

July 19, 2011

**DREYFUS VARIABLE INVESTMENT FUND  
-OPPORTUNISTIC SMALL  
CAP PORTFOLIO**

**Supplement to Prospectus  
dated May 1, 2011**

**The following information supersedes and replaces any contrary information contained in the sections of the fund's Prospectus entitled "Fund Summary – Portfolio Management" and "Fund Details-Management":**

Investment decisions for the fund are made by a team of portfolio managers. The team members are David Daglio, the lead portfolio manager, James Boyd, Dale Dutile and Creighton Kang. The team has managed the fund since June 2011. Mr. Daglio has been the primary or lead portfolio manager of the fund since February 2010 and is a senior vice president at The Boston Company Asset Management Company LLC (TBCAM), an affiliate of The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), where he has been employed since 1998. He has been a dual employee of TBCAM and Dreyfus since April 2001. Mr. Boyd has been a portfolio manager of the fund since February 2010 and is an equity research analyst and portfolio manager at TBCAM, where he has been employed since 2005. He has been a dual employee of TBCAM and Dreyfus since December 2008. Mr. Dutile has been a portfolio manager of the fund since February 2010 and is an equity research analyst and portfolio manager at TBCAM, where he has been employed since July 2006. He has been a dual employee of TBCAM and Dreyfus since December 2008. Mr. Kang has been a portfolio manager of the fund since June 2011 and is an equity research analyst and portfolio manager at TBCAM, where he has been employed since January 2007. He has been a dual employee of TBCAM and Dreyfus since May 2011.

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# Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund: Opportunistic Small Cap Portfolio



**Prospectus**

May 1, 2011

**Initial Shares**

**Service Shares**

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*See back cover.*

# Fund Summary

## Investment Objective

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The fund seeks capital growth.

## Fees and Expenses

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This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. These figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies).

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
	<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>Service Shares</b>
Management fees	.75	.75
Distribution and/or Service (Rule 12b-1) fees	none	.25
Other expenses	.11	.11
Total annual fund operating expenses	.86	1.11

## Example

The Example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Initial Shares	\$88	\$274	\$477	\$1,061
Service Shares	\$113	\$353	\$612	\$1,352

## Portfolio Turnover

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 192.88% of the average value of its portfolio.

## Principal Investment Strategy

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To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in the stocks of small-cap companies. Stocks are selected for the fund's portfolio based primarily on bottom-up fundamental analysis. The fund's portfolio managers use a disciplined investment process that relies, in general, on proprietary fundamental research and valuation. Generally, elements of the process include analysis of mid-cycle business prospects, estimation of the intrinsic value of the company and the identification of a revaluation trigger. Intrinsic value is based on the combination of the valuation assessment of the company's operating divisions with the firm's economic balance sheet. Mid-cycle estimates, growth prospects and competitive advantages are some of the factors used in the valuation assessment. A company's stated and hidden liabilities and assets are included in the portfolio managers' economic balance sheet calculation. Sector overweights and underweights are a function of the relative attractiveness of securities within the fund's investable universe. The fund's portfolio managers invest in stocks that they believe have attractive reward to risk opportunities and may actively adjust the fund's portfolio to reflect new developments.

## Principal Risks

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general weakness in the stock market or because of factors that affect the company or its particular industry.
- *Small and midsize company risk.* Small and midsize companies carry additional risks because the operating histories of these companies tend to be more limited, their earnings and revenues less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses), and their share prices more volatile than those of larger, more established companies.
- *Growth and value stock risk.* By investing in a mix of growth and value companies, the fund assumes the risks of both. Investors often expect growth companies to increase their earnings at a certain rate. If these expectations are not met, investors can punish the stocks inordinately, even if earnings do increase. In addition, growth stocks typically lack the dividend yield that can cushion stock prices in market downturns. Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth, or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.

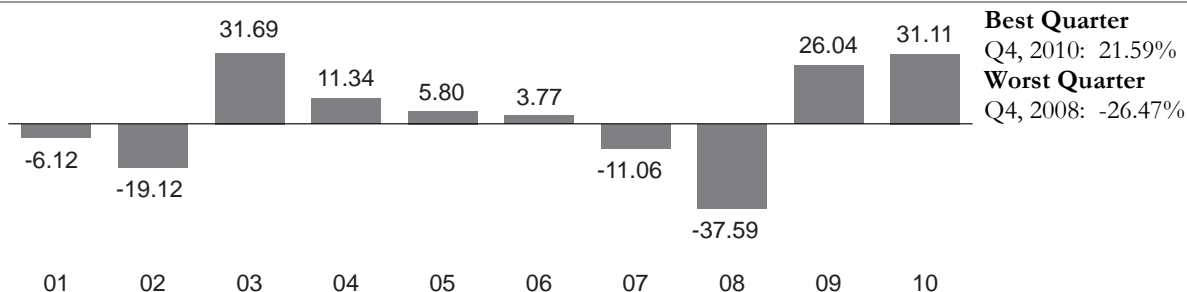
## Performance

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is no guarantee of future results. More recent performance information may be available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com).

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

### Year-by-Year Total Returns as of 12/31 each year (%)

#### Initial Shares



### Average Annual Total Returns (as of 12/31/10)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Shares	31.11%	-0.98%	1.15%
Service Shares	30.82%	-1.22%	0.89%
Russell 2000 Index reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes	26.85%	4.47%	6.33%

## Portfolio Management

The fund's investment adviser is The Dreyfus Corporation. David A. Daglio has been the fund's primary portfolio manager since February 2010. Mr. Daglio is a senior managing director of The Boston Company Asset Management,

LLC (TBCAM), an affiliate of The Dreyfus Corporation, and a dual employee of TBCAM and The Dreyfus Corporation.

## **Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

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Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling, or exchanging fund shares.

## **Tax Information**

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The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

## **Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

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If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

# Fund Details

## Introduction

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Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Conflicts may arise between the interests of VA contract holders and VLI policyholders (collectively, policyowners). The board will monitor events to identify any material conflicts and, if such conflicts arise, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

The fund currently offers two classes of shares: Initial shares and Service shares. Policyowners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company to determine which class of fund shares may be purchased by the separate account.

While the fund's investment objectives and policies may be similar to those of other funds managed by the investment adviser(s), the fund's investment results may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of the other funds.

## Goal and Approach

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The fund seeks capital appreciation. To pursue this goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in the stocks of small-cap companies. The fund currently considers small-cap companies to be those companies with market capitalizations within the range of those in the Russell 2000 Index at the time of purchase. As of May 31, 2010, the date the Russell 2000 Index was last reconstituted, the market capitalization range of companies in the Russell 2000 Index was between \$112 million and \$2.27 billion. As of December 31, 2010, the market capitalization of the largest company in the Russell 2000 Index was approximately \$5 billion, and the weighted average and median market capitalizations of the Russell 2000 Index were \$1.255 billion and \$528 million, respectively. These capitalization ranges and other measures vary with market changes and periodic reconstitution of the Russell 2000 Index. Because the fund may continue to hold a security whose market capitalization increases or decreases, a substantial portion of the fund's holdings can have market capitalizations outside the range of the Russell 2000 Index at any given time. The fund's stock investments may include common stocks, preferred stocks and convertible securities of both U.S. and foreign issuers, including those purchased in initial public offerings (IPOs). The fund may invest up to 15% of its assets in foreign securities.

Stocks are selected for the fund's portfolio based primarily on bottom-up fundamental analysis. The fund's portfolio managers use a disciplined investment process that relies, in general, on proprietary fundamental research and valuation. Generally, elements of the process include analysis of mid-cycle business prospects, estimation of the intrinsic value of the company and the identification of a revaluation trigger. Intrinsic value is based on the combination of the valuation assessment of the company's operating divisions with the firm's economic balance sheet. Mid-cycle estimates, growth prospects and competitive advantages are some of the factors used in the valuation assessment. A company's stated and hidden liabilities and assets are included in the portfolio managers' economic balance sheet calculation. Sector overweights and underweights are a function of the relative attractiveness of securities within the fund's investable universe. The fund's portfolio managers invest in stocks that they believe have attractive reward to risk opportunities and may actively adjust the fund's portfolio to reflect new developments.

In general, the fund's portfolio managers seek exposure to securities and sectors that are perceived to be attractive from a valuation and fundamental standpoint. The fund's sector weightings and risk characteristics are a result of bottom-up fundamental analysis and may vary from those of the Russell 2000 Index, the fund's benchmark, at any given time. The Russell 2000 Index is an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equity market.

The fund typically sells a stock when it approaches intrinsic value, a significant deterioration of fundamental expectations develops, the revaluation catalyst becomes impaired or a better risk/reward opportunity is presented in the marketplace.

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to stocks, indexes, foreign currencies and interest rates), forward contracts and swaps, as a substitute for

investing directly in an underlying asset, to increase returns, or as part of a hedging strategy. The fund also may engage in short-selling, typically for hedging purposes, such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of its portfolio securities. The fund may invest in exchange traded funds (ETFs) and similarly structured pooled investments in order to provide exposure to certain equity markets.

## Investment Risks

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An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions that are not related to the particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates, or adverse investor sentiment generally. A security's market value also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry, or factors that affect a particular company, such as management performance, financial leverage, and reduced demand for the company's products or services.
- *Small and midsize company risk.* Small and midsize companies carry additional risks because the operating histories of these companies tend to be more limited, their earnings and revenues less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses), and their share prices more volatile than those of larger, more established companies. The shares of smaller companies tend to trade less frequently than those of larger, more established companies, which can adversely affect the pricing of these securities and the fund's ability to sell these securities. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or may depend on a limited management group. Some of the fund's investments will rise and fall based on investor perception rather than economic factors. Other investments are made in anticipation of future products, services or events whose delay or cancellation could cause the stock price to drop.
- *Growth and value stock risk.* By investing in a mix of growth and value companies, the fund assumes the risks of both. Investors often expect growth companies to increase their earnings at a certain rate. If these expectations are not met, investors can punish the stocks inordinately, even if earnings do increase. In addition, growth stocks typically lack the dividend yield that can cushion stock prices in market downturns. Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth, or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.

In addition to the principal risks described above, the fund is subject to the following additional risks.

- *Foreign investment risk.* Special risks associated with investments in foreign companies include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political instability and differing auditing and legal standards.
- *Derivatives risk.* A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the underlying instruments or the fund's other investments. Derivative instruments also involve the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the failure of the counterparty to the derivative instruments to make required payments or otherwise comply with the derivative instruments' terms. Certain types of derivatives involve greater risks than the underlying obligations because, in addition to general market risks, they are subject to illiquidity risk, counterparty risk, credit risk and pricing risk. Additionally, some derivatives involve economic leverage, which could increase the volatility of these investments as they may fluctuate in value more than the underlying instrument. The fund may be required to segregate liquid assets in connection with the purchase of derivative instruments.
- *Short sale risk.* The fund may make short sales, which involves selling a security it does not own in anticipation that the security's price will decline. Short sales expose the fund to the risk that it will be required to buy the security sold short (also known as "covering" the short position) at a time when the security has appreciated in value, thus resulting in a loss to the fund.

- *IPO risk.* The prices of securities purchased in IPOs can be very volatile. The effect of IPOs on the fund's performance depends on a variety of factors, including the number of IPOs the fund invests in relative to the size of the fund and whether and to what extent a security purchased in an IPO appreciates or depreciates in value. As a fund's asset base increases, IPOs often have a diminished effect on such fund's performance.
- *Exchange-traded fund (ETF) risk.* ETFs typically trade on a securities exchange and their shares may, at times, trade at a premium or discount to their net asset values. In addition, an ETF may not replicate exactly the performance of the benchmark index it seeks to track for a number of reasons, including transaction costs incurred by the ETF, the temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or discrepancies between the ETF and the index with respect to the weighting of securities (or commodities) or the number of securities (or commodities) held. Investing in ETFs, which are investment companies, may involve duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses.
- *Leverage risk.* The use of leverage, such as engaging in reverse repurchase agreements, lending portfolio securities, entering into futures contracts or forward currency contracts and engaging in forward commitment transactions, may magnify the fund's gains or losses.
- *Other potential risks.* The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of loaned securities. If the borrower of the securities fails financially, there could be delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising rights to the collateral.

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs.

The participating insurance companies and their separate accounts are the shareholders of the fund. From time to time, a shareholder may own a substantial number of fund shares. The sale of a large number of shares could hurt the fund's net asset value.

## Management

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The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$297 billion in 196 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus an investment advisory fee at the annual rate of 0.60% of the fund's average daily net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the board's approving the fund's investment advisory agreement with Dreyfus is available in the fund's semi-annual report for the period ended June 30, 2010. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon), a global financial services company focused on helping clients move and manage their financial assets, operating in 36 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY Mellon is a leading provider of financial services for institutions, corporations and high-net-worth individuals, providing asset and wealth management, asset servicing, issuer services, and treasury services through a worldwide client-focused team. BNY Mellon has more than \$25.0 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$1.17 trillion in assets under management, and it services more than \$12.0 trillion in outstanding debt. Additional information is available at [www.bnymellon.com](http://www.bnymellon.com).

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

David A. Daglio has been the fund's primary portfolio manager since February 2010. Mr. Daglio is a senior managing director of The Boston Company Asset Management, LLC (TBCAM), an affiliate of Dreyfus, where he has been employed since 1998. In April 2001, Mr. Daglio became a dual employee of TBCAM and Dreyfus.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides additional portfolio manager information including compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of fund shares.

MBSC Securities Corporation (MBSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, serves as distributor of the fund and of the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Rule 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees, as applicable, are paid to MBSC for financing the sale and distribution of fund share and for providing shareholder account service and maintenance, respectively. Dreyfus or MBSC may provide cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or provide other services. Such payments are separate from any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses that may be paid by a fund to those intermediaries. Because those payments are not made by fund shareholders or the fund, the fund's total

expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These payments may be made to intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid from Dreyfus' or MBSC's own resources to intermediaries for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." From time to time, Dreyfus or MBSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorships; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or compensation may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

The fund, Dreyfus and MBSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the respective codes is to ensure that personal trading by employees does not disadvantage any fund managed by Dreyfus or its affiliates.

# Shareholder Guide

## Your Investment

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Fund shares may be purchased or sold (redeemed) by separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying or selling fund shares.

Service shares are subject to an ongoing Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25% for distribution, advertising and marketing, and servicing and/or maintaining accounts of Service shares. Because these fees are paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

Dreyfus generally calculates fund NAVs as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the NYSE is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is received in proper form by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. When calculating NAVs, Dreyfus values equity investments on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. Dreyfus generally values fixed income investments based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If market quotations or prices from a pricing service are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Under certain circumstances, the fair value of foreign equity securities will be provided by an independent pricing service. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Funds that seek tax-exempt income are not recommended for purchase in IRAs or other qualified retirement plans. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

Investments in certain types of thinly traded securities may provide short-term traders arbitrage opportunities with respect to the fund's shares. For example, arbitrage opportunities may exist when trading in a portfolio security or securities is halted and does not resume, or the market on which such securities are traded closes before the fund calculates its NAV. If short-term investors of the fund were able to take advantage of these arbitrage opportunities, they could dilute the NAV of fund shares held by long-term investors. Portfolio valuation policies can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that such valuation policies will prevent dilution of the fund's NAV by short-term traders. While the fund has a policy regarding frequent trading, it too may not be completely effective to prevent short-term NAV arbitrage trading, particularly in regard to omnibus accounts. Please see "Shareholder Guide — General Policies" for further information about the fund's frequent trading policy.

## General Policies

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**The fund is designed for long-term investors.** Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading.

The fund also reserves the right to:

- change its minimum or maximum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only during unusual market conditions or in cases of very large redemptions or excessive trading)

- "redeem in kind," or make payments in securities rather than cash, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)
- refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any participating insurance company, individual or group who, in Dreyfus' view, is likely to engage in frequent trading

Transactions in fund shares are processed by the participating insurance companies using omnibus accounts that aggregate the trades of multiple policyowners. Dreyfus' ability to monitor the trading activity of these policyowners is limited because their individual transactions in fund shares are not disclosed to the fund. Accordingly, Dreyfus relies to a significant degree on the participating insurance company to detect and deter frequent trading. The agreement with the participating insurance company includes obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All participating insurance companies have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to trading fund shares. Further, all participating insurance companies have been requested in writing to notify Dreyfus immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Dreyfus supplements the surveillance processes in place at participating insurance companies by monitoring total purchases and redemptions of fund shares on a periodic basis. If Dreyfus identifies patterns that may be indicative of frequent trading of large amounts, Dreyfus contacts the participating insurance company for assistance in disaggregating selected omnibus trades into their component parts. When this process identifies multiple roundtrips (i.e., an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days), Dreyfus instructs the participating insurance company to temporarily or permanently bar such policyowner's future purchases of fund shares if Dreyfus concludes the policyowner is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus also may instruct the participating insurance company to apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these determinations to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests.

In addition to applying restrictions on future purchases or exchanges, Dreyfus or the participating insurance company may cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the business day following the transaction if the participating insurance company's surveillance system identifies the account as one that is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus may also instruct the participating insurance company to cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the following business day if the trade represents a significant amount of the fund's assets and Dreyfus has concluded that the account is likely to engage in frequent trading.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the fund calculates its NAV, events that influence the value of these foreign securities may occur after the close of these foreign markets and before the fund calculates its NAV. As a result, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these foreign securities at the time the fund calculates its NAV (referred to as price arbitrage). This type of frequent trading may dilute the value of fund shares held by other policyowners. The fund has adopted procedures designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign equity securities under certain circumstances to reflect what it believes to be their fair value.

Although the fund's frequent trading and fair valuation policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

## **Distributions and Taxes**

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The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends and capital gains distributions annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless the participating insurance company instructs otherwise.

Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Participating insurance companies should consult their tax advisers about federal, state and local tax consequences.

## **Exchange Privilege**

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Policyowners may exchange shares of a class for shares of other funds offered by the VA contracts or VLI policies through the insurance company separate accounts subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectuses of such VA contracts or VLI policies. Policyowners should refer to the applicable insurance company prospectus for more information on exchanging fund shares.

## Financial Highlights

These financial highlights describe the performance of the fund's shares for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request. Keep in mind that fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies, which are not reflected in the tables, would reduce the investment returns that are shown.

Initial Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	23.49	19.01	32.34	42.03	43.96
Investment Operations:					
Investment income (loss)--net	.12	.17	.26	.24	.31
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.16	4.63	(11.87)	(4.29)	1.56
Total from Investment Operations	7.28	4.80	(11.61)	(4.05)	1.87
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.19)	(.32)	(.25)	(.31)	(.18)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	-	(1.47)	(5.33)	(3.62)
Total Distributions	(.19)	(.32)	(1.72)	(5.64)	(3.80)
Net asset value, end of period	30.58	23.49	19.01	32.34	42.03
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	31.11	26.04	(37.59)	(11.06)	3.77
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.86	.86	.83	.81	.82
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.70	.71	.75	.81	.82
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	.46	.88	.95	.66	.75
Portfolio Turnover Rate	192.88	69.73	77.65	90.75	97.52
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	194,105	163,332	144,777	447,447	633,459

Service Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	23.24	18.77	31.94	41.56	43.51
Investment Operations:					
Investment income (loss)--net	.06	.12	.20	.15	.21
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.06	4.60	(11.75)	(4.25)	1.53
Total from Investment Operations	7.12	4.72	(11.55)	(4.10)	1.74
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.16)	(.25)	(.15)	(.19)	(.07)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	-	(1.47)	(5.33)	(3.62)
Total Distributions	(.16)	(.25)	(1.62)	(5.52)	(3.69)
Net asset value, end of period	30.20	23.24	18.77	31.94	41.56
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	30.77	25.77	(37.77)	(11.28)	3.52
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.11	1.11	1.08	1.06	1.08
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.95	.96	.99	1.06	1.08
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	.22	.63	.75	.42	.51
Portfolio Turnover Rate	192.88	69.73	77.65	90.75	97.52
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	15,414	12,422	10,077	18,299	21,667

## NOTES

NOTES

# For More Information

## Opportunistic Small Cap Portfolio

**A series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund**  
**SEC file number: 811-5125**

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### Annual/Semiannual Report

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The fund's most recent annual and semiannual reports are available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com).

### Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) and is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SAI is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

### Portfolio Holdings

Dreyfus funds generally disclose their complete schedule of portfolio holdings monthly with a 30-day lag at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) under Mutual Fund Center – Dreyfus Mutual Funds – Mutual Fund Total Holdings. Complete holdings as of the end of the calendar quarter are disclosed 15 days after the end of such quarter. Dreyfus money market funds generally disclose their complete schedule of holdings daily. The schedule of holdings for a fund will remain on the website until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available in the fund's SAI.

### To obtain information:

**By telephone.** Call 1-800-554-4611 or 516-338-3300

#### By mail.

The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144  
Attn: Institutional Services Department

**On the Internet.** Certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

**SEC:** <http://www.sec.gov>

**Dreyfus:** <http://www.dreyfus.com>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-551-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.