

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. __)

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

- No fee required.
 - Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
 - Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11
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ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175
San Mateo, CA 94404
650-216-3500

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On October 10, 2023

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**, a Delaware corporation. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time virtually via the Internet at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23, or the Annual Meeting, originating from San Mateo, California. **You will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting in person.** At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote upon the following proposals:

1. To elect the three nominees named in the accompanying proxy statement as Class III directors, to hold office until the 2026 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.
2. To ratify the appointment of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023.
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers.
4. To approve our Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan.
5. To conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting.

These items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement that accompanies this notice.

In accordance with rules established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are providing you access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we plan to mail a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or the Notice, to our stockholders on or about August 28, 2023. The Notice will describe how to access and review our proxy materials, including our proxy statement and annual report on Form 10-K, as amended. The Notice as well as the printed copy of proxy cards will also describe how you may submit your proxy via the Internet or by telephone. If you received a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice. In accordance with Delaware law, a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available in electronic form during the Annual Meeting at the following URL: www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and will be accessible during normal business hours for ten days prior to the Annual Meeting at our principal place of business, 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404.

The record date for the Annual Meeting is August 14, 2023. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof. Instructions on how to participate in the Annual Meeting and demonstrate proof of stock ownership are posted at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23. The webcast of the Annual Meeting will be archived for one year after the date of the Annual Meeting at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote as soon as possible.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Adrian Adams

Adrian Adams
Chairman

San Mateo, California
August 28, 2023

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholders' Meeting to Be Held on Tuesday, October 10 , 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

The proxy statement, notice and annual report to stockholders are available at www.proxyvote.com.

Whether or not you expect to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote by telephone or the Internet as instructed in these materials, or if you request or we deliver to you a proxy card in the mail, you may complete, date, sign and return that proxy. Regardless of the method used, please vote as promptly as possible in order to ensure your representation at the Annual Meeting. You may also vote through our virtual web conference if you attend the Annual Meeting, even if you have voted by proxy.

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ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

**1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175
San Mateo, CA 94404
650-216-3500**

**PROXY STATEMENT
FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THESE PROXY MATERIALS AND VOTING

Why did I receive a notice regarding the availability of proxy materials on the Internet?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we have sent you a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or the Notice, because the Board of Directors, or the Board, of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or the Annual Meeting, including at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or request to receive a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice.

We intend to mail the Notice on or about August 28, 2023 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Will I receive any other proxy materials by mail?

We may send you a proxy card, along with a second Notice, on or after September 18, 2023.

How do I attend the Annual Meeting?

Stockholders as of the record date and/or their authorized representatives are permitted to attend our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time virtually via the Internet at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23. Instructions on how to participate in the Annual Meeting and demonstrate proof of stock ownership are posted at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23. You will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting in person.

Why a Virtual-Only Online Meeting?

The virtual format for the Annual Meeting will enhance stockholder access by allowing our stockholders to participate fully, and equally, from any location around the world at no cost. Stockholder rights are not affected. The virtual meeting format will enhance, rather than constrain, stockholder access, participation, and communication because the online format allows stockholders to communicate with us during the Annual Meeting so they can ask questions of our Board, management, and a representative from our independent registered public accounting firm. During the live Q&A session, we will answer appropriate questions as they come in, as time permits. Given the above listed factors, we feel a virtual-only meeting is the right choice for AcelRx and its stockholders at this time.

What happens if there are technical difficulties during the Annual Meeting?

We will have technicians ready to assist you with any technical difficulties you may have accessing the virtual Annual Meeting, voting at the Annual Meeting or submitting questions at the Annual Meeting. If you encounter any difficulties accessing the virtual Annual Meeting during the check-in or meeting time, please refer to the technical support information located on the login screen at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23.

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on August 14, 2023 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On this record date, there were 16,340,118 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted on.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on August 14, 2023 your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote by proxy or vote at the Annual Meeting by going to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and following the instructions regarding voting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If on August 14, 2023 your shares were held, not in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name" and the Notice is being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent regarding how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Beneficial holders who attend the Annual Meeting may also vote during the Annual Meeting by going to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and following the instructions regarding voting.

What am I voting on?

There are four matters scheduled for a vote:

- Election of the three Class III directors named in this proxy statement (Proposal 1);
- Ratification of the appointment of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023 (Proposal 2);
- Advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers (Proposal 3); and
- Approval of our Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (Proposal 4).

What are the Board's voting recommendations?

A summary of the Annual Meeting proposals is below. **Every stockholder's vote is important. Our Board urges you to vote your shares FOR each of the proposals.**

<u>Matter</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Board Recommends</u>	<u>Vote Required for Approval</u>	<u>Effect of Abstentions</u>	<u>Effect of Broker Non-Votes</u>
Election of three directors	6	FOR each director nominee	More FOR than WITHHOLD votes	None	None
Ratification of selection of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023	9	FOR	Majority of shares present	Against	N/A
Advisory approval of our executive compensation	11	FOR	Majority of shares present	Against	None
Approval of our Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan	13	FOR	Majority of shares present	Against	None

What if another matter is properly brought before the Annual Meeting?

The Board knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment.

How do I vote?

You may either vote “For” all the nominees to the Board or you may “Withhold” your vote for any nominee you specify. For the other matters to be voted on, you may vote “For” or “Against” or “Abstain” from voting.

The procedures for voting are fairly simple:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote at the Annual Meeting by going to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and following the instructions regarding voting or vote by proxy (i) over the telephone, (ii) through the Internet or (iii) using a proxy card that you may request or that we may elect to deliver at a later time. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote by going to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and following the instructions regarding voting even if you have already voted by proxy.

- To vote at the Annual Meeting, go to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and follow the instructions regarding voting.
- To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the proxy card that may be delivered and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.
- To vote over the telephone, dial toll-free 1-800-690-6903 using a touch-tone phone and follow the recorded instructions. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time on October 9, 2023 to be counted.
- To vote through the Internet, go to www.proxyvote.com to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time on October 9, 2023 to be counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank, or other agent, you should have received a Notice containing voting instruction from that organization rather than from AcelRx. Simply follow the voting instructions in the Notice to ensure that your vote is counted. Beneficial holders who attend the Annual Meeting may also vote during the Annual Meeting by going to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX23 and following the instructions regarding voting.

<p>Internet proxy voting may be provided to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.</p>

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of August 14, 2023.

What if I do not vote, or if I return a proxy card or otherwise vote without giving specific voting instructions, what happens?

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record and do not vote through the Internet, by telephone, by completing a proxy card that may be delivered to you, or at the Annual Meeting, your shares will not be voted. If you return a signed and dated proxy card without giving specific voting instructions, then the proxy holders will vote your shares in the manner recommended by the Board on all matters presented in this proxy statement and as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in “street name” and you do not provide the organization that holds your shares with specific instructions, the organization that holds your shares may still be able to vote your shares in its discretion. In this regard, under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, brokers, banks and other securities intermediaries that are subject to NYSE rules may use their discretion to vote your “uninstructed” shares with respect to matters considered to be “routine” under NYSE rules, but not with respect to “non-routine” matters. Accordingly, if the organization that holds your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares on a non-routine matter, the organization that holds your shares will inform our inspector of elections that it does not have the authority to vote on this matter with respect to your shares. This is generally referred to as a “broker non-vote.” When our inspector of elections tabulates the votes for any particular matter, broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present, but will not be counted toward the vote total for any proposal. We encourage you to provide voting instructions to the organization that holds your shares to ensure that your vote is counted on all proposals.

Which proposals are considered “routine” or “non-routine”?

If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, such beneficial owner’s broker or nominee can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be “routine,” but not with respect to “non-routine” matters.

The ratification of the appointment of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023 (Proposal 2) is considered to be a routine matter. A broker or other nominee may generally vote on routine matters, and therefore broker non-votes are not expected on Proposal 2.

The election of directors (Proposal 1), the advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers (Proposal 3) and the approval of our Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (Proposal 4) are matters considered non-routine under applicable rules. A broker or other nominee cannot vote without instructions on non-routine matters, and therefore we expect broker non-votes on Proposals 1, 3 and 4.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to these proxy materials, our directors and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication. Directors and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners. Certain of our directors, officers and employees may participate in the solicitation of proxies, including electronically or by mail or telephone, without additional compensation.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice?

If you receive more than one Notice, your shares may be registered in more than one name or in different accounts. Please follow the voting instructions on the Notices to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

- You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date.
- You may grant a subsequent proxy by telephone or through the Internet.
- You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to AcelRx’s Secretary at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404.
- You may attend the Annual Meeting **and** vote. Simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

Your most current proxy card or telephone or Internet proxy is the one that is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the meeting, who will separately count, for the proposal to elect directors, votes “For,” “Withhold” and broker non-votes and, with respect to the other proposals, votes “For” and “Against” and abstentions. Broker non-votes have no effect and will not be counted towards the vote total for the Proposals.

What are “broker non-votes”?

Broker non-votes occur when a beneficial owner of shares held in “street name” does not give instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed “non-routine.” Generally, if shares are held in street name, the beneficial owner of the shares is entitled to give voting instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares. If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, the broker or nominee can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be “routine,” but not with respect to “non-routine” matters. Under the rules and interpretations of the NYSE “non-routine” matters are matters that may substantially affect the rights or privileges of stockholders, such as mergers, stockholder proposals, elections of directors (even if not contested) and executive compensation, including the advisory stockholders vote on executive compensation. Of the four proposals, the ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023 (Proposal 2), is a “routine” matter. The other three proposals are “non-routine.”

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if stockholders holding at least one-third of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy. On the record date, there were 16,340,118 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, the holders of 5,446,706 shares must be present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your broker, bank or other nominee) or if you vote at the meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the Chairman of the Board or the holders of a majority of shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy may adjourn the meeting to another date.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. In addition, final voting results will be published in a current report on Form 8-K that we expect to file within four business days after the Annual Meeting. If final voting results are not available to us in time to file a Form 8-K within four business days after the meeting, we intend to file a Form 8-K to publish preliminary results and, within four business days after the final results are known to us, file an additional Form 8-K to publish the final results.

When are stockholder proposals and director nominations due for next year’s Annual Meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in next year’s proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by April 29, 2024 to AcclRx’s Secretary at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404. If you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year’s proxy materials or nominate a director, you must provide specified information to AcclRx’s Secretary at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404 between June 11, 2024 and July 11, 2024, unless the date of our 2024 annual meeting of stockholders is before September 10, 2024 or after November 9, 2024, in which case such proposals shall be submitted no earlier than 120 days prior to the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders and no later than the later of (i) 90 days before the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders or (ii) ten days after notice of the date of the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders is publicly given. If you wish to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than our board’s nominees, you must provide in your notice the additional information required by Rule 14a-19 under the Exchange Act no later than August 10, 2024. You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain additional requirements regarding advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

CLASSIFIED BOARD

Our Board is divided into three classes, each of which consists of three directors. Each class has a three-year term. Vacancies on the Board may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy in a class, including vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified.

The Board presently has nine members. There are three directors in the class whose term of office expires in 2023. All of the nominees are current directors of AcRx. Each of the nominees listed below were previously elected by the stockholders. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each of these nominees would serve until the 2026 Annual Meeting and until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified, or, if sooner, until the director's death, resignation or removal. Each director is expected to attend the Annual Meeting in accordance with our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors. The three nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes will be elected. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the three nominees named below. If any nominee becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, shares that would have been voted for that nominee will instead be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by AcRx. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected. Our management has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable to serve.

The following is a brief biography of each nominee. The biographies below also include a discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each nominee that led the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board, and the Board to conclude, as of the date of this proxy statement, that each nominee for Class III director should continue to serve as a director.

CLASS III NOMINEES FOR ELECTION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING AT THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Marina Bozilenko, age 58, has served as our director since March 2021. Since June 2021, Ms. Bozilenko has served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors at Biothea Pharma, Inc., a private biotechnology company, and since February 2021, she has served as a Strategic Advisor to William Blair & Company, L.L.C., a financial services company she joined in January 2010 as Managing Director/Partner and Head of Biotechnology and Pharma. Ms. Bozilenko also currently serves as a member of the board of directors at SynAct Pharma AB, a publicly traded biotechnology company listed on the Spotlight Stock Market, a role she has held since April 2021. Prior to her position at William Blair, Ms. Bozilenko was a Principal at Kidd & Company, LLC, an investment firm, between August 2008 and January 2010. Prior to Kidd & Company, Ms. Bozilenko was Senior Managing Director at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., an investment bank, from April 2003 to January 2008, Managing Director at Banc of America Securities, LLC, an investment bank, between March 2000 and April 2003, Managing Director and Head of West Coast Healthcare Investment Banking at Prudential Vector Health Care Group, a brokerage firm, between July 1999 and March 2000, and held multiple positions of increasing responsibility including Managing Director and Head of West Coast at Vector Securities International, Inc., a brokerage firm, between March 1988 and July 1999. Between January 2010 and March 2020, Ms. Bozilenko served on the board of directors of Olema Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company. Ms. Bozilenko received her B.A. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and M.A. in Economic History from the University of Chicago. Ms. Bozilenko's financial and business expertise, including her diversified background in finance and business development, provides her with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Howard B. Rosen, age 65, served as our Chief Executive Officer from April 1, 2016 until March 5, 2017, as our interim Chief Executive Officer from April 1, 2015 until March 31, 2016, and has served as our director since 2008. Since 2008, Mr. Rosen has served as a consultant to several companies in the biotechnology industry. He has also served as a lecturer at Stanford University in Chemical Engineering since 2008 and in Management since 2011. Mr. Rosen served as interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Pearl Therapeutics, Inc., a company focused on developing treatments for chronic respiratory diseases, from June 2010 to March 2011. From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Rosen was Vice President of Commercial Strategy at Gilead Sciences, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. Mr. Rosen was President of ALZA Corporation, a pharmaceutical and medical systems company that merged with Johnson & Johnson, a global healthcare company, in 2001, from 2003 until 2004. Prior to that, from 1994 until 2003, Mr. Rosen held various positions at ALZA Corporation. Mr. Rosen is also currently a member of the board of directors of Kala Bio, Inc., a publicly traded biotechnology company, Hopewell Therapeutics, Inc. and FireCyte Therapeutics, Inc., all of which are private biotechnology companies, Entrega, Inc., a private technology company, and Hammerton, Inc., a decorative lighting company. In addition, Mr. Rosen is a trustee of the National Academy of Engineering Foundation. Mr. Rosen previously served as chairman of the board of directors of Alcobra, Ltd., a public pharmaceutical company, from 2014 through 2017. Mr. Rosen holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Mr. Rosen's experience in the biopharmaceutical industry, including his specific experience with commercialization of pharmaceutical products, provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Mark Wan, age 58, has served as our director since August 2006. Mr. Wan is a founding managing director of Causeway Media Partners, a private investment firm, which was founded in 2013. Prior to Causeway, he was a founding general partner of Three Arch Partners, a venture capital firm. Prior to co-founding Three Arch Partners in 1993, Mr. Wan was a general partner at Brentwood Associates, a private equity firm from 1987 until 1993. Between January 2021 and December 2022, Mr. Wan served on the board of directors of Athlon Acquisition Corp., a blank check company. Between July 2013 and December 2020, Mr. Wan served on the board of directors of QT Vascular Ltd., a public Singapore-based medical device company. Mr. Wan holds a B.S. in Engineering from Yale University and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Mr. Wan's financial experience and extensive knowledge of our company provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS
A VOTE IN FAVOR OF EACH NOMINEE.**

Set forth below is a brief biography of each continuing director comprising the remainder of the Board with terms expiring as shown, including their ages, and information furnished by them as to principal occupations and public company directorships held by them. The biographies below also include a discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each continuing director that led the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board to conclude, as of the date of this proxy statement, that the applicable director should continue to serve as a director.

CLASS I DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Adrian Adams, age 72, has served as our Chairman since February 2013. Since January 2020, Mr. Adams has also served as Chairman of the board of directors of Impel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a publicly traded specialty pharmaceutical company, and in May 2020 he took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer. In addition, Mr. Adams has served as Chairman of the board of directors of Akebia Therapeutics, Inc., a specialty publicly traded pharmaceutical company, since December 2018. Previously, Mr. Adams served as Chief Executive Officer of Aralez Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company, after the merger between Pozen, Inc. and Tribute Pharmaceuticals Canada, Inc. in February 2016 to January 2019 and served as a member of the board of directors from February 2016 to April 2019. Prior to that, from May 2015 to January 2016, Mr. Adams served as Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors of Pozen, Inc. Mr. Adams served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Auxilium Pharmaceuticals Inc., a specialty biopharmaceutical company, from December 2011 until January 2015, when it was acquired by Endo International plc. Prior to joining Auxilium, from September 2011 until November 2011, Mr. Adams served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Neurologix, a company focused on development of multiple innovative gene therapy development programs. Before Neurologix, Mr. Adams served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he oversaw the commercialization and development of prescription pharmaceutical products and led the company through a strategic acquisition by global pharmaceutical leader Merck & Co., Inc. in May 2011. Prior to Inspire, Mr. Adams served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Sepracor Inc. from December 2006 until February 2010, when it was acquired by Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co. Prior to joining Sepracor, Mr. Adams was President and Chief Executive Officer of Kos Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from 2002 until the acquisition of the company by Abbott Laboratories in December 2006. Mr. Adams graduated from the Royal Institute of Chemistry at Salford University in the U.K. Mr. Adams has extensive national and international experience and has been instrumental in launching major global brands in addition to driving successful corporate development activities encapsulating financing, product and company acquisitions, in-licensing and company M&A activities, all of which provide him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Richard Afbale, M.D., age 69, has served as our director since December 2013. Dr. Afbale has served as trustee of Chapman University since March 2017, of Providence St. Joseph Health since January 2018, and he is the immediate past chair of the California Hospital Association. From July 2016 through December 2017, Dr. Afbale has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive, Southern California, for Providence St. Joseph Health. From February 2013 to July 2016, Dr. Afbale served as the Chief Executive Officer of Covenant Health Network, based in Irvine, California, a non-profit healthcare delivery system formed through the affiliation of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian and St. Joseph Health System. Prior to Covenant Health Network, Dr. Afbale served as the President and Chief Executive of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian from 2005 to 2013. Prior to Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Dr. Afbale served as the Chief Medical Officer of Catholic Health East from 1999 to 2005. He earned a B.S. in Biology and an M.D. from Loyola University of Chicago, and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Afbale's scientific, financial and business expertise, including his experience as an executive officer in the health care industry, provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Jill Broadfoot, age 62, has served as our director since November 2021. Ms. Broadfoot currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer of aTyr Pharma, Inc., a position she has held since July 2018. From January 2017 to July 2018, Ms. Broadfoot served as Chief Financial Officer of Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Emerald Health Bioceticals Inc., where she was responsible for establishing operations for the U.S.-based pharmaceutical and bioceutical entities as well as the establishment of operations, corporate governance, finance and accounting and investor relations functions, among others. Prior to Emerald Health, Ms. Broadfoot served as Vice President, U.S. Corporate Controller at GW Pharmaceuticals, from May 2016 to January 2017. While at GW Pharmaceuticals, her responsibilities included establishing U.S. commercial operations and implementing U.S. public company financial and accounting standards in connection with the transfer of corporate operations from the U.K. to the U.S. Prior to joining GW Pharmaceuticals, Ms. Broadfoot served as Chief Financial Officer of Vical Inc., from October 2004 to March 2013, where she had oversight of finance, investor relations, manufacturing, information technology, human resources, and business development. Prior to that, Ms. Broadfoot held various positions at DJO Global, Inc., most recently as Vice President of Finance, and served as an audit manager at Ernst & Young LLP. Ms. Broadfoot is a member of the board of directors of Otonomy, Inc., a publicly traded biopharmaceutical company. Ms. Broadfoot holds a B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from San Diego State University and is a Certified Public Accountant (Inactive). Ms. Broadfoot's financial and business expertise, including her diversified background in finance, operations and business development, provides her with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

CLASS II DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Vincent J. Angotti, age 55, has served as our director and Chief Executive Officer since March 2017. From 2015 to 2016, Mr. Angotti was Chief Executive Officer and Director of XenoPort, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that was acquired by Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC in 2016. Prior to that, from 2008 to 2015, Mr. Angotti held various roles at Xenoport, including Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer from 2012 to 2015, and Senior Vice President and Chief Commercialization Officer from 2008 to 2012. Prior to joining XenoPort, from 2001 to 2008, Mr. Angotti held several senior sales and marketing positions at Reliant Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a pharmaceutical company that was acquired by GlaxoSmithKline in 2007, the most recent of which was senior vice president of sales and marketing. Mr. Angotti began his career in the life sciences industry at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., where he worked from 1991 until 2001 in sales and operations positions, most recently as executive director, field operations. He holds a B.S. with a concentration in Business Management from Cornell University and an M.B.A. with honors from Columbia University. Mr. Angotti's role as our Chief Executive Officer, his business expertise and his prior leadership roles in pharmaceutical companies provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Stephen J. Hoffman, M.D., Ph.D., age 69, has served as our director since February 2010. Dr. Hoffman served as Chief Executive Officer and Director of Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc., from December 2017 to October 2019. Prior to that, Dr. Hoffman had been a Senior Advisor to PDL BioPharma, Inc. beginning in February 2014. Prior to that, he served as a managing director at Skyline Ventures, a venture capital firm, from May 2007 until February 2014. From January 2003 to March 2007, Dr. Hoffman was a general partner at TVM Capital, a venture capital firm. From 1994 to 2012, Dr. Hoffman served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Allos Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company; and served as chairman of the board of directors from 2002 until its acquisition by Spectrum Pharmaceuticals in 2012. Dr. Hoffman currently serves on the board of directors of BYOMass Therapeutics, Inc. and Implicit Bioscience, Ltd. Dr. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Northwestern University and an M.D. from the University of Colorado, School of Medicine. Dr. Hoffman's scientific, financial and business expertise, including his diversified background as an executive officer and investor in public pharmaceutical companies, provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D., age 60, has served as our director and Chief Medical Officer since she co-founded the company in July 2005. Dr. Palmer was Director of UCSF PainCARE-Center for Advanced Research and Education from 2005 to 2009, and was Medical Director of the UCSF Pain Management Center from 1999 to 2005. Dr. Palmer has previously been a consultant to Omeros Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company she co-founded in 1994. Dr. Palmer holds an M.D. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from the Stanford Department of Neuroscience. Dr. Palmer's extensive clinical and scientific experience in the treatment of acute and chronic pain as well as historical knowledge of our company provides her with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

PROPOSAL 2

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has selected WithumSmith+Brown, PC, or Withum, as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023 and further that management submit the selection of its independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Representatives of Withum are expected to attend the Annual Meeting via the live webcast. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Neither our amended and restated bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Withum as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Board is submitting the selection of Withum to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Board will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Board in its discretion may direct the appointment of different independent auditors at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in our best interests and of our stockholders.

CHANGE IN INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

On July 15, 2021, we were formally notified that OUM & Co. LLP, OUM, combined its practice with Withum and, as a result of such transaction, OUM effectively resigned as our independent registered public accounting firm on such date. Pursuant to certain terms of the transaction, OUM combined its operations with Withum operations and certain professional staff and partners of OUM joined Withum as employees or partners.

On July 16, 2021, with the approval of our Audit Committee, Withum was engaged as our independent registered public accounting firm for the quarterly periods ending June 30, 2021 and September 30, 2021, and for the year ending December 31, 2021.

During the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and during the interim period from December 31, 2020 through July 15, 2021, the date of resignation, there were no disagreements with OUM on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedures, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of OUM, would have caused it to make reference to such disagreement in its reports.

The report of OUM regarding our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

Prior to engaging Withum, neither we nor anyone on our behalf consulted with Withum regarding (i) the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or on the type of audit opinion that might be rendered by Withum on our consolidated financial statements, or (ii) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement (as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K and the related instructions) or a reportable event (as described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K), and Withum did not provide any written report or oral advice that was an important factor considered by us in reaching a decision as to any such accounting, auditing or financial reporting issue.

We previously provided OUM with a copy of the disclosures regarding this change in independent registered public accounting firm reproduced in this Proxy Statement and we received a letter from OUM addressed to the SEC stating that they agree with the above statements. A copy of this letter was filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 29, 2021.

FEES BILLED BY INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM 2022 AND 2021

As described above, on July 15, 2021, OUM combined its operations with the operations of Withum and certain professional staff and partners of OUM joined Withum as employees or partners. The following tables present the aggregate fees billed by OUM and Withum to us for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2021
Audit Fees(1)	\$ —	\$ 87,075
Audit-Related Fees	—	—
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	—
Total Fees	\$ —	\$ 87,075

- (1) *Audit Fees*. Consists of fees for professional services rendered for the review of our condensed consolidated financial statements for the first interim period of 2021. Fees also consist of review of interim condensed consolidated financial statements and fees for assistance with registration statements filed with the SEC, comfort letters and services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for 2021.

WithumSmith+Brown, PC (San Francisco, CA PCAOB ID Number 100)

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2021
Audit Fees(1)	\$ 568,900	\$ 508,000
Audit-Related Fees	—	—
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	—
Total Fees	\$ 568,900	\$ 508,000

- (1) *Audit Fees*. Consists of fees for professional services rendered for the audit of our consolidated financial statements, review of interim condensed consolidated financial statements and fees for assistance with registration statements filed with the SEC, comfort letters and services that are normally provided by Withum in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for 2022 and 2021.

PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval may be given as part of the Audit Committee's approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm or on an individual explicit case-by-case basis.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS
A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 2.**

PROPOSAL 3

ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders indicated their preference that we solicit a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of the named executive officers, commonly referred to as a “say-on-pay vote,” every year. The Board has adopted a policy that is consistent with that preference. In accordance with that policy, this year, we are again asking the stockholders to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with SEC rules.

This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our named executive officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement. The compensation of our named executive officers subject to the vote is disclosed in the compensation tables, and the related narrative disclosure contained in this proxy statement. As discussed in those disclosures, we believe that our compensation policies and decisions are focused on pay-for-performance principles, strongly aligned with our stockholders’ interests and consistent with current market practices. Compensation of our named executive officers is designed to enable the us to attract and retain talented and experienced executives to lead us successfully in a competitive environment. We believe the mix of fixed and performance-based compensation, the terms of our cash bonus plan and the terms of long-term incentive compensation are all designed to enable AcetRx to attract and maintain top talent while, at the same time, creating a close relationship between performance and compensation. The Compensation Committee, and the Board believe that the design of the program, and hence the compensation awarded to our named executive officers under the current program, fulfills this objective.

The 2022 say on pay proposal passed with 68% shareholder support. As our stockholder mix consists of approximately 90% retail investors, we did not perform outreach to this investor base regarding the 2022 say on pay vote results. Additionally, as a result of our strategic shift in focus to our late-stage product pipeline following the recent divestment of our lead commercial asset, we expect further changes in our stockholder base in 2023. We believe the potential evolution of our stockholder base in 2023 will allow us to perform meaningful investor outreach in 2023.

The Compensation Committee actively reviews and assesses our executive compensation program in light of the highly competitive employment environment in the San Francisco Bay Area, the challenge of recruiting, motivating and retaining executive officers in an industry with much longer business cycles than other commercial industries, and evolving compensation governance and best practices. In reconciling these areas, the Compensation Committee strives to act in the long-term best interests of AcetRx and our stockholders and believes that AcetRx’s executive compensation programs are strongly aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders. In determining whether to approve this proposal, the Compensation Committee believes that stockholders should consider the following:

- *Emphasis on Pay for Performance.* For 2022, a significant portion of our executive officers’ total compensation was variable and at risk and tied directly to our measurable performance. The Compensation Committee believes that this structure, which puts a considerable proportion of executive officers’ total compensation “at risk,” contingent on appreciation of our common stock, achievement of specific corporate goals, and continued employment, strongly aligns the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders, ties their compensation to the most concrete measure of performance against critical corporate goals and promotes retention. Reflective of this alignment of pay for performance, Mr. Angotti’s 2022 total compensation as shown in the Summary Compensation Table was approximately 47% of what it was in 2021.
- *Peer Group Positioning.* The Compensation Committee utilizes an independent compensation consultant to assess our executive compensation program, including total compensation and individual compensation elements, against peer group market data. For 2022, in consultation with our independent compensation consultant, Radford, an Aon Company, the Compensation Committee chose a peer group consisting of similarly-sized companies at a similar stage of development, of similar complexity, and comparable financial characteristics, with whom we may compete for talent. The Compensation Committee generally targeted our named executive officers’ 2022 base salary, annual incentive bonuses and employee benefits elements of our executives’ compensation to be at or near the 50th percentile of our peer group, and the long-term equity incentive element of our executives’ compensation to be at or near the 75th percentile of our peer group based on a percent of company basis (i.e., the number of shares granted as a percent of total shares outstanding). However, given the Company’s stock price and the resulting share usage, we focused instead on a percent of Company approach for 2022 which resulted in the value of the awards, as reported in the Summary Compensation Table, being well below the 25th percentile of our peer group.
- *Equity is a Key Component of Compensation and Aligns our Compensation Programs with the Long-Term Interests of our Stockholders.* Our option awards granted in 2022 only provide value as the market price of our stock increases and if the executive officer provides us with continuous services. Our restricted stock unit awards granted in 2022 provide value if the executive officer provides us with continuous services. Therefore, these awards strongly align our executive officers’ interests with those of our stockholders by providing a continuing financial incentive to maximize long-term value, maintain the competitiveness of our executive officers’ total compensation opportunity and encourage our executive officers to remain in the long-term employment of AcetRx.

- *Limited Personal Benefits.* Our executive officers are eligible for the same benefits as non-executive, salaried employees, and do not receive any personal benefits.
- *No Tax Gross-Ups on Compensation.* None of our executive officers receive tax related gross-ups on any element of compensation.
- *No Single-Trigger Change in Control Cash Benefits.* We do not provide cash severance benefits to our executives upon a change of control, absent an actual termination of employment. We only provide single trigger vesting acceleration if unvested equity awards are not assumed by an acquirer in a change of control.
- *No Pension Plans, Post-Retirement Health Plans or Supplemental Deferred Compensation or Retirement Benefits.* We do not offer any defined benefit pension plans or post-retirement health benefits or provide our executive officers with any supplemental deferred compensation or supplemental retirement benefits.

Accordingly, the Board is asking the stockholders to indicate their support for the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as described in this proxy statement by casting a non-binding advisory vote "FOR" the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K is hereby APPROVED."

Because the vote is advisory, it is not binding on the Board or AcclRx. Nevertheless, the views expressed by the stockholders, whether through this vote or otherwise, are important to management and the Board and, accordingly, the Board and the Compensation Committee intend to consider the results of this vote in making determinations in the future regarding executive compensation arrangements.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS
A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 3.**

PROPOSAL 4

APPROVAL OF THE COMPANY'S AMENDED AND RESTATED 2020 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

The AcetRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2020 Equity Incentive Plan, or the 2020 Plan, originally became effective on June 16, 2020 and was the successor to and continuation of the AcetRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the "Prior Plan."

In August 2023, the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee approved amending the 2020 Plan, subject to stockholder approval of this Proposal 4. We refer to the Amended and Restated 2020 Plan as amended by the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee as the "Amended 2020 Plan" throughout this Proxy Statement.

The Amended 2020 Plan contains the following material change from the 2020 Plan: the aggregate number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the Amended 2020 Plan, subject to adjustment for certain changes in our capitalization, is increased by an additional 1,500,000 shares over the aggregate number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the 2020 Plan, including an increase in the number of shares of our common stock that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of incentive stock options.

Why We Are Asking Our Stockholders to Approve the Amended 2020 Plan

We are seeking stockholder approval of the Amended 2020 Plan to increase the number of shares available for the grant of stock options, restricted stock unit awards and other awards, which will enable us to have a competitive equity incentive program to compete with our peer group for key talent.

Approval of the Amended 2020 Plan by our stockholders will allow us to grant stock options, restricted stock unit awards and other awards at levels determined appropriate by the Board or Compensation Committee. The Amended 2020 Plan will also allow us to utilize a broad array of equity incentives in order to secure and retain the services of our employees, directors and consultants, and to provide long-term incentives that align the interests of our employees, directors and consultants with the interests of our stockholders.

Requested Shares

If this Proposal 4 is approved by our stockholders, then subject to adjustment for certain changes in our capitalization, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued under the Amended 2020 Plan will not exceed the sum of: (i) 1,500,000 new shares, (ii) 490,000 shares approved for issuance under the 2020 Plan, and (iii) up to 744,608 shares subject to awards granted under the Prior Plan that may become available for issuance under the 2020 Plan (measured as of the original effective date of the 2020 Plan), as such shares become available from time to time (as further described below in "Description of the Amended 2020 Equity Incentive Plan – Shares Available for Awards").

Stockholder Approval

If this Proposal 4 is approved by our stockholders, the Amended 2020 Plan will become effective as of the date of the Annual Meeting. If our stockholders do not approve this Proposal 4, the 2020 Plan will continue to be effective in accordance with its current terms following the Annual Meeting.

Why You Should Vote to Approve the Amended 2020 Plan

Equity Awards Are an Important Part of Our Compensation Philosophy

The Board believes that the grant of equity awards is a key element underlying our ability to attract, retain and motivate our employees, directors and consultants because of the strong competition for highly trained and experienced individuals among companies in the biopharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Therefore, the Board believes that the Amended 2020 Plan is in the best interests of our business and our stockholders and recommends a vote in favor of this Proposal 4.

The Amended 2020 Plan will allow us to continue to utilize equity awards as long-term incentives to secure and retain the services of our employees, directors and consultants, consistent with our compensation philosophy and common compensation practice for our industry. To date, equity awards have been a key aspect of our program to attract and retain key employees, directors and consultants. We believe the use of equity awards strongly aligns the interests of our employees with those of our stockholders by placing a considerable proportion of our employees' total compensation "at risk" because it is contingent on the appreciation in value of our common stock and depends on the employees' continuous service. As a result of our depressed stock price and the importance of the equity awards to attract, retain and motivate our employees, we will require a relative higher amount of equity awards than historically requested be available for grant to our current and prospective employees. In addition, we believe equity awards encourage employee ownership of our common stock and promote retention through the reward of long-term Company performance.

We Carefully Manage the Use of Equity Awards and Dilution is Reasonable

Our compensation philosophy reflects broad-based eligibility for equity awards, and we grant awards to substantially all of our employees. However, we recognize that equity awards dilute existing stockholders, and, therefore, we are mindful to responsibly manage the growth of our equity compensation program. We are committed to effectively monitoring our equity compensation share reserve, including our “burn rate,” to ensure that we maximize stockholders’ value by granting the appropriate number of equity awards necessary to attract, reward, and retain employees, directors and consultants.

Overhang

The following table provides certain information regarding our use of equity awards.

	As of December 31, 2022
Total number of shares of common stock subject to outstanding stock options	725,623
Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding stock options	\$ 52.98
Weighted-average remaining term of outstanding stock options (in years)	5.3
Total number of shares of common stock subject to outstanding full value awards	82,778
Total number of shares of common stock available for grant under our 2020 Plan	342,827

	As of August 14, 2023
Total number of shares of common stock outstanding	16,340,118
Per-share closing price of common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market	\$ 0.76

Overhang is a measure of potential dilution which we define as the sum of (i) the total number of shares underlying all equity awards outstanding and (ii) the total number of shares available for future award grants, divided by (iii) the number of shares of common stock outstanding. As of August 14, 2023, we had a total of 556,604 shares of common stock reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding options and restricted stock units under the 2020 Plan, and only 142,549 shares available for future grants thereunder. As of August 14, 2023, we had a total of 412,044 shares of common stock reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding under the Prior Plan, and no shares available for future grants thereunder. If the 1,500,000 shares proposed to be authorized for grant under the 2020 Plan are included in the calculation, our overhang on August 14, 2023 would have been 16%.

The Size of Our Share Reserve Request Is Reasonable

If this Proposal 4 is approved by our stockholders, we will have approximately 1,614,073 shares available for grant after the Annual Meeting (accounting for the non-employee director grants we expect to make on the date of the Annual Meeting).

The Amended 2020 Plan Continues to Combine Compensation and Governance Best Practices

The Amended 2020 Plan continues to include provisions that are designed to protect our stockholders’ interests and to reflect corporate governance best practices, including:

- Stockholder approval is required for additional shares. The Amended 2020 Plan does not contain an annual “evergreen” provision. The Amended 2020 Plan authorizes a fixed number of shares, so that stockholder approval is required to issue any additional shares.
- No discounted stock options or stock appreciation rights. All stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2020 Plan must have an exercise price equal to or greater than the fair market value of our common stock on the date the stock option or stock appreciation right is granted.
- Limit on non-employee director compensation. The aggregate value of all compensation granted or paid by us to any individual for service as a non-employee director with respect to any period commencing on the date of the annual stockholders meeting for a particular year and ending on the date of the annual stockholders meeting for the next subsequent year (such period, the “annual period”), including awards granted under the Amended 2020 Plan and cash fees paid to such non-employee director, will not exceed \$500,000 in total value, or \$750,000 in the case of compensation granted or paid to any individual for service as a non-employee director with respect to an annual period in which such individual is first appointed or elected to the Board. For purposes of these limitations, the value of any equity awards is calculated based on the grant date fair value of such awards for financial reporting purposes.

- Restrictions on dividends. The Amended 2020 Plan provides that dividends or dividend equivalents may not be paid or credited to stock options or stock appreciation rights. In addition, with respect to any award other than a stock option or stock appreciation right, the Amended 2020 Plan provides that (i) no dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid with respect to any shares of our common stock subject to such award before the date such shares have vested, (ii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be subject to all of the terms and conditions applicable to such shares under the terms of the applicable award agreement (including any vesting conditions), and (iii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be forfeited to us on the date such shares are forfeited to or repurchased by us due to a failure to vest.
- Vesting restrictions. No award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may vest (or, if applicable, be exercisable) until at least twelve (12) months following the date of grant of the award; provided, however, that up to 5% of the share reserve may be subject to awards that do not meet such vesting (and, if applicable, exercisability) requirements.
- No liberal change in control definition. The change in control definition in the Amended 2020 Plan is not a “liberal” definition. A change in control transaction must actually occur in order for the change in control provisions in the Amended 2020 Plan to be triggered.
- No liberal share counting provisions. The following shares will not become available again for issuance under the Amended 2020 Plan: (i) any shares that are reacquired or withheld (or not issued) by us to satisfy the exercise or purchase price of an award; (ii) any shares that are reacquired or withheld (or not issued) by us to satisfy a tax withholding obligation in connection with an award; (iii) any shares repurchased by us on the open market with the proceeds of the exercise or purchase price of an award; and (iv) in the event that a stock appreciation right is settled in shares, the gross number of shares subject to such award.
- Material amendments require stockholder approval. Consistent with Nasdaq rules, the Amended 2020 Plan requires stockholder approval of any material revisions to the Amended 2020 Plan. In addition, certain other amendments to the Amended 2020 Plan require stockholder approval.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be required to approve the Amended 2020 Plan. Abstentions will be counted toward the tabulation of votes cast on proposals presented to the stockholders and will have the same effect as negative votes. Broker non-votes are counted towards a quorum, but are not counted for any purpose in determining whether this matter has been approved.

Description of the Amended 2020 Plan

The material features of the Amended 2020 Plan are described below. The following description of the Amended 2020 Plan is a summary only and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Amended 2020 Plan. Stockholders are urged to read the actual text of the Amended 2020 Plan in its entirety, which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A.

Purpose

The Amended 2020 Plan is designed to secure and retain the services of our employees, non-employee directors and consultants, to provide incentives for such persons to exert maximum efforts for the success of the Company and our affiliates, and to provide a means by which such persons may be given an opportunity to benefit from increases in the value of our common stock. The Amended 2020 Plan is also designed to align employees’ interests with stockholder interests.

Types of Awards

The terms of the Amended 2020 Plan provide for the grant of incentive stock options, nonstatutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards, performance awards, and other awards.

Shares Available for Awards

Subject to adjustment for certain changes in our capitalization, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued under the Amended 2020 Plan will not exceed the sum of (i) 1,500,000 new shares, (ii) 490,000 shares currently approved for issuance under the 2020 Plan, and (iii) the Prior Plan’s Returning Shares (as defined below), as such shares become available from time to time.

The “Prior Plan’s Returning Shares” are shares of our common stock subject to awards granted under the Prior Plan that on or following the original effective date of the 2020 Plan: (i) are not issued because such award or any portion thereof expires or otherwise terminates without all of the shares covered by such award having been issued; (ii) are not issued because such award or any portion thereof is settled in cash; or (iii) are forfeited back to or repurchased by us because of the failure to meet a contingency or condition required for the vesting of such shares. The Prior Plan’s Returning Shares will not exceed 744,608 shares in the aggregate (measured as of the original effective date of the 2020 Plan).

The following actions will not result in an issuance of shares of our common stock under the Amended 2020 Plan and accordingly will not reduce the number of shares of our common stock available for issuance under the Amended 2020 Plan: (i) the expiration or termination of any portion of an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan without the shares covered by such portion of the award having been issued; or (ii) the settlement of any portion of an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan in cash.

If any shares of our common stock issued pursuant to an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan are forfeited back to or repurchased by us because of the failure to meet a contingency or condition required for the vesting of such shares, then such shares will become available again for issuance under the Amended 2020 Plan.

The following shares of our common stock will not become available again for issuance under the Amended 2020 Plan: (i) any shares that are reacquired or withheld (or not issued) by us to satisfy the exercise or purchase price of an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan or the Prior Plan (including any shares subject to such award that are not delivered because such award is exercised through a reduction of shares subject to such award); (ii) any shares that are reacquired or withheld (or not issued) by us to satisfy a tax withholding obligation in connection with an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan or the Prior Plan; (iii) any shares repurchased by us on the open market with the proceeds of the exercise or purchase price of an award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan or the Prior Plan; and (iv) in the event that a stock appreciation right granted under the Amended 2020 Plan or the Prior Plan is settled in shares, the gross number of shares subject to such award.

Eligibility

All of our (including our affiliates') employees, non-employee directors and consultants are eligible to participate in the Amended 2020 Plan and may receive all types of awards other than incentive stock options. Incentive stock options may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan only to our (including our affiliates') employees.

As of August 14, 2023, we (including our affiliates) had 16 employees, seven non-employee directors and three on-site consultants.

Administration

The Amended 2020 Plan is administered by our Board, which has delegated concurrent authority to administer the Amended 2020 Plan to our Compensation Committee, but may, at any time, revert in itself some or all of the power delegated to our Compensation Committee. Our Board and Compensation Committee are each considered to be a Plan Administrator for purpose of this Proposal 4.

Subject to the terms of the Amended 2020 Plan, the Plan Administrator may determine the recipients, the types of awards to be granted, the number of shares of our common stock subject to or the cash value of awards, and the terms and conditions of awards granted under the Amended 2020 Plan, including the period of their exercisability and vesting. The Plan Administrator also has the authority to provide for accelerated exercisability and vesting of awards. Subject to the limitations set forth below, the Plan Administrator also determines the fair market value applicable to an award and the exercise or strike price of stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2020 Plan.

The Plan Administrator may also delegate to one or more executive officers the authority to designate employees who are not executive officers to be recipients of certain awards and the number of shares of our common stock subject to such awards. Under any such delegation, the Plan Administrator will specify the total number of shares of our common stock that may be subject to the awards granted by such executive officer. The executive officer may not grant an award to himself or herself.

Repricing; Cancellation and Re-Grant of Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights

Under the Amended 2020 Plan, except in connection with a corporate transaction or an adjustment for certain changes in our capitalization, or unless our stockholders have approved such an action within 12 months prior to such an event, the Plan Administrator does not have the authority to reprice any outstanding stock option or stock appreciation right by (1) reducing the exercise or strike price of the stock option or stock appreciation right or (2) canceling any outstanding stock option or stock appreciation right that has an exercise or strike price greater than the then-current fair market value of our common stock in exchange for cash or other awards.

Dividends and Dividend Equivalents

The Amended 2020 Plan provides that dividends or dividend equivalents may not be paid or credited to stock options or stock appreciation rights.

With respect to any award other than a stock option or stock appreciation right, the Amended 2020 Plan provides that dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid or credited with respect to any shares of our common stock subject to such award, as determined by the Plan Administrator and specified in the applicable award agreement; provided, however, that (i) no dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid with respect to any such shares before the date such shares have vested under the terms of such award agreement, (ii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be subject to all of the terms and conditions applicable to such shares under the terms of such award agreement (including, but not limited to, any vesting conditions), and (iii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be forfeited to us on the date such shares are forfeited to or repurchased by us due to a failure to vest.

Limit on Non-Employee Director Compensation

The aggregate value of all compensation granted or paid by us to any individual for service as a non-employee director with respect to any period commencing on the date of the annual stockholders meeting for a particular year and ending on the date of the annual stockholders meeting for the next subsequent year (such period, the “annual period”), including awards granted under the 2020 Plan and cash fees paid to such non-employee director, will not exceed \$500,000 in total value, or \$750,000 in the case of compensation granted or paid to any individual for service as a non-employee director with respect to an annual period in which such individual is first appointed or elected to the Board.

Vesting Restrictions

No award granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may vest (or, if applicable, be exercisable) until at least twelve (12) months following the date of grant of the award; provided, however, that up to 5% of the share reserve may be subject to awards that do not meet such vesting (and, if applicable, exercisability) requirements.

Stock Options

Stock options may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan pursuant to stock option agreements. The Amended 2020 Plan permits the grant of stock options that are intended to qualify as incentive stock options, or ISOs, and nonstatutory stock options, or NSOs.

The exercise price of a stock option granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock subject to the stock option on the date of grant and, in some cases (see “—Limitations on Incentive Stock Options” below), may not be less than 110% of such fair market value.

The term of stock options granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may not exceed ten years from the date of grant and, in some cases (see “Limitations on Incentive Stock Options” below), may not exceed five years from the date of grant. Except as otherwise provided in a participant’s stock option agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates, if a participant’s service relationship with us or any of our affiliates (referred to in this Proposal 4 as “continuous service”) terminates (other than for cause or the participant’s death or disability), the participant may exercise any vested stock options for up to three months following the participant’s termination of continuous service. Except as otherwise provided in a participant’s stock option agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates, if a participant’s continuous service terminates due to the participant’s disability, the participant may exercise any vested stock options for up to 12 months following the participant’s termination due to the participant’s disability. Except as otherwise provided in a participant’s stock option agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates, if a participant’s continuous service terminates due to the participant’s death (or the participant dies within a specified period following termination of continuous service), the participant’s beneficiary may exercise any vested stock options for up to 18 months following the participant’s death. Except as explicitly provided otherwise in a participant’s stock option agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates, if a participant’s continuous service is terminated for cause (as defined in the Amended 2020 Plan), all stock options held by the participant will terminate upon the participant’s termination of continuous service and the participant will be prohibited from exercising any stock option from and after such termination date. Except as otherwise provided in a participant’s stock option agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates, the term of a stock option may be extended if a participant’s continuous service terminates for any reason other than for cause and, at any time during the last 30 days of the applicable post-termination exercise period, the exercise of the stock option would be prohibited by applicable laws or the sale of any common stock received upon such exercise would violate our insider trading policy. In no event, however, may a stock option be exercised after its original expiration date.

Acceptable forms of consideration for the purchase of our common stock pursuant to the exercise of a stock option under the Amended 2020 Plan will be determined by the Plan Administrator and may include payment: (i) by cash, check, bank draft or money order payable to us; (ii) pursuant to a program developed under Regulation T as promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board; (iii) by delivery to us of shares of our common stock (either by actual delivery or attestation); (iv) by a net exercise arrangement (for NSOs only); or (v) in other legal consideration approved by the Plan Administrator.

Stock options granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may become exercisable in cumulative increments, or “vest,” as determined by the Plan Administrator at the rate specified in the stock option agreement. Shares covered by different stock options granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may be subject to different vesting schedules as the Plan Administrator may determine.

The Plan Administrator may impose limitations on the transferability of stock options granted under the Amended 2020 Plan in its discretion. Generally, a participant may not transfer a stock option granted under the Amended 2020 Plan other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution or, subject to approval by the Plan Administrator, pursuant to a domestic relations order or an official marital settlement agreement. However, the Plan Administrator may permit transfer of a stock option in a manner that is not prohibited by applicable tax and securities laws. In addition, subject to approval by the Plan Administrator, a participant may designate a beneficiary who may exercise the stock option following the participant’s death. Options may not be transferred to a third-party financial institution for value.

Limitations on Incentive Stock Options

In accordance with current federal tax laws, the aggregate fair market value, determined at the time of grant, of shares of our common stock with respect to ISOs that are exercisable for the first time by a participant during any calendar year under all of our stock plans may not exceed \$100,000. The stock options or portions of stock options that exceed this limit or otherwise fail to qualify as ISOs are treated as NSOs. No ISO may be granted to any person who, at the time of grant, owns or is deemed to own stock possessing more than 10% of our total combined voting power unless the following conditions are satisfied:

- the exercise price of the ISO must be at least 110% of the fair market value of the common stock subject to the ISO on the date of grant; and
- the term of the ISO must not exceed five years from the date of grant.

Subject to adjustment for certain changes in our capitalization, the aggregate maximum number of shares of our common stock that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of ISOs under the Amended 2020 Plan is 5,000,000 shares.

Stock Appreciation Rights

Stock appreciation rights may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan pursuant to stock appreciation right agreements. Each stock appreciation right is denominated in common stock share equivalents. The strike price of each stock appreciation right will be determined by the Plan Administrator, but will in no event be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock subject to the stock appreciation right on the date of grant. The term of stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2020 Plan may not exceed ten years from the date of grant. The Plan Administrator may also impose restrictions or conditions upon the vesting of stock appreciation rights that it deems appropriate. The appreciation distribution payable upon exercise of a stock appreciation right may be paid in shares of our common stock, in cash, in a combination of cash and stock, or in any other form of consideration determined by the Plan Administrator and set forth in the stock appreciation right agreement. Stock appreciation rights will be subject to the same conditions upon termination of continuous service and restrictions on transfer as stock options under the Amended 2020 Plan.

Restricted Stock Awards

Restricted stock awards may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan pursuant to restricted stock award agreements. A restricted stock award may be granted in consideration for cash, check, bank draft or money order payable to us, the participant’s services performed for us, or any other form of legal consideration acceptable to the Plan Administrator. Shares of our common stock acquired under a restricted stock award may be subject to forfeiture to or repurchase by us in accordance with a vesting schedule to be determined by the Plan Administrator. Rights to acquire shares of our common stock under a restricted stock award may be transferred only upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the restricted stock award agreement. Upon a participant’s termination of continuous service for any reason, any shares subject to restricted stock awards held by the participant that have not vested as of such termination date may be forfeited to or repurchased by us.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards

Restricted stock unit awards may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan pursuant to restricted stock unit award agreements. Payment of any purchase price may be made in any form of legal consideration acceptable to the Plan Administrator. A restricted stock unit award may be settled by the delivery of shares of our common stock, in cash, in a combination of cash and stock, or in any other form of consideration determined by the Plan Administrator and set forth in the restricted stock unit award agreement. Restricted stock unit awards may be subject to vesting in accordance with a vesting schedule to be determined by the Plan Administrator. Except as otherwise provided in a participant’s restricted stock unit award agreement or other written agreement with us, restricted stock units that have not vested will be forfeited upon the participant’s termination of continuous service for any reason.

Performance Awards

The Amended 2020 Plan allows us to grant performance awards. A performance award is an award that may vest or may be exercised, or that may become earned and paid, contingent upon the attainment of pre-determined performance goals during a performance period. A performance award may require the completion of a specified period of continuous service. The length of any performance period, the performance goals to be achieved during the performance period, and the measure of whether and to what degree such performance goals have been attained will be determined by the Plan Administrator in its discretion. In addition, to the extent permitted by applicable law and the applicable award agreement, the Plan Administrator may determine that cash may be used in payment of performance awards.

In addition, the Plan Administrator retains the discretion to define the manner of calculating the performance criteria it selects to use for a performance period and to reduce or eliminate the compensation or economic benefit due upon the attainment of any performance goal.

Other Awards

Other forms of awards valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise based on, our common stock may be granted either alone or in addition to other awards under the Amended 2020 Plan. Subject to the terms of the Amended 2020 Plan, the Plan Administrator will have sole and complete authority to determine the persons to whom and the time or times at which such other awards will be granted, the number of shares of our common stock to be granted and all other terms and conditions of such other awards.

Clawback Policy

While our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are subject to any recovery rights that are provided under applicable laws, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, we have not yet adopted a compensation recovery policy as will be required under the Dodd-Frank Act. We are reviewing the final clawback rule adopted by the SEC that implements the applicable provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC's related proposed listing standard, in each case relating to recoupment of incentive-based compensation. We will implement our clawback policy in accordance with the new listing standard when the new listing standard becomes final. Awards granted under the Amended 2020 Plan will be subject to recoupment in accordance with any clawback policy that we are required to adopt pursuant to the listing standards of any national securities exchange or association on which our securities are listed or as is otherwise required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or other applicable law, and any other clawback policy that the Company adopts. In addition, the Board may impose other clawback, recovery or recoupment provisions in an award agreement, including a reacquisition right in respect of previously acquired shares or other cash or property upon the occurrence of cause.

Changes to Capital Structure

In the event of certain capitalization adjustments, the Plan Administrator will appropriately and proportionately adjust: (i) the class(es) and maximum number of shares of our common stock subject to the Amended 2020 Plan; (ii) the class(es) and maximum number of shares of our common stock that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of ISOs; and (iii) the class(es) and number of shares of our common stock and the exercise, strike or purchase price per share of our common stock subject to outstanding awards.

Corporate Transaction

The following applies to stock awards under the Amended 2020 Plan in the event of a corporate transaction (as defined in the Amended 2020 Plan), unless otherwise provided in a participant's stock award agreement or other written agreement with us or one of our affiliates or unless otherwise expressly provided by the plan administrator at the time of grant.

In the event of a corporate transaction, any stock awards outstanding under the Amended 2020 Plan may be assumed, continued or substituted for by any surviving or acquiring corporation (or its parent company), and any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by us with respect to the stock award may be assigned to the successor (or its parent company). If the surviving or acquiring corporation (or its parent company) does not assume, continue or substitute for such stock awards, then (i) with respect to any such stock awards that are held by participants whose continuous service has not terminated prior to the effective time of the corporate transaction, or current participants, the vesting (and exercisability, if applicable) of such stock awards will be accelerated in full to a date prior to the effective time of the corporate transaction (contingent upon the effectiveness of the corporate transaction), and such stock awards will terminate if not exercised (if applicable) at or prior to the effective time of the corporate transaction, and any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by us with respect to such stock awards will lapse (contingent upon the effectiveness of the corporate transaction), and performance awards will accelerate at 100% of the target level unless otherwise provided in the award agreement; (ii) any such stock awards that are held by persons other than current participants will terminate if not exercised (if applicable) prior to the effective time of the corporate transaction, except that any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by us with respect to such stock awards will not terminate and may continue to be exercised notwithstanding the corporate transaction.

In the event a stock award will terminate if not exercised prior to the effective time of a corporate transaction, the plan administrator may provide, in its sole discretion, that the holder of such stock award may not exercise such stock award but instead will receive a payment equal in value to the excess (if any) of (i) the per share amount payable to holders of common stock in connection with the corporate transaction, over (ii) any per share exercise price payable by such holder provided in the stock award, if applicable.

Under the Amended 2020 Plan, a corporate transaction is generally the consummation of: (1) a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, (2) the sale or disposition of more than 50% of our outstanding securities, (3) a merger or consolidation where we do not survive the transaction, or (4) a merger or consolidation where we do survive the transaction but the shares of our common stock outstanding immediately before such transaction are converted or exchanged into other property by virtue of the transaction.

Change in Control

Unless provided otherwise in the applicable award agreement, in any other written agreement or plan between a participant and the Company or an affiliate, or in any director compensation policy of the Company, an award will not be subject to additional acceleration of vesting and exercisability upon or after a change in control.

Under the Amended 2020 Plan, a change in control is generally the occurrence of any one or more of the following events: (1) the acquisition by any person or company of more than 50% of the combined voting power of our then outstanding stock; (2) a merger, consolidation or similar transaction in which our stockholders immediately before the transaction do not own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the surviving entity (or the parent of the surviving entity) in substantially the same proportions as their ownership immediately prior to such transaction; (3) a plan of complete dissolution or liquidation of the Company approved by our stockholders or the Board; (4) a sale, lease, exclusive license or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets other than to an entity more than 50% of the combined voting power of which is owned by our stockholders in substantially the same proportions as their ownership of our outstanding voting securities immediately prior to such transaction; or (5) when a majority of our Board becomes comprised of individuals who were not serving on our Board on the date of the underwriting agreement related to this offering, or the incumbent Board, or whose nomination, appointment, or election was not approved by a majority of the incumbent Board still in office. A change in control shall not include a sale of assets, merger or other transaction effected exclusively for the purpose of changing the domicile of the Company and the definition of change in control is subject to any definition in an individualized agreement.

Dissolution or Liquidation

Except as otherwise provided in an award agreement, in the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, all outstanding awards (other than awards consisting of vested and outstanding shares of common stock not subject to a forfeiture condition or the Company's right of repurchase) shall terminate immediately prior to the completion of such dissolution or liquidation, and the shares of common stock subject to the Company's repurchase rights or subject to a forfeiture condition may be repurchased or reacquired by the Company notwithstanding the fact that the holder of such award is providing continuous service, provided, however, that the Board may, in its sole discretion, cause some or all awards to become fully vested, exercisable and/or no longer subject to repurchase or forfeiture (to the extent such awards have not previously expired or terminated) before the dissolution or liquidation is completed but contingent on its completion.

Plan Amendments and Termination

The Plan Administrator will have the authority to amend or terminate the Amended 2020 Plan at any time. However, except as otherwise provided in the Amended 2020 Plan, no amendment or termination of the Amended 2020 Plan may materially impair a participant's rights under his or her outstanding awards without the participant's consent. We will obtain stockholder approval of any amendment to the Amended 2020 Plan as required by applicable law and listing requirements. No incentive stock options may be granted under the Amended 2020 Plan after April 16, 2030.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a summary of the principal United States federal income tax consequences to participants and us with respect to participation in the Amended 2020 Plan. This summary is not intended to be exhaustive and does not discuss the income tax laws of any local, state or foreign jurisdiction in which a participant may reside. The information is based upon current federal income tax rules and therefore is subject to change when those rules change. Because the tax consequences to any participant may depend on his or her particular situation, each participant should consult the participant's tax adviser regarding the federal, state, local and other tax consequences of the grant or exercise of an award or the disposition of stock acquired under the Amended 2020 Plan. The Amended 2020 Plan is not qualified under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the "Code") and is not subject to any of the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Our ability to realize the benefit of any tax deductions described below depends on our generation of taxable income as well as the requirement of reasonableness and the satisfaction of our tax reporting obligations.

Nonstatutory Stock Options

Generally, there is no taxation upon the grant of an NSO if the stock option is granted with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the underlying stock on the grant date. Upon exercise, a participant will recognize ordinary income equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of exercise of the stock option over the exercise price. If the participant is employed by us or one of our affiliates, that income will be subject to withholding taxes. The participant's tax basis in those shares will be equal to his or her fair market value on the date of exercise of the stock option, and the participant's capital gain holding period for those shares will begin on that date.

Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code, and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation, we will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the participant.

Incentive Stock Options

The Amended 2020 Plan provides for the grant of stock options that are intended to qualify as "incentive stock options," as defined in Section 422 of the Code. Under the Code, a participant generally is not subject to ordinary income tax upon the grant or exercise of an ISO. If the participant holds a share received upon exercise of an ISO for more than two years from the date the stock option was granted and more than one year from the date the stock option was exercised, which is referred to as the required holding period, the difference, if any, between the amount realized on a sale or other taxable disposition of that share and the participant's tax basis in that share will be long-term capital gain or loss.

If, however, a participant disposes of a share acquired upon exercise of an ISO before the end of the required holding period, which is referred to as a disqualifying disposition, the participant generally will recognize ordinary income in the year of the disqualifying disposition equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the share on the date of exercise of the stock option over the exercise price. However, if the sales proceeds are less than the fair market value of the share on the date of exercise of the stock option, the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant will not exceed the gain, if any, realized on the sale. If the amount realized on a disqualifying disposition exceeds the fair market value of the share on the date of exercise of the stock option, that excess will be short-term or long-term capital gain, depending on whether the holding period for the share exceeds one year.

For purposes of the alternative minimum tax, the amount by which the fair market value of a share of stock acquired upon exercise of an ISO exceeds the exercise price of the stock option generally will be an adjustment included in the participant's alternative minimum taxable income for the year in which the stock option is exercised. If, however, there is a disqualifying disposition of the share in the year in which the stock option is exercised, there will be no adjustment for alternative minimum tax purposes with respect to that share. In computing alternative minimum taxable income, the tax basis of a share acquired upon exercise of an ISO is increased by the amount of the adjustment taken into account with respect to that share for alternative minimum tax purposes in the year the stock option is exercised.

We are not allowed a tax deduction with respect to the grant or exercise of an ISO or the disposition of a share acquired upon exercise of an ISO after the required holding period. If there is a disqualifying disposition of a share, however, we will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the participant, subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code, and provided that either the employee includes that amount in income or we timely satisfy our reporting requirements with respect to that amount.

Restricted Stock Awards

Generally, the recipient of a restricted stock award will recognize ordinary income at the time the stock is received equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock received over any amount paid by the recipient in exchange for the stock. If, however, the stock is not vested when it is received (for example, if the employee is required to work for a period of time in order to have the right to sell the stock), the recipient generally will not recognize income until the stock becomes vested, at which time the recipient will recognize ordinary income equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock on the date it becomes vested over any amount paid by the recipient in exchange for the stock. A recipient may, however, file an election with the Internal Revenue Service, pursuant to Section 83(b) of the Code, within 30 days following his or her receipt of the restricted stock award, to recognize ordinary income, as of the date the recipient receives the restricted stock award, equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock on the date the restricted stock award is granted over any amount paid by the recipient for the stock.

The recipient's basis for the determination of gain or loss upon the subsequent disposition of shares acquired from a restricted stock award will be the amount paid for such shares plus any ordinary income recognized either when the stock is received or when the stock becomes vested.

Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code, and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation, we will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the recipient of the restricted stock award.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards

Generally, the recipient of a restricted stock unit award structured to comply with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code or an exception to Section 409A of the Code will recognize ordinary income at the time the stock is delivered equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock received over any amount paid by the recipient in exchange for the stock. To comply with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the stock subject to a restricted stock unit award may generally only be delivered upon one of the following events: a fixed calendar date (or dates), separation from service, death, disability or a change in control. If delivery occurs on another date, unless the restricted stock unit award otherwise complies with or qualifies for an exception to the requirements of Section 409A of the Code (including delivery upon achievement of a performance goal), in addition to the tax treatment described above, the recipient will owe an additional 20% federal tax and interest on any taxes owed.

The recipient's basis for the determination of gain or loss upon the subsequent disposition of shares acquired from a restricted stock unit award will be the amount paid for such shares plus any ordinary income recognized when the stock is delivered.

Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code, and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation, we will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the recipient of the restricted stock unit award.

Stock Appreciation Rights

Generally, if a stock appreciation right is granted with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the underlying stock on the grant date, the recipient will recognize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the stock or cash received upon such exercise. Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code, and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation, we will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the recipient of the stock appreciation right.

Section 162(m) Limitations

Under Section 162(m) of the Code, compensation paid to any publicly held corporation's "covered employees" that exceeds \$1 million per taxable year for any covered employee is generally non-deductible. Awards granted under the Amended 2020 Plan will be subject to the deduction limit under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Plan Benefits under 2020 Plan

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the number of shares subject to awards previously granted under the 2020 Plan since its original effectiveness in June 2020 and through August 14, 2023, the record date.

Name and Position	Dollar Value	Number of Shares
Vincent J. Angotti Director and Chief Executive Officer	\$1,604,355	254,997(1)
Raffi Asadorian Chief Financial Officer	\$576,760	72,496(2)
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph. D. Director, Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder	\$584,221	74,996(3)
Marina Bozilenko Director Nominee	\$103,963	6,075(4)
Howard B. Rosen Director Nominee	\$69,918	4,950(5)
Mark Wan Director Nominee	\$69,918	4,950(5)
All current executive officers as a group (4 persons)	\$3,741,390	462,886
All current directors who are not executive officers as a group (7 persons)	\$489,315	35,400
All current employees, including current officers who are not executive officers, as a group (12 persons)	\$879,067	97,032

(1) Consists of 155,999 time-based vesting stock options, 49,000 time-based RSUs and 49,998 share price performance options that will only vest if share price target goals are attained and service-based vesting requirements are satisfied.

(2) Consists of 53,874 time-based vesting stock options, 15,187 time-based RSUs, and 3,435 share price performance options that will only vest if share price target goals are attained and service-based vesting requirements are satisfied.

- (3) Consists of 55,874 time-based vesting stock options, 15,687 time-based RSUs, and 3,435 share price performance options that will only vest if share price target goals are attained and service-based vesting requirements are satisfied.
- (4) Consists of 4,050 time-based vesting stock options and 2,025 time-based RSUs.
- (5) Consists of 3,300 time-based vesting stock options and 1,650 time-based RSUs.

New Plan Benefits under Amended 2020 Plan

Awards under the Amended 2020 Plan to our executive officers and other employees are discretionary and are not subject to set benefits or amounts under the terms of the Amended 2020 Plan, and we have not granted any awards under the Amended 2020 Plan subject to stockholder approval of this Proposal 4. Accordingly, the benefits or amounts that will be received by or allocated to our executive officers and other employees under the Amended 2020 Plan are not determinable.

Awards granted under the Amended 2020 Plan to our non-employee directors are discretionary and are not subject to set benefits or amounts under the terms of the Amended 2020 Plan. However, pursuant to our current compensation program for non-employee directors, each of our non-employee directors who is then serving as a director or who is elected to our Board on the date of an annual meeting will be granted a stock option to purchase 3,487 shares of our common stock, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant, and 581 RSUs, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant. For additional information regarding our current compensation program for non-employee directors, please see “Information Regarding the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance—Director Compensation” below.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 4.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Independence of the Board of Directors

Under the rules of The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC, or Nasdaq, “independent” directors must comprise a majority of a listed company’s board of directors. In addition, applicable Nasdaq rules require that, subject to specified exceptions, each member of a listed company’s audit, compensation and nominating committees be independent within the meaning of applicable Nasdaq rules. Audit Committee members must also satisfy the independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act.

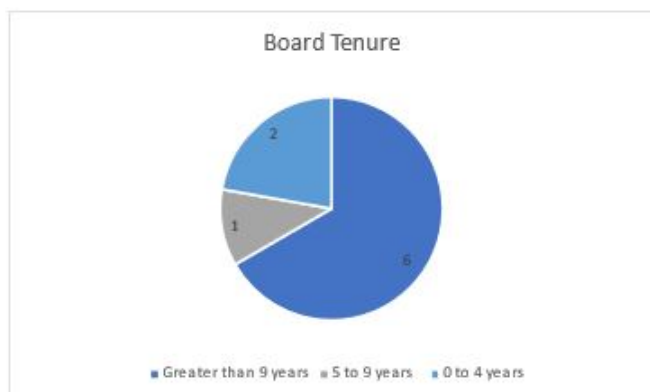
Our Board undertook a review of the independence of each director and considered whether any director has a material relationship with us that could compromise his or her ability to exercise independent judgment in carrying out his or her responsibilities. As a result of this review, our Board determined that all of our directors, other than Mr. Angotti, our Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Palmer, our Chief Medical Officer, qualify as “independent” directors within the meaning of the Nasdaq rules. Accordingly, a majority of our directors are independent, as required under applicable Nasdaq rules. Our non-employee directors have been meeting, and we anticipate that they will continue to meet, in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only non-employee directors are present.

Board Leadership Structure

Our Board has a Chairman, Mr. Adams, who has authority, among other things, to preside over Board meetings, including meetings of the independent directors. Accordingly, the Chairman has substantial ability to shape the work of our Board. We believe that separation of the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer reinforces the independence of our Board in its oversight of the business and affairs of AcelRx. However, no single leadership model is right for all companies and at all times. Our Board recognizes that depending on the circumstances, other leadership models, such as combining the role of Chairman with the role of Chief Executive Officer, might be appropriate. Accordingly, the Board may periodically review its leadership structure.

Composition of the Board

Our Board and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are committed to ensuring that the Board is comprised of a highly capable group of directors who collectively provide a significant breadth of experience, knowledge and ability to effectively represent the interest of stockholders, drive stockholder value and reflect our corporate values of integrity, honesty and adherence to high ethical standards. The following charts illustrate the tenure, experience and diversity of our current directors.



Board Diversity Matrix (As of August 14, 2023)(1)				
Total Number of Directors	9			
	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Gender Undisclosed
Part I: Gender Identity				
Directors	3	6		
Part II: Demographic Background				
African American or Black				
Alaskan Native or American Indian				
Asian or Asian Indian		1		
Hispanic or Latinx				
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander				
White	3	4		
Two or More Races or Ethnicities		1		
LGBTQ+			-	
Did Not Disclose Demographic Background			-	

(1) The diversity composition of our Board has not changed since the introduction of the Board Diversity Matrix in our proxy statement for the 2022 Annual Meeting filed with the SEC on June 3, 2022.

Role of the Board of Directors in Risk Oversight

Our Board is generally responsible for the oversight of corporate risk in its review and deliberations relating to our activities and has determined that our principal source of risk falls into two categories, financial and commercial. The Audit Committee oversees management of financial risks; our Board regularly reviews information regarding our cash position, liquidity and operations, as well as the risks associated with each. The Board regularly reviews plans, results and potential risks related to commercialization, compliance matters, business development efforts, and financial and strategic risk related to our operations.

In addition, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee monitors the effectiveness of our corporate governance guidelines and policies and manages risks associated with the independence of the Board and potential conflicts of interest. Our Compensation Committee oversees risk management as it relates to our compensation plans, policies and practices for all employees including executives particularly whether our compensation programs may create incentives for our employees to take excessive or inappropriate risks which could have a material adverse effect on AcetRx. While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the entire Board is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board met eight times in 2022 and acted by unanimous written consent ten times. Each director attended or participated in 80% or more of the aggregate of (i) the total number of meetings of the Board and (ii) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which such director served during 2022, in each case held during the period for which each respective director was serving as a director and/or committee member.

Annual Meeting Attendance

Each director is expected to attend our annual meetings of stockholders pursuant to our Corporate Governance Guidelines. All of our then-serving directors during 2022, other than Dr. Palmer, attended the 2022 annual meeting of stockholders.

Information Regarding Committees of the Board of Directors

The Board has four standing committees - an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a Finance and Strategic Transactions Committee, or the FAST Committee. The following table provides membership and meeting information for 2022 for each of the committees of the Board:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance	FAST
Adrian Adams	-	X	X	Chair
Richard Afable, M.D.	-	Chair	-	-
Marina Bozilenko	X(1)	-	-	X
Jill Broadfoot	Chair(2)	-	-	-
Mark G. Edwards	Chair(3)	-	-	-
Stephen J. Hoffman, M.D., Ph.D.	X(4)	-	X	-
Howard B. Rosen	X	-	-	-
Mark Wan	-	X	Chair	X
<i>Meetings in 2022 (#)</i>	4	7	1	7
<i>Actions by Written Consent in 2022 (#)</i>	1	0	1	0

(1) Ms. Bozilenko replaced Dr. Hoffman on the committee effective May 1, 2022.

(2) Ms. Broadfoot was appointed as Chair of the committee effective April 1, 2022.

(3) Mr. Edwards served as Chair of the committee until his resignation effective March 31, 2022.

(4) Dr. Hoffman resigned from the committee effective April 30, 2022.

Below is a description of each of the committees of the Board.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was established by the Board in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act to oversee our corporate accounting and financial reporting processes and audits of our financial statements. For this purpose, the Audit Committee performs several functions. The Audit Committee:

- evaluates the performance of and assesses the qualifications of the independent auditors;
- determines and approves the engagement of the independent auditors;
- determines whether to retain or terminate the existing independent auditors or to appoint and engage new independent auditors;
- reviews and approves the retention of the independent auditors to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services;
- monitors the rotation of partners of the independent auditors on our audit engagement team as required by law;
- reviews and approves or rejects transactions between AcclRx and any related persons;
- confers with management and the independent auditors regarding the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting;
- oversees our cyber risk mitigation plans;

- establishes procedures, as required under applicable law, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and
- meets to review our annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including a review of our disclosures under “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

In 2022, the Audit Committee was comprised of Messrs. Edwards and Rosen, Mses. Broadfoot and Bozilenko, and Dr. Hoffman, each of whom was a non-employee member of our Board. Mr. Edwards resigned from our Board effective March 31, 2022 and Ms. Broadfoot became Chair of the Audit Committee, effective April 1, 2022. Dr. Hoffman resigned from the Audit Committee effective April 30, 2022 and Ms. Bozilenko was appointed as a member of the Audit Committee effective immediately upon Dr. Hoffman’s resignation. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter that is available on our website at www.aceirx.com.

The Board reviews the Nasdaq listing standards definition of independence for Audit Committee members on an annual basis and has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Nasdaq listing standards).

In addition, our Board has determined that each of the directors serving on our Audit Committee meets the requirements for financial literacy under applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and Nasdaq. Our Board has also determined that each of Mr. Edwards and Mses. Broadfoot and Bozilenko qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” within the meaning of SEC regulations. In making this determination, our Board considered the overall knowledge, experience and familiarity of each of Mr. Edwards and Mses. Broadfoot and Bozilenko with accounting matters, in analyzing and evaluating financial statements and in managing private equity investments. Mr. Edwards served as Chair of the Audit Committee until March 31, 2022 and Ms. Broadfoot became Chair of the Audit Committee, effective April 1, 2022. The composition of the Audit Committee satisfies the independence and other requirements of Nasdaq and the SEC.

Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee is comprised of three directors: Dr. Afable and Messrs. Wan and Adams, with Dr. Afable serving as the Chairman of the Compensation Committee. All members of the Compensation Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rules 5605(a)(2) and 5605(d)(2) of the Nasdaq listing standards). The Compensation Committee has adopted a written charter that is available on our website at www.aceirx.com.

The Compensation Committee acts on behalf of the Board to review, recommend for adoption and oversee our compensation strategy, policies, plans and programs, including:

- approving or recommending for approval to our Board the compensation and other terms of employment of our executive officers, including our Chief Executive Officer;
- approving or recommending to our Board performance goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our executive officers, including our Chief Executive Officer, and assessing their performance against these goals and objectives;
- evaluating and approving the equity incentive plans, compensation plans and similar programs, as well as modification or termination of existing plans and programs;
- evaluating and recommending to our Board the type and amount of compensation to be paid or awarded to Board members;
- administering our equity incentive plans;
- establishing policies with respect to equity compensation arrangements;
- recommending to our Board compensation-related proposals to be considered at our annual meetings, including the frequency of advisory votes on executive compensation;
- reviewing and discussing with our management any conflicts of interest raised by the work of any compensation consultants;

- reviewing the competitiveness of our executive compensation programs and evaluating the effectiveness of our compensation policy and strategy in achieving expected benefits to us;
- approving or recommending to our Board the terms of any employment agreements, severance arrangements, change of control protections and any other compensatory arrangements for our executive officers;
- preparing the Compensation Committee report, for our annual proxy statement;
- reviewing the adequacy of our Compensation Committee charter on a periodic basis; and
- reviewing and evaluating, at least annually, the performance of the Compensation Committee and its charter.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve as directors of AcelRx (consistent with criteria approved by the Board), reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, recommending to the Board for selection candidates for election to the Board, making recommendations to the Board regarding the membership of the committees of the Board, overseeing director education and training, and assessing the performance of the Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of three directors: Dr. Hoffman and Messrs. Wan and Adams. Mr. Wan serves as Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Our Board has determined that Dr. Hoffman and Messrs. Wan and Adams are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq listing standards). The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has adopted a written charter that is available on our website at www.acerlx.com.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including the ability to read and understand basic financial statements, being over 21 years of age and having the highest personal integrity and ethics. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also intends to consider such factors as possessing relevant expertise upon which to be able to offer advice and guidance to management, having sufficient time to devote to the affairs of AcelRx, demonstrated excellence in his or her field, having the ability to exercise sound business judgment and having the commitment to rigorously represent the long-term interests of our stockholders. However, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee retains the right to modify these qualifications from time to time. Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the Board, with a focus on current and upcoming Board diversity requirements, the operating requirements of AcelRx and the long-term interests of stockholders. In conducting this assessment, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee typically considers diversity, age, skills and such other factors as it deems appropriate given the current needs of the Board and AcelRx, to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability. In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews these directors' overall service to AcelRx during their terms, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance and any other relationships and transactions that might impair the directors' independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also determines whether the nominee is independent for Nasdaq purposes, which determination is based upon applicable Nasdaq listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meets to discuss and consider the candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to the Board by majority vote.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, to date, has not adopted a formal policy with regard to the consideration of director candidates recommended by stockholders and will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders on a case-by-case basis, as appropriate. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether or not the candidate was recommended by a stockholder. To date, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has not received any such nominations nor has it rejected a director nominee from a stockholder or stockholders holding more than 5% of our voting stock. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes that it is in the best position to identify, review, evaluate and select qualified candidates for Board membership, based on the comprehensive criteria for Board membership approved by the Board. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to become nominees for election to the Board may do so by delivering a written recommendation to our Secretary at the following address: 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404, at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the mailing of our proxy statement for the last annual meeting of stockholders. Submissions must include the full name of the proposed nominee, a description of the proposed nominee's business experience for at least the previous five years, complete biographical information, a description of the proposed nominee's qualifications as a director and a representation that the nominating stockholder is a beneficial or record holder of AcelRx stock and has been a holder for at least one year. Any such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected.

Finance and Strategic Transactions Committee

The FAST Committee is responsible for matters delegated to it by the Board from time to time, which include reviewing capital market and financing transactions, M&A opportunities, and other business development and strategic transaction opportunities for us. The FAST Committee is comprised of three directors: Messrs. Adams and Wan and Ms. Bozilenko. Mr. Edwards served on the FAST Committee prior to Ms. Bozilenko's appointment. Mr. Adams serves as Chairman of the FAST Committee. Our Board has determined that Messrs. Adams and Wan and Ms. Bozilenko are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the Nasdaq listing standards).

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The Compensation Committee consists of directors Dr. Afable, and Messrs. Wan and Adams. Dr. Afable serves as Chair of the Compensation Committee. None of the members of our Compensation Committee during 2022 is currently or has been, at any time since our formation, one of our officers or employees. During 2022, no executive officer served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our Board or our Compensation Committee. None of the members of our Compensation Committee during 2022 currently has or has had any relationship or transaction with a related person requiring disclosure pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K.

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Although we do not have a formal policy regarding communications with the Board, any stockholder who wishes to address questions regarding our business or affairs directly with the Board, or any individual director, should direct his or her questions in writing to the Chairman of the Board, c/o AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404. At the request of the directors, the Secretary to the Board reviews all correspondence addressed to the Chairman or to individual directors, organizes the correspondence, and provides it to the Chairman or to individual directors, as appropriate. Our directors have requested that certain items that are unrelated to the Board's duties, such as spam, junk mail, mass mailings, solicitations, resumes, and job inquiries, not be provided to directors and be discarded, as appropriate.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted the AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all officers, directors and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. All new employee and director hires are trained on the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the Company's Whistleblower Policy as part of their on-hire training, and all employees and directors are provided with copies of both policies on an annual basis. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.acclrx.com. Stockholders may request a free copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by submitting a written request to: AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404. If we make any substantive amendments to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or grant any waiver from a provision of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics to any executive officer or director, we will promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver on our website.

Anti-Hedging Policy

Our insider trading policy prohibits the trading of derivatives or pledges or hedging of our equity securities by members of our board of directors, executive officers and employees.

Director Compensation

Non-Employee Director Compensation

Compensation for our non-employee directors consists of cash, restricted stock unit awards, or RSUs and stock options. The Compensation Committee periodically reviews the compensation paid to non-employee directors for their service on the Board and its committees and recommends any changes considered appropriate to the full Board for its approval.

Cash Compensation Arrangements for 2022

Our non-employee director cash compensation is aligned with the 50th percentile of our peer group. Each member of our Board who is not our employee receives an annual retainer of \$40,000. In addition, our non-employee directors receive the following cash compensation for Board services, as applicable:

- the Board Chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$30,000;
- the Audit Committee Chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$20,000;
- the FAST Committee Chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$20,000;
- the Compensation Committee Chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$15,000;
- the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000;
- an Audit Committee member receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000;
- a FAST Committee member receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000;
- a Compensation Committee member receives an additional annual retainer of \$7,500; and
- a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee member receives an additional retainer of \$5,000.

All Board and committee retainers accrue and are payable on a quarterly basis at the end of each calendar quarter of service. We reimburse our non-employee directors for travel, lodging and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their attendance at Board or committee meetings.

Equity Compensation Arrangements for 2022

Equity compensation for our non-employee directors consists of a mix of stock options and RSUs. In 2022, the equity grant value was split approximately equally between stock options and RSUs, with the number of RSUs being equal to 50% of the number of stock options. In February 2022, the Board approved the recommendations of the Compensation Committee to better align our non-employee director equity compensation closer to the 50th percentile of our peer group. Beginning in February 2022, upon election or appointment to our Board, a new non-employee director will be granted an initial stock option to purchase 2,325 shares of our common stock, which will vest as to 1/3rd of the shares subject to the option on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant and as to the remaining shares subject to the option on an equal monthly basis over the following two-year period, and 1,162 RSUs, which will vest as to 1/3rd of the RSUs on each anniversary of the date of grant over a three-year period. Each non-employee director who is then serving as a director or who is elected to our Board on the date of an annual meeting will be granted a stock option to purchase 1,550 shares of our common stock, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant, and 775 RSUs, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant.

Each of the stock options will be granted with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. All stock options and RSUs awarded to our non-employee directors are entitled to full vesting acceleration as of immediately prior to the effective date of certain change of control transactions involving us, such as our liquidation or a dissolution of or an event that results in a material change in the ownership of AcetRx.

2022 Director Compensation

The following table sets forth certain summary information for the year ended December 31, 2022 with respect to the compensation of our non-employee directors. Neither Mr. Angotti nor Dr. Palmer, who are executive officers, received or receives any additional compensation for serving on our Board. Mr. Edwards resigned from the Board effective March 31, 2022.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards (1)(3)	Option Awards (2)(3)	Total
Adrian Adams	\$102,500	\$3,581	\$5,416	\$111,497
Richard Afable, M.D.	55,000	3,581	5,416	63,997
Marina Bozilenko	57,500	3,581	5,416	66,497
Jill Broadfoot	57,500	3,581	5,416	66,497
Mark G. Edwards	15,000	—	—	15,000
Stephen J. Hoffman, M.D., Ph.D.	47,500	3,581	5,416	56,497
Howard B. Rosen	50,000	3,581	5,416	58,997
Mark Wan	67,500	3,581	5,416	76,497

-
- (1) The dollar amount in this column represents the grant date fair value of the RSUs granted to our non-employee directors during 2022, as computed in accordance with ASC Topic 718, not including any estimates of forfeitures. For a discussion of valuation assumptions, see Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements and the discussion under “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation” included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023, as amended and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2023. This amount does not correspond to the actual economic value that may be received from the RSUs. As of December 31, 2022, our non-employee directors had the following outstanding RSUs: Mr. Adams – 775; Dr. Afable – 775; Ms. Bozilenko – 1,276; Ms. Broadfoot – 1,276; Mr. Edwards – 0; Dr. Hoffman – 775; Mr. Rosen – 775; and Mr. Wan – 775.
 - (2) The dollar amount in this column represents the grant date fair value of the stock options granted to our non-employee directors during 2022. This amount has been calculated in accordance with ASC 718 using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. For a discussion of valuation assumptions, see Notes 1 and 15 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023, as amended and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2023. This amount does not necessarily correspond to the actual economic value that may be recognized from the options. As of December 31, 2022, our non-employee directors had the following number of outstanding options: Mr. Adams – 8,925; Dr. Afable – 8,175; Ms. Bozilenko – 4,050; Ms. Broadfoot – 3,050; Mr. Edwards – 0; Dr. Hoffman – 8,175; Mr. Rosen – 76,973; and Mr. Wan – 8,175.
 - (3) On July 15, 2022, the date of our 2022 annual meeting of stockholders, each of the non-employee directors was granted 775 RSUs and an option to purchase 1,550 shares of our common stock with an exercise price of \$4.62 per share. The shares subject to these stock options and RSUs vested on the first anniversary of the date of grant.

Non-Employee Director Compensation Changes for 2023

In February 2023, the Board approved the recommendations of the Compensation Committee to better align our non-employee director equity compensation closer to the 50th percentile of our peer group and in order to maximize the benefit of the 2023 equity award component to our directors to the greatest extent possible under the remaining equity share pool available under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan. Beginning in February 2023, the equity grant value was split between stock options (75%) and RSUs (25%), with the number of RSUs being equal to 50% of the number of stock options. Beginning in February 2023, each non-employee director who is then serving as a director or who is elected to our Board on the date of an annual meeting will be granted a stock option to purchase 3,487 shares of our common stock, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant, and 581 RSUs, which will vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The material in this report is not “soliciting material,” is not deemed “filed” with the Commission and is not to be incorporated by reference in any filing of AcelRx under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 with management of AcelRx. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed pursuant to Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 1301, Communications with Audit Committees. The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent accountants’ communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the accounting firm’s independence. Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in AcelRx’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Members of the Audit Committee

Jill Broadfoot, Committee Chair
Marina Bozilenko
Howard B. Rosen

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our executive officers as of August 14, 2023:

Name	Age	Position
Vincent J. Angotti	55	Director, Chief Executive Officer
Raffi Asadorian	53	Chief Financial Officer
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D.	60	Director, Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder
Badri Dasu	60	Chief Engineering Officer

Vincent J. Angotti. Mr. Angotti's biography is included above under the section titled "Proposal 1—Election of Directors— Class II Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2025 Annual Meeting."

Raffi Asadorian has served as our Chief Financial Officer since August 2017. Previously, Mr. Asadorian served as the Chief Financial Officer of Amyris, Inc., a publicly traded commercial-stage biotechnology company, from January 2015 to January 2017. Prior to Amyris, he served as the Chief Financial Officer of Unilabs, a private equity-owned medical diagnostics company, from August 2009 to October 2014. Mr. Asadorian started his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) where he was a partner in its Transaction Services (M&A advisory) group. While at PwC, Mr. Asadorian advised Barr Pharmaceuticals, a publicly traded specialty pharmaceutical company, on its acquisition of PLIVA, a publicly traded pharmaceutical company, and, after its acquisition, Mr. Asadorian joined Barr as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of its PLIVA business from 2007 to 2009. In that role, Mr. Asadorian oversaw a global finance team and was responsible for Barr's ex-US financial operations, until its acquisition by Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Palmer's biography is included above under the section titled "Proposal 1—Election of Directors— Class II Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2025 Annual Meeting."

Badri Dasu has served as our Chief Engineering Officer since September 2007. From December 2005 until September 2007, Mr. Dasu served as Vice President of Medical Device Engineering at Anesiva, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. From March 2002 until December 2005, Mr. Dasu served as Vice President for Manufacturing and Device Development at AlgoRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an emerging pain management company, which merged with Corgentech Inc., a biotechnology company, in December 2005. From January 2000 until March 2002, Mr. Dasu served as Vice President of Manufacturing and Process Development at PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, a vaccine, drug and diagnostics delivery company that was acquired by Chiron Corporation in 2003 and later acquired by Novartis AG, a global healthcare and pharmaceutical company, in 2006. Previously, Mr. Dasu served in various capacities in process development at Metrika, Inc., a company focused on the manufacture and marketing of disposable diabetes monitoring products that was acquired by Bayer HealthCare, LLC in 2006, and at Cygnus, Inc., a drug delivery and specialty pharmaceuticals company. Mr. Dasu holds a B.E. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Mangalore, India and a M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Our “named executive officers”, or NEOs, for the year ended December 31, 2022, consisting of our chief executive officer and the two other most highly compensated executive officers serving as of December 31, 2022, were:

- Vincent J. Angotti, Chief Executive Officer;
- Raffi Asadorian, Chief Financial Officer; and
- Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain summary information for the year indicated with respect to our named executive officers as of December 31, 2022.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Stock Awards(1)	Option Awards(2)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation(3)	All Other Compensation(4)	Total
Vincent J. Angotti	2022	\$ 636,540	\$ 156,585	\$ 233,892	\$ 257,799	\$ 12,200	\$ 1,297,016
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	2021	636,540	376,000	1,156,667	267,347	11,400	2,447,954
Raffi Asadorian	2022	474,435	47,176	70,463	150,870	12,200	755,144
<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	2021	460,616	129,250	272,262	151,082	11,400	1,024,610
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D.	2022	526,458	49,184	73,462	161,096	12,200	822,400
<i>Chief Medical Officer</i>	2021	511,124	129,250	272,262	159,471	11,400	1,083,507

- (1) The dollar amounts in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the RSUs granted during the year, as computed in accordance with ASC 718, not including any estimates of forfeitures. For a discussion of valuation assumptions, see Notes 1 and 15 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023, as amended and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2023. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual economic value that may be received by the named executive officers.
- (2) The dollar amounts in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of all option awards granted during the indicated year. These amounts have been calculated in accordance with ASC 718, using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. For a discussion of valuation assumptions, see Notes 1 and 15 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023, as amended and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2023. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be recognized from the option awards by the named executive officers.
- (3) The dollar amounts in 2022 reflect the incentive bonuses awarded to the named executive officers under our 2022 Cash Bonus Plan and which were paid in the first quarter of 2023.
- (4) Reflects matching contributions made by AcclRx under its 401(k) Plan on behalf of each named executive officer.

Employment Arrangements

Vincent J. Angotti

In February 2017, we entered into an offer letter agreement with Mr. Angotti, which provided for an initial annual base salary of \$600,000 with an annual cash bonus targeted at 55% of Mr. Angotti’s base salary. As of the date of this proxy statement, Mr. Angotti’s annual base salary is \$655,636 and Mr. Angotti is eligible for an annual target bonus of up to 60% of his annual base salary.

Raffi Asadorian

In July 2017, we entered into an offer letter agreement with Mr. Asadorian, which provided for an initial annual base salary of \$400,000 with an annual cash bonus targeted at 30% of Mr. Asadorian's base salary. As of the date of this proxy statement, Mr. Asadorian's annual base salary is \$488,668 and Mr. Asadorian is eligible for an annual target bonus of up to 40% of his annual base salary.

Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D.

In December 2010, we entered into an offer letter agreement with Dr. Palmer, which provided for an initial annual base salary of \$375,000. As of the date of this proxy statement, Dr. Palmer's annual base salary is \$542,252 and Dr. Palmer is eligible for an annual target bonus of up to 40% of her annual base salary.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2022

The following table presents information regarding outstanding equity awards held by our named executive officers as of December 31, 2022.

Name	Vesting Commencement Date	Option Awards(1)				Stock Awards(2)	
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested
Vincent J. Angotti	2/11/2022					19,500	\$ 44,070
	2/11/2022		38,999	\$ 8.03	2/11/2032		
	3/3/2021					6,667	15,067
	3/3/2021		49,998	37.60	3/3/2031		
	2/6/2020					3,334	7,535
	2/6/2020	14,166	5,833	34.40	2/6/2030		
	2/11/2019	19,166	833	50.20	2/11/2029		
		9,625		44.50	4/9/2028		
	17,499		40.00	1/22/2028			
	39,999		66.00	3/6/2027			
Raffi Asadorian	2/11/2022					5,875	13,278
	2/11/2022		11,749	8.03	2/11/2032		
	3/3/2021					2,292	5,180
	3/3/2021	3,007	3,868	37.60	3/3/2031		
	3/3/2021		3,435	37.60	3/3/2031		
	2/6/2020					1,146	2,590
	2/6/2020	4,869	2,005	34.40	2/6/2030		
	2/11/2019	6,587	287	50.20	2/11/2029		
		4,056		44.50	4/9/2028		
		7,374		40.00	1/22/2028		
	10,999		60.00	8/16/2027			
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D.	2/11/2022					6,125	13,843
	2/11/2022		12,249	8.03	2/11/2032		
	3/3/2021					2,292	5,180
	3/3/2021	3,007	3,868	37.60	3/3/2031		
	3/3/2021		3,435	37.60	3/3/2031		
	2/6/2020					1,146	2,590
	2/6/2020	4,869	2,005	34.40	2/6/2030		
	2/11/2019	6,587	287	50.20	2/11/2029		
		4,757		44.50	4/9/2028		
		8,649		40.00	1/22/2028		
		6,624		60.00	2/7/2027		
		5,524		68.00	2/10/2026		
		5,499		132.00	12/2/2024		
		4,999		206.80	2/4/2024		
	19,406		106.23	2/5/2023			

-
- (1) With the exception of the performance-based stock options granted on April 9, 2018, and the share price performance-based vesting options granted on March 3, 2021, all stock options vest over 4 years, with 25% of the shares vesting on the one-year anniversary of the vesting commencement date, and 1/48th of the shares vesting monthly thereafter, subject to continuous service. Vesting commencement dates are included for stock options that were not fully vested as of December 31, 2022. The performance-based stock options granted to our named executive officers on April 9, 2018 were exercisable as follows: 50% of the stock option award became vested and exercisable upon our achievement of commercial approval by the FDA of our NDA for DSUVIA on or before February 15, 2019, which FDA approval was received on November 2, 2018; and the remaining 50% of the award vested on the one-year anniversary of the date of such FDA approval, or November 2, 2019, subject to continuous service.
 - (2) The RSUs granted to our named executive officers vest in three equal consecutive annual installments on the first three anniversaries of the vesting commencement date.

Benefits Upon Termination or Change in Control

Vincent J. Angotti

Under our offer letter agreement with Mr. Angotti, in the event that Mr. Angotti's employment is terminated by us without cause (and not due to his death or disability) or he resigns for good reason, referred to as an involuntary termination, then he will be entitled to the following severance benefits:

- a lump sum cash severance payment in an amount equal to twelve months of his then-current base salary, plus 100% of his target annual bonus for the year of termination;
- reimbursement of COBRA premiums for up to twelve months; and
- twelve months' worth of accelerated vesting of his equity awards, and (iv) extended exercisability of vested options for up to twelve months following his termination date. In addition, if Mr. Angotti experiences an involuntary termination within three months prior to or eighteen months following a change in control of AcclRx, then his severance benefits will be increased as follows: (w) the lump sum cash severance payment will instead be an amount equal to twenty-four months of his then-current base salary, plus 200% of his target annual bonus; (x) he will be entitled to payment of any bonus earned but not yet paid for the prior year; (y) the COBRA premium reimbursement period will be for up to twenty-four months; and (z) 100% of all then-unvested equity awards will accelerate as of his termination date. In order to receive any severance benefits, Mr. Angotti must sign a waiver and release of claims in favor of AcclRx.

Severance Benefit Plan. In February 2017, our Board adopted an Amended and Restated Severance Benefit Plan, or the Severance Plan, to create two tiers of severance benefits payable to participating executive officers upon an involuntary termination in connection with a change in control, depending on the executive officer's position with AcclRx as of the change in control transaction. The Severance Plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and is intended to maintain the competitiveness and effectiveness of our total compensation packages. The Severance Plan replaces the prior change of control and severance arrangements contained in the offer letter agreements with Dr. Palmer.

The Severance Plan provides that if an executive officer's employment with us is terminated by us without cause (and not due to death or disability) or the executive officer resigns for good reason (as such terms are defined in the Severance Plan), referred to below as an involuntary termination, the executive officer will receive (i) a lump sum severance payment equal to 6 months of the monthly base salary the executive officer was receiving immediately prior to such termination date; and (ii) up to 6 months of reimbursement for premiums paid for COBRA coverage for the executive officer and his or her eligible dependents. In addition, the Severance Plan provides for the following enhanced severance benefits if an executive officer's involuntary termination occurs within 3 months prior to or within 18 months after a change in control (as such term is defined in the Severance Plan) of AcclRx:

Severance Benefit	C-level officers *	VP, SVP or EVP
Base Salary:	12 months	6 months
Target Bonus:	100% of target bonus opportunity	Greater of 50% of target bonus opportunity, or a prorated amount of target bonus opportunity through termination date
Reimbursement of COBRA Premiums:	Up to 12 months	Up to 6 months
Vesting Acceleration:	100% vesting and exercisability of all outstanding unvested equity awards subject to time-based vesting	Same as for C-level executive officers
Extended exercisability of stock options:	Until 6 months after termination date (or earlier expiration date of the award)	Same as for C-level executive officers

* Executive officer must elect to participate in the Severance Plan in lieu of any separate benefits in their employment offer letters

The Severance Plan also provides that in the event that an outstanding unvested time-based vesting equity award does not become an assumed award in connection with a change in control, each such outstanding equity award will become 100% vested and exercisable immediately prior to the effective date of the change in control. All severance benefits payable under the Severance Plan are subject to the execution of a waiver and release of claims in favor of AcclRx.

Mr. Angotti's offer letter and the Severance Plan also contain a "better after-tax" provision, which provides that if any of the payments to the executive constitutes a parachute payment under Section 280G of the Code, the payments will either be (i) reduced or (ii) provided in full to the executive, whichever results in the executive receiving the greater amount after taking into consideration the payment of all taxes, including the excise tax under Section 4999 of the Code, in each case based upon the highest marginal rate for the applicable tax.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Outstanding Equity Awards Table

Base Salary

As a general matter, we pay our named executive officers a base salary to provide them a stable source of income for the work that they perform during the year. The Compensation Committee generally seeks to set executive salaries at or near the 50th percentile of our peer group. Base salaries are initially established through negotiation at the time the executive is hired, taking into account his or her qualifications, experience, and competitive market salary information for similar positions in our industry. Thereafter, the Compensation Committee reviews the base salaries of our executive officers annually and adjustments, if any, are made based on our company's performance and available budget, the performance of each executive officer against his individual job and responsibilities, competitive market conditions for executive compensation for similar positions, as well as increases in the cost of living. As a result of these factors, actual executive salaries may be higher than the 50th percentile of our peer group.

In January and February 2022, our Compensation Committee reviewed base salary levels for our named executive officers against salaries for similar positions from our peer group of companies. In connection with this review, our Compensation Committee (and Board in the case of our Chief Executive Officer) decided to limit increases to the base salaries of our named executive officers in 2022 to approximately 3% merit increases, with the exception of our Chief Executive Officer's salary which did not increase. Accordingly, the table below shows the increases in annual base salaries for our named executive officers between fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2022.

Name	2021 Annual Base Salary	2022 Annual Base Salary	Percentage Increase to Annual Base Salary
Vincent Angotti	\$ 636,540	\$ 636,540	-
Raffi Asadorian	460,616	474,435	3%
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph. D.	511,124	526,458	3%

Annual Incentive Bonuses

Our annual Cash Bonus Plan is designed to provide an incentive to our executive officers and other employees to achieve our short-term corporate performance objectives, and to reward them when these objectives are achieved, while also taking into account the level of individual contribution. Under the annual Cash Bonus Plan, target bonus levels are assigned based on various categories of employees, with our executive employees having higher bonus opportunities, but also more pay at risk in the event our performance objectives are not achieved. Each year, the Compensation Committee and Board review a detailed set of overall corporate performance goals for the current year for use under our annual bonus plan. These performance objectives are initially prepared by management, reviewed (and revised, if determined appropriate) by the Compensation Committee, and then presented to the full Board for approval. Goals under the annual incentive bonuses are set based on our overall performance objectives, as well as the objectives for performance within each executive's functional area, including his or her relative individual contributions, while taking into account competitive market information.

Whether or not a bonus is paid for any year and the actual amount of a bonus awarded in any year is within the discretion of our Board. The actual amount of a bonus awarded in any year may be more or less than the target amount, depending on the Board of Directors' assessment as to whether and to what extent we have achieved our pre-specified corporate objectives, and whether and to what extent an individual has achieved his or her pre-specified individual objectives.

The Compensation Committee (and Board in the case of our Chief Executive Officer) set target bonus percentages at or near the 50th percentile of our peer group. For 2022, the target bonus percentage was 60% of annual base salary for our Chief Executive Officer, 40% of annual base salary for our Chief Medical Officer, and 40% of annual base salary for our Chief Financial Officer, which are the same bonus target percentages that were in effect for 2021. The weighting of the corporate performance and individual performance goals for the executives was not changed. Since our Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the overall performance of the Company, his 2022 annual bonus was based solely on our overall performance in achieving corporate goals. For our other named executive officers, the cash bonus was weighted 60% on achievement of the Company's 2022 corporate objectives and 40% on achieving his or her individual performance goals, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Compensation Committee.

When approving the Company's corporate performance objectives for a year, the Compensation Committee determines the Company's achievement against the pre-established weightings to the objectives. In making its assessment, the Compensation Committee considers the degree of success achieved for each corporate goal, comparing actual results against the pre-determined deliverables associated with each objective. In order to establish our achievement of those objectives following its review of our performance for the year, the Compensation Committee first determines the percent achievement level for each objective, and then adds the percentages achieved for all the objectives. For example, if four objectives are established with equal weightings of 25% each and the Compensation Committee determines that objective 1 was achieved at 25%, objective 2 was not achieved, objective 3 was achieved at 100%, and objective 4 was achieved at 75%, then our achievement of our corporate performance objectives for the year would be 50%, which is the sum of 6.25% from objective 1, 0% from objective 2, 25% from objective 3 and 18.75% from objective 4. Once our performance objectives for a year are established, the Compensation Committee only revisits them if needed to address extraordinary circumstances.

Our 2022 corporate performance objectives, as recommended by our Compensation Committee and approved by our Board, were as follows:

- Achieve commercial objectives for DSUVIA relating to net sales and the manufacture and supply of DSUVIA;
- Successful execution of DSUVIA REMS Program;
- Advance product development portfolio in accordance with plan; and
- Maintain adequate capitalization to achieve corporate objectives.

In January and February 2023, the Compensation Committee reviewed our performance against our 2022 goals. Due to our net sales of DSUVIA, execution of the DSUVIA REMS program, advancement of our product portfolio and maintenance of adequate capitalization, the Compensation Committee determined that we had achieved 67.5% of our 2022 corporate objectives, which was then presented and confirmed by the Board in February 2023.

Also in February 2023, the Board confirmed that Mr. Asadorian achieved an individual performance level of 97.5%, and Dr. Palmer achieved an individual performance level of 90%, against their individual performance goals for 2022. In making these determinations, the Board considered the following:

- In evaluating Mr. Asadorian’s performance, the Compensation Committee considered his attainment of certain defined individual objectives. In particular, in 2022 Mr. Asadorian achieved our 2022 cash flow plan, including the closing of a financing and implementation of successful cost reduction initiatives; ensured continued SEC and Nasdaq compliance; closed the Lowell acquisition and supported integration and business efforts to advance our product development portfolio as planned; and managed our business development process to divest our DSUVIA product.
- In evaluating Dr. Palmer’s performance, the Compensation Committee considered her attainment of certain defined individual objectives. In particular, in 2022 Dr. Palmer oversaw the review and approval of investigator-initiated trial grants as Chairperson of our Grants and External Financing Committee; oversaw the advancement of our product development portfolio, including preparations for the NDA submission for our ephedrine pre-filled syringe product candidate, Fedsyra™; planned and executed an investor relations conference with key opinion leaders and quantitative research for use in the planned EUA for Niyad™; oversaw the DSUVIA REMS program, which achieved 100% compliance and included simplification and streamlining compliance for the REMS program; and oversaw close out of the FDA warning letter.

In February 2023, pursuant to the 2022 Bonus Plan, the Compensation Committee awarded (and, in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, based on the recommendations of the Compensation Committee, the Board awarded) cash bonuses to our executives based on the confirmed attainment level of the 2022 corporate objectives and the confirmed attainment level of their respective individual performance goals for 2022. All bonus amounts were paid in the first quarter of 2023.

The table below provides the target bonus for each named executive officer, the level of performance achieved against the goals, and the amount of the actual bonus paid:

Name	2022 Target Bonus as a Percentage of Annual Base Salary	2022 Target Bonus	Level of Achievement of Corporate Goals	Level of Achievement of Individual Goals	Level of Achievement of Blended Goals	2022 Actual Bonus Paid
Vincent Angotti	60%	\$ 381,924	67.5%	N/A	67.5%	\$ 257,799
Raffi Asadorian	40%	189,774	67.5%	97.5%	79.5%	150,870
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph. D.	40%	210,583	67.5%	90%	76.5%	161,096

Equity Compensation

Equity incentives represent the largest at-risk element of our executive compensation program. Our equity incentives are designed to align the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders by creating an incentive for our executive officers to maximize stockholder value and to remain employed with us despite a competitive labor market. In general, equity awards are granted once annually to existing employees, including our executive officers, and upon a new hire or promotion, and are subject to vesting over time, based on the individual’s continued employment. Typically, equity awards are granted to our existing executive officers at the beginning of each fiscal year, and these annual equity awards consist of stock options and RSUs. Sometimes such annual equity awards are made at the end of a fiscal year.

The equity grant value for equity awards is split roughly equally between stock options and RSUs, with the number of RSUs equal to 50% of the number of stock options. Stock options shall vest as follows: one-fourth (1/4) shall vest on the one-year anniversary of the grant date, and then 1/48th of the shares shall vest on each of the 36 months thereafter, in all cases subject to the employee’s continuous service. The RSUs shall vest over three years: one-third (1/3) on each anniversary of the grant date, in all cases subject to the employee’s continuous service.

In making equity grants (or recommendations to our Board in the case of our Chief Executive Officer), our Compensation Committee refers to guidelines regarding the size of long-term equity incentives to award to our named executive officers that we have developed based on an executive’s position, which in turn were developed based on data from our peer group. Our Compensation Committee and Board also consider the role and responsibilities of the named executive officers, competitive factors, the non-equity compensation received by the named executive officers in current and previous years, as well as the total available pool of equity to be granted in the current fiscal year and each executive’s current equity ownership in the Company and the extent to which outstanding awards are fully vested. After reviewing all of these factors, the Compensation Committee awarded (based on the Board’s approval of the Compensation Committee’s recommendations to our Board with respect to our Chief Executive Officer), the annual equity grants to Mr. Angotti, Mr. Asadorian, and Dr. Palmer were made in February 2022, which awards were set to be at or near the 75th percentile on a percent of company basis (i.e., the number of shares granted as a percent of total shares outstanding). Our compensation philosophy is to grant at the 50th percentile on a blended long-term incentive value and percent of company basis. However, given the company’s stock price and the resulting share usage the philosophy would have required we focused instead on a percent of company approach for 2022 which resulted in the value of the awards, as reported in the Summary Compensation Table, being well below the 25th percentile of the peer group.

Pay Versus Performance Table

As required by Section 953(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K, we are providing the following information about the relationship between executive compensation actually paid and certain financial performance of AcelRx. This disclosure is intended to comply with the requirements of Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K applicable to “smaller reporting companies.” For further information concerning our compensation philosophy and how we seek to align executive compensation with our performance, refer to “Executive Compensation—Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Outstanding Equity Awards Table.”

Year ⁽¹⁾	Summary Compensation Table Total for PEO ⁽²⁾	Compensation Actually Paid to PEO ⁽³⁾	Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs ⁽⁴⁾	Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs ⁽⁵⁾	Value of Initial Fixed \$100 Investment Based on Total Stockholder Return ⁽⁶⁾	Net Income (Loss) (thousands) ⁽⁷⁾
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
2022	\$ 1,297,016	\$ 692,475	\$ 788,772	\$ 595,505	\$ 9.11	\$ 47,755
2021	2,447,954	1,167,102	1,054,059	749,229	45.18	(35,099)

- (1) For each of the two years presented in the above table, Mr. Angotti was our Principal Executive Officer, or PEO, and our Non-PEO Named Executive Officers, or the Non-PEO NEOs, were Mr. Asadorian and Dr. Palmer.
- (2) See the Summary Compensation Table above for detail on the Summary Compensation Table total compensation for our PEO for each fiscal year covered in the table. The average compensation for the Non-PEO NEOs for 2022 was calculated using the Summary Compensation Table above. The average compensation for the Non-PEO NEOs for 2021 was calculated using the Summary Compensation Table as disclosed in our proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in calendar year 2022.
- (3) For purposes of this table, the compensation actually paid, or Compensation Actually Paid, or CAP, has been computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act and do not reflect the actual amount of compensation earned by or paid to the NEOs during the applicable year. These amounts reflect total compensation as reflected in the above Summary Compensation Table for the applicable year less the grant date fair values of stock option awards included in the “Option Awards” column of the Summary Compensation Table for the NEO for the applicable year, and adjusted as follows for each stock option award granted to each NEO:

Year	Reported Summary Compensation Table Total for PEO	Reported Value of Equity Awards ^(a)	Equity Award Adjustments ^(b)	Compensation Actually Paid to PEO
2022	\$ 1,297,016	\$ (390,477)	\$ (214,064)	\$ 692,475
2021	2,447,954	(1,532,667)	251,815	1,167,102

- (a) The grant date fair value of equity awards represents the total of the amounts reported in the “Stock Awards” and “Option Awards” columns in the Summary Compensation Table for the applicable year.

- (b) The equity award adjustments for each applicable year include the addition (or subtraction, as applicable) of the following: (i) the year-end fair value of any equity awards granted in the applicable year that are outstanding and unvested as of the end of the year; (ii) the amount of change as of the end of the applicable year (from the end of the prior fiscal year) in fair value of any awards granted in prior years that are outstanding and unvested as of the end of the applicable year; (iii) for awards that are granted and vest in same applicable year, the fair value as of the vesting date; (iv) for awards granted in prior years that vest in the applicable year, the amount equal to the change as of the vesting date (from the end of the prior fiscal year) in fair value; (v) for awards granted in prior years that are determined to fail to meet the applicable vesting conditions during the applicable year, a deduction for the amount equal to the fair value at the end of the prior fiscal year; and (vi) the dollar value of any dividends or other earnings paid on stock or option awards in the applicable year prior to the vesting date that are not otherwise reflected in the fair value of such award or included in any other component of total compensation for the applicable year. The valuation assumptions used to calculate fair values did not materially differ from those disclosed at the time of grant. The amounts deducted or added in calculating the equity award adjustments are as follows:

Year	Year End Fair Value of Outstanding and Unvested Equity Awards granted in the Year	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Outstanding and Unvested Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years	Fair Value as of Vesting Date of Equity Awards Granted and Vested in the Year	Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years that Vested in the Year	Fair Value at the End of the Prior Year of Equity Awards that Failed to Meet Vesting Conditions in the Year	Total Equity Award Adjustments
2022	\$ 91,372	\$ (247,985)	\$ —	\$ (57,451)	\$ —	\$ (214,064)
2021	247,955	(296,935)	—	300,795	—	251,815

- (4) The dollar amounts reported in column (d) represent the average of the amounts reported for our NEOs as a group (excluding Mr. Angotti, who has served as our CEO since 2017) in the “Total” column of the Summary Compensation Table in each applicable year. Mr. Asadorian and Dr. Palmer were our NEOs (excluding Mr. Angotti) included for purposes of calculating the average amounts in each applicable year.
- (5) The dollar amounts reported in column (e) represent the average amount of Compensation Actually Paid to our Non-PEO NEOs as a group, as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. The dollar amounts do not reflect the actual average amount of compensation earned by or paid to the non-PEO NEOs as a group during the applicable year. The following adjustments were made to average total compensation for the Non-PEO NEOs as a group for each year to determine the compensation actually paid, using the same methodology described above in Note 3:

Year	Average Reported Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs	Average Reported Value of Equity Awards	Average Equity Award Adjustments ^(a)	Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs
2022	\$ 788,772	\$ (120,143)	\$ (73,124)	\$ 595,505
2021	1,054,059	(401,512)	96,682	749,229

- (a) The amounts deducted or added in calculating the total average equity award adjustments are as follows:

Year	Average Year End Fair Value of Outstanding and Unvested Equity Awards granted in the Year	Average Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Outstanding and Unvested Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years	Average Fair Value as of Vesting Date of Equity Awards Granted And Vested in the Year	Average Year over Year Change in Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted in Prior Years that Vested in the Year	Average Fair Value at the End of the Prior Year of Equity Awards that Failed to Meet Vesting Conditions in the Year	Average Total Equity Award Adjustments
2022	\$ 29,686	\$ (69,895)	\$ —	\$ (32,915)	\$ —	\$ (73,124)
2021	87,609	(97,632)	—	106,705	—	96,682

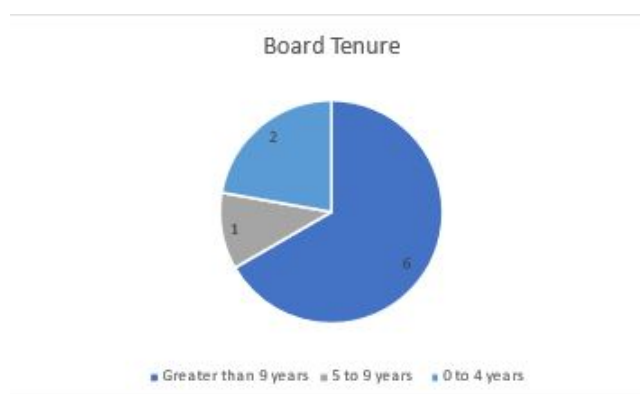
- (6) Total Stockholder Return represents the return on a fixed investment of \$100 in AcclRx common stock for the period beginning on the last trading day of 2020 through the last trading day of the applicable fiscal year.
- (7) The dollar amounts reported represent the amount of net income (loss) reflected in the Company's audited financial statements for the applicable year.

Analysis of the Information Presented in the Pay versus Performance Table

In accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K, we are providing the following descriptions of the relationships between information presented in the Pay Versus Performance table above.

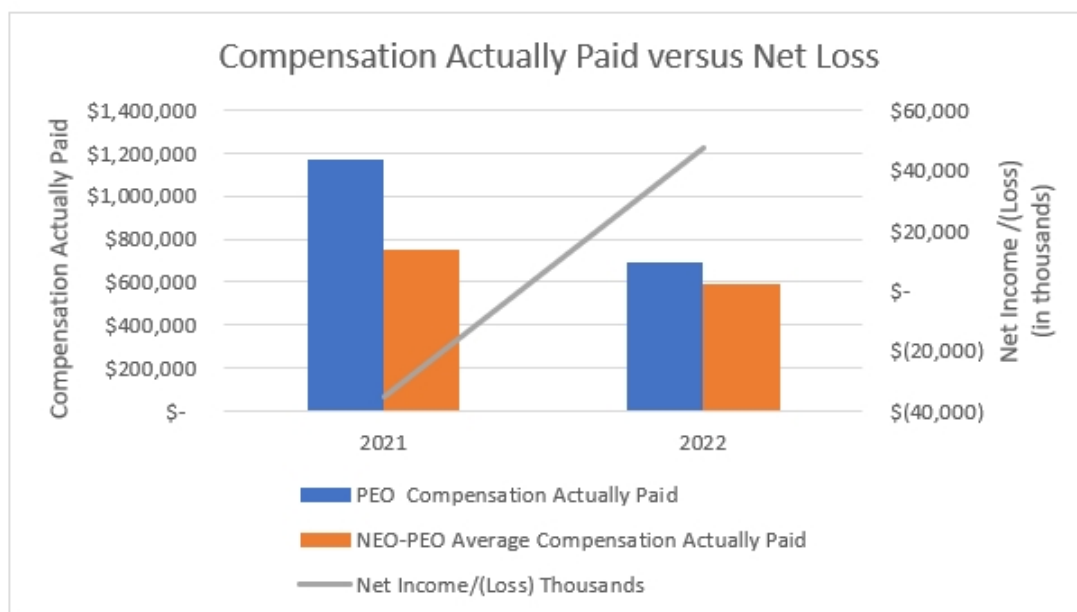
Compensation Actually Paid and Cumulative Total Stockholder Return

The following graph sets forth the relationship between Compensation Actually Paid to our CEO, the average of Compensation Actually Paid to our Non-CEO NEOs, and our cumulative TSR over the two most recently completed fiscal years. Compensation Actually Paid to our CEO, the average of Compensation Actually Paid to our Non-CEO NEOs decreased from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2022. Over the same two fiscal year period, our cumulative Total Stockholder Return also decreased, reflecting relative alignment between our CAP and cumulative Total Stockholder Return. This relative alignment was a result of our equity compensation program, which aims to align executive compensation with the interests of our stockholders (i.e., stock price) through regular equity grants.



Compensation Actually Paid Versus Net Income (Loss)

The following graph sets forth the relationship between Compensation Actually Paid to our PEO, the average of Compensation Actually Paid to our Non-PEO NEOs, and our net income (loss) over the two most recently completed fiscal years. Due to the gain on extinguishment of the liability related to the sale of future royalties of \$84.1 million, we recorded net income of \$47.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to a net loss of \$35.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2021.



All information provided above under the “Pay Versus Performance” heading will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing of AcelRx under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF
CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of August 14, 2023 by:

- all those known by us to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock;
- each director and nominee for director;
- each named executive officer; and
- all of our current executive officers and directors as a group.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Beneficial Ownership⁽¹⁾	
	Number of Shares	% of Total
Stockholders Owning Greater than 5%:		
Armistice Capital, LLC ⁽²⁾	11,536,311	43.8%
Investor Company ITF Rosalind Master Fund L.P. ⁽³⁾	4,468,584	22.4
Blackwell Partners LLC – Series A ⁽⁴⁾	4,225,136	21.5
District 2 Capital Fund LP ⁽⁵⁾	1,654,413	9.5
NCP RFM LP ⁽⁶⁾	1,334,938	7.7
Lind Global Fund II LP ⁽⁷⁾	1,102,944	6.5
Intracoastal Capital LLC ⁽⁸⁾	1,058,092	6.2
Directors and Named Executive Officers:		
Adrian Adams ⁽⁹⁾	18,762	*
Richard Afable, M.D. ⁽¹⁰⁾	10,062	*
Vincent J. Angotti ⁽¹¹⁾	157,674	1.0
Marina Bozilenko ⁽¹²⁾	5,573	*
Jill Broadfoot ⁽¹³⁾	3,490	*
Stephen J. Hoffman, M.D., Ph.D. ⁽¹⁴⁾	10,012	*
Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. ⁽¹⁵⁾	95,124	*
Howard B. Rosen ⁽¹⁶⁾	81,685	*
Mark Wan ⁽¹⁷⁾	10,012	*
Raffi Asadorian ⁽¹⁸⁾	56,081	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (11 persons) ⁽¹⁹⁾	498,040	3.0

* Less than 1%.

- (1) This table is based upon information supplied by officers, directors and principal stockholders. Unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes to this table and subject to community property laws where applicable, we believe that each of the stockholders named in this table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned. Applicable percentages are based on 16,340,118 shares outstanding on August 14, 2023, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the SEC. The number of shares beneficially owned includes shares of common stock issuable pursuant to the exercise of stock options and warrants that are exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023, as well as restricted stock units vesting within 60 days of August 14, 2023. Shares issuable pursuant to the exercise of stock options and warrants, and restricted stock units vesting within 60 days of August 14, 2023, are deemed to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person to whom such shares are issuable for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of that person, but they are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.
- (2) Includes (i) 1,551,610 shares of common stock, (ii) 595,883 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of pre-funded warrants, (iii) 2,205,883 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants, (iv) 2,205,883 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants, and (v) 4,977,052 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of common stock warrants. The securities are directly held by Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted company (the “Master Fund”), and may be deemed to be beneficially owned by: (i) Armistice Capital, LLC (“Armistice Capital”), as the investment manager of the Master Fund; and (ii) Steven Boyd, as the Managing Member of Armistice Capital. The pre-funded warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 9.99% and the warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 4.99%, which such limitations restrict the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the pre-funded warrants or warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd. is c/o Armistice Capital, LLC 510 Madison Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

- (3) Includes (i) 861,814 shares of common stock, (ii) 665,590 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of pre-funded warrants, (iii) 1,470,590 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iv) 1,470,590 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. The pre-funded warrants and warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 4.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the pre-funded warrants or warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of Investor Company ITF Rosalind Master Fund L.P. is C/O TDWaterhouse, 77 Bloor St W 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1M2.
- (4) Includes (i) 874,266 shares of common stock, (ii) 570,378 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of pre-funded warrants, (iii) 1,390,246 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iv) 1,390,246 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. Nantahala Capital Management, LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser and has been delegated the legal power to vote and/or direct the disposition of such securities on behalf of the selling stockholder as a General Partner, Investment Manager, or Sub-Advisor and would be considered the beneficial owner of such securities. The above shall not be deemed to be an admission by the record owners or the selling stockholder that they are themselves beneficial owners of these securities for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or any other purpose. Wilmot Harkey and Daniel Mack are managing members of Nantahala Capital Management, LLC and may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the shares held by the selling stockholder. The pre-funded warrants and warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 9.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the pre-funded warrants or warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of Blackwell Partners LLC – Series A is c/o Nantahala Capital Management, LLC, 130 Main St. 2nd Floor, New Canaan, CT 06840.
- (5) Includes (i) 551,471 shares of common stock, (ii) 551,471 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iii) 551,471 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. Michael Bigger is the Managing Member of District 2 GP LLC, which is the General Partner of District 2 Capital Fund LP, and in such capacity has the right to vote and dispose of the securities held by such entity. The warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 4.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of District 2 Capital Fund LP is 14 Wall Street, Huntington, NY, 11743.
- (6) Includes (i) 274,503 shares of common stock, (ii) 180,505 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of pre-funded warrants, (iii) 439,965 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iv) 439,965 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. Nantahala Capital Management, LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser and has been delegated the legal power to vote and/or direct the disposition of such securities on behalf of the selling stockholder as a General Partner, Investment Manager, or Sub-Advisor and would be considered the beneficial owner of such securities. The above shall not be deemed to be an admission by the record owners or the selling stockholder that they are themselves beneficial owners of these securities for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or any other purpose. Wilmot Harkey and Daniel Mack are managing members of Nantahala Capital Management, LLC and may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the shares held by the selling stockholder. The pre-funded warrants and warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 9.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the pre-funded warrants or warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of NCP RFM LP is 130 Main St. 2nd Floor, New Canaan, CT 06840.
- (7) Includes (i) 367,648 shares of common stock, (ii) 367,648 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iii) 367,648 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. Jeff Easton is the Managing Member of The Lind Partners, LLC, which is the Investment Manager of Lind Global Fund II LP, and in such capacity has the right to vote and dispose of the securities held by such entity. The warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 9.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of Lind Global Fund II LP is 444 Madison Ave, 41st Floor New York, NY 10022.
- (8) Includes (i) 322,796 shares of common stock, (ii) 367,648 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series A common stock warrants and (iii) 367,648 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of Series B common stock warrants. Mitchell P. Kopin (“Mr. Kopin”) and Daniel B. Asher (“Mr. Asher”), each of whom are managers of Intracoastal Capital LLC (“Intracoastal”), have shared voting control and investment discretion over the securities reported herein that are held by Intracoastal. As a result, each of Mr. Kopin and Mr. Asher may be deemed to have beneficial ownership (as determined under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, of the securities reported herein that are held by Intracoastal. The warrants are subject to a beneficial ownership limitation of 4.99%, which such limitation restricts the selling stockholder from exercising that portion of the warrants that would result in the selling stockholder and its affiliates owning, after exercise, a number of shares of common stock in excess of the beneficial ownership limitation. The address of Intracoastal Capital LLC is 245 Palm Trail, Delray Beach FL, 33483.
- (9) Includes 8,175 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (10) Includes 8,175 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (11) Includes 121,704 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (12) Includes 3,799 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (13) Includes 2,466 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.

- (14) Includes 8,175 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (15) Includes 58,770 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (16) Includes 76,973 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (17) Includes 8,175 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (18) Includes 44,938 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.
- (19) Includes 381,104 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 14, 2023.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides certain information with respect to our equity compensation plans in effect as of December 31, 2022.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights(1) (A)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights(2) (B)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column A)(3) (C)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	808,401	\$ 52.98	554,703
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	808,401	\$ 52.98	554,703

- (1) Consists of the: (i) 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended, (ii) Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan, and (iii) Amended and Restated 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or the ESPP. Number of securities includes: (i) 725,623 options with a weighted-average remaining life of 5.3 years and (ii) 82,778 shares of common stock to be issued following the vesting of RSUs for which no exercise price will be paid. Under the ESPP, participants are permitted to purchase our common stock at a discount on certain dates through payroll deductions within a pre-determined purchase period. Accordingly, the number of shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding rights under the ESPP as of December 31, 2022 is not determinable.
- (2) The calculation of weighted average exercise price includes only outstanding stock options.
- (3) As of December 31, 2022, (i) no shares of common stock available for future issuance under the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, (ii) 342,827 shares of common stock were available for future issuance under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan and (iii) 211,876 shares of common stock were available for future issuance under the ESPP. On February 28, 2023, 26,016 shares were purchased under the ESPP and as of August 14, 2023, up to a maximum of 20,000 shares may be purchased in the current purchase period.

RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS

Policy and Procedures for Review of Related Party Transactions

Our Audit Committee charter provides that the Audit Committee will review and oversee all related party transactions. This review will cover any material transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships, in which we were or are to be a participant, and a related party had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, including, purchases of goods or services by or from the related party or entities in which the related party has a material interest, indebtedness, guarantees of indebtedness and employment by us of a related party.

Our related party transactions policy sets forth the procedures for the identification, review, consideration and approval or ratification of transactions involving AcelRx and our related persons. The policy is designed to prevent transactions between us and any of our related persons that may interfere with the performance of our employees' and directors' duties to AcelRx or deprive us of a business opportunity. Any such transactions with related persons may present actual or potential conflicts of interests. However, we recognize that whether or not a conflict exists is often unclear and, in many circumstances, transactions with related persons may, on balance, be beneficial to us and our stockholders.

Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

There has not been since January 1, 2021, nor is there currently proposed, any transaction or series of similar transactions to which we were or are to be a party in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and in which any current director, executive officer, holder of more than 5% of our common stock or any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons had or will have a direct or indirect material interest other than compensation arrangements, described under the sections titled "Executive Compensation" and "Director Compensation," and indemnification agreements described below.

Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and officers. These agreements provide for the indemnification of such persons for all reasonable expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any action or proceeding brought against them by reason of the fact that they are or were serving in such capacity. We believe that these indemnification agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified persons as directors and officers. Furthermore, we have obtained director and officer liability insurance to cover liabilities our directors and officers may incur in connection with their services to us.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

To be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by April 29, 2024 to AcetRx's Secretary at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404. If you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year's proxy materials or nominate a director, you must provide specified information to AcetRx's Secretary at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404 between June 11, 2024 and July 11, 2024, unless the date of our 2024 annual meeting of stockholders is before September 10, 2024 or after November 9, 2024, in which case such proposals shall be submitted no earlier than 120 days prior to the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders and no later than the later of (i) 90 days before the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders or (ii) ten days after notice of the date of the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders is publicly given. If you wish to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than our board's nominees, you must provide in your notice the additional information required by Rule 14a-19 under the Exchange Act no later than August 10, 2024. You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain additional requirements regarding advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (e.g., brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or other Annual Meeting materials with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single set of Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or other Annual Meeting materials addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are AcetRx stockholders will be "householding" our proxy materials. A single set of Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials will be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be "householding" communications to your address, "householding" will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in "householding" and would prefer to receive a separate set of Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, please notify your broker or AcetRx. Direct your written request to Secretary, AcetRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404, or call our principal office at (650) 216-3500. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials at their addresses and would like to request "householding" of their communications should contact their brokers.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Adrian Adams

Adrian Adams

Chairman

August 28, 2023

A copy of AcelRx Pharmaceutical's Annual Report to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022, as amended, is available without charge upon written request to: Corporate Secretary, AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1850 Gateway Drive, Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94404.

AMENDED AND RESTATED 2020 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

ACELRx PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED 2020 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: APRIL 16, 2020

ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE STOCKHOLDERS: JUNE 16, 2020

AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: APRIL 20, 2021

AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT APPROVED BY THE STOCKHOLDERS: JUNE 17, 2021

AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: AUGUST 23, 2023

AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT APPROVED BY THE STOCKHOLDERS: OCTOBER , 2023

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1. GENERAL.

(a) Successor to and Continuation of Prior Plan. The Plan is the successor to and continuation of the Prior Plan. As of the Effective Date, (i) no additional awards may be granted under the Prior Plan; (ii) any Returning Shares will become available for issuance pursuant to Awards granted under this Plan; and (iii) all outstanding awards granted under the Prior Plan will remain subject to the terms of the Prior Plan (except to the extent such outstanding awards result in Returning Shares that become available for issuance pursuant to Awards granted under this Plan). All Awards granted under this Plan will be subject to the terms of this Plan.

(b) Plan Purpose. The Company, by means of the Plan, seeks to secure and retain the services of Employees, Directors and Consultants, to provide incentives for such persons to exert maximum efforts for the success of the Company and any Affiliate and to provide a means by which such persons may be given an opportunity to benefit from increases in value of the Common Stock through the granting of Awards.

(c) Available Awards. The Plan provides for the grant of the following Awards: (i) Incentive Stock Options; (ii) Nonstatutory Stock Options; (iii) SARs; (iv) Restricted Stock Awards; (v) RSU Awards; (vi) Performance Awards; and (vii) Other Awards.

(d) Adoption Date. The Plan will come into existence on the Adoption Date. No Award may be granted under the Plan prior to the Adoption Date. Any Award granted prior to the Effective Date is contingent upon timely receipt of stockholder approval to the extent required under applicable tax, securities and regulatory rules, and satisfaction of any other compliance requirements.

2. SHARES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN.

Share Reserve. Subject to adjustment in accordance with Section 2(c) and any adjustments as necessary to implement any Capitalization Adjustments, the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued pursuant to Awards will not exceed 1,990,000 shares plus the applicable number of any Returning Shares. The share reserve will be increased by the number of Returning Shares, if any, as such shares become available from time to time, for an additional number of shares not to exceed 744,608 shares.

(a) Aggregate Incentive Stock Option Limit. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 2(a) and subject to any adjustments as necessary to implement any Capitalization Adjustments, the aggregate maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of Incentive Stock Options is 5,000,000 shares.

(b) Share Reserve Operation.

(i) Limit Applies to Common Stock Issued Pursuant to Awards. For clarity, the Share Reserve is a limit on the number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued pursuant to Awards and does not limit the granting of Awards, except that the Company will keep available at all times the number of shares of Common Stock reasonably required to satisfy its obligations to issue shares pursuant to such Awards. Shares may be issued in connection with a merger or acquisition as permitted by, as applicable, Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c), NYSE Listed Company Manual Section 303A.08, NYSE American Company Guide Section 711 or other applicable rule, and such issuance will not reduce the number of shares available for issuance under the Plan.

(ii) Actions that Do Not Constitute Issuance of Common Stock and Do Not Reduce Share Reserve. The following actions do not result in an issuance of shares under the Plan and accordingly do not reduce the number of shares subject to the Share Reserve and available for issuance under the Plan: (1) the expiration or termination of any portion of an Award without the shares covered by such portion of the Award having been issued, or (2) the settlement of any portion of an Award in cash (*i.e.*, the Participant receives cash rather than Common Stock).

(iii) Reversion of Previously Issued Shares of Common Stock to Share Reserve. Shares of Common Stock previously issued pursuant to an Award and accordingly initially deducted from the Share Reserve that are forfeited back to or repurchased by the Company because of a failure to meet a contingency or condition required for the vesting of such shares will be added back to the Share Reserve and again become available for issuance under the Plan.

(iv) Shares Not Available For Subsequent Issuance. Any shares that (i) are reacquired by the Company to satisfy the exercise, strike or purchase price of an Award, (ii) are reacquired by the Company to satisfy a tax withholding obligation in connection with an Award, or (iii) are repurchased by the Company on the open market with the proceeds of the exercise or purchase price of an Award, or (iv) are from a Stock Appreciation Right that is settled in shares, will not again become available for issuance under the Plan.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATIONS.

(a) Eligible Award Recipients. Subject to the terms of the Plan, Employees, Directors and Consultants are eligible to receive Awards.

(b) Specific Award Limitations.

(i) Limitations on Incentive Stock Option Recipients. Incentive Stock Options may be granted only to Employees of the Company or a “parent corporation” or “subsidiary corporation” thereof (as such terms are defined in Sections 424(e) and (f) of the Code).

(ii) Incentive Stock Option \$100,000 Limitation. To the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined at the time of grant) of Common Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time by any Optionholder during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and any Affiliates) exceeds \$100,000 (or such other limit established in the Code) or otherwise does not comply with the rules governing Incentive Stock Options, the Options or portions thereof that exceed such limit (according to the order in which they were granted) or otherwise do not comply with such rules will be treated as Nonstatutory Stock Options, notwithstanding any contrary provision of the applicable Option Agreement(s).

(iii) Limitations on Incentive Stock Options Granted to Ten Percent Stockholders. A Ten Percent Stockholder may not be granted an Incentive Stock Option unless (i) the exercise price of such Option is at least 110% of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant of such Option and (ii) the Option is not exercisable after the expiration of five years from the date of grant of such Option.

(iv) Limitations on Nonstatutory Stock Options and SARs. Nonstatutory Stock Options and SARs may not be granted to Employees, Directors and Consultants who are providing Continuous Service only to any “parent” of the Company (as such term is defined in Rule 405) unless the stock underlying such Awards is treated as “service recipient stock” under Section 409A because the Awards are granted pursuant to a corporate transaction (such as a spin off transaction) or unless such Awards otherwise comply with the distribution requirements of Section 409A.

(c) Aggregate Incentive Stock Option Limit. The aggregate maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of Incentive Stock Options is the number of shares specified in Section 2(b).

(d) Non-Employee Director Compensation Limit. The aggregate value of all compensation granted or paid, as applicable, to any individual for service as a Non-Employee Director with respect to any period commencing on the date of the Company’s Annual Meeting of Stockholders for a particular year and ending on the day immediately prior to the date of the Company’s Annual Meeting of Stockholders for the next subsequent year, including Awards granted and cash fees paid by the Company to such Non-Employee Director, will not exceed (i) \$500,000 in total value or (ii) in the event such Non-Employee Director is first appointed or elected to the Board during such annual period, \$750,000 in total value, in each case calculating the value of any equity awards based on the grant date fair value of such equity awards for financial reporting purposes.

4. OPTIONS AND STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS.

Each Option and SAR will have such terms and conditions as determined by the Board. Each Option will be designated in writing as an Incentive Stock Option or Nonstatutory Stock Option at the time of grant; provided, however, that if an Option is not so designated, then such Option will be a Nonstatutory Stock Option, and the shares purchased upon exercise of each type of Option will be separately accounted for. Each SAR will be denominated in shares of Common Stock equivalents. The terms and conditions of separate Options and SARs need not be identical; provided, however, that each Option Agreement and SAR Agreement will conform (through incorporation of provisions hereof by reference in the Award Agreement or otherwise) to the substance of each of the following provisions:

(a) Term. Subject to Section 3(b) regarding Ten Percent Stockholders, no Option or SAR will be exercisable after the expiration of ten years from the date of grant of such Award or such shorter period specified in the Award Agreement.

(b) Exercise or Strike Price. Subject to Section 3(b) regarding Ten Percent Stockholders, the exercise or strike price of each Option or SAR will not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant of such Award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Option or SAR may be granted with an exercise or strike price lower than 100% of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant of such Award if such Award is granted pursuant to an assumption of or substitution for another option or stock appreciation right pursuant to a Corporate Transaction and in a manner consistent with the provisions of Sections 409A and, if applicable, 424(a) of the Code.

(c) Exercise Procedure and Payment of Exercise Price for Options. In order to exercise an Option, the Participant must provide notice of exercise to the Plan Administrator in accordance with the procedures specified in the Option Agreement or otherwise provided by the Company. The Board has the authority to grant Options that do not permit all of the following methods of payment (or otherwise restrict the ability to use certain methods) and to grant Options that require the consent of the Company to utilize a particular method of payment. The exercise price of an Option may be paid, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law and as determined by the Board, by one or more of the following methods of payment to the extent set forth in the Option Agreement:

(i) by cash or check, bank draft or money order payable to the Company;

(ii) pursuant to a “cashless exercise” program developed under Regulation T as promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board that, prior to the issuance of the Common Stock subject to the Option, results in either the receipt of cash (or check) by the Company or the receipt of irrevocable instructions to pay the exercise price to the Company from the sales proceeds;

(iii) by delivery to the Company (either by actual delivery or attestation) of shares of Common Stock that are already owned by the Participant free and clear of any liens, claims, encumbrances or security interests, with a Fair Market Value on the date of exercise that does not exceed the exercise price, provided that (1) at the time of exercise the Common Stock is publicly traded, (2) any remaining balance of the exercise price not satisfied by such delivery is paid by the Participant in cash or other permitted form of payment, (3) such delivery would not violate any Applicable Law or agreement restricting the redemption of the Common Stock, (4) any certificated shares are endorsed or accompanied by an executed assignment separate from certificate, and (5) such shares have been held by the Participant for any minimum period necessary to avoid adverse accounting treatment as a result of such delivery;

(iv) if the Option is a Nonstatutory Stock Option, by a “net exercise” arrangement pursuant to which the Company will reduce the number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise by the largest whole number of shares with a Fair Market Value on the date of exercise that does not exceed the exercise price, provided that (1) such shares used to pay the exercise price will not be exercisable thereafter and (2) any remaining balance of the exercise price not satisfied by such net exercise is paid by the Participant in cash or other permitted form of payment; or

(v) in any other form of consideration that may be acceptable to the Board and permissible under Applicable Law.

(d) Exercise Procedure and Payment of Appreciation Distribution for SARs. In order to exercise any SAR, the Participant must provide notice of exercise to the Plan Administrator in accordance with the SAR Agreement. The appreciation distribution payable to a Participant upon the exercise of a SAR will not be greater than an amount equal to the excess of (i) the aggregate Fair Market Value on the date of exercise of a number of shares of Common Stock equal to the number of Common Stock equivalents that are vested and being exercised under such SAR, over (ii) the strike price of such SAR. Such appreciation distribution may be paid to the Participant in the form of Common Stock or cash (or any combination of Common Stock and cash) or in any other form of payment, as determined by the Board and specified in the SAR Agreement.

(e) Transferability. Options and SARs may not be transferred to third party financial institutions for value. The Board may impose such additional limitations on the transferability of an Option or SAR as it determines. In the absence of any such determination by the Board, the following restrictions on the transferability of Options and SARs will apply, provided that except as explicitly provided herein, neither an Option nor a SAR may be transferred for consideration and *provided, further*, that if an Option is an Incentive Stock Option, such Option may be deemed to be a Nonstatutory Stock Option as a result of such transfer:

(i) Restrictions on Transfer. An Option or SAR will not be transferable, except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and will be exercisable during the lifetime of the Participant only by the Participant; provided, however, that the Board may permit transfer of an Option or SAR in a manner that is not prohibited by applicable tax and securities laws upon the Participant's request, including to a trust if the Participant is considered to be the sole beneficial owner of such trust (as determined under Section 671 of the Code and applicable state law) while such Option or SAR is held in such trust, provided that the Participant and the trustee enter into a transfer and other agreements required by the Company.

(ii) Domestic Relations Orders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, subject to the execution of transfer documentation in a format acceptable to the Company and subject to the approval of the Board or a duly authorized Officer, an Option or SAR may be transferred pursuant to a domestic relations order.

(f) Vesting. The Board may impose such restrictions on or conditions to the vesting and/or exercisability of an Option or SAR as determined by the Board. Except as otherwise provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, vesting of Options and SARs will cease upon termination of the Participant's Continuous Service.

(g) Termination of Continuous Service for Cause. Except as explicitly otherwise provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, if a Participant's Continuous Service is terminated for Cause, the Participant's Options and SARs will terminate and be forfeited immediately upon such termination of Continuous Service, and the Participant will be prohibited from exercising any portion (including any vested portion) of such Awards on and after the date of such termination of Continuous Service and the Participant will have no further right, title or interest in such forfeited Award, the shares of Common Stock subject to the forfeited Award, or any consideration in respect of the forfeited Award.

(h) Post-Termination Exercise Period Following Termination of Continuous Service for Reasons Other than Cause. Subject to Section 4(i), if a Participant's Continuous Service terminates for any reason other than for Cause, the Participant may exercise his or her Option or SAR to the extent vested, but only within the following period of time or, if applicable, such other period of time provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate; provided, however, that in no event may such Award be exercised after the expiration of its maximum term (as set forth in Section 4(a)):

(i) three months following the date of such termination if such termination is a termination without Cause (other than any termination due to the Participant's Disability or death);

(ii) 12 months following the date of such termination if such termination is due to the Participant's Disability;

(iii) 18 months following the date of such termination if such termination is due to the Participant's death; or

(iv) 18 months following the date of the Participant's death if such death occurs following the date of such termination but during the period such Award is otherwise exercisable (as provided in (i) or (ii) above).

Following the date of such termination, to the extent the Participant does not exercise such Award within the applicable Post-Termination Exercise Period (or, if earlier, prior to the expiration of the maximum term of such Award), such unexercised portion of the Award will terminate, and the Participant will have no further right, title or interest in terminated Award, the shares of Common Stock subject to the terminated Award, or any consideration in respect of the terminated Award.

(i) Restrictions on Exercise; Extension of Exercisability. A Participant may not exercise an Option or SAR at any time that the issuance of shares of Common Stock upon such exercise would violate Applicable Law. Except as otherwise provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, if a Participant's Continuous Service terminates for any reason other than for Cause and, at any time during the last thirty days of the applicable Post-Termination Exercise Period: (i) the exercise of the Participant's Option or SAR would be prohibited solely because the issuance of shares of Common Stock upon such exercise would violate Applicable Law, or (ii) the immediate sale of any shares of Common Stock issued upon such exercise would violate the Company's Trading Policy, then the applicable Post-Termination Exercise Period will be extended to the last day of the calendar month that commences following the date the Award would otherwise expire, with an additional extension of the exercise period to the last day of the next calendar month to apply if any of the foregoing restrictions apply at any time during such extended exercise period, generally without limitation as to the maximum permitted number of extensions; provided, however, that in no event may such Award be exercised after the expiration of its maximum term (as set forth in Section 4(a)).

(j) Non-Exempt Employees. No Option or SAR, whether or not vested, granted to an Employee who is a non-exempt employee for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, will be first exercisable for any shares of Common Stock until at least six months following the date of grant of such Award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in accordance with the provisions of the Worker Economic Opportunity Act, any vested portion of such Award may be exercised earlier than six months following the date of grant of such Award in the event of (i) such Participant's death or Disability, (ii) a Corporate Transaction in which such Award is not assumed, continued or substituted, (iii) a Change in Control, or (iv) such Participant's retirement (as such term may be defined in the Award Agreement or another applicable agreement or, in the absence of any such definition, in accordance with the Company's then current employment policies and guidelines). This Section 4(j) is intended to operate so that any income derived by a non-exempt employee in connection with the exercise or vesting of an Option or SAR will be exempt from his or her regular rate of pay.

(k) Whole Shares. Options and SARs may be exercised only with respect to whole shares of Common Stock or their equivalents.

5. AWARDS OTHER THAN OPTIONS AND STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS.

(a) Restricted Stock Awards and RSU Awards. Each Restricted Stock Award and RSU Award will have such terms and conditions as determined by the Board; provided, however, that each Restricted Stock Award Agreement and RSU Award Agreement will conform (through incorporation of the provisions hereof by reference in the Award Agreement or otherwise) to the substance of each of the following provisions:

(i) Form of Award.

(1) RSAs: To the extent consistent with the Company's Bylaws, at the Board's election, shares of Common Stock subject to a Restricted Stock Award may be (i) held in book entry form subject to the Company's instructions until such shares become vested or any other restrictions lapse, or (ii) evidenced by a certificate, which certificate will be held in such form and manner as determined by the Board. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, a Participant will have voting and other rights as a stockholder of the Company with respect to any shares subject to a Restricted Stock Award.

(2) RSUs: A RSU Award represents a Participant's right to be issued on a future date the number of shares of Common Stock that is equal to the number of restricted stock units subject to the RSU Award. As a holder of a RSU Award, a Participant is an unsecured creditor of the Company with respect to the Company's unfunded obligation, if any, to issue shares of Common Stock in settlement of such Award and nothing contained in the Plan or any RSU Agreement, and no action taken pursuant to its provisions, will create or be construed to create a trust of any kind or a fiduciary relationship between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate or any other person. A Participant will not have voting or any other rights as a stockholder of the Company with respect to any RSU Award (unless and until shares are actually issued in settlement of a vested RSU Award).

(ii) Consideration.

(1) RSA: A Restricted Stock Award may be granted in consideration for (A) cash or check, bank draft or money order payable to the Company, (B) past services to the Company or an Affiliate, or (C) any other form of consideration (including future services) as the Board may determine and permissible under Applicable Law.

(2) **RSU:** Unless otherwise determined by the Board at the time of grant, a RSU Award will be granted in consideration for the Participant's services to the Company or an Affiliate, such that the Participant will not be required to make any payment to the Company (other than such services) with respect to the grant or vesting of the RSU Award, or the issuance of any shares of Common Stock pursuant to the RSU Award. If, at the time of grant, the Board determines that any consideration must be paid by the Participant (in a form other than the Participant's services to the Company or an Affiliate) upon the issuance of any shares of Common Stock in settlement of the RSU Award, such consideration may be paid in any form of consideration as the Board may determine and permissible under Applicable Law.

(iii) **Vesting.** The Board may impose such restrictions on or conditions to the vesting of a Restricted Stock Award or RSU Award as determined by the Board. Except as otherwise provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, vesting of Restricted Stock Awards and RSU Awards will cease upon termination of the Participant's Continuous Service.

(iv) **Termination of Continuous Service.** Except as otherwise provided in the Award Agreement or other written agreement between a Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, if a Participant's Continuous Service terminates for any reason, (i) the Company may receive through a forfeiture condition or a repurchase right any or all of the shares of Common Stock held by the Participant under his or her Restricted Stock Award that have not vested as of the date of such termination as set forth in the Restricted Stock Award Agreement and (ii) any portion of his or her RSU Award that has not vested will be forfeited upon such termination and the Participant will have no further right, title or interest in the RSU Award, the shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the RSU Award, or any consideration in respect of the RSU Award.

(v) **Dividends and Dividend Equivalents.** Dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid or credited, as applicable, with respect to any shares of Common Stock subject to a Restricted Stock Award or RSU Award, as determined by the Board and specified in the Award Agreement); provided, however, that (i) no dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid with respect to any such shares before the date such shares have vested under the terms of such Award Agreement, (ii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be subject to all of the terms and conditions applicable to such shares under the terms of such Award Agreement (including, but not limited to, any vesting conditions), and (iii) any dividends or dividend equivalents that are credited with respect to any such shares will be forfeited to the Company on the date such shares are forfeited to or repurchased by the Company due to a failure to vest.

(vi) **Settlement of RSU Awards.** A RSU Award may be settled by the issuance of shares of Common Stock or cash (or any combination thereof) or in any other form of payment, as determined by the Board and specified in the RSU Award Agreement. At the time of grant, the Board may determine to impose such restrictions or conditions that delay such delivery to a date following the vesting of the RSU Award.

(b) Performance Awards. With respect to any Performance Award, the length of any Performance Period, the Performance Goals to be achieved during the Performance Period, the other terms and conditions of such Award, and the measure of whether and to what degree such Performance Goals have been attained will be determined by the Board.

(c) Other Awards. Other forms of Awards valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise based on, Common Stock, including the appreciation in value thereof (e.g., options or stock rights with an exercise price or strike price less than 100% of the Fair Market Value at the time of grant) may be granted either alone or in addition to Awards provided for under Section 4 and the preceding provisions of this Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Board will have sole and complete discretion to determine the persons to whom and the time or times at which such Other Awards will be granted, the number of shares of Common Stock (or the cash equivalent thereof) to be granted pursuant to such Other Awards and all other terms and conditions of such Other Awards.

6. ADJUSTMENTS UPON CHANGES IN COMMON STOCK; OTHER CORPORATE EVENTS.

(a) Capitalization Adjustments. In the event of a Capitalization Adjustment, the Board shall appropriately and proportionately adjust: (i) the class(es) and maximum number of shares of Common Stock subject to the Plan pursuant to Section 2(a), (ii) the class(es) and maximum number of shares that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of Incentive Stock Options pursuant to Section 2(a), and (iii) the class(es) and number of securities and exercise price, strike price or purchase price of Common Stock subject to outstanding Awards. The Board shall make such adjustments, and its determination shall be final, binding and conclusive. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no fractional shares or rights for fractional shares of Common Stock shall be created in order to implement any Capitalization Adjustment. The Board shall determine an equivalent benefit for any fractional shares or rights to fractional shares that might be created by the adjustments referred to in the preceding provisions of this Section.

(b) Dissolution or Liquidation. Except as otherwise provided in the Award Agreement, in the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, all outstanding Awards (other than Awards consisting of vested and outstanding shares of Common Stock not subject to a forfeiture condition or the Company's right of repurchase) will terminate immediately prior to the completion of such dissolution or liquidation, and the shares of Common Stock subject to the Company's repurchase rights or subject to a forfeiture condition may be repurchased or reacquired by the Company notwithstanding the fact that the holder of such Award is providing Continuous Service, provided, however, that the Board may determine to cause some or all Awards to become fully vested, exercisable and/or no longer subject to repurchase or forfeiture (to the extent such Awards have not previously expired or terminated) before the dissolution or liquidation is completed but contingent on its completion.

(c) Corporate Transaction. The following provisions will apply to Awards in the event of a Corporate Transaction unless otherwise provided in the instrument evidencing the Award or any other written agreement between the Company or any Affiliate and the Participant or unless otherwise expressly provided by the Board at the time of grant of an Award.

(i) Awards May Be Assumed. In the event of a Corporate Transaction, any surviving corporation or acquiring corporation (or the surviving or acquiring corporation's parent company) may assume or continue any or all Awards outstanding under the Plan or may substitute similar awards for Awards outstanding under the Plan (including but not limited to, awards to acquire the same consideration paid to the stockholders of the Company pursuant to the Corporate Transaction), and any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by the Company in respect of Common Stock issued pursuant to Awards may be assigned by the Company to the successor of the Company (or the successor's parent company, if any), in connection with such Corporate Transaction. A surviving corporation or acquiring corporation (or its parent) may choose to assume or continue only a portion of an Award or substitute a similar award for only a portion of an Award, or may choose to assume or continue the Awards held by some, but not all Participants. The terms of any assumption, continuation or substitution will be set by the Board.

(ii) Awards Held by Current Participants. In the event of a Corporate Transaction in which the surviving corporation or acquiring corporation (or its parent company) does not assume or continue such outstanding Awards or substitute similar awards for such outstanding Awards, then with respect to Awards that have not been assumed, continued or substituted and that are held by Participants whose Continuous Service has not terminated prior to the effective time of the Corporate Transaction (referred to as the "**Current Participants**"), the vesting of such Awards (and, with respect to Options and Stock Appreciation Rights, the time when such Awards may be exercised) will be accelerated in full to a date prior to the effective time of such Corporate Transaction (contingent upon the effectiveness of the Corporate Transaction) as the Board determines (or, if the Board does not determine such a date, to the date that is five (5) days prior to the effective time of the Corporate Transaction), and such Awards will terminate if not exercised (if applicable) at or prior to the effective time of the Corporate Transaction, and any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by the Company with respect to such Awards will lapse (contingent upon the effectiveness of the Corporate Transaction). With respect to the vesting of Performance Awards that will accelerate upon the occurrence of a Corporate Transaction pursuant to this subsection (ii) and that have multiple vesting levels depending on the level of performance, unless otherwise provided in the Award Agreement, the vesting of such Performance Awards will accelerate at 100% of the target level upon the occurrence of the Corporate Transaction. With respect to the vesting of Awards that will accelerate upon the occurrence of a Corporate Transaction pursuant to this subsection (ii) and are settled in the form of a cash payment, such cash payment will be made no later than 30 days following the occurrence of the Corporate Transaction.

(iii) Awards Held by Persons other than Current Participants. In the event of a Corporate Transaction in which the surviving corporation or acquiring corporation (or its parent company) does not assume or continue such outstanding Awards or substitute similar awards for such outstanding Awards, then with respect to Awards that have not been assumed, continued or substituted and that are held by persons other than Current Participants, such Awards will terminate if not exercised (if applicable) prior to the occurrence of the Corporate Transaction; provided, however, that any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by the Company with respect to such Awards will not terminate and may continue to be exercised notwithstanding the Corporate Transaction.

(iv) Payment for Awards in Lieu of Exercise. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event an Award will terminate if not exercised prior to the effective time of a Corporate Transaction, the Board may provide, in its sole discretion, that the holder of such Award may not exercise such Award but will receive a payment, in such form as may be determined by the Board, equal in value, at the effective time, to the excess, if any, of (1) the value of the property the Participant would have received upon the exercise of the Award (including, at the discretion of the Board, any unvested portion of such Award), over (2) any exercise price payable by such holder in connection with such exercise.

(d) Appointment of Stockholder Representative. As a condition to the receipt of an Award under this Plan, a Participant will be deemed to have agreed that the Award will be subject to the terms of any agreement governing a Corporate Transaction involving the Company, including, without limitation, a provision for the appointment of a stockholder representative that is authorized to act on the Participant's behalf with respect to any escrow, indemnities and any contingent consideration.

(e) No Restriction on Right to Undertake Transactions. The grant of any Award under the Plan and the issuance of shares pursuant to any Award does not affect or restrict in any way the right or power of the Company or the stockholders of the Company to make or authorize any adjustment, recapitalization, reorganization or other change in the Company's capital structure or its business, any merger or consolidation of the Company, any issue of stock or of options, rights or options to purchase stock or of bonds, debentures, preferred or prior preference stocks whose rights are superior to or affect the Common Stock or the rights thereof or which are convertible into or exchangeable for Common Stock, or the dissolution or liquidation of the Company, or any sale or transfer of all or any part of its assets or business, or any other corporate act or proceeding, whether of a similar character or otherwise.

(f) Parachute Payments.

(i) Unless otherwise provided in an agreement between a Participant and the Company, if any payment or benefit the Participant would receive pursuant to a Change in Control from the Company or otherwise ("**Payment**") would (i) constitute a "parachute payment" within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code, and (ii) but for this sentence, be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code (the "**Excise Tax**"), then such Payment shall be equal to the Reduced Amount. The "**Reduced Amount**" shall be either (x) the largest portion of the Payment that would result in no portion of the Payment being subject to the Excise Tax or (y) the largest portion, up to and including the total, of the Payment, whichever amount, after taking into account all applicable federal, state and local employment taxes, income taxes, and the Excise Tax (all computed at the highest applicable marginal rate), results in the Participant's receipt, on an after-tax basis, of the greater amount of the Payment notwithstanding that all or some portion of the Payment may be subject to the Excise Tax. If a reduction in payments or benefits constituting "parachute payments" is necessary so that the Payment equals the Reduced Amount, reduction shall occur in the following order: reduction of cash payments; cancellation of accelerated vesting of Awards other than Options; cancellation of accelerated vesting of Options; and reduction of employee benefits. In the event that acceleration of vesting of an Award is to be reduced, such acceleration of vesting shall be cancelled in the reverse order of the date of grant of the Participant's applicable type of Awards (*i.e.*, earliest granted Award cancelled last).

(ii) The accounting firm engaged by the Company for general audit purposes as of the day prior to the effective date of the Change in Control shall perform the foregoing calculations. If the accounting firm so engaged by the Company is serving as accountant or auditor for the individual, entity or group effecting the Change in Control, the Company shall appoint a nationally recognized accounting firm to make the determinations required hereunder. The Company shall bear all expenses with respect to the determinations by such accounting firm required to be made hereunder. The accounting firm engaged to make the determinations hereunder shall provide its calculations, together with detailed supporting documentation, to the Participant and the Company within fifteen (15) calendar days after the date on which the Participant's right to a Payment is triggered (if requested at that time by the Participant or the Company) or such other time as requested by the Participant or the Company. If the accounting firm determines that no Excise Tax is payable with respect to a Payment, either before or after the application of the Reduced Amount, it shall furnish the Participant and the Company with an opinion that no Excise Tax will be imposed with respect to such Payment. Any good faith determinations of the accounting firm made hereunder shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the Participant and the Company.

7. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **Administration by Board.** The Board will administer the Plan unless and until the Board delegates administration of the Plan to a Committee or Committees, as provided in subsection (c) below.

(b) **Powers of Board.** The Board will have the power, subject to, and within the limitations of, the express provisions of the Plan:

(i) To determine from time to time (1) which of the persons eligible under the Plan will be granted Awards; (2) when and how each Award will be granted; (3) what type or combination of types of Award will be granted; (4) the provisions of each Award granted (which need not be identical), including the time or times when a person will be permitted to receive an issuance of Common Stock or other payment pursuant to an Award; (5) the number of shares of Common Stock or cash equivalent with respect to which an Award will be granted to each such person; and (6) the Fair Market Value applicable to an Award.

(ii) To construe and interpret the Plan and Awards granted under it, and to establish, amend and revoke rules and regulations for its administration. The Board, in the exercise of this power, may correct any defect, omission or inconsistency in the Plan or in any Award Agreement, in a manner and to the extent it deems necessary or expedient to make the Plan or Award fully effective.

(iii) To settle all controversies regarding the Plan and Awards granted under it.

(iv) To accelerate the time at which an Award may first be exercised or the time during which an Award or any part thereof will vest, notwithstanding the provisions in the Award Agreement stating the time at which it may first be exercised or the time during which it will vest.

(v) To prohibit the exercise of any Option, SAR or other exercisable Award during a period of up to 30 days prior to the consummation of any pending stock dividend, stock split, combination or exchange of shares, merger, consolidation or other distribution (other than normal cash dividends) of Company assets to stockholders, or any other change affecting the shares of Common Stock or the share price of the Common Stock including any Corporate Transaction, for reasons of administrative convenience.

(vi) To suspend or terminate the Plan at any time. Suspension or termination of the Plan will not Materially Impair rights and obligations under any Award granted while the Plan is in effect except with the written consent of the affected Participant.

(vii) To amend the Plan in any respect the Board deems necessary or advisable; provided, however, that stockholder approval will be required for any amendment to the extent required by Applicable Law. Except as provided above, rights under any Award granted before amendment of the Plan will not be Materially Impaired by any amendment of the Plan unless (1) the Company requests the consent of the affected Participant, and (2) such Participant consents in writing.

(viii) To submit any amendment to the Plan for stockholder approval.

(ix) To approve forms of Award Agreements for use under the Plan and to amend the terms of any one or more Awards, including, but not limited to, amendments to provide terms more favorable to the Participant than previously provided in the Award Agreement, subject to any specified limits in the Plan that are not subject to Board discretion; *provided however*, that, a Participant's rights under any Award will not be Materially Impaired by any such amendment unless (1) the Company requests the consent of the affected Participant, and (2) such Participant consents in writing.

(x) Generally, to exercise such powers and to perform such acts as the Board deems necessary or expedient to promote the best interests of the Company and that are not in conflict with the provisions of the Plan or Awards.

(xi) To adopt such procedures and sub-plans as are necessary or appropriate to permit and facilitate participation in the Plan by, or take advantage of specific tax treatment for Awards granted to, Employees, Directors or Consultants who are foreign nationals or employed outside the United States (provided that Board approval will not be necessary for immaterial modifications to the Plan or any Award Agreement to ensure or facilitate compliance with the laws of the relevant foreign jurisdiction).

(c) Delegation to Committee.

(i) **General.** The Board may delegate some or all of the administration of the Plan to a Committee or Committees. If administration of the Plan is delegated to a Committee, the Committee will have, in connection with the administration of the Plan, the powers theretofore possessed by the Board that have been delegated to the Committee, including the power to delegate to another Committee or a subcommittee of the Committee any of the administrative powers the Committee is authorized to exercise (and references in this Plan to the Board will thereafter be to the Committee or subcommittee), subject, however, to such resolutions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as may be adopted from time to time by the Board. Each Committee may retain the authority to concurrently administer the Plan with Committee or subcommittee to which it has delegated its authority hereunder and may, at any time, re-vest in such Committee some or all of the powers previously delegated. The Board may retain the authority to concurrently administer the Plan with any Committee and may, at any time, re-vest in the Board some or all of the powers previously delegated.

(ii) Rule 16b-3 Compliance. To the extent an Award is intended to qualify for the exemption from Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act that is available under Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act, the Award will be granted by the Board or a Committee that consists solely of two or more Non-Employee Directors, as determined under Rule 16b-3(b)(3) of the Exchange Act and thereafter any action establishing or modifying the terms of the Award will be approved by the Board or a Committee meeting such requirements to the extent necessary for such exemption to remain available.

(d) Effect of Board's Decision. All determinations, interpretations and constructions made by the Board or any Committee in good faith will not be subject to review by any person and will be final, binding and conclusive on all persons.

(e) Cancellation and Re-Grant of Awards. Neither the Board nor any Committee will have the authority to: (i) reduce the exercise price or strike price of any outstanding Options or SARs under the Plan, or (ii) cancel any outstanding Options or SARs that have an exercise price or strike price greater than the current Fair Market Value in exchange for cash or other Awards under the Plan, unless the stockholders of the Company have approved such an action within twelve months prior to such an event.

(f) Delegation to an Officer. The Board or any Committee may delegate to one or more Officers the authority to do one or both of the following (i) designate Employees who are not Officers to be recipients of Options and SARs (and, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, other types of Awards) and, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the terms thereof, and (ii) determine the number of shares of Common Stock to be subject to such Awards granted to such Employees; provided, however, that the resolutions or charter adopted by the Board or any Committee evidencing such delegation will specify the total number of shares of Common Stock that may be subject to the Awards granted by such Officer and that such Officer may not grant an Award to himself or herself. Any such Awards will be granted on the applicable form of Award Agreement most recently approved for use by the Board or the Committee, unless otherwise provided in the resolutions approving the delegation authority. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, neither the Board nor any Committee may delegate to an Officer who is acting solely in the capacity of an Officer (and not also as a Director) the authority to determine the Fair Market Value.

(g) Minimum Vesting Requirements. No Award may vest (or, if applicable, be exercisable) until at least 12 months following the date of grant of such Award; provided, however, that up to 5% of the Share Reserve (as defined in Section 2(a)) may be subject to Awards that do not meet such vesting (and, if applicable, exercisability) requirements.

8. TAX WITHHOLDING

(a) Withholding Authorization. As a condition to acceptance of any Award under the Plan, a Participant authorizes withholding from payroll and any other amounts payable to such Participant, and otherwise agrees to make adequate provision for (including), any sums required to satisfy any U.S. federal, state, local and/or foreign tax or social insurance contribution withholding obligations of the Company or an Affiliate, if any, which arise in connection with the exercise, vesting or settlement of such Award, as applicable. Accordingly, a Participant may not be able to exercise an Award even though the Award is vested, and the Company shall have no obligation to issue shares of Common Stock subject to an Award, unless and until such obligations are satisfied.

(b) Satisfaction of Withholding Obligation. To the extent permitted by the terms of an Award Agreement, the Company may, in its sole discretion, satisfy any U.S. federal, state, local and/or foreign tax or social insurance withholding obligation relating to an Award by any of the following means or by a combination of such means: (i) causing the Participant to tender a cash payment; (ii) withholding shares of Common Stock from the shares of Common Stock issued or otherwise issuable to the Participant in connection with the Award; (iii) withholding cash from an Award settled in cash; (iv) withholding payment from any amounts otherwise payable to the Participant; (v) by allowing a Participant to effectuate a “cashless exercise” pursuant to a program developed under Regulation T as promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board, or (vi) by such other method as may be set forth in the Award Agreement.

(c) No Obligation to Notify or Minimize Taxes; No Liability to Claims. Except as required by Applicable Law the Company has no duty or obligation to any Participant to advise such holder as to the time or manner of exercising such Award. Furthermore, the Company has no duty or obligation to warn or otherwise advise such holder of a pending termination or expiration of an Award or a possible period in which the Award may not be exercised. The Company has no duty or obligation to minimize the tax consequences of an Award to the holder of such Award and will not be liable to any holder of an Award for any adverse tax consequences to such holder in connection with an Award. As a condition to accepting an Award under the Plan, each Participant (i) agrees to not make any claim against the Company, or any of its Officers, Directors, Employees or Affiliates related to tax liabilities arising from such Award or other Company compensation and (ii) acknowledges that such Participant was advised to consult with his or her own personal tax, financial and other legal advisors regarding the tax consequences of the Award and has either done so or knowingly and voluntarily declined to do so. Additionally, each Participant acknowledges any Option or SAR granted under the Plan is exempt from Section 409A only if the exercise or strike price is at least equal to the “fair market value” of the Common Stock on the date of grant as determined by the Internal Revenue Service and there is no other impermissible deferral of compensation associated with the Award. Additionally, as a condition to accepting an Option or SAR granted under the Plan, each Participant agrees not to make any claim against the Company, or any of its Officers, Directors, Employees or Affiliates in the event that the Internal Revenue Service asserts that such exercise price or strike price is less than the “fair market value” of the Common Stock on the date of grant as subsequently determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

(d) Withholding Indemnification. As a condition to accepting an Award under the Plan, in the event that the amount of the Company's and/or its Affiliate's withholding obligation in connection with such Award was greater than the amount actually withheld by the Company and/or its Affiliates, each Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the Company and/or its Affiliates harmless from any failure by the Company and/or its Affiliates to withhold the proper amount.

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Source of Shares. The stock issuable under the Plan will be shares of authorized but unissued or reacquired Common Stock, including shares repurchased by the Company on the open market or otherwise.

(b) Use of Proceeds from Sales of Common Stock. Proceeds from the sale of shares of Common Stock pursuant to Awards will constitute general funds of the Company.

(c) Corporate Action Constituting Grant of Awards. Corporate action constituting a grant by the Company of an Award to any Participant will be deemed completed as of the date of such corporate action, unless otherwise determined by the Board, regardless of when the instrument, certificate, or letter evidencing the Award is communicated to, or actually received or accepted by, the Participant. In the event that the corporate records (e.g., Board consents, resolutions or minutes) documenting the corporate action approving the grant contain terms (e.g., exercise price, vesting schedule or number of shares) that are inconsistent with those in the Award Agreement or related grant documents as a result of a clerical error in the Award Agreement or related grant documents, the corporate records will control and the Participant will have no legally binding right to the incorrect term in the Award Agreement or related grant documents.

(d) Stockholder Rights. No Participant will be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to, any shares of Common Stock subject to such Award unless and until (i) such Participant has satisfied all requirements for exercise of the Award pursuant to its terms, if applicable, and (ii) the issuance of the Common Stock subject to such Award is reflected in the records of the Company.

(e) No Employment or Other Service Rights. Nothing in the Plan, any Award Agreement or any other instrument executed thereunder or in connection with any Award granted pursuant thereto will confer upon any Participant any right to continue to serve the Company or an Affiliate in the capacity in effect at the time the Award was granted or affect the right of the Company or an Affiliate to terminate at will and without regard to any future vesting opportunity that a Participant may have with respect to any Award (i) the employment of an Employee with or without notice and with or without cause, (ii) the service of a Consultant pursuant to the terms of such Consultant's agreement with the Company or an Affiliate, or (iii) the service of a Director pursuant to the Bylaws of the Company or an Affiliate, and any applicable provisions of the corporate law of the state or foreign jurisdiction in which the Company or the Affiliate is incorporated, as the case may be. Further, nothing in the Plan, any Award Agreement or any other instrument executed thereunder or in connection with any Award will constitute any promise or commitment by the Company or an Affiliate regarding the fact or nature of future positions, future work assignments, future compensation or any other term or condition of employment or service or confer any right or benefit under the Award or the Plan unless such right or benefit has specifically accrued under the terms of the Award Agreement and/or Plan.

(f) Change in Time Commitment. In the event a Participant's regular level of time commitment in the performance of his or her services for the Company and any Affiliates is reduced (for example, and without limitation, if the Participant is an Employee of the Company and the Employee has a change in status from a full-time Employee to a part-time Employee or takes an extended leave of absence) after the date of grant of any Award to the Participant, the Board may determine, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, to (i) make a corresponding reduction in the number of shares or cash amount subject to any portion of such Award that is scheduled to vest or become payable after the date of such change in time commitment, and (ii) in lieu of or in combination with such a reduction, extend the vesting or payment schedule applicable to such Award. In the event of any such reduction, the Participant will have no right with respect to any portion of the Award that is so reduced or extended.

(g) Execution of Additional Documents. As a condition to accepting an Award under the Plan, the Participant agrees to execute any additional documents or instruments necessary or desirable, as determined in the Plan Administrator's sole discretion, to carry out the purposes or intent of the Award, or facilitate compliance with securities and/or other regulatory requirements, in each case at the Plan Administrator's request.

(h) Electronic Delivery and Participation. Any reference herein or in an Award Agreement to a "written" agreement or document will include any agreement or document delivered electronically, filed publicly at www.sec.gov (or any successor website thereto) or posted on the Company's intranet (or other shared electronic medium controlled by the Company to which the Participant has access). By accepting any Award the Participant consents to receive documents by electronic delivery and to participate in the Plan through any on-line electronic system established and maintained by the Plan Administrator or another third party selected by the Plan Administrator. The form of delivery of any Common Stock (e.g., a stock certificate or electronic entry evidencing such shares) shall be determined by the Company.

(i) Clawback/Recovery. All Awards granted under the Plan will be subject to recoupment in accordance with any clawback policy that the Company is required to adopt pursuant to the listing standards of any national securities exchange or association on which the Company's securities are listed or as is otherwise required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or other Applicable Law and any clawback policy that the Company otherwise adopts, to the extent applicable and permissible under Applicable Law. In addition, the Board may impose such other clawback, recovery or recoupment provisions in an Award Agreement as the Board determines necessary or appropriate, including but not limited to a reacquisition right in respect of previously acquired shares of Common Stock or other cash or property upon the occurrence of Cause. No recovery of compensation under such a clawback policy will be an event giving rise to a Participant's right to voluntarily terminate employment upon a "resignation for good reason," or for a "constructive termination" or any similar term under any plan of or agreement with the Company.

(j) Securities Law Compliance. A Participant will not be issued any shares in respect of an Award unless either (i) the shares are registered under the Securities Act; or (ii) the Company has determined that such issuance would be exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Each Award also must comply with other Applicable Law governing the Award, and a Participant will not receive such shares if the Company determines that such receipt would not be in material compliance with Applicable Law.

(k) Transfer or Assignment of Awards; Issued Shares. Except as expressly provided in the Plan or the form of Award Agreement, Awards granted under the Plan may not be transferred or assigned by the Participant. After the vested shares subject to an Award have been issued, or in the case of Restricted Stock and similar awards, after the issued shares have vested, the holder of such shares is free to assign, hypothecate, donate, encumber or otherwise dispose of any interest in such shares provided that any such actions are in compliance with the provisions herein, the terms of the Trading Policy and Applicable Law.

(l) Effect on Other Employee Benefit Plans. The value of any Award granted under the Plan, as determined upon grant, vesting or settlement, shall not be included as compensation, earnings, salaries, or other similar terms used when calculating any Participant's benefits under any employee benefit plan sponsored by the Company or any Affiliate, except as such plan otherwise expressly provides. The Company expressly reserves its rights to amend, modify, or terminate any of the Company's or any Affiliate's employee benefit plans.

(m) Deferrals. To the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the Board, in its sole discretion, may determine that the delivery of Common Stock or the payment of cash, upon the exercise, vesting or settlement of all or a portion of any Award may be deferred and may also establish programs and procedures for deferral elections to be made by Participants. Deferrals by will be made in accordance with the requirements of Section 409A.

(n) Section 409A. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in an Award Agreement, the Plan and Award Agreements will be interpreted to the greatest extent possible in a manner that makes the Plan and the Awards granted hereunder exempt from Section 409A, and, to the extent not so exempt, in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A. If the Board determines that any Award granted hereunder is not exempt from and is therefore subject to Section 409A, the Award Agreement evidencing such Award will incorporate the terms and conditions necessary to avoid the consequences specified in Section 409A(a)(1) of the Code, and to the extent an Award Agreement is silent on terms necessary for compliance, such terms are hereby incorporated by reference into the Award Agreement. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Plan (and unless the Award Agreement specifically provides otherwise), if the shares of Common Stock are publicly traded, and if a Participant holding an Award that constitutes "deferred compensation" under Section 409A is a "specified employee" for purposes of Section 409A, no distribution or payment of any amount that is due because of a "separation from service" (as defined in Section 409A without regard to alternative definitions thereunder) will be issued or paid before the date that is six months and one day following the date of such Participant's "separation from service" or, if earlier, the date of the Participant's death, unless such distribution or payment can be made in a manner that complies with Section 409A, and any amounts so deferred will be paid in a lump sum on the day after such six month period elapses, with the balance paid thereafter on the original schedule.

(o) Choice of Law. This Plan and any controversy arising out of or relating to this Plan shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to conflict of law principles that would result in any application of any law other than the law of the State of Delaware.

10. COVENANTS OF THE COMPANY.

(a) Compliance with Law. The Company will seek to obtain from each regulatory commission or agency, as may be deemed to be necessary, having jurisdiction over the Plan such authority as may be required to grant Awards and to issue and sell shares of Common Stock upon exercise or vesting of the Awards; provided, however, that this undertaking will not require the Company to register under the Securities Act the Plan, any Award or any Common Stock issued or issuable pursuant to any such Award. If, after reasonable efforts and at a reasonable cost, the Company is unable to obtain from any such regulatory commission or agency the authority that counsel for the Company deems necessary or advisable for the lawful issuance and sale of Common Stock under the Plan, the Company will be relieved from any liability for failure to issue and sell Common Stock upon exercise or vesting of such Awards unless and until such authority is obtained. A Participant is not eligible for the grant of an Award or the subsequent issuance of Common Stock pursuant to the Award if such grant or issuance would be in violation of any Applicable Law.

11. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR AWARDS SUBJECT TO SECTION 409A.

(a) Application. Unless the provisions of this Section of the Plan are expressly superseded by the provisions in the form of Award Agreement, the provisions of this Section shall apply and shall supersede anything to the contrary set forth in the Award Agreement for a Non-Exempt Award.

(b) Non-Exempt Awards Subject to Non-Exempt Severance Arrangements. To the extent a Non-Exempt Award is subject to Section 409A due to application of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement, the following provisions of this subsection (b) apply.

(i) If the Non-Exempt Award vests in the ordinary course during the Participant's Continuous Service in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in the Award Agreement, and does not accelerate vesting under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement, in no event will the shares be issued in respect of such Non-Exempt Award any later than the later of: (i) December 31st of the calendar year that includes the applicable vesting date, or (ii) the 60th day that follows the applicable vesting date.

(ii) If vesting of the Non-Exempt Award accelerates under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement in connection with the Participant's Separation from Service, and such vesting acceleration provisions were in effect as of the date of grant of the Non-Exempt Award and, therefore, are part of the terms of such Non-Exempt Award as of the date of grant, then the shares will be earlier issued in settlement of such Non-Exempt Award upon the Participant's Separation from Service in accordance with the terms of the Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement, but in no event later than the 60th day that follows the date of the Participant's Separation from Service. However, if at the time the shares would otherwise be issued the Participant is subject to the distribution limitations contained in Section 409A applicable to "specified employees," as defined in Section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Code, such shares shall not be issued before the date that is six months following the date of such Participant's Separation from Service, or, if earlier, the date of the Participant's death that occurs within such six month period.

(iii) If vesting of a Non-Exempt Award accelerates under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement in connection with a Participant's Separation from Service, and such vesting acceleration provisions were not in effect as of the date of grant of the Non-Exempt Award and, therefore, are not a part of the terms of such Non-Exempt Award on the date of grant, then such acceleration of vesting of the Non-Exempt Award shall not accelerate the issuance date of the shares, but the shares shall instead be issued on the same schedule as set forth in the Grant Notice as if they had vested in the ordinary course during the Participant's Continuous Service, notwithstanding the vesting acceleration of the Non-Exempt Award. Such issuance schedule is intended to satisfy the requirements of payment on a specified date or pursuant to a fixed schedule, as provided under Treasury Regulations Section 1.409A-3(a)(4).

(c) Treatment of Non-Exempt Awards Upon a Corporate Transaction for Employees and Consultants. The provisions of this subsection (c) shall apply and shall supersede anything to the contrary set forth in the Plan with respect to the permitted treatment of any Non-Exempt Award in connection with a Corporate Transaction if the Participant was either an Employee or Consultant upon the applicable date of grant of the Non-Exempt Award.

(i) Vested Non-Exempt Awards. The following provisions shall apply to any Vested Non-Exempt Award in connection with a Corporate Transaction:

(1) If the Corporate Transaction is also a Section 409A Change in Control then the Acquiring Entity may not assume, continue or substitute the Vested Non-Exempt Award. Upon the Section 409A Change in Control the settlement of the Vested Non-Exempt Award will automatically be accelerated and the shares will be immediately issued in respect of the Vested Non-Exempt Award. Alternatively, the Company may instead provide that the Participant will receive a cash settlement equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant upon the Section 409A Change in Control.

(2) If the Corporate Transaction is not also a Section 409A Change in Control, then the Acquiring Entity must either assume, continue or substitute each Vested Non-Exempt Award. The shares to be issued in respect of the Vested Non-Exempt Award shall be issued to the Participant by the Acquiring Entity on the same schedule that the shares would have been issued to the Participant if the Corporate Transaction had not occurred. In the Acquiring Entity's discretion, in lieu of an issuance of shares, the Acquiring Entity may instead substitute a cash payment on each applicable issuance date, equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant on such issuance dates, with the determination of the Fair Market Value of the shares made on the date of the Corporate Transaction.

(ii) Unvested Non-Exempt Awards. The following provisions shall apply to any Unvested Non-Exempt Award unless otherwise determined by the Board pursuant to subsection (e) of this Section.

(1) In the event of a Corporate Transaction, the Acquiring Entity shall assume, continue or substitute any Unvested Non-Exempt Award. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, any Unvested Non-Exempt Award will remain subject to the same vesting and forfeiture restrictions that were applicable to the Award prior to the Corporate Transaction. The shares to be issued in respect of any Unvested Non-Exempt Award shall be issued to the Participant by the Acquiring Entity on the same schedule that the shares would have been issued to the Participant if the Corporate Transaction had not occurred. In the Acquiring Entity's discretion, in lieu of an issuance of shares, the Acquiring Entity may instead substitute a cash payment on each applicable issuance date, equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant on such issuance dates, with the determination of Fair Market Value of the shares made on the date of the Corporate Transaction.

(2) If the Acquiring Entity will not assume, substitute or continue any Unvested Non-Exempt Award in connection with a Corporate Transaction, then such Award shall automatically terminate and be forfeited upon the Corporate Transaction with no consideration payable to any Participant in respect of such forfeited Unvested Non-Exempt Award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent permitted and in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A, the Board may in its discretion determine to elect to accelerate the vesting and settlement of the Unvested Non-Exempt Award upon the Corporate Transaction, or instead substitute a cash payment equal to the Fair Market Value of such shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant, as further provided in subsection (e)(ii) below. In the absence of such discretionary election by the Board, any Unvested Non-Exempt Award shall be forfeited without payment of any consideration to the affected Participants if the Acquiring Entity will not assume, substitute or continue the Unvested Non-Exempt Awards in connection with the Corporate Transaction.

(3) The foregoing treatment shall apply with respect to all Unvested Non-Exempt Awards upon any Corporate Transaction, and regardless of whether or not such Corporate Transaction is also a Section 409A Change in Control.

(d) Treatment of Non-Exempt Awards Upon a Corporate Transaction for Non-Employee Directors. The following provisions of this subsection (d) shall apply and shall supersede anything to the contrary that may be set forth in the Plan with respect to the permitted treatment of a Non-Exempt Director Award in connection with a Corporate Transaction.

(i) If the Corporate Transaction is also a Section 409A Change in Control then the Acquiring Entity may not assume, continue or substitute the Non-Exempt Director Award. Upon the Section 409A Change in Control the vesting and settlement of any Non-Exempt Director Award will automatically be accelerated and the shares will be immediately issued to the Participant in respect of the Non-Exempt Director Award. Alternatively, the Company may provide that the Participant will instead receive a cash settlement equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant upon the Section 409A Change in Control pursuant to the preceding provision.

(ii) If the Corporate Transaction is not also a Section 409A Change in Control, then the Acquiring Entity must either assume, continue or substitute the Non-Exempt Director Award. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the Non-Exempt Director Award will remain subject to the same vesting and forfeiture restrictions that were applicable to the Award prior to the Corporate Transaction. The shares to be issued in respect of the Non-Exempt Director Award shall be issued to the Participant by the Acquiring Entity on the same schedule that the shares would have been issued to the Participant if the Corporate Transaction had not occurred. In the Acquiring Entity's discretion, in lieu of an issuance of shares, the Acquiring Entity may instead substitute a cash payment on each applicable issuance date, equal to the Fair Market Value of the shares that would otherwise be issued to the Participant on such issuance dates, with the determination of Fair Market Value made on the date of the Corporate Transaction.

(e) If the RSU Award is a Non-Exempt Award, then the provisions in this Section 11(e) shall apply and supersede anything to the contrary that may be set forth in the Plan or the Award Agreement with respect to the permitted treatment of such Non-Exempt Award:

(i) Any exercise by the Board of discretion to accelerate the vesting of a Non-Exempt Award shall not result in any acceleration of the scheduled issuance dates for the shares in respect of the Non-Exempt Award unless earlier issuance of the shares upon the applicable vesting dates would be in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A.

(ii) The Company explicitly reserves the right to earlier settle any Non-Exempt Award to the extent permitted and in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A, including pursuant to any of the exemptions available in Treasury Regulations Section 1.409A-3(j)(4)(ix).

(iii) To the extent the terms of any Non-Exempt Award provide that it will be settled upon a Change in Control or Corporate Transaction, to the extent it is required for compliance with the requirements of Section 409A, the Change in Control or Corporate Transaction event triggering settlement must also constitute a Section 409A Change in Control. To the extent the terms of a Non-Exempt Award provides that it will be settled upon a termination of employment or termination of Continuous Service, to the extent it is required for compliance with the requirements of Section 409A, the termination event triggering settlement must also constitute a Separation From Service. However, if at the time the shares would otherwise be issued to a Participant in connection with a “separation from service” such Participant is subject to the distribution limitations contained in Section 409A applicable to “specified employees,” as defined in Section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Code, such shares shall not be issued before the date that is six months following the date of the Participant’s Separation From Service, or, if earlier, the date of the Participant’s death that occurs within such six month period.

(iv) The provisions in this subsection (e) for delivery of the shares in respect of the settlement of a RSU Award that is a Non-Exempt Award are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 409A so that the delivery of the shares to the Participant in respect of such Non-Exempt Award will not trigger the additional tax imposed under Section 409A, and any ambiguities herein will be so interpreted.

12. SEVERABILITY.

If all or any part of the Plan or any Award Agreement is declared by any court or governmental authority to be unlawful or invalid, such unlawfulness or invalidity shall not invalidate any portion of the Plan or such Award Agreement not declared to be unlawful or invalid. Any Section of the Plan or any Award Agreement (or part of such a Section) so declared to be unlawful or invalid shall, if possible, be construed in a manner which will give effect to the terms of such Section or part of a Section to the fullest extent possible while remaining lawful and valid.

13. TERMINATION OF THE PLAN.

The Board may suspend or terminate the Plan at any time.

No Incentive Stock Options may be granted after the tenth anniversary of the earlier of: (i) the Adoption Date, or (ii) the Effective Date

No Awards may be granted under the Plan while the Plan is suspended or after it is terminated.

14. DEFINITIONS.

As used in the Plan, the following definitions apply to the capitalized terms indicated below:

- (a) **“Acquiring Entity”** means the surviving or acquiring corporation (or its parent company) in connection with a Corporate Transaction.
- (b) **“Adoption Date”** means the date the Plan is first approved by the Board or Compensation Committee.
- (c) **“Affiliate”** means, at the time of determination, any “parent” or “subsidiary” of the Company as such terms are defined in Rule 405 promulgated under the Securities Act. The Board may determine the time or times at which “parent” or “subsidiary” status is determined within the foregoing definition.
- (d) **“Applicable Law”** means any applicable securities, federal, state, foreign, local or municipal or other law, statute, constitution, principle of common law, resolution, ordinance, code, edict, decree, rule, listing rule, regulation, judicial decision, ruling or requirement issued, enacted, adopted, promulgated, implemented or otherwise put into effect by or under the authority of any Governmental Body (including under the authority of any applicable self-regulating organization such as the Nasdaq Stock Market, New York Stock Exchange, or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority).
- (e) **“Award”** means any right to receive Common Stock, cash or other property granted under the Plan (including an Incentive Stock Option, a Nonstatutory Stock Option, a Restricted Stock Award, a RSU Award, a SAR, a Performance Award or any Other Award).
- (f) **“Award Agreement”** means a written agreement between the Company and a Participant evidencing the terms and conditions of an Award. The Award Agreement generally consists of the Grant Notice and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the Award and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice.
- (g) **“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Company (or its designee). Any decision or determination made by the Board shall be a decision or determination that is made in the sole discretion of the Board (or its designee), and such decision or determination shall be final and binding on all Participants.
- (h) **“Capitalization Adjustment”** means any change that is made in, or other events that occur with respect to, the Common Stock subject to the Plan or subject to any Award after the Effective Date without the receipt of consideration by the Company through merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, reincorporation, stock dividend, dividend in property other than cash, large nonrecurring cash dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, liquidating dividend, combination of shares, exchange of shares, change in corporate structure or any similar equity restructuring transaction, as that term is used in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (or any successor thereto). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the conversion of any convertible securities of the Company will not be treated as a Capitalization Adjustment.

(i) “Cause” shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in any written agreement between the Participant and the Company defining such term and, in the absence of such agreement, such term shall mean, with respect to a Participant, the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) the Participant’s theft, dishonesty, willful misconduct, breach of fiduciary duty for personal profit, or falsification of any Company or Affiliate documents or records; (ii) the Participant’s material failure to abide by the code of conduct or other policies (including, without limitation, policies relating to confidentiality and reasonable workplace conduct) of the Company or an Affiliate; (iii) the Participant’s unauthorized use, misappropriation, destruction or diversion of any tangible or intangible asset or corporate opportunity of a the Company or an Affiliate (including, without limitation, the Participant’s improper use or disclosure of confidential or proprietary information of the Company or an Affiliate); (iv) any intentional act by the Participant which has a material detrimental effect on the reputation or business of the Company or an Affiliate; (v) the Participant’s repeated failure or inability to perform any reasonable assigned duties after written notice from the Company or an Affiliate, and a reasonable opportunity to cure, such failure or inability; (vi) any material breach by the Participant of any employment or service agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate, which breach is not cured pursuant to the terms of such agreement; or (vii) the Participant’s conviction (including any plea of guilty or nolo contendere) of any criminal act involving fraud, dishonesty, misappropriation or moral turpitude, or which impairs the Participant’s ability to perform his or her duties. The determination that a termination of the Participant’s Continuous Service is either for Cause or without Cause will be made by the Board with respect to Participants who are Officers of the Company and by the Company’s chief executive officer with respect to Participants who are not Officers of the Company. Any determination by the Company that the Continuous Service of a Participant was terminated with or without Cause for the purposes of outstanding Awards held by such Participant will have no effect upon any determination of the rights or obligations of the Company or such Participant for any other purpose.

(j) “Change in Control” or “Change of Control” means the occurrence, on or after the Effective Date, in a single transaction or in a series of related transactions, of any one or more of the following events; provided, however, to the extent necessary to avoid adverse personal income tax consequences to the Participant in connection with an Award, such event must also constitute a Section 409A Change in Control:

(i) any Exchange Act Person becomes the Owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities other than by virtue of a merger, consolidation or similar transaction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Change in Control shall not be deemed to occur (A) on account of the acquisition of securities of the Company directly from the Company, (B) on account of the acquisition of securities of the Company by an investor, any affiliate thereof or any other Exchange Act Person that acquires the Company’s securities in a transaction or series of related transactions the primary purpose of which is to obtain financing for the Company through the issuance of equity securities, or (C) solely because the level of Ownership held by any Exchange Act Person (the “Subject Person”) exceeds the designated percentage threshold of the outstanding voting securities as a result of a repurchase or other acquisition of voting securities by the Company reducing the number of shares outstanding, provided that if a Change in Control would occur (but for the operation of this sentence) as a result of the acquisition of voting securities by the Company, and after such share acquisition, the Subject Person becomes the Owner of any additional voting securities that, assuming the repurchase or other acquisition had not occurred, increases the percentage of the then outstanding voting securities Owned by the Subject Person over the designated percentage threshold, then a Change in Control shall be deemed to occur;

(ii) there is consummated a merger, consolidation or similar transaction involving (directly or indirectly) the Company and, immediately after the consummation of such merger, consolidation or similar transaction, the stockholders of the Company immediately prior thereto do not Own, directly or indirectly, either (A) outstanding voting securities representing more than 50% of the combined outstanding voting power of the surviving Entity in such merger, consolidation or similar transaction or (B) more than 50% of the combined outstanding voting power of the parent of the surviving Entity in such merger, consolidation or similar transaction, in each case in substantially the same proportions as their Ownership of the outstanding voting securities of the Company immediately prior to such transaction;

(iii) the stockholders of the Company approve or the Board approves a plan of complete dissolution or liquidation of the Company, or a complete dissolution or liquidation of the Company shall otherwise occur, except for a liquidation into a parent corporation;

(iv) there is consummated a sale, lease, exclusive license or other disposition of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, other than a sale, lease, license or other disposition of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries to an Entity, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the voting securities of which are Owned by stockholders of the Company in substantially the same proportions as their Ownership of the outstanding voting securities of the Company immediately prior to such sale, lease, license or other disposition; or

(v) individuals who, on the date the Plan is adopted by the Board, are members of the Board (the “*Incumbent Board*”) cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of the members of the Board; provided, however, that if the appointment or election (or nomination for election) of any new Board member was approved or recommended by a majority vote of the members of the Incumbent Board then still in office, such new member shall, for purposes of this Plan, be considered as a member of the Incumbent Board.

Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this Plan, (A) the term Change in Control shall not include a sale of assets, merger or other transaction effected exclusively for the purpose of changing the domicile of the Company, and (B) the definition of Change in Control (or any analogous term) in an individual written agreement between the Company or any Affiliate and the Participant shall supersede the foregoing definition with respect to Awards subject to such agreement; provided, however, that if no definition of Change in Control or any analogous term is set forth in such an individual written agreement, the foregoing definition shall apply.

(k) “*Code*” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including any applicable regulations and guidance thereunder.

(l) “**Committee**” means the Compensation Committee and any other committee of Directors to whom authority has been delegated by the Board or Compensation Committee in accordance with the Plan.

(m) “**Common Stock**” means the common stock of the Company.

(n) “**Company**” means AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

(o) “**Compensation Committee**” means the Compensation Committee of the Board.

(p) “**Consultant**” means any person, including an advisor, who is (i) engaged by the Company or an Affiliate to render consulting or advisory services and is compensated for such services, or (ii) serving as a member of the board of directors of an Affiliate and is compensated for such services. However, service solely as a Director, or payment of a fee for such service, will not cause a Director to be considered a “Consultant” for purposes of the Plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person is treated as a Consultant under this Plan only if a Form S-8 Registration Statement under the Securities Act is available to register either the offer or the sale of the Company’s securities to such person.

(q) “**Continuous Service**” means that the Participant’s service with the Company or an Affiliate, whether as an Employee, Director or Consultant, is not interrupted or terminated. A change in the capacity in which the Participant renders service to the Company or an Affiliate as an Employee, Director or Consultant or a change in the Entity for which the Participant renders such service, provided that there is no interruption or termination of the Participant’s service with the Company or an Affiliate, will not terminate a Participant’s Continuous Service; provided, however, that if the Entity for which a Participant is rendering services ceases to qualify as an Affiliate, as determined by the Board, such Participant’s Continuous Service will be considered to have terminated on the date such Entity ceases to qualify as an Affiliate. For example, a change in status from an Employee of the Company to a Consultant of the Company or an Affiliate or to a Director will not constitute an interruption of Continuous Service. To the extent permitted by law, the Board or the chief executive officer of the Company, in that party’s sole discretion, may determine whether Continuous Service will be considered interrupted in the case of (i) any leave of absence approved by the Board or chief executive officer, including sick leave, military leave or any other personal leave, or (ii) transfers between the Company, an Affiliate, or their successors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a leave of absence will be treated as Continuous Service for purposes of vesting in an Award only to such extent as may be provided in the Company’s leave of absence policy, in the written terms of any leave of absence agreement or policy applicable to the Participant, or as otherwise required by law. In addition, to the extent required for exemption from or compliance with Section 409A, the determination of whether there has been a termination of Continuous Service will be made, and such term will be construed, in a manner that is consistent with the definition of “separation from service” as defined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(h) (without regard to any alternative definition thereunder).

(r) “**Corporate Transaction**” means the consummation, in a single transaction or in a series of related transactions, of any one or more of the following events:

(i) a sale or other disposition of all or substantially all, as determined by the Board, of the consolidated assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries;

(ii) a sale or other disposition of at least 50% of the outstanding securities of the Company;

(iii) a merger, consolidation or similar transaction following which the Company is not the surviving corporation; or

(iv) a merger, consolidation or similar transaction following which the Company is the surviving corporation but the shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately preceding the merger, consolidation or similar transaction are converted or exchanged by virtue of the merger, consolidation or similar transaction into other property, whether in the form of securities, cash or otherwise.

(s) “**Director**” means a member of the Board.

(t) “**determine**” or “**determined**” means as determined by the Board or the Committee (or its designee) in its sole discretion.

(u) “**Disability**” means, with respect to a Participant, such Participant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, as provided in Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, and will be determined by the Board on the basis of such medical evidence as the Board deems warranted under the circumstances.

(v) “**Effective Date**” means the date of the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company held in 2020 provided this Plan is approved by the Company’s stockholders at such meeting.

(w) “**Employee**” means any person employed by the Company or an Affiliate. However, service solely as a Director, or payment of a fee for such services, will not cause a Director to be considered an “Employee” for purposes of the Plan.

(x) “**Employer**” means the Company or the Affiliate of the Company that employs the Participant.

(y) “**Entity**” means a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity.

(z) “**Exchange Act**” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(aa) “**Exchange Act Person**” means any natural person, Entity or “group” (within the meaning of Section 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act), except that “Exchange Act Person” will not include (i) the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, (ii) any employee benefit plan of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company or any trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under an employee benefit plan of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, (iii) an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to a registered public offering of such securities, (iv) an Entity Owned, directly or indirectly, by the stockholders of the Company in substantially the same proportions as their Ownership of stock of the Company; or (v) any natural person, Entity or “group” (within the meaning of Section 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act) that, as of the Effective Date, is the Owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing more than 50% of the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities.

(bb) “*Fair Market Value*” means, as of any date, unless otherwise determined by the Board, the value of the Common Stock (as determined on a per share or aggregate basis, as applicable) determined as follows:

(i) If the Common Stock is listed on any established stock exchange or traded on any established market, the Fair Market Value will be the closing sales price for such stock as quoted on such exchange or market (or the exchange or market with the greatest volume of trading in the Common Stock) on the date of determination, as reported in a source the Board deems reliable.

(ii) If there is no closing sales price for the Common Stock on the date of determination, then the Fair Market Value will be the closing selling price on the last preceding date for which such quotation exists.

(iii) In the absence of such markets for the Common Stock, or if otherwise determined by the Board, the Fair Market Value will be determined by the Board in good faith and in a manner that complies with Sections 409A and 422 of the Code.

(cc) “*Governmental Body*” means any: (a) nation, state, commonwealth, province, territory, county, municipality, district or other jurisdiction of any nature; (b) federal, state, local, municipal, foreign or other government; (c) governmental or regulatory body, or quasi-governmental body of any nature (including any governmental division, department, administrative agency or bureau, commission, authority, instrumentality, official, ministry, fund, foundation, center, organization, unit, body or Entity and any court or other tribunal, and for the avoidance of doubt, any Tax authority) or other body exercising similar powers or authority; or (d) self-regulatory organization (including the Nasdaq Stock Market, New York Stock Exchange, and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority).

(dd) “*Grant Notice*” means the notice provided to a Participant that he or she has been granted an Award under the Plan and which includes the name of the Participant, the type of Award, the date of grant of the Award, number of shares of Common Stock subject to the Award or potential cash payment right, (if any), the vesting schedule for the Award (if any) and other key terms applicable to the Award.

(ee) “*Incentive Stock Option*” means an option granted pursuant to Section 4 of the Plan that is intended to be, and qualifies as, an “incentive stock option” within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code.

(ff) “**Materially Impair**” means any amendment to the terms of the Award that materially adversely affects the Participant’s rights under the Award. A Participant’s rights under an Award will not be deemed to have been Materially Impaired by any such amendment if the Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the amendment, taken as a whole, does not materially impair the Participant’s rights. For example, the following types of amendments to the terms of an Award do not Materially Impair the Participant’s rights under the Award: (i) imposition of reasonable restrictions on the minimum number of shares subject to an Option that may be exercised, (ii) to maintain the qualified status of the Award as an Incentive Stock Option under Section 422 of the Code; (iii) to change the terms of an Incentive Stock Option in a manner that disqualifies, impairs or otherwise affects the qualified status of the Award as an Incentive Stock Option under Section 422 of the Code; (iv) to clarify the manner of exemption from, or to bring the Award into compliance with or qualify it for an exemption from, Section 409A; or (v) to comply with other Applicable Laws.

(gg) “**Non-Employee Director**” means a Director who either (i) is not a current employee or officer of the Company or an Affiliate, does not receive compensation, either directly or indirectly, from the Company or an Affiliate for services rendered as a consultant or in any capacity other than as a Director (except for an amount as to which disclosure would not be required under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K promulgated pursuant to the Securities Act (“**Regulation S-K**”)), does not possess an interest in any other transaction for which disclosure would be required under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K, and is not engaged in a business relationship for which disclosure would be required pursuant to Item 404(b) of Regulation S-K; or (ii) is otherwise considered a “non-employee director” for purposes of Rule 16b-3.

(hh) “**Non-Exempt Award**” means any Award that is subject to, and not exempt from, Section 409A, including as the result of (i) a deferral of the issuance of the shares subject to the Award which is elected by the Participant or imposed by the Company, (ii) the terms of any Non-Exempt Severance Agreement.

(ii) “**Non-Exempt Director Award**” means a Non-Exempt Award granted to a Participant who was a Director but not an Employee on the applicable grant date.

(jj) “**Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement**” means a severance arrangement or other agreement between the Participant and the Company that provides for acceleration of vesting of an Award and issuance of the shares in respect of such Award upon the Participant’s termination of employment or separation from service (as such term is defined in Section 409A(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Code (and without regard to any alternative definition thereunder) (“**Separation from Service**”) and such severance benefit does not satisfy the requirements for an exemption from application of Section 409A provided under Treasury Regulations Section 1.409A-1(b)(4), 1.409A-1(b)(9) or otherwise.

(kk) “**Nonstatutory Stock Option**” means any option granted pursuant to Section 4 of the Plan that does not qualify as an Incentive Stock Option.

(ll) “**Officer**” means a person who is an officer of the Company within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

(mm) “**Option**” means an Incentive Stock Option or a Nonstatutory Stock Option to purchase shares of Common Stock granted pursuant to the Plan.

(nn) “*Option Agreement*” means a written agreement between the Company and the Optionholder evidencing the terms and conditions of the Option grant. The Option Agreement includes the Grant Notice for the Option grant and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the Option and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice. Each Option Agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(oo) “*Optionholder*” means a person to whom an Option is granted pursuant to the Plan or, if applicable, such other person who holds an outstanding Option.

(pp) “*Other Award*” means an award based in whole or in part by reference to the Common Stock which is granted pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 5(c).

(qq) “*Other Award Agreement*” means a written agreement between the Company and a holder of an Other Award evidencing the terms and conditions of an Other Award grant. The Other Award Agreement includes the Grant Notice for the Other Award grant and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the Other Award and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice. Each Other Award Agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(rr) “*Own,*” “*Owned,*” “*Owner,*” “*Ownership*” means that a person or Entity will be deemed to “Own,” to have “Owned,” to be the “Owner” of, or to have acquired “Ownership” of securities if such person or Entity, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship or otherwise, has or shares voting power, which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting, with respect to such securities.

(ss) “*Participant*” means an Employee, Director or Consultant to whom an Award is granted pursuant to the Plan or, if applicable, such other person who holds an outstanding Award.

(tt) “*Performance Award*” means an Award that may vest or may be exercised or a cash award that may vest or become earned and paid contingent upon the attainment during a Performance Period of certain Performance Goals and which is granted under the terms and conditions of Section 5(b) pursuant to such terms as are approved by the Board. In addition, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law and set forth in the applicable Award Agreement, the Board may determine that cash or other property may be used in payment of Performance Awards. Performance Awards that are settled in cash or other property are not required to be valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise based on, the Common Stock

(uu) “*Performance Criteria*” means the one or more criteria that the Board shall select for purposes of establishing the Performance Goals for a Performance Period. The Performance Criteria that shall be used to establish such Performance Goals may be based on any one of, or combination of, the following as determined by the Board: (i) earnings (including earnings per share and net earnings); (ii) earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation; (iii) earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; (iv) total stockholder return; (v) return on equity or average stockholder’s equity; (vi) return on assets, investment, or capital employed; (vii) stock price; (viii) margin (including gross margin); (ix) income (before or after taxes); (x) operating income; (xi) operating income after taxes; (xii) pre-tax profit; (xiii) operating cash flow; (xiv) sales or revenue targets; (xv) increases in revenue or product revenue; (xvi) expenses and cost reduction goals; (xvii) improvement in or attainment of working capital levels; (xviii) economic value added (or an equivalent metric); (xix) market share; (xx) cash flow; (xxi) cash flow per share; (xxii) share price performance; (xxiii) debt reduction; (xxiv) implementation or completion of projects or processes; (xxv) customer satisfaction; (xxvi) stockholders’ equity; (xxvii) capital expenditures; (xxviii) debt levels; (xxix) operating profit or net operating profit; (xxx) workforce diversity; (xxxii) growth of net income or operating income; (xxxiii) billings; (xxxiv) product order and re-order rates; (xxxv) number of formulary approval of products; (xxxvi) cash balance; and (xxxvii) such other measures of performance selected by the Board.

(vv) “**Performance Goals**” means, for a Performance Period, the one or more goals established by the Board for the Performance Period based upon the Performance Criteria. Performance Goals may be based on a Company-wide basis, with respect to one or more business units, divisions, Affiliates, or business segments, and in either absolute terms or relative to the performance of one or more comparable companies or the performance of one or more relevant indices. Unless specified otherwise by the Board (i) in the Award Agreement at the time the Award is granted or (ii) in such other document setting forth the Performance Goals at the time the Performance Goals are established, the Board will appropriately make adjustments in the method of calculating the attainment of Performance Goals for a Performance Period as follows: (1) to exclude restructuring and/or other nonrecurring charges; (2) to exclude exchange rate effects; (3) to exclude the effects of changes to generally accepted accounting principles; (4) to exclude the effects of any statutory adjustments to corporate tax rates; (5) to exclude the effects of items that are “unusual” in nature or occur “infrequently” as determined under generally accepted accounting principles; (6) to exclude the dilutive effects of acquisitions or joint ventures; (7) to assume that any business divested by the Company achieved performance objectives at targeted levels during the balance of a Performance Period following such divestiture; (8) to exclude the effect of any change in the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company by reason of any stock dividend or split, stock repurchase, reorganization, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, spin-off, combination or exchange of shares or other similar corporate change, or any distributions to common stockholders other than regular cash dividends; (9) to exclude the effects of stock based compensation and the award of bonuses under the Company’s bonus plans; (10) to exclude costs incurred in connection with potential acquisitions or divestitures that are required to be expensed under generally accepted accounting principles; and (11) to exclude the goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges that are required to be recorded under generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, the Board retains the discretion to reduce or eliminate the compensation or economic benefit due upon attainment of Performance Goals and to define the manner of calculating the Performance Criteria it selects to use for such Performance Period. Partial achievement of the specified criteria may result in the payment or vesting corresponding to the degree of achievement as specified in the Award Agreement or the written terms of a Performance Cash Award.

(ww) “**Performance Period**” means the period of time selected by the Board over which the attainment of one or more Performance Goals will be measured for the purpose of determining a Participant’s right to vesting or exercise of an Award. Performance Periods may be of varying and overlapping duration, at the sole discretion of the Board.

(xx) “**Plan**” means this AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan.

(yy) “**Plan Administrator**” means the person, persons, and/or third-party administrator designated by the Company to administer the day to day operations of the Plan and the Company’s other equity incentive programs.

(zz) “**Post-Termination Exercise Period**” means the period following termination of a Participant’s Continuous Service within which an Option or SAR is exercisable, as specified in Section 4(h).

(aaa) “**Prior Plan’s Available Reserve**” means the number of shares available for the grant of new awards under the Prior Plan as of immediately prior to the Effective Date.

(bbb) “**Prior Plan**” means the AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan and the AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2006 Stock Plan.

(ccc) “**Prospectus**” means the document containing the Plan information specified in Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

(ddd) “**Restricted Stock Award**” or “**RSA**” means an Award of shares of Common Stock which is granted pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 5(a).

(eee) “**Restricted Stock Award Agreement**” means a written agreement between the Company and a holder of a Restricted Stock Award evidencing the terms and conditions of a Restricted Stock Award grant. The Restricted Stock Award Agreement includes the Grant Notice for the Restricted Stock Award and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the Restricted Stock Award and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice. Each Restricted Stock Award Agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(fff) “**Returning Shares**” means shares subject to outstanding stock awards granted under the Prior Plan and that following the Effective Date: (A) are not issued because such stock award or any portion thereof expires or otherwise terminates without all of the shares covered by such stock award having been issued; (B) are not issued because such stock award or any portion thereof is settled in cash; or (C) are forfeited back to or repurchased by the Company because of the failure to meet a contingency or condition required for the vesting of such shares.

(ggg) “**RSU Award**” or “**RSU**” means an Award of restricted stock units representing the right to receive shares of Common Stock which is granted pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 5(a).

(hhh) “**RSU Award Agreement**” means a written agreement between the Company and a holder of a RSU Award evidencing the terms and conditions of a RSU Award grant. The RSU Award Agreement includes the Grant Notice for the RSU Award and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the RSU Award and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice. Each RSU Award Agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(iii) “**Rule 16b-3**” means Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act or any successor to Rule 16b-3, as in effect from time to time.

(jjj) “**Rule 405**” means Rule 405 promulgated under the Securities Act.

(kkk) “**Section 409A**” means Section 409A of the Code and the regulations and other guidance thereunder.

(lll) “**Section 409A Change in Control**” means a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company, or in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company’s assets, as provided in Section 409A(a)(2)(A)(v) of the Code and Treasury Regulations Section 1.409A-3(i)(5) (without regard to any alternative definition thereunder).

(mmm) “**Securities Act**” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and the regulations and other guidance promulgated thereunder.

(nnn) “**Share Reserve**” means the number of shares available for issuance under the Plan as set forth in Section 2(a).

(ooo) “**Stock Appreciation Right**” or “**SAR**” means a right to receive the appreciation on Common Stock that is granted pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 4.

(ppp) “**SAR Agreement**” means a written agreement between the Company and a holder of a SAR evidencing the terms and conditions of a SAR grant. The SAR Agreement includes the Grant Notice for the SAR and the agreement containing the written summary of the general terms and conditions applicable to the SAR and which is provided to a Participant along with the Grant Notice. Each SAR Agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(qqq) “**Subsidiary**” means, with respect to the Company, (i) any corporation of which more than 50% of the outstanding capital stock having ordinary voting power to elect a majority of the board of directors of such corporation (irrespective of whether, at the time, stock of any other class or classes of such corporation will have or might have voting power by reason of the happening of any contingency) is at the time, directly or indirectly, Owned by the Company, and (ii) any partnership, limited liability company or other entity in which the Company has a direct or indirect interest (whether in the form of voting or participation in profits or capital contribution) of more than 50%.

(rrr) “**Ten Percent Stockholder**” means a person who Owns (or is deemed to Own pursuant to Section 424(d) of the Code) stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Affiliate.

(sss) “**Trading Policy**” means the Company’s policy permitting certain individuals to sell Company shares only during certain “window” periods and/or otherwise restricts the ability of certain individuals to transfer or encumber Company shares, as in effect from time to time.

(ttt) “**Unvested Non-Exempt Award**” means the portion of any Non-Exempt Award that had not vested in accordance with its terms upon or prior to the date of any Corporate Transaction.

(uuu) “**Vested Non-Exempt Award**” means the portion of any Non-Exempt Award that had vested in accordance with its terms upon or prior to the date of a Corporate Transaction.



ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
1850 GATEWAY DRIVE, SUITE 175
SAN MATEO, CA 94404



**SCAN TO
VIEW MATERIALS & VOTE**



VOTE BY INTERNET

Before The Meeting - Go to www.proxyvote.com or scan the QR Barcode above

Use the internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information. Vote by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 9, 2023. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

During The Meeting - Go to www.virtualshareholdmeeting.com/ACRX2023

You may attend the meeting via the Internet and vote during the meeting. Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow available and follow the instructions.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by our company in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access proxy materials electronically in future years.

VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions. Vote by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 9, 2023. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

VOTE BY MAIL

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS:

V22532-P98244

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS
DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following:

1. Election of Directors

For All Withhold All For All Except

To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "For All Except" and write the number(s) of the nominee(s) on the line below.

Nominees:

- 01) Marina Bozilenko
02) Howard B. Rosen
03) Mark Wan

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following proposals:

2. To ratify the appointment of WithumSmith+Brown, PC as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2023.
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers.
4. To approve our Amended and Restated 2020 Equity Incentive Plan.

For Against Abstain

NOTE: Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) hereon. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary, please give full title as such. Joint owners should each sign personally. All holders must sign. If a corporation or partnership, please sign in full corporate or partnership name by authorized officer.

Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX]	Date

Signature (Joint Owners)	Date

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:

The Notice and Proxy Statement and Form 10-K are available at www.proxyvote.com.

V22533-P98244

**ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
Annual Meeting of Stockholders
October 10, 2023 10:00 AM PDT
This proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors**

The stockholder(s) hereby appoint(s) Vincent J. Angotti and Raffi Asadorian, or either of them, as proxies each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorize(s) them to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side of this ballot, all of the shares of common stock of ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. that the stockholder(s) is/are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 10:00 AM, PDT on October 10, 2023, via the virtual meeting at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ACRX2023, and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein. If no such direction is made, this proxy will be voted in accordance with the Board of Directors' recommendations.

Continued and to be signed on reverse side