by the Trustees. If the fund were liquidated, shares of each class would receive their pro-rata share of the net assets of the fund. In addition, the Trustees declare separate dividends on each class of shares.

**Security valuation** Portfolio securities and other investments are valued using policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have formed a Pricing Committee to oversee the implementation of these procedures and have delegated responsibility for valuing the fund's assets in accordance with these procedures to Putnam Management. Putnam Management has established an internal Valuation Committee that is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the pricing policies of the fund and reporting to the Pricing Committee.

Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last reported sales price on their principal exchange, or official closing price for certain markets, and are classified as Level 1 securities under Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC 820). If no sales are reported, as in the case of some securities that are traded OTC, a security is valued at its last reported bid price and is generally categorized as a Level 2 security.

Investments in open-end investment companies (excluding exchange-traded funds), if any, which can be classified as Level 1 or Level 2 securities, are valued based on their net asset value. The net asset value of such investment companies equals the total value of their assets less their liabilities and divided by the number of their outstanding shares.

Market quotations are not considered to be readily available for certain debt obligations (including short-term investments with remaining maturities of 60 days or less) and other investments; such investments are valued on the basis of valuations furnished by an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees or dealers selected by Putnam Management. Such services or dealers determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using methods based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities (which consider such factors as security prices, yields, maturities and ratings). These securities will generally be categorized as Level 2.

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange and therefore the closing prices for securities in such markets or on such exchanges may not fully reflect events that occur after such close but before the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, on certain days, the fund will fair value certain foreign equity securities taking into account multiple factors including movements in the U.S. securities markets, currency valuations and comparisons to the valuation of American Depository Receipts, exchange-traded funds and futures contracts. The foreign equity securities, which would generally be classified as Level 1 securities, will be transferred to Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy when they are valued at fair value. The number of days on which fair value prices will be used will depend on market activity and it is possible that fair value prices will be used by the fund to a significant extent. Securities quoted in foreign currencies, if any, are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate.

To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value by Putnam Management in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives, are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures, recovery rates, sales and other multiples and resale restrictions. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

To assess the continuing appropriateness of fair valuations, the Valuation Committee reviews and affirms the reasonableness of such valuations on a regular basis after considering all relevant information that is reasonably available. Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees. The fair value of securities is generally determined as the amount that the fund could reasonably expect to realize from an orderly disposition of such securities over a reasonable period of time. By its nature, a fair value price is a good faith estimate of

the value of a security in a current sale and does not reflect an actual market price, which may be different by a material amount.

**Security transactions and related investment income** Security transactions are recorded on the trade date (the date the order to buy or sell is executed). Gains or losses on securities sold are determined on the identified cost basis.

Interest income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, is recognized on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities, if any, are recognized as soon as the fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair value of the securities received. Dividends representing a return of capital or capital gains, if any, are reflected as a reduction of cost and/or as a realized gain.

All premiums/discounts are amortized/accreted on a yield-to-maturity basis.

**Foreign currency translation** The accounting records of the fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. The fair value of foreign securities, currency holdings, and other assets and liabilities is recorded in the books and records of the fund after translation to U.S. dollars based on the exchange rates on that day. The cost of each security is determined using historical exchange rates. Income and withholding taxes are translated at prevailing exchange rates when earned or incurred. The fund does not isolate that portion of realized or unrealized gains or losses resulting from changes in the foreign exchange rate on investments from fluctuations arising from changes in the market prices of the securities. Such gains and losses are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments. Net realized gains and losses on foreign currency transactions represent net realized exchange gains or losses on closed forward currency contracts, disposition of foreign currencies, currency gains and losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions and the difference between the amount of investment income and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies arise from changes in the value of open forward currency contracts and assets and liabilities other than investments at the period end, resulting from changes in the exchange rate.

**Forward currency contracts** The fund buys and sells forward currency contracts, which are agreements between two parties to buy and sell currencies at a set price on a future date. These contracts are used to hedge foreign exchange risk.

The U.S. dollar value of forward currency contracts is determined using current forward currency exchange rates supplied by a quotation service. The fair value of the contract will fluctuate with changes in currency exchange rates. The contract is marked to market daily and the change in fair value is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. The fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed when the contract matures or by delivery of the currency. The fund could be exposed to risk if the value of the currency changes unfavorably, if the counterparties to the contracts are unable to meet the terms of their contracts or if the fund is unable to enter into a closing position. Risks may exceed amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

Forward currency contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

**Master agreements** The fund is a party to ISDA (International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.) Master Agreements (Master Agreements) with certain counterparties that govern OTC derivative and foreign exchange contracts entered into from time to time. The Master Agreements may contain provisions regarding, among other things, the parties' general obligations, representations, agreements, collateral requirements, events of default and early termination. With respect to certain counterparties, in accordance with the terms of the Master Agreements, collateral posted to the fund is held in a segregated account by the fund's custodian and, with respect to those amounts which can be sold or repledged, is presented in the fund's portfolio.

Collateral pledged by the fund is segregated by the fund's custodian and identified in the fund's portfolio. Collateral can be in the form of cash or debt securities issued by the U.S. Government or related agencies or other securities as agreed to by the fund and the applicable counterparty. Collateral requirements are determined based on the fund's net position with each counterparty.

Termination events applicable to the fund may occur upon a decline in the fund's net assets below a specified threshold over a certain period of time. Termination events applicable to counterparties may occur upon a decline in the counterparty's long-term and short-term credit ratings below a specified level. In each case, upon occurrence, the other party may elect to terminate early and cause settlement of all derivative and foreign exchange contracts outstanding, including the payment of any losses and costs resulting from such early

termination, as reasonably determined by the terminating party. Any decision by one or more of the fund's counterparties to elect early termination could impact the fund's future derivative activity.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund had a net liability position of \$398,619 on open derivative contracts subject to the Master Agreements. Collateral posted by the fund at period end for these agreements totaled \$497,859 and may include amounts related to unsettled agreements.

**Securities lending** The fund may lend securities, through its agent, to qualified borrowers in order to earn additional income. The loans are collateralized by cash in an amount at least equal to the fair value of the securities loaned. The fair value of securities loaned is determined daily and any additional required collateral is allocated to the fund on the next business day. The remaining maturities of the securities lending transactions are considered overnight and continuous. The risk of borrower default will be borne by the fund's agent; the fund will bear the risk of loss with respect to the investment of the cash collateral. Income from securities lending, net of expenses, is included in investment income on the Statement of operations. Cash collateral is invested in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC, a limited liability company managed by an affiliate of Putnam Management. Investments in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC are valued at its closing net asset value each business day. There are no management fees charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC. At the close of the reporting period, the fund received cash collateral of \$34,583,925 and the value of securities loaned amounted to \$32,797,339.

**Interfund lending** The fund, along with other Putnam funds, may participate in an interfund lending program pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC. This program allows the fund to borrow from or lend to other Putnam funds that permit such transactions. Interfund lending transactions are subject to each fund's investment policies and borrowing and lending limits. Interest earned or paid on the interfund lending transaction will be based on the average of certain current market rates. During the reporting period, the fund did not utilize the program.

**Lines of credit** The fund participates, along with other Putnam funds, in a \$317.5 million unsecured committed line of credit and a \$235.5 million unsecured uncommitted line of credit, both provided by State Street. Borrowings may be made for temporary or emergency purposes, including the funding of shareholder redemption requests and trade settlements. Interest is charged to the fund based on the fund's borrowing at a rate equal to the higher of (1) the Federal Funds rate and (2) the overnight LIBOR plus 1.25% for the committed line of credit and the Federal Funds rate plus 1.30% for the uncommitted line of credit. A closing fee equal to 0.04% of the committed line of credit plus a \$25,000 flat fee and 0.04% of the uncommitted line of credit has been paid by the participating funds. In addition, a commitment fee of 0.21% per annum on any unutilized portion of the committed line of credit is allocated to the participating funds based on their relative net assets and paid quarterly. During the reporting period, the fund had no borrowings against these arrangements.

**Federal taxes** It is the policy of the fund to distribute all of its taxable income within the prescribed time period and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), applicable to regulated investment companies. It is also the intention of the fund to distribute an amount sufficient to avoid imposition of any excise tax under Section 4982 of the Code.

The fund is subject to the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 740 *Income Taxes* (ASC 740). ASC 740 sets forth a minimum threshold for financial statement recognition of the benefit of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The fund did not have a liability to record for any unrecognized tax benefits in the accompanying financial statements. No provision has been made for federal taxes on income, capital gains or unrealized appreciation on securities held nor for excise tax on income and capital gains. Each of the fund's federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The fund may also be subject to taxes imposed by governments of countries in which it invests. Such taxes are generally based on either income or gains earned or repatriated. The fund accrues and applies such taxes to net investment income, net realized gains and net unrealized gains as income and/or capital gains are earned. In some cases, the fund may be entitled to reclaim all or a portion of such taxes, and such reclaim amounts, if any, are reflected as an asset on the fund's books. In many cases, however, the fund may not receive such amounts for an extended period of time, depending on the country of investment.

The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$1,076,143,334, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$404,938,921 and \$24,805,733, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$380,133,188.

**Distributions to shareholders** Distributions to shareholders from net investment income are recorded by the fund on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from capital gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid at least annually. The amount and character of income and gains to be distributed are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles.

Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal year. Reclassifications are made to the fund's capital accounts to reflect income and gains available for distribution (or available capital loss carryovers) under income tax regulations.

**Note 2: Management fee, administrative services and other transactions**

The fund pays Putnam Management a management fee (based on the fund's average net assets and computed and paid monthly) at annual rates that may vary based on the average of the aggregate net assets of all open-end mutual funds sponsored by Putnam Management (excluding net assets of funds that are invested in, or that are invested in by, other Putnam funds to the extent necessary to avoid "double counting" of those assets). Such annual rates may vary as follows:

0.780%	of the first \$5 billion,	0.580%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.730%	of the next \$5 billion,	0.560%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.680%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.550%	of the next \$100 billion and
0.630%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.545%	of any excess thereafter.

For the reporting period, the management fee represented an effective rate (excluding the impact from any expense waivers in effect) of 0.310% of the fund's average net assets.

Putnam Management has contractually agreed, through December 30, 2017, to waive fees or reimburse the fund's expenses to the extent necessary to limit the cumulative expenses of the fund, exclusive of brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, extraordinary expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses and payments under the fund's investor servicing contract, investment management contract and distribution plans, on a fiscal year-to-date basis to an annual rate of 0.20% of the fund's average net assets over such fiscal year-to-date period. During the reporting period, the fund's expenses were not reduced as a result of this limit.

Putnam Investments Limited (PIL), an affiliate of Putnam Management, is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund as determined by Putnam Management from time to time. Putnam Management pays a quarterly sub-management fee to PIL for its services at an annual rate of 0.35% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund managed by PIL.

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (PAC), an affiliate of Putnam Management, is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund, as designated from time to time by Putnam Management or PIL. PAC did not manage any portion of the assets of the fund during the reporting period. If Putnam Management or PIL were to engage the services of PAC, Putnam Management or PIL, as applicable, would pay a quarterly sub-advisory fee to PAC for its services at the annual rate of 0.35% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund's assets for which PAC is engaged as sub-adviser.

The fund reimburses Putnam Management an allocated amount for the compensation and related expenses of certain officers of the fund and their staff who provide administrative services to the fund. The aggregate amount of all such reimbursements is determined annually by the Trustees.

Custodial functions for the fund's assets are provided by State Street. Custody fees are based on the fund's asset level, the number of its security holdings and transaction volumes.

Putnam Investor Services, Inc., an affiliate of Putnam Management, provides investor servicing agent functions to the fund. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. received fees for investor servicing for class A, class B, class C, class M, class R, and class Y shares that included (1) a per account fee for each direct and underlying non-defined contribution account ("retail account") of the fund; (2) a specified rate of the fund's assets attributable to defined contribution plan accounts; and (3) a specified rate based on the average net assets in retail accounts. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. has agreed that the aggregate investor servicing fees for each fund's retail and defined contribution accounts for these share classes will not exceed an annual rate of 0.25% of the fund's average assets attributable to such accounts.

During the reporting period, the expenses for each class of shares related to investor servicing fees were as follows:

Class A	\$1,079,779	Class R	2,939
Class B	26,755	Class Y	43,521
Class C	46,341	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,209,299</b>
Class M	9,964		

The fund has entered into expense offset arrangements with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. and State Street whereby Putnam Investor Services, Inc.'s and State Street's fees are reduced by credits allowed on cash balances. The fund also reduced expenses through brokerage/service arrangements. For the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$1,182 under the expense offset arrangements and by \$18,808 under the brokerage/service arrangements.

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$1,043, as a quarterly retainer, has been allocated to the fund, and an additional fee for each Trustees meeting attended. Trustees also are reimbursed for expenses they incur relating to their services as Trustees.

The fund has adopted a Trustee Fee Deferral Plan (the Deferral Plan) which allows the Trustees to defer the receipt of all or a portion of Trustees fees payable on or after July 1, 1995. The deferred fees remain invested in certain Putnam funds until distribution in accordance with the Deferral Plan.

The fund has adopted an unfunded noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Pension Plan) covering all Trustees of the fund who have served as a Trustee for at least five years and were first elected prior to 2004. Benefits under the Pension Plan are equal to 50% of the Trustee's average annual attendance and retainer fees for the three years ended December 31, 2005. The retirement benefit is payable during a Trustee's lifetime, beginning the year following retirement, for the number of years of service through December 31, 2006. Pension expense for the fund is included in Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of operations. Accrued pension liability is included in Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of assets and liabilities. The Trustees have terminated the Pension Plan with respect to any Trustee first elected after 2003.

The fund has adopted distribution plans (the "Plans") with respect to the following class shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The purpose of the Plans is to compensate Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC, for services provided and expenses incurred in distributing shares of the fund. The Plans provide payments by the fund to Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership at an annual rate of up to the following amounts ("Maximum %") of the average net assets attributable to each class. The Trustees have approved payment by the fund at the following annual rate ("Approved %") of the average net assets attributable to each class. During the reporting period, the class-specific expenses related to distribution fees were as follows:

	Maximum %	Approved %	Amount
Class A	0.35%	0.25%	\$1,556,911
Class B	1.00%	1.00%	154,384
Class C	1.00%	1.00%	267,319
Class M	1.00%	0.75%	43,105
Class R	1.00%	0.50%	8,470
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,030,189</b>

For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received net commissions of \$36,773 and \$361 from the sale of class A and class M shares, respectively, and received \$8,114 and \$418 in contingent deferred sales charges from redemptions of class B and class C shares, respectively.

A deferred sales charge of up to 1.00% is assessed on certain redemptions of class A shares. For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received no monies on class A redemptions.



**Note 3: Purchases and sales of securities**

During the reporting period, the cost of purchases and the proceeds from sales, excluding short-term investments, were as follows:

	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from sales
Investments in securities (Long-term)	\$284,510,482	\$417,766,305
U.S. government securities (Long-term)	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,510,482</b>	<b>\$417,766,305</b>

The fund may purchase or sell investments from or to other Putnam funds in the ordinary course of business, which can reduce the fund's transaction costs, at prices determined in accordance with SEC requirements and policies approved by the Trustees. During the reporting period, purchases or sales of long-term securities from or to other Putnam funds, if any, did not represent more than 5% of the fund's total cost of purchases and/or total proceeds from sales.

**Note 4: Capital shares**

At the close of the reporting period, there were an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized. Transactions in capital shares were as follows:

Class A	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	424,271	\$22,739,517	1,071,340	\$67,524,397
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	2,145,367	107,311,258	2,606,947	164,941,521
	2,569,638	130,050,775	3,678,287	232,465,918
Shares repurchased	(2,106,036)	(114,446,487)	(3,164,155)	(191,288,786)
<b>Net increase</b>	<b>463,602</b>	<b>\$15,604,288</b>	<b>514,132</b>	<b>\$41,177,132</b>

Class B	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	42,812	\$1,556,821	188,357	\$8,409,299
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	111,674	3,655,098	143,455	6,244,576
	154,486	5,211,919	331,812	14,653,875
Shares repurchased	(184,865)	(6,842,810)	(242,908)	(10,179,071)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>(30,379)</b>	<b>\$(1,630,891)</b>	<b>88,904</b>	<b>\$4,474,804</b>

Class C	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	87,390	\$3,785,788	285,576	\$14,859,803
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	138,393	5,449,896	184,511	9,445,121
	225,783	9,235,684	470,087	24,304,924
Shares repurchased	(255,062)	(11,110,784)	(440,265)	(21,638,637)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>(29,279)</b>	<b>\$(1,875,100)</b>	<b>29,822</b>	<b>\$2,666,287</b>

Class M	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	4,103	\$179,051	13,028	\$673,189
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	28,551	1,161,446	35,779	1,880,900
	32,654	1,340,497	48,807	2,554,089
Shares repurchased	(27,304)	(1,232,784)	(54,405)	(2,853,349)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>\$107,713</b>	<b>(5,598)</b>	<b>\$(299,260)</b>

Class R	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	8,392	\$428,494	22,553	\$1,334,514
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	6,327	298,706	8,880	532,869
	14,719	727,200	31,433	1,867,383
Shares repurchased	(18,845)	(994,080)	(83,844)	(5,389,047)
<b>Net decrease</b>	<b>(4,126)</b>	<b>\$(266,880)</b>	<b>(52,411)</b>	<b>\$(3,521,664)</b>

Class Y	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/28/17		YEAR ENDED 8/31/16	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	179,259	\$10,366,247	284,125	\$18,635,470
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	77,601	4,119,077	115,454	7,708,895
	256,860	14,485,324	399,579	26,344,365
Shares repurchased	(204,661)	(11,843,879)	(522,783)	(32,717,373)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>52,199</b>	<b>\$2,641,445</b>	<b>(123,204)</b>	<b>\$(6,373,008)</b>

#### Note 5: Affiliated transactions

Transactions during the reporting period with any company which is under common ownership or control were as follows:

Name of affiliate	Fair value at the beginning of the reporting period	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Fair value at the end of the reporting period
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC*	\$56,913,000	\$259,245,381	\$281,574,456	\$273,597	\$34,583,925
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund**	7,231,375	261,428,936	213,261,422	81,722	55,398,889
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$64,144,375</b>	<b>\$520,674,317</b>	<b>\$494,835,878</b>	<b>\$355,319</b>	<b>\$89,982,814</b>

\* No management fees are charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC.

\*\* Management fees charged to Putnam Short Term Investment Fund have been waived by Putnam Management.

**Note 6: Market, credit and other risks**

In the normal course of business, the fund trades financial instruments and enters into financial transactions where risk of potential loss exists due to changes in the market (market risk) or failure of the contracting party to the transaction to perform (credit risk). The fund may be exposed to additional credit risk that an institution or other entity with which the fund has unsettled or open transactions will default. Investments in foreign securities involve certain risks, including those related to economic instability, unfavorable political developments, and currency fluctuations. The fund concentrates a majority of its investments in the health care sector, which involves more risk than a fund that invests more broadly.

**Note 7: Summary of derivative activity**

The volume of activity for the reporting period for any derivative type that was held during the period is listed below and was based on an average of the holdings at the end of each fiscal quarter:

Forward currency contracts (contract amount)	\$75,400,000
Warrants (number of warrants)	250,000

The following is a summary of the fair value of derivative instruments as of the close of the reporting period:

**Fair value of derivative instruments as of the close of the reporting period**

Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815	ASSET DERIVATIVES		LIABILITY DERIVATIVES	
	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Fair value	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Fair value
Foreign exchange contracts	Receivables	\$796,836	Payables	\$398,619
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$796,836</b>		<b>\$398,619</b>

The following is a summary of realized and change in unrealized gains or losses of derivative instruments in the Statement of operations for the reporting period (Note 1):

**Amount of realized gain or (loss) on derivatives recognized in net gain or (loss) on investments**

Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815	Forward currency contracts	Total
Foreign exchange contracts	\$(4,317,032)	\$(4,317,032)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$(4,317,032)</b>	<b>\$(4,317,032)</b>

**Change in unrealized appreciation or (depreciation) on derivatives recognized in net gain or (loss) on investments**

Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815	Forward currency contracts	Total
Foreign exchange contracts	\$616,329	\$616,329
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$616,329</b>	<b>\$616,329</b>

### Note 8: Offsetting of financial and derivative assets and liabilities

The following table summarizes any derivatives, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements, at the end of the reporting period, that are subject to an enforceable master netting agreement or similar agreement. For securities lending transactions or borrowing transactions associated with securities sold short, if any, see Note 1. For financial reporting purposes, the fund does not offset financial assets and financial liabilities that are subject to the master netting agreements in the Statement of assets and liabilities.

	Bank of America N.A.	Citibank, N.A.	Credit Suisse International	HSBC Bank USA, National Association	JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.	Total
<b>Assets:</b>						
Forward currency contracts <sup>#</sup>	\$—	\$—	\$141,252	\$655,584	\$—	\$796,836
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$141,252</b>	<b>\$655,584</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$796,836</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Forward currency contracts <sup>#</sup>	256,717	138,120	—	—	3,782	398,619
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$256,717</b>	<b>\$138,120</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$3,782</b>	<b>\$398,619</b>
<b>Total Financial and Derivative Net Assets</b>	<b>\$(256,717)</b>	<b>\$(138,120)</b>	<b>\$141,252</b>	<b>\$655,584</b>	<b>\$(3,782)</b>	<b>\$398,217</b>
Total collateral received (pledged) <sup>†##</sup>	\$(256,717)	\$(129,896)	\$141,252	\$655,584	\$—	
Net amount	\$—	\$(8,224)	\$—	\$—	\$(3,782)	

\* Excludes premiums, if any. Included in unrealized appreciation and depreciation on OTC swap contracts on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

\*\* Included with Investments in securities on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

† Additional collateral may be required from certain brokers based on individual agreements.

# Covered by master netting agreement (Note 1).

## Any over-collateralization of total financial and derivative net assets is not shown. Collateral may include amounts related to unsettled agreements.

§ Includes current day's variation margin only as reported on the Statement of assets and liabilities, which is not collateralized. Cumulative appreciation/(depreciation) for futures contracts and centrally cleared swap contracts is represented in the tables listed after the fund's portfolio.

### Note 9: New pronouncements

In October 2016, the SEC adopted amendments to rules under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("final rules") intended to modernize the reporting and disclosure of information by registered investment companies. The final rules amend Regulation S-X and require funds to provide standardized, enhanced derivative disclosure in fund financial statements in a format designed for individual investors. The amendments to Regulation S-X also update the disclosures for other investments and investments in and advances to affiliates and amend the rules regarding the general form and content of fund financial statements. The compliance date for the amendments to Regulation S-X is August 1, 2017. Putnam Management is currently evaluating the amendments and their impact, if any, on the fund's financial statements.

## Fund information

Founded over 75 years ago, Putnam Investments was built around the concept that a balance between risk and reward is the hallmark of a well-rounded financial program. We manage over 100 funds across income, value, blend, growth, asset allocation, absolute return, and global sector categories.

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Putnam Retail Management  
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### Custodian

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*This report is for the information of shareholders of Putnam Global Health Care Fund. It may also be used as sales literature when preceded or accompanied by the current prospectus, the most recent copy of Putnam's Quarterly Performance Summary, and Putnam's Quarterly Ranking Summary. For more recent performance, please visit [putnam.com](http://putnam.com). Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund, which are described in its prospectus. For this and other information or to request a prospectus or summary prospectus, call 1-800-225-1581 toll free. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. The fund's Statement of Additional Information contains additional information about the fund's Trustees and is available without charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-1581.*



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