

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

FORM 10-K

**FOR ANNUAL AND TRANSITION REPORTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010**

or

TRANSITION REPORTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.

For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission File Number: 001-35068

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

41-2193603
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**575 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 216-3500**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of Each Class | Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par value | The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2) Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on February 11, 2011, based upon the closing price of \$4.55 as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market, was approximately \$20,285,038. Excludes 14,913,500 shares of the registrant's common stock held by current executive officers, directors, and stockholders that the registrant has concluded are affiliates of the registrant. The registrant has elected to use February 11, 2011 as the calculation date, which was the initial trading date of the registrant's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market, since on June 30, 2010 (the last business day of the registrant's second fiscal quarter), the registrant was a privately-held concern.

As of March 29, 2011, the number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock was 19,371,750.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None.

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ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
2010 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

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Forward-Looking Statements

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, or Form 10-K, contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which are subject to the “safe harbor” created by that section. The forward-looking statements in this Form 10-K are contained principally under “Item 1. Business,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the following words: “may,” “will,” “could,” “would,” “should,” “expect,” “intend,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “project,” “potential,” “continue,” “ongoing” or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from the information expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Although we believe that we have a reasonable basis for each forward-looking statement contained in this Form 10-K, we caution you that these statements are based on a combination of facts and factors currently known by us and our projections of the future, about which we cannot be certain. Many important factors affect our ability to achieve our objectives, including:

- the success, cost and timing of our product development activities and clinical trials;
- our ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of our product candidates, and any related restrictions, limitations, and/or warnings in the label of an approved product candidate;
- our ability to obtain funding for our operations, including funding necessary to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our new drug application, or NDA, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, for ARX-01;
- our plans to research, develop and commercialize our product candidates;
- our ability to attract collaborators with development, regulatory and commercialization expertise;
- the size and growth potential of the markets for our product candidates, and our ability to serve those markets;
- our ability to successfully commercialize our product candidates;
- the rate and degree of market acceptance of our product candidates;
- our ability to develop sales and marketing capabilities, whether alone or with potential future collaborators;
- regulatory developments in the United States and foreign countries;
- the performance of our third party suppliers and manufacturers;
- the success of competing therapies that are or become available;
- the loss of key scientific or management personnel;
- the accuracy of our estimates regarding expenses, future revenues, capital requirements and needs for additional financing; and
- our ability to obtain and maintain intellectual property protection for our product candidates.

In addition, you should refer to “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in this Form 10-K for a discussion of these and other important factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. As a result of these factors, we cannot assure you that the forward-looking statements in this Form 10-K will prove to be accurate. Furthermore, if our forward-looking statements prove to be inaccurate, the inaccuracy may be material. In light of the significant uncertainties in these forward-looking statements, you should not regard these statements as a representation or warranty by us or any other person that we will achieve our objectives and plans in any specified time frame, or at all. Also, forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this Form 10-K. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

PART I

Item 1. Business

Overview

We are a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies for the treatment of acute and breakthrough pain. We were founded to solve the problems associated with post-operative intravenous patient-controlled analgesia, or IV PCA. Although widely used, IV PCA has been shown to cause harm to patients following surgery because of the side effects of morphine, the invasive IV route of delivery and the inherent potential for programming and delivery errors associated with the complexity of infusion pumps. We are preparing to initiate two Phase 3 clinical trials for our lead product candidate, the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System, or ARX-01. The system is designed to address these problems by utilizing:

- sufentanil, a high therapeutic index opioid;
- NanoTabs, our proprietary, non-invasive sublingual dosage form; and
- our novel handheld PCA device that enables simple patient-controlled delivery of NanoTabs in the hospital setting and eliminates the risk of programming errors.

We have completed Phase 2 clinical development for two additional product candidates, the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System, or ARX-02, for the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain, or BTP, and the Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab, or ARX-03, designed to provide mild sedation, anxiety reduction and pain relief for patients undergoing painful procedures in a physician's office.

We were originally incorporated as SuRx, Inc. in Delaware on July 13, 2005. We subsequently changed our name to AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. on August 13, 2006.

The Market Opportunity for Our Product Candidates

ARX-01—Acute Post-Operative Pain

According to the 2010 Decision Resources Acute Pain report, the 2018 post-operative pain market is projected to be \$6.5 billion for the United States, Europe and Japan. Opioids are the most efficacious analgesics available to control acute pain and are estimated to represent 74% of the overall post-operative pain market in the United States. Despite the broad array of pain products available, the need for adequate pain relief continues to be a significant issue. According to a report published in 2008 by Datamonitor, 75% of patients reported inadequate pain relief after surgery.

In the post-operative environment, the most common method for the treatment of acute pain is through IV PCA, in which patients self-dose by pushing a button to administer morphine via a programmable intravenous pump. Despite the common use of IV PCA, there are many deficiencies associated with this treatment that create a significant unmet medical need, including:

- *Drug-Related Side Effects.* Morphine, the most commonly used opioid for post-operative pain control, can produce many side effects, such as excessive somnolence, delirium, oxygen desaturation and respiratory depression. Morphine has active metabolites, the compounds that are produced when the body breaks down, or metabolizes, morphine, which amplify these side effects.
- *Complications Associated with IV Delivery.* IV PCA poses infection risk and creates opportunities for analgesic gaps due to dislodged catheters. Peripheral venous catheters have been associated with a 7% to 9% incidence of phlebitis and a 0.2% to 0.4% incidence of bacteremia. Catheter tubing tethering the patient to the PCA pump also hinders early post-operative mobility that can lead to increased post-operative complications.

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- *Medication Delivery Errors.* The complexity associated with ordering, dispensing, preparing, programming and administering the IV PCA pump results in many analgesia related errors. Human factors, such as programming the PCA pump, or administering the wrong dose, are among the most common and serious type of errors. According to published literature, the estimated annual error rate is 407 errors per 10,000 people treated with IV PCA in the United States. Published analysis of a national medication error-reporting program, or Medmarx, from 2000 to 2005 reveals that IV PCA errors represent a four-fold higher relative risk of harm compared to all other medication errors. The most recent published analysis of the FDA Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience, or MAUDE, database reports that 5% of IV PCA operator errors reported during a two-year index period, from 2002 to 2003, resulted in patient deaths. Recently, the risks associated with the use of infusion pumps, such as those used in IV PCA, have been the subject of scrutiny by the FDA, resulting in a new initiative to address the safety problems associated with infusion pumps and the underreporting of errors. Approximately 56,000 adverse events were reported to the FDA between 2005 and 2009, prompting 70 Class II infusion pump recalls of devices that could cause temporary or reversible adverse effects and 14 Class I infusion pump recalls of devices that could cause serious injury or death.

ARX-01 is designed to avoid many of the limitations of IV PCA by delivering sufentanil, a high therapeutic index opioid, using our proprietary NanoTab sublingual tablet via non-invasive, pre-programmed, handheld PCA device. We have completed three Phase 2 studies with ARX-01 and had an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA which defined the required scope and scale for Phase 3 studies, certain formulation requirements, non-clinical and regulatory requirements. We believe ARX-01 has the opportunity to become the new standard of care for post-operative patient-controlled analgesia.

ARX-02—Cancer Breakthrough Pain

Breakthrough pain is a common component of chronic pain and is characterized by its rapid onset, intensity and relatively short duration, which breaks through the analgesic effect of chronic pain medication. According to data published in 2006, more than 700,000 cancer patients in the United States experienced breakthrough pain. Fentanyl-based products are the only medications indicated to treat cancer breakthrough pain and account for less than 20,000 prescriptions per month. We believe this demonstrates a need for additional and improved cancer breakthrough pain medications. Data from the 2010 Decision Resources Acute Pain report indicates that the worldwide breakthrough pain market will grow to \$2.9 billion by 2018.

Currently available fentanyl-based cancer breakthrough pain products have limited ability to provide effective and focused pain relief because their average half-lives extend to 6 to 14 hours, which is significantly longer than the average 15 to 60 minute duration of a cancer breakthrough pain episode. Oral transmucosal fentanyl, unlike sufentanil, is extensively absorbed through the gastrointestinal, or GI, tract in addition to the oral mucosal tissue, leading to erratic and delayed timing to peak plasma levels, ranging from 20 to 240 minutes. This can result in a dangerous phenomenon, known as dose-stacking, which occurs when a repeat dose is administered before the peak effect of the previous dose, and can lead to significant side effects, such as respiratory depression.

In addition to the medical limitations of currently approved opioids, the abuse of opioid pain medications is a significant medical and social problem. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, during 2009 approximately 5.2 million people in the United States used prescription pain relievers for nonmedical purposes, an increase from the estimated 4.7 million in 2005. We believe none of the currently approved cancer breakthrough pain products have effective abuse-deterrent features to address these problems.

ARX-02 is designed to avoid many of the limitations of currently available cancer breakthrough pain medications by combining the rapid onset and appropriate offset of sufentanil with abuse-deterrent packaging. We have completed a Phase 2 study with ARX-02 and had an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA that defined the required criteria for Phase 3 studies.

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ARX-03—Mild Sedation and Pain Relief for Procedures in a Physician’s Office

Each year in the United States, more than 100 million procedures take place in a physician’s office. A substantial subset of these procedures are painful and anxiety inducing, including many interventional radiology procedures, diagnostic procedures such as breast and prostate biopsies, cosmetic procedures such as liposuction and dermal abrasions, and therapeutic procedures such as vasectomies. Ninety-six percent of men report moderate pain immediately after prostate biopsy, with only 4% of patients reporting no pain during the biopsy. In addition, women undergoing breast biopsies have pre-procedural scores averaging 60 to 70 out of 100 for visual analog scale measurements of nervousness, tension and fearfulness.

Intravenous sedation requires specialized monitoring, resuscitative equipment and appropriately trained staff for effective management of patients. As a result, many practitioners have stopped providing any sedation or analgesic medications to their patients prior to or during short duration procedures, and instead rely solely on local anesthetic injections, which are often insufficient in providing effective pain relief and anxiety reduction.

We are developing ARX-03 as a non-invasive method to produce sedation, anxiety reduction and pain relief in patients undergoing painful procedures in a physician’s office. ARX-03 is designed to eliminate the need for specialized personnel and requires only minimal monitoring equipment. We have completed a Phase 2 study with ARX-03, and have preliminary guidance as to a clinical development path for this product as a result of completion of an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA.

Sufentanil NanoTabs

Sufentanil, a high therapeutic index opioid, which has no active metabolites, is 5 to 10 times more potent than fentanyl and is used intravenously as a primary anesthetic to produce balanced general anesthesia for surgery, and for epidural administration during labor and delivery. Sufentanil has many pharmacological advantages over other opioids. Published studies demonstrate that sufentanil produces significantly less respiratory depressive effects relative to its analgesic effects compared to other opioids, including morphine, alfentanil and fentanyl. These third party clinical results correlate well with preclinical studies demonstrating sufentanil’s high therapeutic index, or the ratio of the toxic dose to the therapeutic dose of a drug, used as a measure of the relative safety of the drug for a particular treatment. Accordingly, we believe that despite its potency, sufentanil can be developed to provide an effective and relatively safe solution for the treatment of acute and breakthrough pain. The following table illustrates the difference between the therapeutic index of different opioids.

| <u>Opioid</u> | <u>Therapeutic Index</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Meperidine | 5 |
| Methadone | 12 |
| Morphine | 71 |
| Hydromorphone | 232 |
| Fentanyl | 277 |
| Sufentanil | 26,716 |

Although the analgesic efficacy of sufentanil has been well established, its use has been limited due to its short duration of action when delivered intravenously. The pharmaceutical attributes of sufentanil, including lipid solubility and ionization, result in rapid cell membrane penetration and onset of action, which we believe make sufentanil an optimal opioid for the treatment of both acute pain and breakthrough pain. In addition, its pharmacokinetic, or PK, profile when delivered sublingually avoids the high peak plasma levels and short duration of action of IV administration.

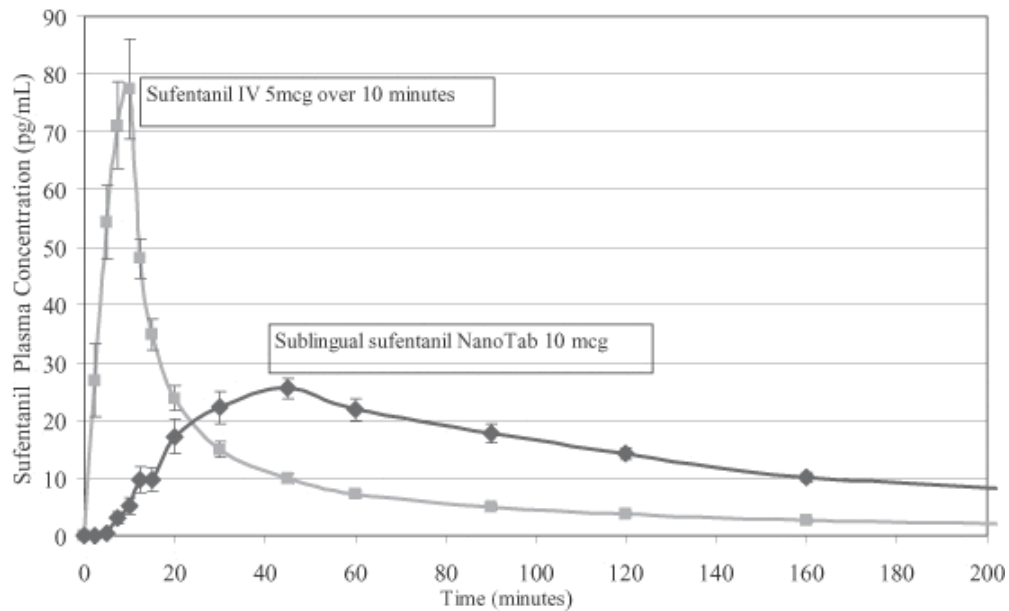
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Sublingual Delivery of Sufentanil: Summary of Phase 1 Clinical Studies Results

We have completed four Phase 1 PK studies with our proprietary sublingual sufentanil NanoTabs to support our three products under development. These studies demonstrated desirable and consistent PK parameters, including:

- relatively high bioavailability via the oral mucosa and very low GI bioavailability;
- prolonged plasma levels relative to IV delivery;
- PK parameters proportional to dose across a wide range of doses (2.5 mcg to 80 mcg);
- lower peak plasma concentration, or C_{max} , than IV delivery;
- time to maximum plasma concentrations, or T_{max} , range from 30 to 90 minutes;
- relatively low patient to patient variability in T_{max} and C_{max} ; and
- repeat dosing PK that supports a 20 minute minimum re-dosing interval.

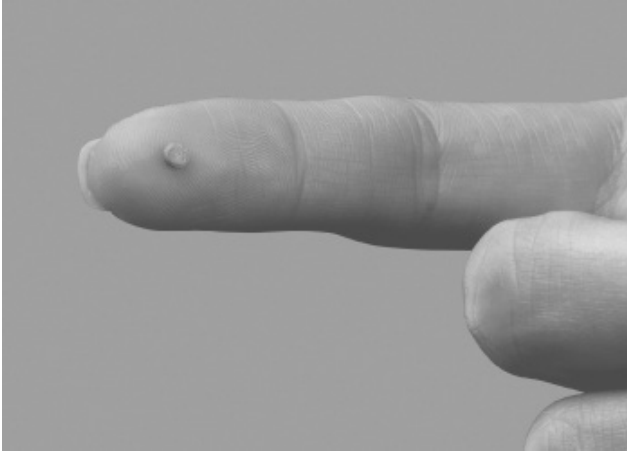
The chart below illustrates the PK profile of sublingual sufentanil NanoTab compared to IV delivery of sufentanil from one of our completed Phase 1 PK studies.



We have demonstrated that sublingual delivery of sufentanil avoids the high peak plasma levels and short duration of action of IV administration, enabling potential for broader use. Our proprietary NanoTab dosage form is a very small disc-shaped tablet with a bioadhesive excipient, or inactive ingredient, that enables the NanoTab to adhere to mucosal tissues. This allows sublingual delivery of sufentanil from the NanoTab by adherence to the sublingual mucosa, or tissues under the tongue. The NanoTab adheres within seconds after administration and full disintegration occurs within minutes. The small size of the NanoTab, pictured below, is designed to minimize the saliva response and amount of sufentanil swallowed, resulting in high oral transmucosal uptake, whereby a majority of the drug is absorbed via the oral tissues directly into the bloodstream, and consistent pharmacokinetics.

Our portfolio of product candidates leverages the inherent advantages of sufentanil that are underutilized in medical practice. We believe our non-invasive, proprietary NanoTab sublingual dosage form overcomes the limitations of the current treatment options available for both acute and breakthrough pain.

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None of our product candidates have been approved by the FDA. We have not generated any revenue from the sale of any of our product candidates.

Our Product Candidates

The following table summarizes key information about our existing product candidates for which we currently hold worldwide commercialization rights.

| <u>Product Candidate</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Target Indication</u> | <u>Development Status</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| ARX-01 | Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System | Acute post-operative pain | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three Phase 2 clinical trials and End of Phase 2 meeting successfully completed• Two efficacy trials and one open label safety trial planned in Phase 3; the first efficacy trial and the open label safety trial are anticipated to begin in the second half of 2011 |
| ARX-02 | Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System | Cancer breakthrough pain | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 2 clinical trial and End of Phase 2 meeting successfully completed• One efficacy trial and two open label safety trials planned in Phase 3 |
| ARX-03 | Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab | Mild sedation for painful procedures in a physician's office | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 2 clinical trial and End of Phase 2 meeting successfully completed• Two efficacy trials planned in Phase 3 |

ARX-01—Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System



This product candidate has not been approved by the FDA.

We have not generated any revenue from the sale of any of our product candidates.

less than 24 hours and are not traditionally treated with IV PCA. Pharmacy and Therapeutics, or P&T, committees also indicate strong interest in ARX-01, with 91% of those interviewed indicating likely adoption to formulary.

How ARX-01 Addresses the Unmet Medical Need in Post-Operative Pain Management

There are many deficiencies associated with the current use of IV PCA, including:

- side effects associated with the most commonly used opioid, morphine, and its active metabolites;
- infection risk, analgesic gaps and decreased mobility associated with the invasive nature of IV delivery; and
- medication errors, which in some instances may be fatal, due to the complexity of IV PCA pumps, many of which arise from programming errors.

According to published literature, the estimated annual error rate is 407 errors per 10,000 people treated with IV PCA in the United States. Published analysis of Medmarx from 2000 to 2005 reveals that IV PCA errors represent a four-fold higher relative risk of harm compared to all other medication errors. The most recent published analysis of the FDA MAUDE database reports that 5% of IV PCA operator errors reported during a two-year index period, from 2002 to 2003, resulted in patient deaths. Approximately 56,000 adverse events were reported to the FDA between 2005 and 2009, prompting 70 Class II infusion pump recalls of devices that could cause temporary or reversible adverse effects and 14 Class I infusion pump recalls of devices that could cause serious injury or death. These issues with infusion pumps have resulted in the issuance of new draft guidance by the FDA, significantly increasing the data required to be submitted by manufacturers to address safety problems.

ARX-01 has the potential to address many of the key disadvantages of IV PCA, including:

- reducing the incidence of drug related side effects;
- eliminating the risk of IV PCA related infections, reducing analgesic gaps and enhancing mobility; and
- eliminating the risk of programming errors.

The Market Opportunity for ARX-01

The post-operative pain market in the United States, Europe and Japan is growing steadily and is expected to reach \$6.5 billion by 2018. Despite its size, this market remains underserved. Studies report that up to 75% of patients experience inadequate pain relief after surgery. Inadequate pain relief can lead to decreased mobility, which increases the risks of other medical complications, including deep vein thrombosis and partial lung collapse, and can result in extended hospital stays. The 2010 Decision Resources Acute Pain report projects that in 2013, 24.6 million in-patient procedures performed in the United States, Europe and Japan will require post-operative treatment of pain, growing at a rate of approximately 1% per annum.

Market research among surgeons and anesthesiologists has identified a consistent positive response to the attributes of ARX-01 and indicates an interest in using ARX-01 in 85% of their eligible patients. Additionally, physicians expressed interest in using ARX-01 for patients who stay in the hospital for

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We believe that ARX-01 will provide a favorable safety, efficacy and tolerability profile, enabling ARX-01 to become the new standard of care for patient-controlled analgesia. Further, we believe use of ARX-01 will result in increased patient satisfaction and reduced overall healthcare costs.

ARX-01 Description

ARX-01 allows patients to self-administer sublingual sufentanil NanoTabs as needed to manage their post-operative pain in the hospital setting, and provides the record-keeping attributes of a conventional IV PCA pump while avoiding some of the key issues, such as programming errors associated with conventional IV PCA use.

Our Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System, ARX-01, consists of three components:

- sufentanil, a high therapeutic index opioid;
- NanoTabs, our proprietary, non-invasive sublingual dosage form; and
- our novel handheld PCA device that enables simple patient-controlled delivery of NanoTabs in the hospital setting and eliminates the risk of programming errors.

ARX-01 utilizes sufentanil, which has one of the highest therapeutic indices of all commercially available opioids, making it an attractive candidate for the management of post-operative pain. Formulated in our proprietary sublingual NanoTab dosage form, sufentanil provides for relatively high bioavailability, with lower peak drug levels and a longer duration of action compared to IV delivery.

Our handheld PCA device consists of a stack of 40 sufentanil 15 mcg NanoTabs (approximately a two-day supply) in a disposable radio frequency identification and bar-coded cartridge (see Figure 1); a disposable dispenser tip (see Figure 2); and a reusable, rechargeable handheld controller (see Figure 3).

Figure 1, Cartridge with NanoTab Tablets



Figure 2, Dispenser Tip

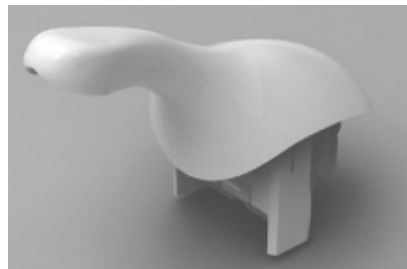


Figure 3, Controller



This product candidate has not been approved by the FDA. We have not generated any revenue from the sale of any of our product candidates.

Our novel handheld PCA device has the following safety features:

- a wireless system access key for the healthcare professional;
- a wireless, electronic, adhesive thumb tag that acts as a single-patient identification key;
- pre-programmed 20-minute lock-out to avoid overdosing;
- a security tether that is designed to prevent theft and misuse; and
- fully automated inventory record of NanoTabs usage.

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To set up the handheld PCA device, the nurse or healthcare professional turns on the controller and follows the simple step-by-step instructions described below.

- Retrieve the NanoTab cartridge from secure drug storage;
- lock the cartridge and dispenser into the controller; and
- set up the secure patient access system, which is comprised of a security tether and a wireless, electronic, adhesive thumb tag that acts as a single-patient identification key.

To use ARX-01, the patient would:

- confirm that the green indicator light is illuminated, meaning the device is available to dose;
- place dispenser tip under tongue and push the large button on the controller, which dispenses a single NanoTab;
- remove the device from mouth upon hearing a tone confirming delivery of the NanoTab; and
- see the blue indicator light illuminate, indicating no new dose can be dispensed for the next 20 minutes.

During our Phase 2 clinical study, 100% of patients reported that they could handle the system easily and that user instructions were clear.

Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System—ARX-01 Clinical Program

Summary

We have completed three successful Phase 2 clinical trials of sufentanil NanoTabs in the post-operative setting. These studies demonstrated analgesic efficacy, a low adverse event profile and excellent device functionality. We held an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA at the end of 2009. The FDA stated that the demonstration of efficacy versus placebo in two Phase 3 studies with a total safety database of at least 600 patients exposed to the active drug, should suffice to support an NDA. We are designing our Phase 3 trials based on the feedback from the FDA.

Planned Phase 3 Clinical Trials for ARX-01

We plan to conduct two Phase 3 trials to evaluate the efficacy of ARX-01. In addition, we plan to conduct one Phase 3 open-label active comparator study that will provide both incremental safety and marketing data. Manufacturing scale up activities and Phase 3 clinical trial planning are ongoing to enable initiation and patient enrollment in our first Phase 3 efficacy trial in the second half of 2011. We expect to start the Phase 3 active comparator study in early 2012. We expect to receive the top-line data from these two trials in the first half of 2012. Contingent on our ability to secure additional funding, we plan to begin a second Phase 3 efficacy study in the second half of 2012 and submit an NDA in 2013 if the results from these studies are positive.

Our first Phase 3 clinical study on ARX-01 will be a placebo-controlled trial for a minimum of 48 hours and, as needed, up to 72 hours in adult patients undergoing open abdominal surgery. The objective is to compare the efficacy of ARX-01 to placebo for the management of acute post-operative pain. Approximately 165 patients will be randomly assigned to treatment with sufentanil or placebo. The primary endpoint will be the summed pain intensity difference over the first 48 hours of the study period, or SPID-48. This value is obtained for each patient by subtracting all pain intensity scores after drug dosing from the patient's baseline score prior to dosing, and then adding these pain intensity differences together to obtain that patient's SPID score.

Our second Phase 3 study will be an active comparator study of ARX-01 versus morphine IV PCA in patients undergoing orthopedic or abdominal surgery. Approximately 390 patients will be randomly assigned to treatment with Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System or morphine IV PCA. The primary endpoint will be the demonstration of

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statistical non-inferiority between the two groups for global patient satisfaction over the course of the study by patient reporting on a 4-point rating scale of poor, fair, good and excellent. Important secondary endpoints for comparison to IV PCA morphine will be drop-out due to inadequate analgesia, level of sedation, ease of care for patients and nurses, reporting of analgesic gaps and interdosing intervals.

Contingent on our ability to secure additional funding, our third Phase 3 clinical study will be a placebo-controlled trial in patients who are undergoing a total hip or knee replacement under general or spinal anesthesia. The objective is to compare the efficacy of the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System to placebo for the management of acute post-operative pain. Approximately 484 patients will be randomly assigned to treatment with sufentanil or placebo. The primary endpoint also will be the SPID-48.

The ARX-01 Phase 3 device will be an upgraded version of the Phase 2 device, with enhanced features, including a color graphical user interface screen, security features to allow only the patient to use the device and prevent unauthorized access to the drug and improved industrial design for hospital use. The design of the Phase 3 device is at an advanced engineering prototype stage where several standalone prototypes have been built to conduct testing. Many of the subsystems within the device have not yet been integrated or tested to the specifications of the Phase 3 device design.

ARX-01: Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System Phase 2 Studies

We completed three Phase 2 studies in support of sufentanil NanoTabs. Across all studies, the average time interval between doses was approximately 80 minutes. This compares favorably to typical redosing intervals for IV PCA with average period between dosing of 20 to 40 minutes. No serious adverse events, or SAEs, were reported that were considered to be related to the study drug. Adverse events, or AEs, that were reported were similar to those reported for placebo-treated patients. These results demonstrate that sufentanil NanoTabs are effective and well tolerated by patients undergoing both major orthopedic and abdominal surgical procedures.

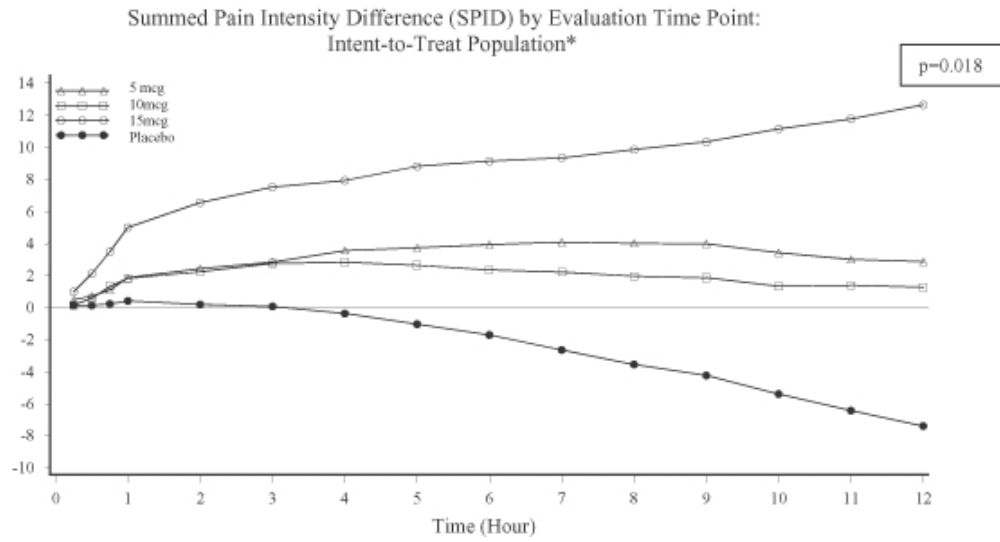
Phase 2 Clinical Results in Unilateral Knee Replacement (ARX-C-001)

In the first Phase 2 study, we conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter Phase 2 clinical study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of sublingual sufentanil NanoTabs in patients undergoing elective unilateral knee replacement. The study enrolled 101 male and female patients 45 to 80 years of age who were undergoing elective knee replacement surgery. This procedure was chosen as it represents one of the most painful procedures patients undergo in the hospital setting. Patients were randomly assigned to treatment with sufentanil NanoTab 5 mcg, 10 mcg, 15 mcg, or placebo. Sufentanil NanoTabs were administered by study staff at the request of the patient with at least 20 minutes between doses. The primary endpoint was the sum of the pain intensity difference at each evaluation time point compared to baseline over the 12-hour study duration, or SPID-12.

The study results demonstrated that sufentanil NanoTab 15 mcg was effective, safe and well-tolerated for the treatment of acute post-operative pain in patients who had undergone unilateral knee replacement. The sufentanil NanoTab 15 mcg SPID-12 was higher than placebo ($p=0.018$) using the last observation carried forward, or LOCF, imputation method. A p-value is a probability with a value ranging from 0 to 1, which indicates the likelihood that a clinical study is different between treatment and control groups. P-values below 0.05 are typically referred to as statistically significant. The sufentanil NanoTab 5 mcg or 10 mcg dosage strengths did not achieve a statistically significant separation from placebo overall. However, the 10 mcg dose was statistically significant as compared with placebo for women ($p<0.05$). Throughout the study there were statistically significant differences in SPID scores between the sufentanil NanoTab 15 mcg dose group and the placebo group, even at the earliest time point of 15 minutes ($p=0.038$). There were no clinically significant changes in laboratory variables, vital signs, or oxygen saturation during the study. The five SAEs reported were all considered unrelated to study drug and occurred after the end of study drug dosing.

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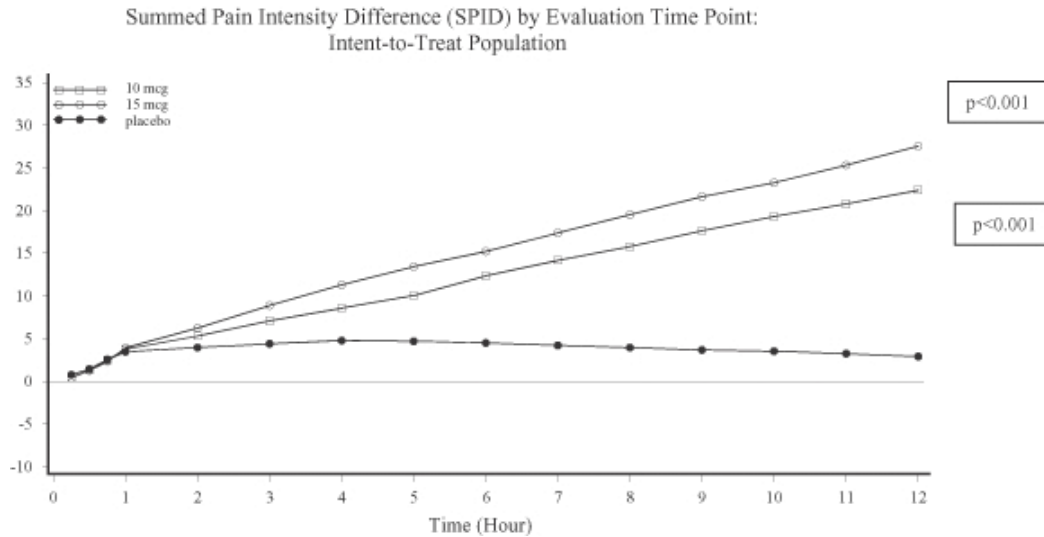
The following figure shows the Summed Pain Intensity Difference over the 12-Hour Study Period for the placebo, 5 mcg, 10 mcg and 15 mcg groups.



* Intent-to-Treat Population: The intent-to-treat, or ITT, population includes all randomized patients regardless of whether they received or adhered to the allocated treatment group. ITT analysis provides unbiased comparisons among the treatment groups and is the primary statistical analysis used by the FDA.

Phase 2 Clinical Results in Major Abdominal Surgery (ARX-C-005)

Our second Phase 2 study tested sufentanil NanoTabs 10 mcg, 15 mcg, or placebo in patients undergoing major abdominal surgery. In all other respects this study was similar in design to our first study. Both dosage strengths were significantly more effective than placebo for SPID-12 ($p < 0.001$) as well as for all measures of pain intensity and pain relief. Significant differences between the sufentanil NanoTab treatment groups and the placebo group were observed within 2 hours after the first dose of study drug and continued until the end of the 12-hour treatment period. There were no clinically significant changes in laboratory variables, vital signs or oxygen saturation during the study. There were no SAEs reported during the study drug treatment period. The following figure shows the SPID-12 for the placebo, 10 mcg and 15 mcg groups.



Phase 2 Clinical Results for ARX-01 in Open-Label Device Functionality Study in Unilateral Knee Replacement (ARX-C-004)

We conducted an open-label functionality, safety and efficacy study of the ARX-01 NanoTab delivery system in patients undergoing elective unilateral knee replacement surgery. The study was a prospective, open-label, multicenter trial in 30 male and female patients 45 to 80 years of age with an average age of 66. All patients were treated with sufentanil NanoTab 15 mcg dosage strength. The primary endpoint was the percent of patients who completed the study without any Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System failures. The study also collected patient feedback on the design characteristics of the PCA System.

Patients self-administered sufentanil NanoTabs repeatedly over the 12-hour study using the ARX-01 Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System without any system failures or dosing errors for all 30 patients. Over 80% of the patients reported the two highest scores on the 5-point Likert scale of overall patient’s satisfaction with the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System 15 mcg. All 30 enrolled patients indicated that they could handle the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System easily, that the user instructions were clear, that the dosing tone was loud enough, and that the time required for dosing was “just right.” Ninety percent of the patients indicated that the size and the shape of the dosing tip was also “just right.” The majority of patients indicated that the other system features (weight, size, shape, dose button function) were acceptable.

The mean pain intensity scores decreased from 5.5 at baseline to the lowest score of 3.0 at 2 hours. Dropout due to inadequate analgesia was 6.7%. There were no clinically significant changes in laboratory variables or vital signs and no SAEs reported during the study drug treatment period.

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Summary of Phase 2 Adverse Events

Overall the AE profile for the three Phase 2 studies suggests that ARX-01 is well-tolerated compared to typical AE rates seen with post-operative opioids. Published data indicates a much higher rate of somnolence (approximately 50%) and oxygen desaturation (approximately 10%) during standard IV PCA use compared to results obtained in our Phase 2 studies. The high therapeutic index of sufentanil (26,716) in animal studies suggests that opioid-induced sedation and oxygen desaturation does not occur with sufentanil until doses much higher than required for analgesia are administered. We believe our Phase 2 AE data confirm the high safety index of sufentanil. The table below summarizes the investigator’s rating of probably or possibly related AEs based on sufentanil NanoTab dosage strength.

| <u>Adverse Events</u> | <u>Placebo N=54</u> | <u>Sufentanil NanoTab (5 mcg) N=24</u> | <u>Sufentanil NanoTab (10 mcg) N=55</u> | <u>Sufentanil NanoTab (15 mcg) N=79</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| Nausea | 17(31%) | 7(29%) | 22(40%) | 23(29%) |
| Vomiting | 3(6%) | 2(8%) | 6(11%) | 9(11%) |
| Itching | 0(0%) | 1(4%) | 4(8%) | 6(8%) |
| Somnolence | 1(2%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) | 2(3%) |
| Oxygen desaturation | 0(0%) | 0(0%) | 1(2%) | 1(1%) |
| Respiratory depression | 1(2%) | 0(0%) | 2(4%) | 0(0%) |

ARX-02—Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System



This product candidate has not been approved by the FDA. We have not generated any revenue from the sale of any of our product candidates.

Market Opportunity for ARX-02

According to published data, in 2006 more than 700,000 cancer patients in the United States experienced breakthrough pain. We estimate the prescription volume for oral transmucosal products for the management of cancer breakthrough pain to be 220,000 prescriptions per year. This suggests that less than 10% of cancer patients with cancer breakthrough pain are treated with approved transmucosal breakthrough pain medications. In addition, many physicians use immediate release oral opioids to treat cancer breakthrough pain. We believe that this market is significantly larger than the transmucosal product market.

Market research among physicians managing cancer patients indicates that ARX-02 could capture approximately a quarter of the cancer breakthrough pain prescriptions. In this research, ARX-02 was predicted to take share equally from both the immediate release oral products and the transmucosal products. Given the positive reaction to the product profile and the potential benefits of ARX-02 compared to currently available products, we believe that ARX-02 represents a significant commercial opportunity.

How ARX-02 Addresses the Unmet Medical Need in Cancer Breakthrough Pain

All products approved for the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain available today are fentanyl-based and have a number of limitations, including:

- elimination half-lives of 6 to 14 hours to treat a cancer breakthrough pain event that typically lasts 15 to 60 minutes;

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- inconsistent T_{max} that ranges from 20 to 240 minutes, and can result in erratic onset of action and the potential for dose-stacking;
- local adverse events, such as dental caries and oral mucosal irritation; and
- drug packaging that lacks effective deterrence against abuse and misuse.

We designed ARX-02 to address these problems by:

- providing sufentanil, a shorter duration of action opioid with an elimination half-life ranging from 2 to 4 hours, which more closely matches the duration of a cancer breakthrough pain event;
- utilizing sufentanil, which provides for a consistent T_{max} with a narrow range of 30 to 90 minutes, thereby reducing the risk of dose-stacking;
- avoiding irritation of the oral mucosa, as demonstrated in our clinical studies; and
- packaging technology that enhances patient safety by reducing the possibility of misuse or abuse, while providing healthcare professionals with usage data.

In addition, continual use of any given opioid by a patient creates a risk of tolerance specific to that molecule, reducing the effectiveness of the drug. We believe the availability of ARX-02, as a non-fentanyl based product, will allow physicians to rotate opioids prescribed for cancer breakthrough pain, thereby maintaining the effectiveness of treatment.

ARX-02 Description

ARX-02 is a product candidate for the treatment of cancer patients who suffer from breakthrough pain. ARX-02 consists of a magazine containing 30 single dose applicators, or SDAs, loaded into a multiple SDA dispenser, or MSD. Each single dose applicator includes a sufentanil NanoTab that a patient can self-administer to their sublingual space for oral transmucosal absorption. The MSD:

- protects and dispenses SDAs, one at a time;
- displays a recent dose indicator that is designed to mitigate overdosing;
- has child resistant, elderly friendly features; and
- provides electronic date and time stamping of each SDA removal event.

The date and time event log is designed to be retrieved from the MSD by a healthcare professional during an office visit to assist the prescriber in understanding the usage profile of the medication, including diversion or abuse. Overall, our goal is to improve the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain while adding a substantially heightened level of detection and deterrence around prescription opioid use, misuse and abuse. While the initial dispenser for outpatient use is designed for dispensing sufentanil NanoTabs for cancer breakthrough pain events, we believe this concept could be adapted into developing dispensers for other scheduled drugs in the future.

Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System—ARX-02 Clinical Program

Summary

We held an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA in July 2010. The FDA stated that the demonstration of efficacy versus placebo in a single Phase 3 study with a total safety database of 300 to 500 patients exposed to active drug, with at least 100 patients treated for a minimum of three months, may support an indication for the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain with underlying chronic pain.

Planned Phase 3 Clinical Trials for ARX-02

We plan to conduct one Phase 3 efficacy study for ARX-02 for the management of cancer breakthrough pain in adult patients, who are already taking opioids for their underlying persistent cancer pain. In addition, we plan to conduct two open-label studies to demonstrate long term safety, which will include the use of the MSD.

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The first planned Phase 3 clinical study for ARX-02 is a multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover study for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System in the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain. We plan to screen 170 patients in order to titrate approximately 140 patients, of which 110 patients will be randomized, such that at least 100 patients will generate primary efficacy data for analysis. The planned study consists of a screening visit, an open-label titration phase of up to three weeks to establish a dose of sufentanil (20, 30, 40, 60, 80 or 100 mcg) at home or in a hospice setting, that provides adequate relief of cancer breakthrough pain with tolerable side effects. This will be followed by a randomized, double-blind treatment phase of up to three weeks. Patients will be randomized to one of six sequences, each including nine doses of which six are active and three are placebo. Patients will use an electronic diary to record primary and secondary efficacy outcomes including pain intensity, pain relief, and global evaluation of treatment. The primary endpoint is the time-weighted summed pain intensity difference over 30 minutes, SPID-30, following treatment.

Patients who complete our Phase 3 efficacy trial will be allowed to participate in an open-label extension study to continue evaluating the safety of ARX-02 for up to one year. During each month while participating in the study, patients will present to the clinical site for visits to assess their medical status and proper use of study medication. The primary objective is to determine the long-term safety of sufentanil NanoTabs in patients with cancer breakthrough pain.

The dispensing device that was used in the Phase 2 study for ARX-02 was a simple, mechanical single dose applicator, or SDA, designed for a single use. The design for Phase 3 device contains both mechanical and electronic components and is intended to be a multiple use device with a magazine containing smaller SDAs than those used in Phase 2. The magazine is loaded into a multiple SDA dispenser, or MSD, which will include software to electronically track removal of each SDA from the MSD. Several industrial models have been developed that depict the size and form factor of the smaller SDA and the MSD.

We also plan to conduct an additional open-label study to ensure there is adequate data for analysis of drug safety and device functionality. We plan to screen approximately 470 patients in order to titrate approximately 370 patients, such that at least 300 patients will enroll in this study. Patients will use the MSD that will contain a magazine holding 30 SDAs. Each SDA will contain a single sufentanil NanoTab. The MSD will electronically track removal of each SDA from the MSD in order to record dosing history in the outpatient setting. This study will be up to three-months in duration and will utilize the same titration scheme as in the Phase 3 efficacy study. After patients achieve an efficacious and tolerable dose, they will use the MSDs to dispense the SDAs throughout the 3-month study.

Phase 2 Clinical Results for ARX-02

We have completed a Phase 2 study of the analgesic efficacy of the sufentanil NanoTab in adult cancer patients who are opioid tolerant and suffering from breakthrough pain events. This study was a prospective, multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled multicenter, crossover study for the evaluation of the safety, efficacy and tolerability of the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System in the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain.

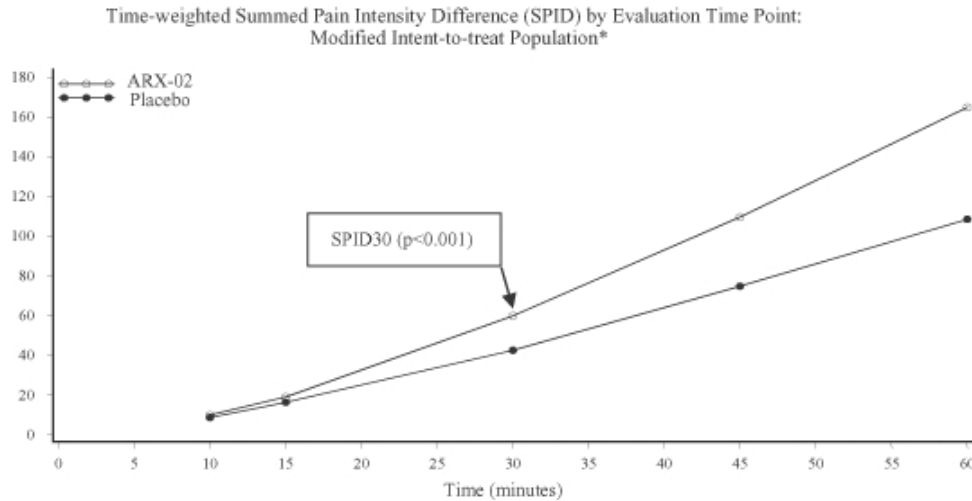
Patients were screened and, if qualified for the study, would titrate to an effective dose of sufentanil that provided adequate relief of cancer breakthrough pain without producing intolerable side effects. Patients self-administered a single sufentanil NanoTab using a single-dose applicator, starting with a 20 mcg dose, followed by titration with 30, 40, 60 and 80 mcg sufentanil NanoTabs. The primary objective during the titration phase was to assess the safety and efficacy of ARX-02. The primary endpoint during the randomized, double-blind phase was to assess the efficacy of ARX-02 compared to placebo in the management of cancer breakthrough pain as determined by SPID-30.

Once a dosage strength that alleviated pain without producing intolerable side effects was identified, the patient was randomized to that dosage strength in the double-blind phase of the study. Patients were randomized to receive 10 doses, of which seven were active and three were placebo. Efficacy was assessed by patient data

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recorded and scored in an electronic diary, including pain intensity, pain relief, and global medication performance assessment just prior to and after taking each of the ten doses of study drug in the double-blind phase of the study. Forty-two patients were enrolled and received titration study medication. Eighty-four percent of patients with a mean age of 53.5 years (range 25 to 73 years) were randomized to the double-blind treatment period. Thirty-three patients completed the study.

The primary endpoint of time-weighted SPID-30 for sufentanil NanoTab-treated episodes was greater than placebo-treated episodes ($p < 0.001$) as shown in the figure below.



* Modified Intent-to-Treat Population: The modified intent-to-treat population is a subset of the ITT population and included all randomized patients who took at least one active dose and one placebo dose, and had pre-treatment and at least one post-treatment pain intensity score for each of these episodes.

Pain intensity and pain relief were included as secondary endpoints. Lower scores for pain intensity were reported at each evaluation time point for sufentanil-treated episodes compared to placebo-treated episodes ($p = 0.027$ at 15 minutes and $p < 0.001$ at all other time points). Time reported time-weighted total pain relief, or TOTPAR, was greater at all time points for sufentanil-treated episodes compared to placebo-treated episodes ($p = 0.049$ and $p = 0.009$ for the 10 and 15 minute time points, respectively, and $p < 0.001$ for the remaining time points).

Patient Global Medication Performance Assessment, or GMPA, at 60 minutes after each dose of study medication showed 59 (27.4%) and 37 (17.2%) of the sufentanil-treated episodes were rated as very good or excellent on the GMPA, respectively, compared with seven (7.5%) and nine (9.7%) in the placebo-treated episodes. There was a statistically significant difference for GMPA measurements between the sufentanil-treated episodes and the placebo-treated episodes ($p < 0.001$).

Three patients reported an SAE; however, all SAEs were considered unrelated to study drug. The most common AEs were nervous system disorders, general disorders, and gastrointestinal disorders. The most common nervous system disorder was dysgeusia, or altered sense of taste (four patients, 9.5%). The most common gastrointestinal disorder was dry mouth (three patients, 7.1%). The most common AEs were nervous system disorders, general disorders, and gastrointestinal disorders. The most common nervous system disorder was headache (two patients, 5.9%). The most common gastrointestinal disorder was nausea (three patients, 8.8%). There was no statistical difference between sufentanil and placebo treatments for any AE.

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There were a few statistically significant mean changes and no clinically significant changes from baseline in hematology and chemistry variables. During the safety monitoring period at the site, there were no statistically significant changes from baseline in heart rate or respiratory rate, and no clinically significant changes in oxygen saturation.

ARX-03—Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTabs



This product candidate has not been approved by the FDA. We have not generated any revenue from the sale of any of our product candidates.

The Market Opportunity for ARX-03

Each year in the United States, more than 100 million procedures take place in a physician's office that are known to be anxiety-inducing and painful. These procedures include diagnostic procedures such as breast and prostate biopsies, cosmetic procedures such as liposuction and dermal abrasions, interventional radiology procedures, and therapeutic procedures such as vasectomies and endometrial ablation procedures. IV sedative medications are typically not offered to these patients because of the high cost of the specialized personnel and monitoring equipment. Despite the high potential for pain and anxiety, most patients currently undergo these procedures with only a local anesthetic, causing unnecessary discomfort. We believe there is significant opportunity for a fast-acting, effective and safe product that can provide mild levels of sedation, anxiety reduction and analgesia for painful procedures conducted in a physician's office without the need for specialized personnel to monitor the patient.

How ARX-03 Addresses the Unmet Medical Need for Painful Procedures in a Physician's Office

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, or JCAHO, mandates that IV sedation requires specialized monitoring, resuscitative equipment and appropriately trained staff. As a result, many practitioners do not provide any IV sedation to their patients prior to or during painful procedures that take place in a physician's office, and instead rely only on the analgesic benefit of local anesthetics.

The anxiety and pain that an individual experiences during painful procedures in a physician's office without sedation has been studied and reported in peer-reviewed journals. Ninety-six percent of men report moderate pain immediately after prostate biopsy, with only 4% of patients reporting no pain during the biopsy. Similarly, women undergoing breast biopsies have pre-procedural scores averaging 60 to 70 out of 100 for visual analog scale measurements of nervousness, tension and fearfulness. This data highlights the need for a mild sedative with analgesic and anxiety-reducing properties in addition to a local anesthetic for painful procedures in a physician's office.

We believe that ARX-03 can provide physicians with a non-invasive, rapid-acting product for mild sedation, anxiety reduction and pain relief during painful diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in a physician's office. We believe the availability of ARX-03 may increase the number of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures performed in a physician's office, resulting in cost savings because specialized personnel and equipment would not be necessary.

ARX-03 Description

ARX-03 Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab is a single, fixed-dose sublingual product candidate designed to be administered by a healthcare professional prior to a painful procedure in a physician's office. An important advantage of sufentanil and triazolam over other drugs in their classes is their rapid uptake from the sublingual mucosa. Our Phase 2 clinical data showed that administering ARX-03 via sublingual route prior to a procedure results in a rapid onset of mild sedation and reduction in anxiety in 15 to 30 minutes. Sufentanil and triazolam

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have short half-lives compared to many other agents in the same class of compounds, enabling patients treated with ARX-03 to be discharged immediately following completion of the procedure. The sublingual route of administration avoids the high plasma concentrations associated with IV delivery, thereby obviating the need for specialized personnel and extensive monitoring.

Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab—ARX-03 Clinical Program

Summary

We have completed a successful Phase 2 clinical trial of ARX-03 demonstrating rapid onset of mild sedation and anxiety reduction, with a low adverse event profile during an abdominal liposuction procedure. We held End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA in May 2010 to discuss the Phase 3 clinical program and requirements for NDA filing. Two four-arm factorial Phase 3 studies will be required with a minimum of 700 patients exposed to active drug.

Planned Phase 3 Clinical Trials for ARX-03

We plan to conduct two Phase 3 efficacy studies in a range of painful procedures, such as prostate biopsy, breast biopsy, vasectomy and low-volume abdominal liposuction. In each study, approximately 720 patients will be randomized to treatment with one of the following: sufentanil/triazolam 15 mcg/200 mcg NanoTab, sufentanil 15 mcg NanoTab, triazolam 200 mcg NanoTab, or placebo NanoTab. We intend to evaluate the time-weighted summed Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale, or RASS, score over the 4-hour study period, or SRS-4, compared to placebo as the primary efficacy endpoint. RASS is a ten-point scale to evaluate agitated behavior where unarousable is graded as “-5” and combative is graded as a “+4” and a score of “0” is alert and calm. Secondary endpoints are intended to include comparisons of SRS-4 among active comparator arms, patient report of procedural anxiety and pain intensity using an 11-point Numerical Rating Scale, or NRS, patient and physician global assessments of satisfaction with study drug, and time to a modified Aldrete score of 8 (readiness for discharge measurement).

There was no dispensing device used in the ARX-03 Phase 2 studies. Tablets were placed in the patients’ sublingual space through the use of forceps. The design for Phase 3 device for ARX-03 consists of a simple mechanical dispenser or SDA. We have produced several working prototypes.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 Clinical Results for ARX-03

We completed an initial dose finding study for three different strengths of sublingual Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTabs (10 mcg/100 mcg, 10 mcg/200 mcg and 15 mcg/200 mcg) in 24 subjects. The onset of sedation was approximately 40% faster with the sufentanil 15 mcg/triazolam 200 mcg NanoTab treatment compared to the sufentanil 10 mcg/triazolam 200 mcg NanoTab treatment in younger subjects. There were minimal differences between treatments for time to maximum sedation and for total duration of sedation, leading us to select the sufentanil 15 mcg/triazolam 200 mcg NanoTab dosage strength to study further in a Phase 2 trial.

We completed a Phase 2 study of analgesic and anxiety reducing efficacy of the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab in patients undergoing an elective abdominal liposuction procedure. The study was a prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled single center study in adult patients. Patients were randomly assigned to treatment with the sufentanil 15 mcg/triazolam 200 mcg NanoTab or placebo. Forty-one patients were randomized and 40 patients received study drug and underwent the procedure and completed the 4-hour study period. The mean age for all randomized patients was 36.7 years (range 19 to 55 years). The primary endpoint was the SRS-4 and the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab demonstrated superiority over placebo ($p < 0.001$). The sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab was more effective than placebo in reducing anxiety as measured by the secondary endpoint, the NRS anxiety scale. A significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in anxiety score between the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab and placebo was seen at 15 minutes, the first time point measured after study drug dosing.

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The sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab did not show a statistical difference from placebo in providing analgesia as measured by the NRS pain intensity scale ($p=0.311$). The summed pain intensity score was lower for the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab compared to placebo for all time points; however, the difference was not significant with the small number of patients.

There was a statistically significant difference between the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab treatment group and placebo ($p<0.001$) in the proportion of patients for which the physician rated the treatment very good or excellent on the global assessment of effectiveness and tolerability. There was also a statistically significant difference between the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab treatment group and placebo ($p=0.028$) for the proportion of patients who rated the treatment very good or excellent on the global assessment of effectiveness and tolerability. All patients in both the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab treatment group and the placebo group were ready for discharge immediately following the procedure.

There were no SAEs reported during treatment or 12 hours after dosing. The most frequent AE was nervous system disorders, which were observed in two patients (9.5%) in the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab treatment group and in two patients (10.5%) in the placebo group. Dizziness was also reported by two patients (9.5%) in the sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab treatment group and one patient (5.3%) in the placebo group. There were no significant differences between the treatment groups for any AEs. All events were mild or moderate in severity. There were no clinically significant changes in vital signs or oxygen saturation during the study.

Other potential applications for our NanoTab technology

We believe that as a platform technology, the NanoTab, either as a stand alone dosage form or in conjunction with various forms of dispensing mechanisms, has the potential to enable other product candidates utilizing sufentanil or a number of additional compounds to be delivered sublingually to the oral mucosa. There are numerous compounds used for the treatment of pain as well as other therapeutic indications which are dosed in microgram quantities and possess characteristics that we believe make them potential candidates for sublingual delivery via the NanoTab. We believe our pending patent filings and issued European patent will broadly protect NanoTab compositions and their use in oral transmucosal delivery of compounds other than sufentanil.

One such opportunity is in the treatment of acute pain in medically supervised settings. According to the American Hospital Association, there were 127 million emergency room, or ER, visits and 17 million hospital-based outpatient surgeries in the United States in 2009. In addition, according to the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, over 22 million procedures were conducted in ambulatory surgery centers in the United States in 2008. Typically, patients requiring pain relief in these settings have most commonly been treated with either opioids or anti-inflammatory agents in either injectable or oral form. Injectable medications require invasive IV or intramuscular, or IM, administration. In many cases, patients do not have readily available IV access, such as upon admission to the ER, ambulatory care environments or in the field during civilian and military patient transport. IM injections are painful and present an increased risk of infection. The oral route does not offer a rapid or consistent onset of action, which limits the ability to provide effective pain relief.

We believe there is significant opportunity for a single-dose, rapid-acting, non-invasive analgesic to treat acute pain in these medically supervised settings. We believe that providing non-invasive, sublingual delivery of higher doses (20-30 mcg) of the high therapeutic index opioid sufentanil, utilizing our proprietary NanoTab technology, delivered with a SDA by a health care professional could address this need. If we are able to secure additional financial resources beyond our IPO, we plan to commence clinical development of this product concept for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acute pain in a medically supervised setting.

Our Strategy

Our strategy is to develop and commercialize a portfolio of sufentanil NanoTab-based products in specialty markets. We have designed and are developing product candidates which have clearly defined clinical development programs, target large commercial market opportunities and require modest commercial

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organizations in the United States. We selectively utilize third party contractors in order to maximize the capital efficiency of our development and commercialization efforts. We plan to enter into partnerships to market our product candidates outside the United States.

Our lead program, ARX-01, is focused on the management of post-operative pain in the hospital setting. Our second program, ARX-02, is focused on the management of cancer breakthrough pain. Both of these product candidates have completed Phase 2 development. We intend to advance ARX-01 into two Phase 3 trials, and contingent on our ability to secure additional funding, we plan to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial, submit an NDA and, if approved, to commercialize ARX-01 ourselves in the United States. Based on the availability of financial resources, we plan to advance ARX-02 into Phase 3 trials, submit an NDA and, if approved, commercialize ARX-02 ourselves or with a partner in the United States. Further development of ARX-03 will depend on the identification of a partner to support this effort.

Our specific strategy with respect to ARX-01 is to:

- complete one Phase 3 efficacy study and one Phase 3 active comparator study following our IPO, and contingent on the availability of additional funding, complete the third Phase 3 study and seek regulatory approval in the United States and other countries;
- establish at least one commercial relationship in North America for the manufacturing of the components of the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA system;
- build a targeted hospital-directed sales force in the United States; and
- partner with third parties for commercialization outside of the United States.

Sales and Marketing

We anticipate developing a distribution capability and commercial organization in the United States to market and sell our product candidates alone or with partners, while out-licensing commercialization rights outside of the United States. In executing our strategy, our goal is to have significant control over the development process and commercial execution for our product candidates, while retaining meaningful economics.

We plan to progressively build commercial capability to support introduction of ARX-01 to the United States market as we move towards NDA submission and approval. We foresee two stages of commercial execution to support successful introduction of ARX-01 in the United States:

In parallel with our Phase 3 clinical studies, we plan to:

- highlight the clinical and health economic data identifying the limitations of IV PCA in use today;
- increase awareness of the development of ARX-01 through publication of our clinical data;
- create and deploy a focused scientific support team to gather a detailed understanding of individual hospital needs in order to be prepared to present ARX-01 effectively at the time of commercial launch;
- establish advisory boards with anesthesiologists, surgeons and nurses to provide us with input on appropriate commercial positioning for ARX-01 for each of these key audiences; and
- design a post-approval clinical development program, including potential head-to-head superiority studies with IV PCA.

Following FDA approval, we plan to:

- create and deploy a high-quality, customer focused and experienced commercial organization dedicated to bringing innovative, highly-valued healthcare solutions to patients, payors, and healthcare providers, including building a targeted hospital-directed sales force in the United States;
- establish ARX-01 on hospital formularies through deployment of an experienced team to describe the clinical and pharmacoeconomic benefits of ARX-01 in comparison to IV PCA;

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- conduct post-approval clinical program for ARX-01;
- establish ARX-01 as the product of choice for traditional post-operative PCA; and
- expand the market through deployment of ARX-01 for 24 hour stay patients, where IV PCA is not used today.

Intellectual Property

We seek patent protection in the United States and internationally for our product candidates. Our policy is to pursue, maintain and defend patent rights developed internally and to protect the technology, inventions and improvements that are commercially important to the development of our business. We cannot be sure that patents will be granted with respect to any of our pending patent applications or with respect to any patent applications filed by us in the future, nor can we be sure that any of our existing patents or any patents granted to us in the future will be commercially useful in protecting our technology. We also rely on trade secrets to protect our product candidates. Our commercial success also depends in part on our non-infringement of the patents or proprietary rights of third parties. For a more comprehensive discussion of the risks related to our intellectual property, please see “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property” appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

Our success will depend significantly on our ability to:

- obtain and maintain patent and other proprietary protection for our product candidates;
- defend our patents;
- preserve the confidentiality of our trade secrets; and
- operate our business without infringing the patents and proprietary rights of third parties.

We have established and continue to build proprietary positions for our product candidates and related technology in the United States and abroad. As of December 31, 2010, we held 15 pending United States utility patent applications, and 39 foreign national patent applications covering various aspects of our product candidates. We also hold a European Patent, EP2114383, granted on July 21, 2010, validated and translated in Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden, with an expiration date of December 28, 2027, excluding any additional term for patent term adjustments. We also hold three pending Patent Cooperation Treaty applications that have not yet been nationally filed.

We seek patent protection for both compositions of matter, as well as methods of treatment related to our ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 product candidates. We are pursuing composition of matter claims for our ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 NanoTabs and formulations, our ARX-01 PCA devices, the combination of drugs and our ARX-01 PCA devices, our ARX-02 and ARX-03 SDAs, as well as to methods of treatment using such drug and device compositions.

Issued European Patent No. EP2114383 includes composition of matter claims directed to ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 NanoTabs for oral transmucosal delivery of sufentanil, alone and in combination with key features of the ARX-01 PCA device, the ARX-02 and ARX-03 SDAs, and use of the claimed compositions in the treatment of pain.

We have filed for patent coverage in the United States, Europe, Japan, China, India, Canada and Korea. If issued, and if the appropriate maintenance, renewal, annuity or other governmental fees are paid, we expect that these patents will expire between 2027 and 2030, excluding any additional term for patent term adjustments or patent term extensions in the United States. We note that the patent laws of foreign countries differ from those in United States, and the degree of protection afforded by foreign patents may be different from the protection offered by U.S. patents.

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Further, we seek trademark protection in the United States and internationally where available and when appropriate. We have registered our ACELRX mark in Class 5, “Pharmaceutical preparations for treating pain; pharmaceutical preparations for treating anxiety,” and Class 10, “Drug delivery systems; medical device, namely, a mechanical and electronic device used to administer medications, perform timed medication delivery, and to provide secure access to and delivery of medications.” Our ACELRX mark has also been registered in the European Community and Canada, and is pending in India. We have filed for trademark protection in the United States for the NanoTab mark, which we use in connection with our pharmaceutical product candidates, and the “ACCELERATE, INNOVATE, ALLEVIATE” tagline.

Competition

Our industry is highly competitive and subject to rapid and significant technological change. Our potential competitors include large pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, specialty pharmaceutical and generic drug companies, and medical technology companies. We believe the key competitive factors that will affect the development and commercial success of our product candidates are the safety, efficacy and tolerability profile, reliability, convenience of dosing, price and reimbursement.

Many of our potential competitors, including many of the organizations named below, have substantially greater financial, technical and human resources than we do and significantly greater experience in the development of product candidates, obtaining FDA and other regulatory approvals of products and the commercialization of those products. Accordingly, our competitors may be more successful than we may be in obtaining FDA approval for drugs and achieving widespread market acceptance. Our competitors’ drugs may be more effective, or may be more effectively marketed and sold, than any drug we may commercialize, which may render our product candidates obsolete or non-competitive before we can recover our losses. We anticipate that we will face intense and increasing competition as new drugs enter the market and advanced technologies become available.

Potential Competition for ARX-01

We are developing ARX-01, the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System, for the management of acute post-operative pain in adult patients during hospitalization. We believe that ARX-01 would compete with a number of opioid-based treatment options that are currently available. The market for opioids for post-operative pain is large and competitive. The primary competition is the IV PCA pump, which is widely used in the post-operative setting. Leading manufacturers of IV PCA pumps include Hospira Inc., CareFusion Corporation, Baxter International Inc., Curlin Medical, Inc. and Smiths Medical. The most common opioids used to treat post-operative pain are morphine, hydromorphone and fentanyl, all of which are available as generics.

Also available on the market is the Avancen Medication on Demand, or MOD, Oral PCA Device developed by Avancen MOD Corporation. MOD is a unit that is locked onto an IV pole within the patient’s reach and allows patients to access their oral pain medication. Other products under development for the treatment of post-operative pain that we are aware of include:

- Fentanyl iontophoretic transdermal system, IONSYS, originally developed by ALZA Corporation and Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., both Johnson & Johnson subsidiaries.
- IONSYS received NDA approval in May 2006 in the United States; however, the product was never launched. IONSYS was approved in Europe but the Marketing Authorization was suspended by the EMA in November 2008. IONSYS is currently under development by Incline Therapeutics, Inc.
- Rylomine, an intranasal morphine product developed by Javelin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and currently in Phase 3 trials in the United States and in Phase 2 in Europe.

There are a number of non-opioid drugs in development that are delivered either systemically or locally for the treatment of acute post-operative pain. These drugs are usually evaluated for their ability to treat milder types of pain (for example, the day following laparoscopic surgery) or to decrease, but not replace, the need for post-

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operative opioids. Therefore, we do not believe that these product candidates will compete with ARX-01 because they will not be utilized commercially as the sole method of treating acute post-operative pain immediately following surgery, which is the role of ARX-01.

Potential Competition for ARX-02

We are developing ARX-02, the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System, for the treatment of breakthrough pain in opioid tolerant patients, with an initial indication in cancer patients. The market for opioids for treatment of cancer breakthrough pain is large and competitive; however, currently there are no sufentanil products approved by the FDA for this indication. We expect that ARX-02, if approved, may compete with these commercial products listed in the table below.

| <u>Product Name</u> | <u>Company</u> | <u>Formulation</u> | <u>Commercial Market</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACTIQ | Cephalon, Inc. | Oral fentanyl transmucosal lozenge | United States |
| FENTORA/ EFFENTORA | Cephalon, Inc. | Fentanyl buccal tablet | United States and European Union |
| Onsolis | Meda Pharmaceuticals Inc. / BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc. | Fentanyl buccal soluble film | United States |
| Abstral | ProStrakan Group plc | Sublingual fentanyl tablet | United States and European Union |
| Instanyl | Nycomed International Management GmbH | Fentanyl nasal spray | European Union |
| PecFent | Archimedes Pharma Limited | Fentanyl nasal spray | European Union |
| Fentanyl Citrate (Oral Transmucosal) | Teva Pharmaceuticals USA | Oral fentanyl transmucosal lozenge | United States |

Additionally, we are aware of the following products in late stage development for cancer breakthrough pain:

- Fentanyl TAIFUN, an inhaled fentanyl product developed by Akela Pharma, Inc., and currently in Phase 3 clinical trials.
- Fentanyl SL Spray, a fentanyl sublingual spray developed by Insys Therapeutics, Inc., and currently in Phase 3 clinical trials.

If approved, these product candidates could compete directly with ARX-02.

Potential Competition for ARX-03

We are developing ARX-03, the Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab, for use in diagnostic or therapeutic painful procedures of short duration in a physician's office. For these procedures, many practitioners rely primarily on local anesthetics injected to the procedural area to reduce the pain of the procedure, and do not use IV sedatives to manage the anxiety of patients because of the cost of having additional trained staff to monitor the patients. Currently, we are not aware of any products on the market which combine an opioid with a benzodiazepine in a single dosage form to manage the anxiety and pain of procedures in a physician's office.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Supply

We currently rely on contract manufacturers to produce sufentanil and sufentanil/triazolam NanoTabs for our clinical studies under cGMP with oversight by our internal managers. Equipment specific to the pharmaceutical manufacturing process was purchased and customized by us and is currently owned by us. We plan to continue to rely on contract manufacturers and, potentially, collaboration partners to manufacture commercial quantities of our product candidates if and when approved for marketing by the FDA. We currently rely on a single manufacturer for the preclinical and clinical supplies of our drug product for each of our product candidates and do not currently have agreements in place for redundant supply or a second source for any of our product candidates. We have identified other drug product manufacturers that could satisfy our clinical study requirements but this would require a significant delay in setting up the facility and moving equipment. Additionally, should a supplier or a manufacturer on whom we rely to produce a product candidate provide us with a faulty product or such product is later recalled, we would likely experience significant delays and material additional costs.

Device Manufacturing and Supply

The ARX-01 handheld PCA device is manufactured by contract manufacturers, component fabricators and secondary service providers. Suppliers of components, subassemblies and other materials are located in Korea, Japan, Germany, China, Taiwan, Canada and the United States. All contract manufacturers and component suppliers have been selected for their specific competencies in the manufacturing processes and materials that make up the ARX-01 system. FDA regulations require that materials be produced under cGMPs or QSR. We outsource injection molding of all the plastic parts for the cartridge and device and product sub-assemblies; NanoTab cartridge filling and packaging; assembly, packaging and labeling of the dispenser and controller.

ARX-02 is manufactured by contract manufacturers, component fabricators and secondary service providers. Suppliers of components, subassemblies and other materials are located in Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Canada and the United States. All contract manufacturers and component suppliers have been selected for their specific competencies in the manufacturing processes and materials that make up the ARX-02 system. FDA regulations require that materials be produced under cGMPs or QSR, as required for the respective unit operation within the manufacturing process. We outsource injection molding of all the plastic parts for the SDA and MSD and product sub-assemblies; filling, packaging and labeling of SDAs.

Government Regulation And Product Approval

Government authorities in the United States at the federal, state and local level, and other countries, extensively regulate, among other things, the research, development, testing, manufacture, quality control, approval, labeling, packaging, storage, record-keeping, promotion, advertising, distribution, marketing, export and import of products such as those we are developing. Our product candidates must be approved by the FDA through the new drug application, or NDA, process before they may legally be marketed in the United States.

United States Drug Development Process

In the United States, the FDA regulates drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or FDCA, and regulations. The process of obtaining regulatory approvals and compliance with appropriate federal, state, local and foreign statutes and regulations require the expenditure of substantial time and financial resources. Failure to comply with the applicable U.S. requirements at any time during the product development process, approval process, or after approval, may subject an applicant to administrative or judicial sanctions. These sanctions could include the FDA's refusal to approve pending applications, withdrawal of an approval, a clinical hold, warning letters, product recalls, product seizures, total or partial suspension of production or distribution, injunctions, fines, refusals of government contracts, restitution, disgorgement or civil or criminal penalties. The process required by the FDA before a drug product may be marketed in the United States generally involves the following:

- completion of non-clinical laboratory tests, animal studies and formulation studies according to Good Laboratory Practices regulations;

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- submission to the FDA of an IND which must become effective before human clinical studies may begin;
- performance of adequate and well-controlled human clinical studies according to Good Clinical Practices, or GCP, to establish the clinical safety and efficacy of the proposed drug product for its intended use;
- submission to the FDA of an NDA for a new drug product;
- satisfactory completion of an FDA inspection of the manufacturing facility or facilities at which the drug product and the drug substance(s) are produced to assess compliance with cGMP; and
- FDA review and approval of the NDA; and
- payment of user and facility fees.

The testing and approval process requires substantial time, effort and financial resources and we cannot be certain that any approvals for our product candidates will be granted on a timely basis, if at all.

Once a pharmaceutical product candidate is identified for development, it enters the preclinical testing stage. Preclinical tests include laboratory evaluations of product chemistry, toxicity, formulation and stability, as well as animal studies to assess its potential safety and efficacy. An IND sponsor must submit the results of the preclinical tests, together with manufacturing information, analytical data and any available clinical data or literature, to the FDA as part of the IND. The sponsor will also include a protocol detailing, among other things, the objectives of the initial clinical study, the parameters to be used in monitoring safety and the effectiveness criteria to be evaluated if the initial clinical study lends itself to an efficacy evaluation. Some preclinical testing may continue even after the IND is submitted. The IND automatically becomes effective 30 days after receipt by the FDA, unless the FDA places the clinical study on a clinical hold within that 30-day time period. In such a case, the IND sponsor and the FDA must resolve any outstanding concerns before the clinical study can begin. Clinical holds also may be imposed by the FDA at any time before or during studies due to safety concerns or non-compliance.

All clinical studies must be conducted under the supervision of one or more qualified investigators in accordance with protection of human subjects at 21 CFR Part 50 and GCP guidances. These regulations include the requirement that all research subjects provide informed consent. Further, an institutional review board, or IRB, must review and approve the plan for any clinical study before it commences at an institution. An IRB considers, among other things, whether the risks to individuals participating in the studies are minimized and are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits. The IRB also approves the information regarding the clinical study and the consent form that must be provided to each clinical study subject or his or her legal representative and must monitor the clinical study until completed.

Each new clinical protocol and any amendments to the protocol must be submitted to the IND for FDA review, and to the IRBs for approval. Protocols detail, among other things, the objectives of the clinical study, dosing procedures, subject selection and exclusion criteria, and the parameters to be used to monitor subject safety.

Human clinical studies are typically conducted in three sequential phases that may overlap or be combined:

- *Phase 1.* The product is initially introduced into healthy human subjects and tested for safety, dosage tolerance, absorption, metabolism, distribution and excretion. In the case of some products for severe or life-threatening diseases, especially when the product may be too inherently toxic to ethically administer to healthy volunteers, the initial human testing is often conducted in patients.
- *Phase 2.* Involves studies in a limited patient population to identify possible adverse effects and safety risks, to preliminarily evaluate the efficacy of the product for specific targeted conditions and to determine dosage tolerance and optimal dosage and schedule.

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- *Phase 3.* Clinical studies are undertaken to further evaluate dosage, clinical safety and efficacy in an expanded patient population at geographically dispersed clinical study sites. These studies are intended to establish the overall risk/benefit ratio of the product and provide an adequate basis for product labeling.

Progress reports detailing the results of the clinical studies must be submitted at least annually to the FDA and safety reports must be submitted to the FDA and the investigators for serious and unexpected adverse events. Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 testing of our product candidates may not be completed successfully within any specified period, if at all. The FDA or the sponsor may suspend or terminate a clinical study at any time on various grounds, including a finding that the research subjects or patients are being exposed to an unacceptable health risk. Similarly, an IRB can suspend or terminate approval of a clinical study at its institution if the clinical study is not being conducted in accordance with the IRB's requirements or if the drug or biological product has been associated with unexpected serious harm to patients.

Concurrent with clinical studies, companies usually complete additional animal studies and must also develop additional information about the chemistry and physical characteristics of the product and finalize a process for manufacturing the product in commercial quantities in accordance with cGMP and QSR for medical devices requirements. The manufacturing process must be capable of consistently producing quality batches of the product candidate and, among other things, the manufacturer must develop methods for testing the identity, strength, quality and purity of the final product. Additionally, appropriate packaging must be selected and tested and stability studies must be conducted to demonstrate that the product candidate does not undergo unacceptable deterioration over its shelf life.

Our product candidates ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 are regulated under IND's and in the case of ARX-01, all device related information is filed under the Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls Section, or CMC, of an IND.

United States Review and Approval Processes

The results of product development, preclinical studies and clinical studies, along with descriptions of the manufacturing process, analytical tests conducted on our drug products, proposed labeling and other relevant information, will be submitted to the FDA as part of an NDA for a new drug product, requesting approval to market the product in the United States. The submission of an NDA is subject to the payment of a substantial user fee; a waiver of such fee may be obtained under certain limited circumstances.

In addition, under the Pediatric Research Equity Act of 2003, or PREA, which was reauthorized under the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, an NDA or supplement to an NDA must contain data to assess the safety and effectiveness of the drug product for the claimed indications in all relevant pediatric subpopulations and to support dosing and administration for each pediatric subpopulation for which the product is safe and effective. The FDA may grant deferrals for submission of data or full or partial waivers.

The FDA reviews all NDAs submitted to ensure that they are sufficiently complete for substantive review before it accepts them for filing. The FDA may request additional information rather than accept an NDA for filing. In this event, an NDA must be re-submitted with the additional information. The re-submitted application also is subject to review before the FDA accepts it for filing. Once the submission is accepted for filing, the FDA begins an in-depth substantive review. The FDA reviews an NDA to determine, among other things, whether a product is safe and effective for its intended use and whether its manufacturing is cGMP-compliant to assure and preserve the product's identity, strength, quality and purity. Before approving an NDA the FDA will inspect the facility or facilities where the product is manufactured. The FDA will not approve an application unless it determines that the manufacturing processes and facilities are in compliance with cGMP requirements and adequate to assure consistent production of the product within required specifications. The FDA may refer the NDA to an advisory committee for review, evaluation and recommendation as to whether the application should be approved and under what conditions.

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The approval process is lengthy and difficult and the FDA may refuse to approve an NDA if the applicable regulatory criteria are not satisfied or may require additional clinical data or other data and information. Even if such data and information is submitted, the FDA may ultimately decide that the NDA does not satisfy the criteria for approval. Data obtained from clinical studies are not always conclusive and the FDA may interpret data differently than we interpret the same data. The FDA will issue a complete response letter if the agency decides not to approve the NDA in its present form. The complete response letter usually describes all of the specific deficiencies in the NDA identified by the FDA. The deficiencies identified may be minor, for example, requiring labeling changes, or major, for example, requiring additional preclinical or clinical studies. Additionally, the complete response letter may include recommended actions that the applicant might take to place the application in a condition for approval. If a complete response letter is issued, we may either resubmit the NDA addressing all of the deficiencies identified in the letter, or withdraw the application.

If one or more of our product candidates receive regulatory approval, the approval may be limited to specific conditions and dosages or the indications for use may otherwise be limited, which could restrict the commercial value of the product. Our product candidates, if approved, will also require Risk Evaluations and Mitigation Strategies, or REMS, that can include a medication guide, patient package insert, a communication plan, elements to assure safe use and implementation system, and must include a timetable for assessment of the REMS. Further, the FDA may require that certain contraindications, warnings or precautions be included in the product labeling and may require testing and surveillance programs to monitor the safety of approved products that have been commercialized. In addition, the FDA may require post-approval testing which involves clinical studies designed to further assess a drug product's safety and effectiveness after the NDA.

Marketing Exclusivity

Market exclusivity provisions under the FDCA can delay the submission or the approval of certain competing applications containing the same active ingredient as our products, if approved. The FDCA provides three years of marketing exclusivity for an NDA, 505(b)(2) NDA or supplement to an existing NDA if new clinical investigations, other than bioavailability studies were conducted or sponsored by the applicant are deemed by the FDA to be essential to the approval of the application, for example new indications, dosages or strengths of an existing drug such as for our product candidates. This three-year exclusivity covers only the conditions associated with the new clinical investigations and does not prohibit the FDA from approving ANDAs for drugs containing the original active agent. Three-year exclusivity will not delay the submission or approval of a full NDA.

Pediatric exclusivity is another type of exclusivity in the United States. Pediatric exclusivity, under the Best Pharmaceutical for Children Act, if applied for and granted, provides an additional six months to an existing exclusivity or statutory delay in approval resulting from a patent certification. This six-month exclusivity, which runs from the end of other exclusivity protection or patent delay, may be granted based on the voluntary completion of a pediatric study in accordance with an FDA-issued "Written Request." The current pediatric exclusivity provision was reauthorized in September 2007. At present, we do not plan to apply for pediatric exclusivity.

We intend to submit 505(b)(2) NDA applications for each of our product candidates and if approved, we would be granted three years of marketing exclusivity. We expect that our patents, if issued and not successfully challenged, will expire between 2027 and 2030.

Post-Approval Requirements

Any drug products for which we receive FDA approvals are subject to continuing regulation by the FDA, including, among other things, record-keeping requirements, reporting of adverse experiences with the product, providing the FDA with updated clinical safety and efficacy information, product sampling and distribution requirements, complying with certain electronic records and signature requirements and complying with FDA promotion and advertising requirements. The FDA strictly regulates labeling, advertising, promotion and other types of information on products that are placed on the market. Drug products may be promoted only for the approved indications and in accordance with the provisions of the approved label. Further, manufacturers of drug products must continue to comply with cGMP requirements, which are extensive and require considerable time, resources and ongoing

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investment to ensure compliance. In addition, changes to the manufacturing process generally require prior FDA approval before being implemented and other types of changes to the approved product, such as adding new indications and additional labeling claims, are also subject to further FDA review and approval.

Drug product manufacturers and other entities involved in the manufacturing and distribution of approved drug products are required to register their establishments with the FDA and certain state agencies, and are subject to periodic unannounced inspections by the FDA and certain state agencies for compliance with cGMP and other laws. The cGMP requirements apply to all stages of the manufacturing process, including the production, processing, packaging, labeling, storage and shipment of the drug product. Manufacturers must establish validated systems to ensure that products meet specifications and regulatory standards, and test each product batch or lot prior to its release. In the case of ARX-01 the device component must comply with 21 CFR 820.

We rely, and expect to continue to rely, on third parties for the production of clinical and commercial quantities of our products. Future FDA and state inspections may identify compliance issues at the facilities of our contract manufacturers that may disrupt production or distribution or may require substantial resources to correct.

The FDA may withdraw a product approval if compliance with regulatory standards is not maintained or if problems occur after the product reaches the market. Later discovery of previously unknown problems with a product may result in restrictions on the product or even complete withdrawal of the product from the market. Further, the failure to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements may result in administrative or judicial actions, such as fines, warning letters, holds on clinical studies, product recalls or seizures, product detention or refusal to permit the import or export of products, refusal to approve pending applications or supplements, restrictions on marketing or manufacturing, injunctions or civil or criminal penalties.

In addition, from time to time, legislation is drafted, introduced and passed in Congress that could significantly change the statutory provisions governing the approval, manufacturing and marketing of products regulated by the FDA. For example, in September 2007, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 was enacted, giving the FDA enhanced post-market authority, including the authority to require post-market studies and clinical studies, labeling changes based on new safety information and compliance with REMS, approved by the FDA. In determining whether a REMS is necessary, the FDA must consider the size of the population likely to use the drug or biological product, the seriousness of the disease or condition to be treated, the expected benefit of the product, the duration of treatment, the seriousness of known or potential adverse events for the product and whether the product is a new molecular entity.

All three of our products in clinical development contain sufentanil, an opioid that is designated Schedule II by the DEA. As a result, all three products will be subjected to a REMS. In the case of ARX-02 for cancer breakthrough pain which will be outpatient use, this is likely to be the most comprehensive REMS. The FDA may require that a REMS include some or all of the following elements, such as medication guide, communication plan, elements to assure safe use, implementation system and timetable for submission and assessments or other measures.

In addition to new legislation that may be enacted, the FDA regulations and policies are often revised or reinterpreted by the agency in ways that may significantly affect our business and our product candidates. It is impossible to predict whether further legislative or FDA regulation or policy changes will be enacted or implemented and what the impact of such changes, if any, may be.

Foreign Regulation

In addition to regulations in the United States, we will be subject to a variety of foreign regulations governing clinical studies and commercial sales and distribution of our products to the extent we choose to sell any products outside of the United States. Whether or not we obtain FDA approval for a product, we must obtain approval of a product by the comparable regulatory authorities of foreign countries before we can commence clinical studies or

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marketing of the product in those countries. The approval process varies from country to country and the time may be longer or shorter than that required for FDA approval. The requirements governing the conduct of clinical studies, product licensing, pricing and reimbursement vary greatly from country to country.

In the European Union, our product candidates are subject to extensive regulatory requirements, which provide, among other things, that no medicinal product may be placed on the market of a European Union member state unless a marketing authorization has been issued by the European Medicines Agency or a national competent authority. European Union member states require both regulatory clearance by the national competent authority and a favorable ethics committee opinion prior to the commencement of a clinical study.

Controlled Substances Regulations

Sufentanil, a Schedule II controlled substance, is the active pharmaceutical ingredient in the ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 NanoTab product candidates. Triazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance, is also an active pharmaceutical ingredient in ARX-03. Controlled substances are governed by the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice. The handling of controlled substances and/or drug product by us, our contract manufacturers, analytical laboratories, packagers and distributors, are regulated by the Controlled Substances Act and Title 21 CFR, Part 1300-1399. Our current supply chain is also subject to the regulations of Health Canada's Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme, and specifically, the Office of Controlled Substances.

Unforeseen delays to the drug substance and drug product manufacture and supply chain may occur due to delays, errors or other unforeseen problems with the permitting process. Also, any one of our suppliers, contract manufacturers, laboratories, packagers and/or distributors could be the subject of DEA violations and enforcement could lead to delays or even loss of DEA license by the contractors.

Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement

Sales of pharmaceutical products depend significantly on the availability of third party reimbursement. Third-party payors include government health administrative authorities, managed care providers, private health insurers and other organizations. We anticipate third-party payors will provide reimbursement for our products. However, these third -party payors are increasingly challenging the price and examining the cost-effectiveness of medical products and services. In addition, significant uncertainty exists as to the reimbursement status of newly approved healthcare products. We may need to conduct expensive pharmacoeconomic studies in order to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of our products. The product candidates that we develop may not be considered cost-effective. It is time consuming and expensive for us to seek reimbursement from third party payors. Reimbursement may not be available or sufficient to allow us to sell our products on a competitive and profitable basis.

Health Law Compliance

In addition to FDA laws and regulations, we must comply with a variety of federal and state laws governing, among other things, the privacy of healthcare information, our relationships with healthcare providers and the reimbursement of prescription drug products. Although the federal health care program anti-kickback statute has a number of statutory exemptions and regulatory safe harbors protecting certain common activities from prosecution, the exemptions and safe harbors are drawn narrowly, and practices that involve remuneration intended to induce prescribing, purchases, or recommendations may be subject to scrutiny if they do not qualify for an exemption or safe harbor. Our practices may not in all cases meet all of the criteria for safe harbor protection from anti-kickback liability. Federal false claims laws prohibit any person from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, a false claim for payment to the federal government, or knowingly making, or causing to be made, a false statement to get a false claim paid. Recently, several pharmaceutical and other health care companies have been prosecuted under these laws for allegedly providing free product to customers with the expectation that the customers would bill federal programs for the product. Other companies have been

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prosecuted for causing false claims to be submitted because of the company's marketing of the product for unapproved, and thus non-reimbursable, uses. The majority of states also have statutes or regulations similar to the federal anti-kickback law and false claims laws, which apply to items and services reimbursed under Medicaid and other state programs, or, in several states, apply regardless of the payer. Sanctions under these federal and state laws may include civil monetary penalties, exclusion of a manufacturer's products from reimbursement under government programs, criminal fines, and imprisonment. Because of the breadth of these laws and the narrowness of the safe harbors, it is possible that some of our business activities could be subject to challenge under one or more of such laws. Such a challenge could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act, or collectively the PPACA, was enacted, which includes measures to significantly change the way health care is financed by both governmental and private insurers. Among the provisions of the PPACA of greatest importance to the pharmaceutical industry are the following:

- an annual, nondeductible fee on any entity that manufactures or imports certain branded prescription drugs and biologic agents, apportioned among these entities according to their market share in certain government healthcare programs, beginning in 2011;
- new requirements to report certain financial arrangements with physicians and others, including reporting any "transfer of value" made or distributed to prescribers and other healthcare providers and reporting any investment interests held by physicians and their immediate family members during each calendar year beginning in 2012, with reporting starting in 2013;
- a new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in, and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research;
- creation of the Independent Payment Advisory Board which, beginning in 2014, will have authority to recommend certain changes to the Medicare program that could result in reduced payments for prescription drugs and those recommendations could have the effect of law even if Congress does not act on the recommendations; and
- establishment of a Center for Medicare Innovation at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to test innovative payment and service delivery models to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending, potentially including prescription drug spending beginning by January 1, 2011.

Many of the details regarding the implementation of the PPACA are yet to be determined, and at this time, it remains unclear the full effect that the PPACA would have on our business.

Research and Development

Conducting research and development is central to our business model. We have invested and expect to continue to invest significant time and capital in our research and development operations. Our research and development expenses were \$8.2 million, \$15.5 million and \$18.3 million during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. We plan to increase our research and development expenses for the foreseeable future as we seek to complete the development of ARX-01 and subsequently advance the development of ARX-02 and ARX-03.

Employees

As of December 31, 2010, we employed 19 full-time employees. Eleven of our employees were engaged in research and development activities and eight were engaged in support administration, including business development, finance, information systems, facilities and human resources. None of our employees is subject to a collective bargaining agreement. We consider our relationship with our employees to be good.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should consider carefully the risks described below, together with the other information contained in this Form 10-K. We believe the risks described below are the risks that are material to us as of the date of this Form 10-K. If any of the following risks comes to fruition, our business, financial condition, results of operations and future growth prospects would likely be materially and adversely affected. In these circumstances, the market price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Financial Condition and Need for Additional Capital

We have incurred significant losses since our inception and anticipate that we will continue to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future.

We are a development stage company with limited operating history. To date, we have focused primarily on developing our lead product candidate, the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System, or ARX-01. We have two additional product candidates, the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System, or ARX-02, and the Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab, or ARX-03. We have incurred significant net losses in each year since our inception in July 2005, including net losses of approximately \$14.3 million, \$20.1 million and \$20.7 million during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. As of December 31, 2010, we had an accumulated deficit of \$68.6 million.

We have devoted most of our financial resources to research and development, including our non-clinical development activities and clinical trials. To date, we have financed our operations primarily through the sale of equity securities and debt. The size of our future net losses will depend, in part, on the rate of future expenditures and our ability to generate revenues. To date, none of our product candidates have been commercialized, and if our product candidates are not successfully developed or commercialized, or if revenues are insufficient following marketing approval, we will not achieve profitability and our business may fail. Even if we successfully obtain regulatory approval to market our product candidates in the United States, our revenues are also dependent upon the size of the markets outside of the United States, as well as our ability to obtain market approval and achieve commercial success.

We expect to continue to incur substantial and increased expenses as we expand our research and development activities and advance our clinical programs. We also expect an increase in our expenses associated with preparing for the potential commercialization of ARX-01 and creating additional infrastructure to support operations as a public company. As a result of the foregoing, we expect to continue to incur significant and increasing operating losses and negative cash flows for the foreseeable future.

We have never generated any revenue and may never be profitable.

Our ability to generate revenue and achieve profitability depends on our ability, alone or with collaborators, to successfully complete the development, obtain the necessary regulatory approvals and commercialize our product candidates. We do not anticipate generating revenues from sales of our product candidates for the foreseeable future, if ever. Our ability to generate future revenues from product sales depends heavily on our success in:

- completing the clinical development of ARX-01, initially for the treatment of post-operative pain in the hospital setting;
- obtaining regulatory approval for ARX-01;
- launching and commercializing ARX-01, including building a hospital-directed sales force and collaborating with third parties; and
- completing the clinical development, obtaining regulatory approval, launching and commercializing ARX-02 and ARX-03, which will require additional funding.

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Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with pharmaceutical product development, we are unable to predict the timing or amount of increased expenses, when, or if, we will be able to achieve or maintain profitability. In addition, our expenses could increase beyond expectations if we are required by the FDA to perform studies in addition to those that we currently anticipate.

Even if one or more of our product candidates is approved for commercial sale, we anticipate incurring significant costs associated with commercializing any approved product candidate. Even if we are able to generate revenues from the sale of our products, we may not become profitable and may need to obtain additional funding to continue operations.

We have a limited operating history which may make it difficult to predict our future performance or evaluate our business and prospects.

We were incorporated in 2005. Since inception, our operations have been primarily limited to organizing and staffing our company, developing our technology and undertaking preclinical studies and clinical trials for our product candidates. We have not yet obtained regulatory approval for any of our product candidates. Consequently, any predictions you make about our future success or viability or evaluation of our business and prospects may not be accurate.

If we fail to obtain additional financing, we would be forced to delay, reduce or eliminate our product development programs.

Developing pharmaceutical products, including conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials, is expensive. We expect our research and development expenses to substantially increase in connection with our ongoing activities, particularly as we advance our clinical programs. As of December 31, 2010, we had negative working capital of approximately \$7.6 million. Although we raised \$35.6 million in net proceeds in our initial public offering, or IPO, we will need to raise substantial additional funds to support our future operations, and such funding may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all.

We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents, including the net proceeds of \$35.6 million from our IPO in February 2011, and the interest earned thereon, will be sufficient to fund our current operations through the second quarter of 2012. However, changing circumstances beyond our control may cause us to consume capital more rapidly than we currently anticipate. For example, our clinical trials may encounter technical, enrollment or other difficulties that could increase our development costs more than we expected. We will need to raise additional funding or otherwise enter into collaborations to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our NDA and, if we choose, to initiate clinical trials for our product candidates other than ARX-01. In any event, we will require substantial additional capital to obtain regulatory approval for, and to commercialize, our product candidates. Raising funds in the current economic environment, when the capital markets have been affected by the global recession, may present additional challenges.

Securing additional financing may divert our management from our day-to-day activities, which may adversely affect our ability to develop and commercialize our product candidates. In addition, we cannot guarantee that future financing will be available in sufficient amounts or on terms acceptable to us, if at all. If we are unable to raise additional capital when required or on acceptable terms, we may be required to:

- significantly delay, scale back or discontinue the development or commercialization of our product candidates;
- seek corporate partners for ARX-01 at an earlier stage than otherwise would be desirable or on terms that are less favorable than might otherwise be available; or
- relinquish or license on unfavorable terms, our rights to technologies or product candidates that we otherwise would seek to develop or commercialize ourselves.

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If we are unable to raise additional capital in sufficient amounts or on terms acceptable to us, we will be prevented from pursuing development and commercialization efforts, including completing the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our NDA, which will have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and prospects.

We may sell additional equity or debt securities to fund our operations, which may result in dilution to our stockholders and impose restrictions on our business.

In order to raise additional funds to support our operations, we may sell additional equity or debt securities, which would result in dilution to all of our stockholders or impose restrictive covenants that adversely impact our business. The sale of additional equity or convertible debt securities would result in the issuance of additional shares of our capital stock and dilution to all of our stockholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased fixed payment obligations and could also result in certain restrictive covenants, such as limitations on our ability to incur additional debt, limitations on our ability to acquire, sell or license intellectual property rights and other operating restrictions that could adversely impact our ability to conduct our business. If we are unable to expand our operations or otherwise capitalize on our business opportunities, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected and we may not be able to meet our debt service obligations.

Risks Related to Clinical Development and Regulatory Approval

We depend substantially on the success of our product candidate, ARX-01, which is still under clinical development, and may not obtain regulatory approval or be successfully commercialized.

We have not marketed, distributed or sold any products. The success of our business depends primarily upon our ability to develop and commercialize ARX-01, which has completed Phase 2 clinical trials for the treatment of post-operative pain. We expect to initiate one of the three planned Phase 3 clinical trials for ARX-01 in the second half of 2011 with a second Phase 3 initiating in early 2012. Contingent on our ability to secure additional funding, we plan to begin a third Phase 3 clinical trial in the second half of 2012. We intend to use these trials as a basis to submit an NDA for ARX-01. There is no guarantee that our Phase 3 clinical trials will be completed, or if completed, will be successful.

Any delay in obtaining, or inability to obtain, regulatory approval would prevent us from commercializing ARX-01, generating revenues and achieving profitability. If any of these events occur, we may be forced to abandon our development efforts for ARX-01, which would have a material adverse effect on our business and could potentially cause us to cease operations.

We depend substantially on the successful completion of Phase 3 clinical trials for our product candidates. The positive clinical results obtained for our product candidates in Phase 2 clinical studies may not be repeated in Phase 3.

We have completed Phase 2 clinical studies and participated in an End of Phase 2 meeting for each of our three product candidates. However, we have never conducted a Phase 3 clinical trial. Our product candidates are subject to the risks of failure inherent in pharmaceutical and medical device development. Before obtaining regulatory approval for the commercial sale of any product candidate, we must successfully complete Phase 3 clinical trials. Negative or inconclusive results of a Phase 3 clinical study could cause the FDA to require that we repeat it or conduct additional clinical studies. Furthermore, while we have obtained positive safety and efficacy results for our sufentanil-based product candidates during our prior clinical trials, we cannot be certain that these results will be duplicated when our product candidates are tested in a larger number of patients in our Phase 3 clinical trials.

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Delays in clinical trials are common and have many causes, and any delay could result in increased costs to us and jeopardize or delay our ability to obtain regulatory approval and commence product sales.

We may experience delays in clinical trials of our product candidates. We expect to initiate one of the three planned Phase 3 clinical trials of ARX-01 in the second half of 2011 with a second Phase 3 study being initiated in early 2012. Our planned clinical trials may not begin on time, have an effective design, enroll a sufficient number of patients, or be completed on schedule, if at all. Our clinical trials can be delayed for a variety of reasons, including:

- inability to raise funding necessary to initiate or continue a trial, including the inability to secure additional funding to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our NDA;
- delays in pharmacokinetic studies required prior to Phase 3 initiation;
- delays in obtaining regulatory approval to commence a trial;
- delays in reaching agreement with the FDA on final trial design;
- imposition of a clinical hold following an inspection of our clinical trial operations or trial sites by the FDA or other regulatory authorities;
- delays in reaching agreement on acceptable terms with prospective contract research organizations, or CROs, and clinical trial sites;
- delays in obtaining required institutional review board approval at each site;
- delays in recruiting suitable patients to participate in a trial;
- delays in the testing, validation, manufacturing and delivery of the device components of our product candidates;
- delays in having patients complete participation in a trial or return for post-treatment follow-up;
- clinical sites dropping out of a trial to the detriment of enrollment;
- time required to add new clinical sites; or
- delays by our contract manufacturers to produce and deliver sufficient supply of clinical trial materials.

If initiation or completion of the Phase 3 trials are delayed for our product candidates for any of the above reasons, our development costs may increase, our approval process could be delayed and our ability to commercialize and commence sales of our product candidates could be materially harmed, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our product candidates may cause adverse effects or have other properties that could delay or prevent their regulatory approval or limit the scope of any approved label or market acceptance.

Adverse events, or AEs, caused by our product candidates could cause us, other reviewing entities, clinical study sites or regulatory authorities to interrupt, delay or halt clinical studies and could result in the denial of regulatory approval. Phase 2 clinical studies conducted by us with our product candidates have generated some AEs, but no serious adverse events, or SAEs. For example, in ARX-01 clinical studies completed to date, 11% of the patients experienced vomiting and 8% experienced itching for 10 mcg and 15 mcg treated groups, as compared to the placebo treated subjects, of which 6% experienced vomiting and none experienced itching. If SAEs are observed in any of our clinical studies, our ability to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates may be adversely impacted.

Further, if our products cause serious or unexpected side effects after receiving market approval, a number of potentially significant negative consequences could result, including:

- regulatory authorities may withdraw their approval of the product or impose restrictions on its distribution in a form of a modified Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS;

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- regulatory authorities may require the addition of labeling statements, such as warnings or contraindications;
- we may be required to change the way the product is administered or conduct additional clinical studies;
- we could be sued and held liable for harm caused to patients; or
- our reputation may suffer.

Any of these events could prevent us from achieving or maintaining market acceptance of the affected product candidate and could substantially increase the costs of commercializing our product candidates.

Additional time may be required to obtain regulatory approval for our ARX-01 product candidate because it is a drug/device combination.

ARX-01 is a drug/device combination. We have filed an IND for ARX-01. Based on our discussions with the FDA, we believe that ARX-01 will be reviewed as a combination product, with both drug and device components submitted in the IND, and both components will eventually be part of an NDA. There are very few examples of the FDA approval process for drug/device combination products such as ARX-01. As a result, we may experience delays in regulatory approval for ARX-01 due to uncertainties in the approval process, in particular as it relates to device approval under an NDA.

After the completion of our clinical trials, we cannot predict whether or when we will obtain regulatory approval to commercialize ARX-01 and we cannot, therefore, predict the timing of any future revenue from ARX-01.

We cannot commercialize ARX-01 until the appropriate regulatory authorities, such as the FDA, have reviewed and approved the product candidate. The regulatory agencies may not complete their review processes in a timely manner, or we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for ARX-01. Additional delays may result if ARX-01 is taken before an FDA Advisory Committee which may recommend restrictions on approval or recommend non-approval. In addition, we may experience delays or rejections based upon additional government regulation from future legislation or administrative action, or changes in regulatory agency policy during the period of product development, clinical studies and the review process.

Even if we obtain regulatory approval for ARX-01 and our other product candidates, we will still face extensive regulatory requirements and our products may face future development and regulatory difficulties.

Even if we obtain regulatory approval in the United States, the FDA may still impose significant restrictions on the indicated uses or marketing of our product candidates, or impose ongoing requirements for potentially costly post-approval studies or post-market surveillance. For example, the labeling ultimately approved for ARX-01 and our other product candidates will likely include restrictions on use due to the opiate nature of sufentanil. ARX-01 and our other product candidates will also be subject to ongoing FDA requirements governing the labeling, packaging, storage, distribution, safety surveillance, advertising, promotion, record-keeping and reporting of safety and other post-market information. The holder of an approved NDA is obligated to monitor and report AEs and any failure of a product to meet the specifications in the NDA. The holder of an approved NDA must also submit new or supplemental applications and obtain FDA approval for certain changes to the approved product, product labeling or manufacturing process. Advertising and promotional materials must comply with FDA rules and are subject to FDA review, in addition to other potentially applicable federal and state laws.

In addition, manufacturers of drug products and their facilities are subject to payment of user fees and continual review and periodic inspections by the FDA and other regulatory authorities for compliance with current good manufacturing practices, or cGMP, and adherence to commitments made in the NDA. If we, or a regulatory

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agency discovers previously unknown problems with a product, such as AEs of unanticipated severity or frequency, or problems with the facility where the product is manufactured, a regulatory agency may impose restrictions relative to that product or the manufacturing facility, including requiring recall or withdrawal of the product from the market or suspension of manufacturing.

If we fail to comply with applicable regulatory requirements following approval of our product candidate, a regulatory agency may:

- issue a warning letter asserting that we are in violation of the law;
- seek an injunction or impose civil or criminal penalties or monetary fines;
- suspend or withdraw regulatory approval;
- suspend any ongoing clinical trials;
- refuse to approve a pending NDA or supplements to an NDA submitted by us;
- seize product; or
- refuse to allow us to enter into supply contracts, including government contracts.

Any government investigation of alleged violations of law could require us to expend significant time and resources in response and could generate negative publicity. The occurrence of any event or penalty described above may inhibit our ability to commercialize our products and generate revenues.

Even if we obtain FDA approval for ARX-01 in the United States, we may never obtain approval for or commercialize our products outside of the United States, which would limit our ability to realize their full market potential.

In order to market any products outside of the United States, we must establish and comply with numerous and varying regulatory requirements of other countries regarding safety and efficacy. Clinical trials conducted in one country may not be accepted by regulatory authorities in other countries, and regulatory approval in one country does not mean that regulatory approval will be obtained in any other country. Approval processes vary among countries and can involve additional product testing and validation and additional administrative review periods. Seeking foreign regulatory approval could result in difficulties and costs for us and require additional non-clinical studies or clinical trials which could be costly and time consuming. Regulatory requirements can vary widely from country to country and could delay or prevent the introduction of our products in those countries. We do not have any product candidates approved for sale in any jurisdiction, including international markets, and we do not have experience in obtaining regulatory approval in international markets. If we fail to comply with regulatory requirements in international markets or to obtain and maintain required approvals, or if regulatory approvals in international markets are delayed, our target market will be reduced and our ability to realize the full market potential of our products will be harmed.

ARX-01 and our other product candidates will require Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies.

The FDA Amendments Act of 2007 implemented safety-related changes to product labeling and require the adoption of REMS. Our product candidates will require REMS. The REMS may include requirements for special labeling or medication guides for patients, special communication plans to health care professionals and restrictions on distribution and use. While we have received information from the FDA regarding certain aspects of the required REMS for ARX-01, we cannot predict the specific REMS to be required as part of the FDA's approval of ARX-01. Depending on the extent of the REMS requirements, our costs to commercialize ARX-01 may increase significantly. ARX-02 and ARX-03, if approved, will also require REMS programs that may increase our costs to commercialize these product candidates. Furthermore, risks of sufentanil that are not adequately addressed through proposed REMS for our product candidates may also prevent or delay their approval for commercialization.

Risks Related to Our Reliance on Third Parties

We rely on third party manufacturers to produce our preclinical and clinical drug supplies, and we intend to rely on third parties to produce commercial supplies of any approved product candidates.

Reliance on third party manufacturers entails risks to which we would not be subject if we manufactured the pharmaceutical, device and drug cartridge aspects of our product candidates ourselves, including:

- the inability to meet our product specifications and quality requirements consistently;
- a delay or inability to procure or expand sufficient manufacturing capacity;
- manufacturing and product quality issues related to scale-up of manufacturing;
- costs and validation of new equipment and facilities required for scale-up;
- a failure to comply with cGMP and similar foreign standards;
- the inability to negotiate manufacturing agreements with third parties under commercially reasonable terms;
- termination or nonrenewal of manufacturing agreements with third parties in a manner or at a time that is costly or damaging to us;
- the reliance on a limited number of sources, and in some cases, single sources for product components, such that if we are unable to secure a sufficient supply of these product components, we will be unable to manufacture and sell our product candidates in a timely fashion, in sufficient quantities or under acceptable terms;
- the lack of qualified backup suppliers for those components that are currently purchased from a sole or single source supplier;
- operations of our third party manufacturers or suppliers could be disrupted by conditions unrelated to our business or operations, including the bankruptcy of the manufacturer or supplier;
- carrier disruptions or increased costs that are beyond our control; and
- the failure to deliver our products under specified storage conditions and in a timely manner.

Any of these events could lead to clinical study delays, failure to obtain regulatory approval or impact our ability to successfully commercialize our products. Some of these events could be the basis for FDA action, including injunction, recall, seizure, or total or partial suspension of production.

We rely on limited sources of supply for the drug component of our product candidates and any disruption in the chain of supply may cause delay in developing and commercializing our product candidates.

Currently we use two established suppliers of sufentanil citrate for our NanoTabs, Covidien plc and Johnson Matthey plc. For each product candidate, only one of the two suppliers will be qualified as a vendor with the FDA. If supply from the approved vendor is interrupted, there could be a significant disruption in commercial supply. The alternative vendor would need to be qualified through an NDA supplement which could result in further delay. The FDA or other regulatory agencies outside of the United States may also require additional studies if a new sufentanil supplier is relied upon for commercial production. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration, or the DEA, may reduce, delay or refuse our quota for sufentanil, which would disrupt our supply of sufentanil citrate and cause delay in the development and commercialization of our product candidates.

Currently, we use one supplier of triazolam for our ARX-03 NanoTabs. Switching triazolam suppliers may involve substantial cost and is a likely to result in a delay in our desired clinical and commercial timelines.

These factors could cause the delay of clinical trials, regulatory submissions, required approvals or commercialization of our product candidates, cause us to incur higher costs and prevent us from commercializing

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them successfully. Furthermore, if our suppliers fail to deliver the required commercial quantities of active pharmaceutical ingredient on a timely basis and at commercially reasonable prices, and we are unable to secure one or more replacement suppliers capable of production at a substantially equivalent cost, our clinical trials may be delayed or we could lose potential revenue.

Manufacture of sufentanil NanoTabs requires specialized equipment and expertise.

Ethanol, which is used in the manufacturing process, is flammable, which necessitates the use of specialized equipment and facilities for manufacture of sufentanil NanoTabs. There are a limited number of facilities that can accommodate our manufacturing process and we need to use dedicated equipment throughout development and commercial manufacturing to avoid the possibility of cross-contamination. If our equipment breaks down or needs to be repaired or replaced, it may cause significant disruption in clinical or commercial supply, which could result in delay in the process of obtaining approval for or sale of our products. Furthermore, we are using one facility to manufacture our sufentanil NanoTabs and have not identified a back up facility to date. Any problems with our existing facility or equipment may delay or impair our ability to complete our clinical trials or commercialize our product candidates and increase our cost.

Manufacturing issues may arise that could increase product and regulatory approval costs or delay commercialization.

As we scale up manufacturing of our product candidates and conduct required stability testing, product, packaging, equipment and process-related issues may require refinement or resolution in order to proceed with our planned clinical trials and obtain regulatory approval for commercial marketing. In the past we have identified impurities in the drug substance or excipients that comprise the sufentanil or sufentanil/triazolam NanoTab products. In the future we may identify significant impurities, which could result in increased scrutiny by the regulatory agencies, delays in clinical program and regulatory approval, increases in our operating expenses, or failure to obtain or maintain approval for our products.

Our designs for the device components of our product candidates for Phase 3 clinical trials may not be fully functional or commercially viable.

The ARX-01 device we plan to use in Phase 3 clinical trials and commercially, or Phase 3 device, has more features than the device used in Phase 2, including additional software and functionality. Although we have conducted multiple human factor and usability studies, the design of the ARX-01 Phase 3 device is still under development. We plan to complete an additional user testing study prior to release of the device for Phase 3 clinical trials. However, we cannot predict if the Phase 3 device will be fully functional or acceptable for commercial use. If we need to modify the Phase 3 device after the completion of the Phase 3 studies, we may incur higher costs and experience delay in regulatory approval and commercialization of ARX-01. Furthermore, if the changes to the device are substantial, we may need to conduct further clinical studies in order to have the commercial device approved by the FDA.

The dispensing components of ARX-02 and ARX-03 are still under development. We cannot be certain that the dispensing components of ARX-02 and ARX-03 will be fully functional or acceptable for commercial use or that we will be able to effectively scale up the manufacturing process. Failure to do so may delay or prevent regulatory approval or commercialization of ARX-02 and ARX-03.

We have no experience manufacturing the ARX-01 Phase 3 device on a clinical or commercial scale and do not own or operate a manufacturing facility.

We have relied on contract manufacturers, component fabricators and secondary service providers to produce ARX-01 devices for Phase 2 clinical trials. We currently outsource manufacturing and packaging of the controller, dispenser and cartridge components of the ARX-01 device to third parties and intend to continue to do so. We may encounter unanticipated problems in the scale-up and automation process that will result in delays in the manufacturing of the ARX-01 cartridge, dispenser or controller.

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We do not currently have any agreements with third party manufacturers for the manufacture of the Phase 3 device. We may not be able to enter into agreements for commercial supply of ARX-01 with third party manufacturers, or may be unable to do so on acceptable terms.

We may not be able to establish additional sources of supply for device manufacture. Such suppliers are subject to FDA regulations requiring that materials be produced under cGMPs, or Quality System Regulations, or QSR, and subject to ongoing inspections by regulatory agencies. Failure by any of our suppliers to comply with applicable regulations may result in delays and interruptions to our product candidate supply while we seek to secure another supplier that meets all regulatory requirements.

Reliance on third party manufacturers entails risks to which we would not be subject if we manufactured the product candidates ourselves, including the possible breach of the manufacturing agreements by the third parties because of factors beyond our control; and the possibility of termination or nonrenewal of the agreements by the third parties because of our breach of the manufacturing agreement or based on their own business priorities.

We rely on third parties to conduct, supervise and monitor our clinical studies, and if those third parties perform in an unsatisfactory manner, it may harm our business.

We rely on clinical research organizations, or CROs, and clinical trial sites to ensure the proper and timely conduct of our clinical trials. While we have agreements governing their activities, we have limited influence over their actual performance. We have relied and plan to continue to rely upon CROs to monitor and manage data for our ongoing clinical programs for ARX-01 and our other product candidates, as well as the execution of nonclinical studies. We control only certain aspects of our CROs' activities. Nevertheless, we are responsible for ensuring that each of our studies is conducted in accordance with the applicable protocol, legal, regulatory and scientific standards and our reliance on the CROs does not relieve us of our regulatory responsibilities.

Since our drug products are controlled substances, all of our contract manufacturing organizations, or CMOs, and CROs must follow proper DEA rules and procedures or comparable rules and procedures in other countries. Failure to properly follow these rules and procedures could result in DEA action, up to and including losing their license to work with controlled substances. This would result in a major delay in our clinical studies and/or NDA submission.

We and our CROs are required to comply with the FDA's current good clinical practices, or cGCPs, which are regulations and guidelines enforced by the FDA for all of our product candidates in clinical development. The FDA enforces these cGCPs through periodic inspections of trial sponsors, principal investigators and clinical trial sites. If we or our CROs fail to comply with applicable cGCPs, the clinical data generated in our clinical trials may be deemed unreliable and the FDA may require us to perform additional clinical trials before approving our marketing applications. Upon inspection, the FDA may determine that our Phase 3 clinical trials do not comply with cGCPs. In addition, our Phase 3 clinical trials will require a sufficiently large number of test subjects to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of ARX-01. Accordingly, if our CROs fail to comply with these regulations or fail to recruit a sufficient number of patients, we may be required to repeat the Phase 3 clinical trials, which would delay the regulatory approval process.

Our CROs are not our employees, and we cannot control whether or not they devote sufficient time and resources to our ongoing clinical and nonclinical programs. These CROs may also have relationships with other commercial entities, including our competitors, for whom they may also be conducting clinical studies, or other drug development activities which could harm our competitive position. We face the risk of potential unauthorized disclosure or misappropriation of our intellectual property by CROs, which may allow our potential competitors to access our proprietary technology. If our CROs do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or obligations, fail to meet expected deadlines, or if the quality or accuracy of the clinical data they obtain is compromised due to the failure to adhere to our clinical protocols or regulatory requirements, or for any other reasons, our clinical trials may be extended, delayed or terminated, and we may not be able to obtain regulatory

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approval for, or successfully commercialize ARX-01, or our other product candidates. As a result, our financial results and the commercial prospects for ARX-01 and any future product candidates that we develop would be harmed, our costs could increase, and our ability to generate revenues could be delayed.

Risks Related to Commercialization of Our Product Candidates

The commercial success of ARX-01 and our other product candidates will depend upon the acceptance of these products by the medical community, including physicians, patients and health care payors.

The degree of market acceptance of any of our product candidates will depend on a number of factors, including:

- demonstration of clinical safety and efficacy compared to other products;
- the relative convenience, ease of administration and acceptance by physicians, patients and health care payors;
- the prevalence and severity of any AEs;
- overcoming the perception of sufentanil as a potentially unsafe drug due to its high potency;
- limitations or warnings contained in the FDA-approved label for ARX-01;
- availability of alternative treatments;
- pricing and cost-effectiveness;
- the effectiveness of our or any future collaborators' sales and marketing strategies;
- our ability to obtain hospital formulary approval;
- our ability to obtain and maintain sufficient third party coverage or reimbursement; and
- the willingness of patients to pay out-of-pocket in the absence of third party coverage.

If ARX-01 is approved, but does not achieve an adequate level of acceptance by physicians, patients and health care payors, we may not generate sufficient revenue from ARX-01 and we may not become or remain profitable.

If we are unable to establish sales and marketing capabilities or enter into agreements with third parties to market and sell our product candidates, we may be unable to generate any revenue.

We currently do not have an organization for the sales, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products and the cost of establishing and maintaining such an organization may exceed the cost-effectiveness of doing so. In order to market any products that may be approved, we must build our sales, marketing, managerial and other non-technical capabilities or make arrangements with third parties to perform these services. We intend to enter into strategic partnerships with third parties to commercialize our product candidates outside of the United States. We will also consider the option to enter into strategic partnerships for our product candidates in the United States.

To date, we have not entered into any strategic partnerships for any of our product candidates. We face significant competition in seeking appropriate strategic partners, and these strategic partnerships can be intricate and time consuming to negotiate and document. We may not be able to negotiate strategic partnerships on acceptable terms, or at all. We are unable to predict when, if ever, we will enter into any strategic partnerships because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with establishing strategic partnerships. Our strategy for ARX-01 is to develop a hospital-directed sales force and/or collaborate with third parties to promote the product to healthcare professionals and third party payors in the United States. Our future collaboration partners, if any, may not dedicate sufficient resources to the commercialization of our product candidates or may otherwise fail in their commercialization due to factors beyond our control. If we are unable to establish effective collaborations to enable the sale of our product candidates to healthcare professionals and in geographical

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regions, including the United States, that will not be covered by our own marketing and sales force, or if our potential future collaboration partners do not successfully commercialize our product candidates, our ability to generate revenues from product sales will be adversely affected.

If we are unable to negotiate a strategic partnership or obtain additional financial resources for ARX-02 or ARX-03, we may be forced to curtail the development of ARX-02 or ARX-03, delay potential commercialization, reduce the scope of our sales or marketing activities or undertake development or commercialization activities at our own expense. In addition, without a partnership, we will bear all the risk related to the development of ARX-02 or ARX-03. If we elect to increase our expenditures to fund development or commercialization activities ourselves, we will need to obtain additional capital, which may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. If we do not have sufficient funds, we will not be able to bring ARX-02 or ARX-03 to market or generate product revenue.

If we are unable to establish adequate sales, marketing and distribution capabilities, whether independently or with third parties, we may not be able to generate sufficient product revenue and may not become profitable. We will be competing with many companies that currently have extensive and well-funded marketing and sales operations. Without an internal team or the support of a third party to perform marketing and sales functions, we may be unable to compete successfully against these more established companies.

If we obtain approval to commercialize our products outside of the United States, a variety of risks associated with international operations could materially adversely affect our business.

If our product candidates are approved for commercialization, we intend to enter into agreements with third parties to market ARX-01 outside the United States. We expect that we will be subject to additional risks related to entering into international business relationships, including:

- different regulatory requirements for drug approvals in foreign countries;
- reduced protection for intellectual property rights;
- unexpected changes in tariffs, trade barriers and regulatory requirements;
- economic weakness, including inflation, or political instability in particular foreign economies and markets;
- compliance with tax, employment, immigration and labor laws for employees living or traveling abroad;
- foreign taxes, including withholding of payroll taxes;
- foreign currency fluctuations, which could result in increased operating expenses and reduced revenues, and other obligations incident to doing business in another country;
- workforce uncertainty in countries where labor unrest is more common than in the United States;
- production shortages resulting from any events affecting raw material supply or manufacturing capabilities abroad; and
- business interruptions resulting from geopolitical actions, including war and terrorism, or natural disasters including earthquakes, typhoons, floods and fires.

If we are unable to compete effectively, our product candidates may not reach their commercial potential.

The market for our product candidates is characterized by intense competition and rapid technological advances. If our product candidates obtain FDA approval, they will compete with a number of existing and future pharmaceuticals and drug delivery devices developed, manufactured and marketed by others. We will compete against fully integrated pharmaceutical companies and smaller companies that are collaborating with larger pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, government agencies and other public and private research organizations.

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The primary competition for ARX-01 is the IV PCA pump, which is widely used in the post-operative setting. Leading manufacturers of IV PCA pumps include Hospira Inc., CareFusion Corporation, Baxter International Inc., Curlin Medical, Inc. and Smiths Medical. The most common opioids used to treat post-operative pain are morphine, hydromorphone and fentanyl, all of which are available as generics. Also available on the market is the Avancen Medication on Demand, or MOD, Oral PCA Device developed by Avancen MOD Corporation.

Additional potential competitors for ARX-01 include products in development, including the fentanyl iontophoretic transdermal system, IONSYS, originally developed by ALZA Corporation and Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., both Johnson & Johnson subsidiaries, and currently under development by Incline Therapeutics, Inc.; and Rylomine, an intranasal morphine product developed by Javelin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Our potential competitors for ARX-02 include products approved in the United States for cancer breakthrough pain, including: ACTIQ and FENTORA, currently manufactured by Cephalon Inc.; Onsolis, currently manufactured by BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc.; and Abstral, currently manufactured by ProStrakan Group plc; as well as products approved in Europe, including: Instanyl, currently manufactured by Nycomed International Management GmbH. The active ingredient in all approved products for cancer breakthrough pain is fentanyl. Additional potential competitors for ARX-02 include products in late stage development for cancer breakthrough pain, such as: PecFent, currently manufactured by Archimedes Pharma Limited; Fentanyl TAIFUN, currently manufactured by Akela Pharma, Inc.; and SL Spray, currently manufactured by Insys Therapeutics, Inc.

It is possible that any of these competitors could develop or improve technologies or products that would render our product candidates obsolete or non-competitive, which could adversely affect our revenue potential. Key competitive factors affecting the commercial success of our product candidates are likely to be efficacy, safety profile, reliability, convenience of dosing, price and reimbursement.

Many of our potential competitors have substantially greater financial, technical and human resources than we do and significantly greater experience in the discovery and development of drug candidates, obtaining FDA and other regulatory approval of products and the commercialization of those products. Accordingly, our competitors may be more successful than we are in obtaining FDA approval for drugs and achieving widespread market acceptance. Our competitors' drugs or drug delivery systems may be more effective, have fewer adverse effects, be less expensive to develop and manufacture, or be more effectively marketed and sold than any product candidate we may commercialize. This may render our product candidates obsolete or non-competitive before we can recover our losses. We anticipate that we will face intense and increasing competition as new drugs enter the market and additional technologies become available. These entities may also establish collaborative or licensing relationships with our competitors, which may adversely affect our competitive position. Finally, the development of different methods for the treatment of post-operative pain or breakthrough pain could render ARX-01 and ARX-02, respectively, non-competitive or obsolete. These and other risks may materially adversely affect our ability to attain or sustain profitable operations.

Hospital formulary approval and reimbursement may not be available for ARX-01 and our other product candidates, which could make it difficult for us to sell our products profitably.

Obtaining formulary approval can be an expensive and time consuming process. We cannot be certain if and when we will obtain formulary approval to allow us to sell our products into our target markets. Failure to obtain timely formulary approval will limit our commercial success.

Furthermore, market acceptance and sales of ARX-01, or any future product candidates that we develop, will depend on reimbursement policies and may be affected by future healthcare reform measures. Government authorities and third party payors, such as private health insurers, hospitals and health maintenance organizations, decide which drugs they will pay for and establish reimbursement levels. We cannot be sure that reimbursement will be available for ARX-01, or any future product candidates. Also, reimbursement amounts may reduce the demand for, or the price of, our products. If reimbursement is not available, or is available only to limited levels, we may not be able to successfully commercialize ARX-01, or any future product candidates that we develop.

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There have been a number of legislative and regulatory proposals to change the healthcare system in the United States and in some foreign jurisdictions that could affect our ability to sell our products profitably. These legislative and/or regulatory changes may negatively impact the reimbursement for our products, following approval. The availability of numerous generic pain medications may also substantially reduce the likelihood of reimbursement for ARX-01. The potential application of user fees to generic drug products may expedite the approval of additional pain medication generic drugs. We expect to experience pricing pressures in connection with the sale of ARX-01 and any other products that we develop, due to the trend toward managed healthcare, the increasing influence of health maintenance organizations and additional legislative changes. If we fail to successfully secure and maintain reimbursement coverage for our products or are significantly delayed in doing so, we will have difficulty achieving market acceptance of our products and our business will be harmed.

Risks Related to Our Business Operations and Industry

Failure to comply with the Drug Enforcement Administration regulations, or the cost of compliance with these regulations, may adversely affect our business.

Our sufentanil-based products are subject to extensive regulation by the DEA, due to their status as scheduled drugs. Sufentanil is a Schedule II opioid, considered to present the highest risk of abuse. The manufacture, shipment, storage, sale and use of controlled substances are subject to a high degree of regulation, including security, record-keeping and reporting obligations enforced by the DEA. This high degree of regulation can result in significant costs in order to comply with the required regulations, which may have an adverse effect on the development and commercialization of our product candidates.

The DEA limits the availability and production of all Schedule II substances, including sufentanil, through a quota system. The DEA requires substantial evidence and documentation of expected legitimate medical and scientific needs before assigning quotas to manufacturers. At present, our contract manufacturers have applied for a quota on our behalf which allocates a sufficient quantity of sufentanil to meet our planned clinical and pre-clinical needs during 2011. In future years, we may need greater amounts of sufentanil to sustain and complete our Phase 3 development program for ARX-01, and we will need significantly greater amounts of sufentanil to implement our commercialization plans if the FDA approves ARX-01. Any delay or refusal by the DEA in establishing the procurement quota or a reduction in our quota for sufentanil or a failure to increase it over time as we anticipate could delay or stop the clinical development or commercial sale of ARX-01. This could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

In addition, we purchase sufentanil in the United States and ship it to our third party manufacturer, Patheon Inc. in Toronto, Canada, where much of our clinical trial manufacturing has been completed to date. Shipping across international borders is a bureaucratic process that takes a minimum of three months and requires permits to export drug out of the United States and import NanoTabs into the United States. If we fail to comply with applicable regulatory requirements or fail to submit permit applications in a timely manner, the government could refuse to permit sufentanil to be exported from or imported into the United States. Our failure to comply with these requirements could result in increased costs, delayed shipments, the loss of DEA registration for one of our suppliers, significant restrictions on ARX-01, civil penalties or criminal prosecution and delays in conducting our clinical trials.

Drug Enforcement Administration regulations require that sufentanil be manufactured in the United States if sufentanil-based products are to be marketed in the United States, and there is no guarantee that we will secure a commercial supply agreement with a manufacturer based in the United States.

A substantial portion of our clinical trial manufacturing to date has been completed at Patheon Inc. in Toronto, Canada. However, we cannot rely on the Patheon facility located in Toronto for commercial manufacturing of sufentanil because the DEA requires that sufentanil be manufactured in the United States if our product candidates are marketed in the United States.

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We have identified potential commercial manufacturers for ARX-01 in the United States. However, we do not yet have a commercial supply contract in place. If we cannot establish a supply contract on commercially reasonable terms, or if facility modifications, equipment manufacture or modification do not meet expected deadlines, we may not be able to successfully commercialize our product candidates.

Switching or adding commercial manufacturing capability can involve substantial cost and require extensive management time and focus, as well as additional regulatory filings. In addition, there is a natural transition period when a new manufacturing facility commences work. As a result, delays may occur, which can materially impact our ability to meet our desired commercial timelines, thereby increasing our costs and reducing our ability to generate revenue.

The facilities of any of our future manufacturers of sufentanil-containing NanoTabs must be approved by the FDA after we submit our NDA and before approval of ARX-01 and our other product candidates. We do not control the manufacturing process of sufentanil NanoTabs and are completely dependent on these third party manufacturing partners for compliance with the FDA's requirements for manufacture. In addition, although our third party manufacturers are well established commercial manufacturers, we are dependent on their continued adherence to cGMP manufacturing and acceptable changes to their process. If our manufacturers cannot successfully produce material that conforms to our specifications and the FDA's strict regulatory requirements, they will not be able to secure FDA approval for their manufacturing facilities. If the FDA does not approve these facilities for the commercial manufacture of sufentanil NanoTabs, we will need to find alternative suppliers, which would result in significant delays in obtaining FDA approval for ARX-01. These challenges may have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Business interruptions could delay us in the process of developing our products and could disrupt our sales.

Our headquarters is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, near known earthquake fault zones and is vulnerable to significant damage from earthquakes. We are also vulnerable to other types of natural disasters and other events that could disrupt our operations. We do not carry insurance for earthquakes or other natural disasters and we may not carry sufficient business interruption insurance to compensate us for losses that may occur. Any losses or damages we incur could have a material adverse effect on our business operations.

Our future success depends on our ability to retain key executives and to attract, retain and motivate qualified personnel.

We are highly dependent on principal members of our executive team listed under "Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance—Executive Officers of the Registrant" appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K, the loss of whose services may adversely impact the achievement of our objectives. While we have entered into offer letters with each of our executive officers, any of them could leave our employment at any time, as all of our employees are "at will" employees. Recruiting and retaining other qualified employees for our business, including scientific and technical personnel, will also be critical to our success. There is currently a shortage of skilled executives in our industry, which is likely to continue. As a result, competition for skilled personnel is intense and the turnover rate can be high. We may not be able to attract and retain personnel on acceptable terms given the competition among numerous pharmaceutical companies for individuals with similar skill sets. In addition, failure to succeed in clinical studies may make it more challenging to recruit and retain qualified personnel. The inability to recruit or loss of the services of any executive or key employee might impede the progress of our research, development and commercialization objectives.

We will need to expand our organization, and we may experience difficulties in managing this growth, which could disrupt our operations.

As of December 31, 2010, we had 19 full-time employees. As our company matures, we expect to expand our employee base to increase our managerial, scientific and engineering, operational, sales, marketing, financial and other resources and to hire more consultants and contractors. Future growth would impose significant additional

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responsibilities on our management, including the need to identify, recruit, maintain, motivate and integrate additional employees, consultants and contractors. Also, our management may need to divert a disproportionate amount of its attention away from our day-to-day activities and devote a substantial amount of time to managing these growth activities. We may not be able to effectively manage the expansion of our operations, which may result in weaknesses in our infrastructure, give rise to operational mistakes, loss of business opportunities, loss of employees and reduced productivity among remaining employees. Our expected growth could require significant capital expenditures and may divert financial resources from other projects, such as the development of additional product candidates. If our management is unable to effectively manage our growth, our expenses may increase more than expected, our ability to generate and/or grow revenues could be reduced, and we may not be able to implement our business strategy. Our future financial performance and our ability to commercialize ARX-01 and our other product candidates and compete effectively will depend, in part, on our ability to effectively manage any future growth.

We face potential product liability, and, if successful claims are brought against us, we may incur substantial liability.

The use of our product candidates in clinical studies and the sale of any products for which we obtain marketing approval exposes us to the risk of product liability claims. Product liability claims might be brought against us by consumers, health care providers, pharmaceutical companies or others selling or otherwise coming into contact with our products. If we cannot successfully defend against product liability claims, we could incur substantial liability and costs. In addition, regardless of merit or eventual outcome, product liability claims may result in:

- impairment of our business reputation;
- withdrawal of clinical study participants;
- costs due to related litigation;
- distraction of management's attention from our primary business;
- substantial monetary awards to patients or other claimants;
- the inability to commercialize our product candidates; and
- decreased demand for our product candidates, if approved for commercial sale.

Our current product liability insurance coverage may not be sufficient to reimburse us for any expenses or losses we may suffer. Moreover, insurance coverage is becoming increasingly expensive and in the future we may not be able to maintain insurance coverage at a reasonable cost or in sufficient amounts to protect us against losses due to liability. If and when we obtain marketing approval for our product candidates, we intend to expand our insurance coverage to include the sale of commercial products; however, we may be unable to obtain product liability insurance on commercially reasonable terms or in adequate amounts. On occasion, large judgments have been awarded in class action lawsuits based on drugs that had unanticipated adverse effects. A successful product liability claim or series of claims brought against us could cause our stock price to decline and, if judgments exceed our insurance coverage, could adversely affect our results of operations and business.

Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property

We have numerous pending patent applications in the United States, but no issued patents. Our only patent, which is issued in Europe, is currently in the opposition period. If our pending patent applications fail to issue or if our issued European patent is successfully opposed, our business will be adversely affected.

Our commercial success will depend in part on obtaining and maintaining patent protection for our product candidates, as well as successfully defending our current and future patents against third party challenges. To protect our proprietary technology, we rely on patents as well as other intellectual property protections, including trade secrets, nondisclosure agreements and confidentiality provisions.

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In addition, there can be no assurance that our pending patent applications will result in issued patents. As of December 31, 2010, we are the owner of record and are pursuing 15 U.S. non-provisional patent applications, three pending international Patent Cooperation Treaty applications and 39 foreign national and ten European regional counterpart patent applications directed to our product candidates. The patent applications that we have filed and have not yet been granted may fail to result in issued patents in the United States or in foreign countries. Even if the patents do successfully issue, third parties may challenge the patents.

Our European patent, though granted, may be opposed by third parties during a nine-month opposition period that ends on April 21, 2011. If a third party opposes our European patent, we will need to spend considerable time and resources to defend our granted patent claims. European opposition proceedings may fail and, even if successful, may result in substantial costs and distract our management.

The patent positions of pharmaceutical companies, including us, can be highly uncertain and involve complex and evolving legal and factual questions. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in pharmaceutical patents has emerged to date in the United States. Legal developments may preclude or limit the scope of available patent protection.

Litigation involving patents, patent applications and other proprietary rights is expensive and time consuming. If we are involved in such litigation, it could cause delays in bringing our product candidates to market and interfere with our business.

Our commercial success depends in part on not infringing patents and proprietary rights of third parties. Although we are not currently aware of litigation or other proceedings or third party claims of intellectual property infringement related to our product candidates, the pharmaceutical industry is characterized by extensive litigation regarding patents and other intellectual property rights.

As we enter our markets, it is possible that competitors or other third parties will claim that our products and/or processes infringe their intellectual property rights. These third parties may have obtained and may in the future obtain patents covering products or processes that are similar to, or may include compositions or methods that encompass our technology, allowing them to claim that the use of our technologies infringes these patents.

In a patent infringement claim against us, we may assert, as a defense, that we do not infringe the relevant patent claims, that the patent is invalid or both. The strength of our defenses will depend on the patents asserted, the interpretation of these patents, and our ability to invalidate the asserted patents. However, we could be unsuccessful in advancing non-infringement and/or invalidity arguments in our defense. In the United States, issued patents enjoy a presumption of validity, and the party challenging the validity of a patent claim must present clear and convincing evidence of invalidity, which is a high burden of proof. Conversely, the patent owner need only prove infringement by a preponderance of the evidence, which is a lower burden of proof.

If we were found by a court to have infringed a valid patent claim, we could be prevented from using the patented technology or be required to pay the owner of the patent for the right to license the patented technology. If we decide to pursue a license to one or more of these patents, we may not be able to obtain a license on commercially reasonable terms, if at all, or the license we obtain may require us to pay substantial royalties or grant cross licenses to our patent rights. For example, if the relevant patent is owned by a competitor, that competitor may choose not to license patent rights to us. If we decide to develop alternative technology, we may not be able to do so in a timely or cost-effective manner, if at all.

In addition, because patent applications can take years to issue and are often afforded confidentiality for some period of time there may currently be pending applications, unknown to us, that later result in issued patents that could cover one or more of our products.

It is possible that we may in the future receive, particularly as a public company, communications from competitors and other companies alleging that we may be infringing their patents, trade secrets or other

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intellectual property rights, offering licenses to such intellectual property or threatening litigation. In addition to patent infringement claims, third parties may assert copyright, trademark or other proprietary rights against us. We may need to expend considerable resources to counter such claims and may not be able to be successful in our defense. Our business may suffer if a finding of infringement is established.

It is difficult and costly to protect our proprietary rights, and we may not be able to ensure their protection.

The patent positions of pharmaceutical companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in pharmaceutical patents has emerged to date in the United States. The pharmaceutical patent situation outside the United States is even more uncertain. Changes in either the patent laws or in interpretations of patent laws in the United States and other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property. Accordingly, we cannot predict the breadth of claims that may be allowed or enforced in the patents that may be issued from the applications we currently or may in the future own or license from third parties. Further, if any patents license we obtain is deemed invalid and/or unenforceable, it could impact our ability to commercialize or partner our technology.

The degree of future protection for our proprietary rights is uncertain, and we cannot ensure that:

- we were the first to make the inventions covered by each of our pending patent applications;
- we were the first to file patent applications for these inventions;
- others will not independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate any of our technologies;
- any patents issued to us or our collaborators will provide a basis for commercially viable products, will provide us with any competitive advantages or will not be challenged by third parties; or
- the patents of others will not have an adverse effect on our business.

If we do not adequately protect our proprietary rights, competitors may be able to use our technologies and erode or negate any competitive advantage we may have, which could materially harm our business, negatively affect our position in the marketplace, limit our ability to commercialize our product candidates and delay or render impossible our achievement of profitability.

We may be unable to adequately prevent disclosure of trade secrets and other proprietary information.

We rely on trade secrets to protect our proprietary know-how and technological advances, especially where we do not believe patent protection is appropriate or obtainable. However, trade secrets are difficult to protect. We rely in part on confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants, outside scientific collaborators, sponsored researchers and other advisors to protect our trade secrets and other proprietary information. These agreements may not effectively prevent disclosure of confidential information and may not provide an adequate remedy in the event of unauthorized disclosure of confidential information. In addition, others may independently discover our trade secrets and proprietary information. Costly and time-consuming litigation could be necessary to enforce and determine the scope of our proprietary rights. Failure to obtain or maintain trade secret protection could enable competitors to use our proprietary information to develop products that compete with our products or cause additional, material adverse effects upon our competitive business position.

Periodic maintenance fees, renewal fees, annuity fees and various other governmental fees on patents and/or applications will be due to be paid to the United States Patent and Trademark Office and various foreign governmental patent agencies in several stages over the lifetime of the patents and/or applications.

We have systems in place to remind us to pay periodic maintenance fees, renewal fees, annuity fees and various other patent and application fees, and we employ an outside firm, McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert Berghoff LLP, or MBHB, in Chicago, Illinois, to pay these fees. The United States Patent and Trademark Office, or the USPTO,

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and various foreign governmental patent agencies require compliance with a number of procedural, documentary, fee payment and other similar provisions during the patent application process. We employ MBHB and other professionals to help us comply, and in many cases, an inadvertent lapse can be cured by payment of a late fee or by other means in accordance with the applicable rules. However, there are situations in which noncompliance can result in abandonment or lapse of the patent or patent application, resulting in partial or complete loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction. If this occurs, our competitors might be able to enter the market, which would have a material adverse effect on our business.

We may not be able to enforce our intellectual property rights throughout the world.

The laws of some foreign countries do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. Many companies have encountered significant problems in protecting and defending intellectual property rights in certain foreign jurisdictions. The legal systems of some countries, particularly developing countries, do not favor the enforcement of patents and other intellectual property protection, especially those relating to life sciences. This could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement of our patents or the misappropriation of our other intellectual property rights. For example, many foreign countries have compulsory licensing laws under which a patent owner must grant licenses to third parties. In addition, many countries limit the enforceability of patents against third parties, including government agencies or government contractors. In these countries, patents may provide limited or no benefit.

Proceedings to enforce our patent rights in foreign jurisdictions could result in substantial costs and divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business. Accordingly, our efforts to protect our intellectual property rights in such countries may be inadequate. In addition, changes in the law and legal decisions by courts in the United States and foreign countries may affect our ability to obtain adequate protection for our technology and the enforcement of intellectual property.

We have not yet registered our trademarks in all of our potential markets, and failure to secure those registrations could adversely affect our business.

We have registered our ACELRX mark in Class 5, “Pharmaceutical preparations for treating pain; pharmaceutical preparations for treating anxiety,” and Class 10, “Drug delivery systems; medical device, namely, a mechanical and electronic device used to administer medications, perform timed medication delivery, and to provide secure access to and delivery of medications,” in the United States. Our ACELRX mark has also been registered in the European Community and in Canada, and is pending in India. We have filed a trademark application for our NANOTAB mark and our tagline, ACCELERATE, INNOVATE, ALLEVIATE in Class 5, in the United States. Although we are not currently aware of any oppositions to or cancellations of our registered trademarks or pending applications, it is possible that one or more of the applications could be subject to opposition or cancellation after the marks are registered. The registrations will be subject to use and maintenance requirements. It is also possible that we have not yet registered all of our trademarks in all of our potential markets, and that there are names or symbols other than “ACELRX” that may be protectable marks for which we have not sought registration, and failure to secure those registrations could adversely affect our business. Opposition or cancellation proceedings may be filed against our trademarks and our trademarks may not survive such proceedings.

Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Stock

The market price of our common stock may be highly volatile.

Prior to our IPO in February 2011, there was no public market for our common stock. An active public trading market may not develop or, if developed, may not be sustained. Moreover, the trading price of our common stock is likely to be volatile. Our stock price could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors, including the following:

- adverse results or delays in clinical trials;
- inability to obtain additional funding, including funding necessary to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our NDA;

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- any delay in filing an NDA for any of our product candidates and any adverse development or perceived adverse development with respect to the FDA's review of that NDA;
- failure to successfully develop and commercialize our product candidates;
- changes in laws or regulations applicable to our products;
- inability to obtain adequate product supply for our product candidates, or the inability to do so at acceptable prices;
- adverse regulatory decisions;
- introduction of new products, services or technologies by our competitors;
- failure to meet or exceed financial projections we provide to the public;
- failure to meet or exceed the estimates and projections of the investment community;
- the perception of the pharmaceutical industry by the public, legislatures, regulators and the investment community;
- announcements of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments by us or our competitors;
- disputes or other developments relating to proprietary rights, including patents, litigation matters and our ability to obtain patent protection for our technologies;
- additions or departures of key scientific or management personnel;
- significant lawsuits, including patent or stockholder litigation;
- changes in the market valuations of similar companies;
- sales of our common stock by us or our stockholders in the future; and
- trading volume of our common stock.

In addition, the stock market in general, and the NASDAQ Global Market in particular, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. Broad market and industry factors may negatively affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance.

Our principal stockholders and management own a significant percentage of our stock and are able to exert significant control over matters subject to stockholder approval.

Our executive officers and directors, together with the stockholders with whom our executive officers and directors are affiliated or associated, beneficially owned approximately 78% of our outstanding voting stock as of March 1, 2011. Therefore, these stockholders have the ability to influence us through this ownership position. These stockholders are able to determine all matters requiring stockholder approval. For example, these stockholders, acting together, are able to control elections of directors, amendments of our organizational documents, or approval of any merger, sale of assets, or other major corporate transaction. This may prevent or discourage unsolicited acquisition proposals or offers for our common stock that you may believe are in your best interest as one of our stockholders.

We incur significant increased costs as a result of operating as a public company, and our management is required to devote substantial time to new compliance initiatives.

As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses. In addition, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, or the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, as well as rules subsequently implemented by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and the NASDAQ Stock Market have imposed various

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requirements on public companies. Our management and other personnel need to devote a substantial amount of time to these compliance initiatives. Moreover, these rules and regulations increase our legal and financial compliance costs and make some activities more time-consuming and costly. For example, these rules and regulations make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance and we may be required to incur substantial costs to maintain our current levels of such coverage.

As a public company, we are subject to the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. If we are unable to comply with Section 404 in a timely manner, it may affect the reliability of our internal control over financial reporting. Assessing our staffing and training procedures to improve our internal control over financial reporting is an ongoing process.

We plan to continue to assess our internal controls and procedures and intend to take further action as necessary or appropriate to address any other matters we identify. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm will also be required to deliver an attestation report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting beginning with the year ending December 31, 2012, unless we qualify for an exemption as a non-accelerated filer under the applicable SEC rules and regulations.

We have been and will continue to be involved in a substantial effort to implement appropriate processes, document the system of internal control over key processes, assess their design, remediate any deficiencies identified and test their operation. We cannot be certain at this time whether our measures to improve internal controls will be successful, that we will be able to successfully complete the procedures, certification and attestation requirements of Section 404 or that we or our independent registered public accounting firm will not identify material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting. If we fail to comply with the requirements of Section 404, it may affect the reliability of our internal control over financial reporting and negatively impact the quality of disclosure to our investors. If we or our independent registered public accounting firm identify and report a material weakness, it could adversely affect our stock price.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market by our existing stockholders could cause our stock price to fall.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market or the perception that these sales might occur, could depress the market price of our common stock and could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. We are unable to predict the effect that sales may have on the prevailing market price of our common stock. As of March 1, 2011, we had 19,371,750 shares of common stock outstanding.

Substantially all of our stockholders that held stock prior to our IPO are subject to lock-up agreements with the underwriters of our IPO that restrict the stockholders' ability to transfer shares of our common stock until at least August 10, 2011. The lock-up agreements limit the number of shares of common stock that may be sold until the expiration of the lock-up period. Upon the expiration of the lock-up period, approximately 16,171,750 of the shares outstanding as of March 1, 2011 will become eligible for sale in the public market, subject in some cases to the volume limitations and manner of sale requirements of Rule 144 under the Securities Act. The remaining 3,200,000 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 1, 2011 are freely tradable without restriction or further registration. In addition, shares issued or issuable upon exercise of options and warrants vested as of the expiration of the lock-up period will be eligible for sale at that time. Sales of stock by our existing stockholders could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our common stock.

Certain holders of our securities are entitled to rights with respect to the registration of their shares under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, subject to the lock-up arrangement described above. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in the shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act, except for shares held by our affiliates as defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Any sales of securities by these stockholders could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our common stock.

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Future sales and issuances of our common stock or rights to purchase common stock, including pursuant to our equity incentive plans, could result in additional dilution of the percentage ownership of our stockholders and could cause our stock price to fall.

We expect that significant additional capital will be needed in the future to continue our planned operations. To the extent we raise additional capital by issuing equity securities, our stockholders may experience substantial dilution. We may sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in one or more transactions at prices and in a manner we determine from time to time. If we sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in more than one transaction, investors may be materially diluted by subsequent sales. These sales may also result in material dilution to our existing stockholders, and new investors could gain rights superior to our existing stockholders.

Pursuant to our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, or the 2011 Incentive Plan, our management is authorized to grant stock options and other equity-based awards to our employees, directors and consultants. The number of shares available for future grant under our 2011 Incentive Plan will automatically increase each year by 4% of all shares of our capital stock outstanding as of December 31 of the prior calendar year, subject to the ability of our board of directors to take action to reduce the size of the increase in any given year. Currently, we plan to register the increased number of shares available for issuance under our 2011 Incentive Plan each year. If our board of directors elects to increase the number of shares available for future grant by the maximum amount each year, our stockholders may experience additional dilution, which could cause our stock price to fall.

We are at risk of securities class action litigation.

In the past, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following a decline in the market price of its securities. This risk is especially relevant for us because pharmaceutical companies have experienced significant stock price volatility in recent years. If we face such litigation, it could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources, which could harm our business.

Our ability to use our net operating loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes may be limited.

Under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if a corporation undergoes an "ownership change," generally defined as a greater than 50% change (by value) in its equity ownership over a three year period, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards and other pre-change tax attributes (such as research tax credits) to offset its post-change income may be limited. We may experience ownership changes in the future as a result of subsequent shifts in our stock ownership. As a result, if we earn net taxable income, our ability to use our pre-change net operating loss carryforwards to offset United States federal taxable income may be subject to limitations, which could potentially result in increased future tax liability to us.

We do not intend to pay dividends on our common stock so any returns will be limited to the value of our stock.

We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our common stock. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends for the foreseeable future. Any return to stockholders will therefore be limited to the appreciation of their stock.

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Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as provisions of Delaware law, could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us or increase the cost of acquiring us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders or remove our current management.

Some provisions of our charter documents and Delaware law may have anti-takeover effects that could discourage an acquisition of us by others, even if an acquisition would be beneficial to our stockholders and may prevent attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management. These provisions include:

- authorizing the issuance of “blank check” preferred stock, the terms of which may be established and shares of which may be issued without stockholder approval;
- limiting the removal of directors by the stockholders;
- creating a staggered board of directors;
- prohibiting stockholder action by written consent, thereby requiring all stockholder actions to be taken at a meeting of our stockholders;
- eliminating the ability of stockholders to call a special meeting of stockholders; and
- establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at stockholder meetings.

These provisions may frustrate or prevent any attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management by making it more difficult for stockholders to replace members of our board of directors, which is responsible for appointing the members of our management. In addition, we are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which generally prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any of a broad range of business combinations with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date on which the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless such transactions are approved by our board of directors. This provision could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control, whether or not it is desired by or beneficial to our stockholders. Further, other provisions of Delaware law may also discourage, delay or prevent someone from acquiring us or merging with us.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

Not applicable.

Item 2. Properties

We lease approximately 11,305 square feet of space for our headquarters in Redwood City, California under an agreement that expires on April 8, 2012. We believe that our existing facilities are adequate to meet our current needs.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are not a party to any litigation and do not have contingent reserves established for any litigation liabilities.

Item 4. [Removed and Reserved]

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock has been trading on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "ACRX" since our IPO on February 11, 2011. Prior to this date, there was no public market for our common stock. On March 29, 2011, the closing price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$3.54 per share.

Holders of Record

As of March 1, 2011, there were approximately 38 holders of record of our common stock.

Dividend Policy

We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our common stock. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends for the foreseeable future.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

In January 2010, we issued 19,275 shares of our Series C convertible preferred stock to two purchasers at approximately \$3.94 per share, for approximately \$76,000. Upon completion of our IPO, these shares of Series C convertible preferred stock converted into 19,275 shares of our common stock.

In September 2010, in connection with a bridge loan financing, we granted warrants to purchase an aggregate of \$2.0 million of our preferred stock to eight purchasers. In connection with our IPO, these warrants became warrants to purchase 507,245 shares of our Series C convertible preferred stock at an exercise price of approximately \$3.94 per share. These warrants were net exercised for an aggregate of 107,246 shares of our Series C convertible preferred stock, which shares automatically converted into 107,246 shares of our common stock immediately prior to our IPO. In September 2010, in connection with a bridge loan financing, we issued convertible promissory notes to eight purchasers for an aggregate principal amount of \$8.0 million. Upon completion of our IPO, the outstanding principal and accrued interest under these convertible promissory notes converted into 2,034,438 shares of our common stock at a conversion price equal to \$4.00 per share.

The issuances of securities described above were exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, in reliance on Section 4(2) of the Securities Act, and Regulation D promulgated thereunder, as transactions by an issuer not involving any public offering. The purchasers of the securities in these transactions represented that they were accredited investors and that they were acquiring the securities for investment only and not with a view toward the public sale or distribution thereof. Such purchasers received written disclosures that the securities had not been registered under the Securities Act, and that any resale must be made pursuant to a registration statement or an available exemption from registration. All purchasers either received adequate financial statement or non-financial statement information about us or had adequate access, through their relationship with us, to financial statement or non-financial statement information about us. The sale of these securities was made without general solicitation or advertising.

During the twelve months ended December 31, 2010, we granted options in unregistered transactions to purchase an aggregate of 1,441,610 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$2.72 per share to our employees. The issuances of these securities were exempt from registration under Rule 701 promulgated under the Securities Act as transactions pursuant to a compensatory benefit plan or a written contract relating to compensation.

The share and per share information above gives effect to a 1-for-4 reverse stock split of our common stock and preferred stock that became effective on January 28, 2011.

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Use of Proceeds

On February 10, 2011, our registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-170594) was declared effective for our IPO, pursuant to which we sold 8,000,000 shares of common stock at a public offering price of \$5.00 per share for an aggregate offering price of \$40.0 million. Piper Jaffray & Co. acted as sole book-running manager and Cowen and Company, LLC, Canaccord Genuity Inc., and JMP Securities LLC acted as co-managers for the offering.

As a result of the IPO, we received net proceeds of \$35.6 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and other offering expenses totaling \$4.4 million. None of the expenses associated with the IPO were paid to directors, officers or persons owning ten percent or more of our common stock or to their associates, or to our affiliates.

\$27.8 million of the net proceeds are expected to be used to fund two of our three planned ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trials, with the balance to be used for general corporate purposes. As of March 1, 2011, the net offering proceeds have been invested in high credit quality U.S. government agency obligations and commercial paper. There has been no material change in the planned use of proceeds from our IPO as described in our final prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) on February 11, 2011.

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Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected financial data set forth below should be read together with the financial statements and related notes, "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and the other information contained in this Form 10-K. The statements of operations data for the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010 and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2009 and 2010, are derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. The statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2007, and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2006, 2007 and 2008 are derived from our audited financial statements that are not included in this Form 10-K. Historical results are not indicative of the results to be expected in the future.

| | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | | | | | Period from July 13, 2005 (Inception) Through December 31, 2010 |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2006</u> | |
| | (in thousands, except share and per share data) | | | | | |
| Statements of Operations Data: | | | | | | |
| Operating Expenses: | | | | | | |
| Research and development | \$ 8,193 | \$ 15,502 | \$ 18,325 | \$ 8,209 | \$ 3,533 | \$ 53,797 |
| General and administrative | 3,993 | 3,529 | 2,365 | 2,082 | 520 | 12,494 |
| Total operating expenses | <u>12,186</u> | <u>19,031</u> | <u>20,690</u> | <u>10,291</u> | <u>4,053</u> | <u>66,291</u> |
| Loss from operations | (12,186) | (19,031) | (20,690) | (10,291) | (4,053) | (66,291) |
| Interest income | 4 | 33 | 484 | 687 | 347 | 1,556 |
| Interest expense | (1,397) | (1,242) | (404) | (25) | (62) | (3,130) |
| Other income (expense), net | (765) | 121 | (52) | (1) | — | (698) |
| Net loss | <u>\$ (14,344)</u> | <u>\$ (20,119)</u> | <u>\$ (20,662)</u> | <u>\$ (9,630)</u> | <u>\$ (3,768)</u> | <u>\$ (68,563)</u> |
| Net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | <u>\$ (21.84)</u> | <u>\$ (34.93)</u> | <u>\$ (43.69)</u> | <u>\$ (26.45)</u> | <u>\$ (36.90)</u> | |
| Shares used in computing net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | <u>656,650</u> | <u>576,021</u> | <u>472,914</u> | <u>364,039</u> | <u>102,102</u> | |
| | <u>As of December 31,</u> | | | | | |
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2006</u> | |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | | |
| Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments | \$ 3,682 | \$ 12,546 | \$ 20,207 | \$ 7,699 | \$ 17,098 | |
| Working capital (deficit) | (7,632) | 6,931 | 16,450 | 6,959 | 16,537 | |
| Total assets | 6,830 | 14,491 | 22,679 | 10,038 | 18,193 | |
| Total debt, including convertible notes | 12,009 | 9,734 | 12,334 | 525 | — | |
| Convertible preferred stock warrant liability | 2,529 | 169 | 240 | — | — | |
| Convertible preferred stock | 55,941 | 55,871 | 41,156 | 21,016 | 21,016 | |
| Total stockholders' (deficit) | (68,563) | (52,994) | (33,335) | (13,189) | (3,715) | |

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our audited financial statements and the related notes that appear elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. This discussion contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from the information expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Our actual results and the timing of selected events could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of several factors, including those set forth under "Item 1A. Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Please refer to the section entitled "Forward-Looking Statements" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Overview

We are a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies for the treatment of acute and breakthrough pain. We were founded to solve the problems associated with post-operative intravenous patient-controlled analgesia, or IV PCA. Although widely used, IV PCA has been shown to cause harm to patients following surgery because of the side effects of morphine, the invasive IV route of delivery and the inherent potential for programming and delivery errors associated with the complexity of infusion pumps. We are preparing to initiate two Phase 3 clinical trials for our lead product candidate, the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System, or ARX-01. The system is designed to address these problems by utilizing:

- sufentanil, a high therapeutic index opioid;
- NanoTabs, our proprietary, non-invasive sublingual dosage form; and
- our novel handheld PCA device that enables simple patient-controlled delivery of NanoTabs in the hospital setting and eliminates the risk of programming errors.

We have completed Phase 2 clinical development for two additional product candidates, the Sufentanil NanoTab BTP Management System, or ARX-02, for the treatment of cancer breakthrough pain, or BTP, and the Sufentanil/Triazolam NanoTab, or ARX-03, designed to provide mild sedation, anxiety reduction and pain relief for patients undergoing painful procedures in a physician's office.

We are a development stage company with a limited operating history. We have funded our operations through December 31, 2010 primarily from the private placement of convertible preferred stock and proceeds received from our debt financings. From inception through December 31, 2010, we have received net proceeds of \$54.9 million from the sale of convertible preferred stock and \$21.6 million from proceeds of our debt financings. As of December 31, 2010, we had \$13.2 million of debt outstanding, of which \$5.2 million related to our loan and security agreement and \$8.0 million, which does not include the debt discount of \$1.2 million, related to our convertible note agreement. In February 2011, we completed our IPO, pursuant to which we sold 8,000,000 shares of our common stock at a public offering price of \$5.00 per share for an aggregate offering price of \$40.0 million. As a result of the offering, we received net proceeds of \$35.6 million, after underwriting discounts, commissions and offering expenses of \$4.4 million. In addition, the outstanding principal amount of \$8.0 million and accrued interest under the convertible notes issued in connection with our convertible note agreement automatically converted into shares of our common stock in connection with our IPO.

Since our inception in July 2005, we have not generated any revenue from the sale of our products and do not anticipate generating any revenues for the foreseeable future. We have incurred losses and generated negative cash flows from operations since inception. Our net losses were \$14.3 million, \$20.1 million and \$20.7 million during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. As of December 31, 2010, we had an accumulated deficit of \$68.6 million. Substantially all of our operating losses resulted from costs incurred in connection with our development programs and from general and administrative costs associated with our operations. As of December 31, 2010, our principal sources of liquidity were our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, which totaled \$3.7 million.

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We expect to incur significant and increasing expenses over the next several years, principally to develop ARX-01, including completion of the first two Phase 3 clinical trials, as well as to further increase our spending to manufacture, sell and market our product candidates. Contingent on our ability to secure additional funding, we plan to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to submit an NDA. In addition, based on the availability of additional financial resources, we plan to advance ARX-02 into Phase 3 trials, submit an NDA and commercialize it ourselves or with a partner in the United States. Further development of ARX-03 will depend on the identification of a partner to support this effort. Furthermore, as a result of our IPO in February 2011, we expect to incur additional costs associated with operating as a public company. As a result, we expect to continue to incur significant and increasing operating losses and negative cash flows for the foreseeable future.

Financial Overview

Revenue

To date, we have not generated any revenue. We do not expect to receive any revenues from any product candidates that we develop until we obtain regulatory approval and commercialize our products or enter into collaborative agreements with third parties.

Research and Development Expenses

The majority of our operating expenses to date have been for research and development activities related to ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03. Research and development expenses consist of:

- expenses incurred under agreements with contract research organizations, or CROs, and clinical trial sites;
- employee and consultant-related expenses, which include salaries, benefits and stock-based compensation;
- payments to third party pharmaceutical and engineering development contractors;
- payments to third party manufacturers; and
- depreciation and other allocated expenses, which include direct and allocated expenses for rent and maintenance of facilities and equipment, depreciation of leasehold improvements and equipment and laboratory and other supply costs.

Conducting research and development is central to our business model. Product candidates in late stages of clinical development generally have higher development costs than those in earlier stages of clinical development, primarily due to the increased size and duration of late stage clinical trials. We plan to increase our research and development expenses for the foreseeable future as we seek to complete development of ARX-01, and subsequently advance the development of ARX-02 and ARX-03.

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Prior to January 1, 2009, we did not track our research and development costs including personnel and personnel-related costs on a project-by-project basis. Our development resources are shared among all of our programs. Since January 1, 2009, we have tracked external development expenses on a program-by-program basis. Compensation and benefits, facilities, depreciation, stock-based compensation, and development support services are not allocated specifically to projects and are considered research and development overhead. Below is a summary of our research and development expenses during the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands):

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| ARX-01 | \$ 1,289 | \$ 5,343 |
| ARX-02 | 507 | 2,721 |
| ARX-03 | 1,555 | 1,426 |
| Overhead | 4,842 | 6,012 |
| Total research and development expenses | <u>\$ 8,193</u> | <u>\$ 15,502</u> |

Due to the inherently unpredictable nature of product development, we are unable to estimate the costs we will incur in the continued development of ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03. Development timelines, the probability of success and development costs can differ materially from expectations. While we are currently focused on advancing ARX-01, and subsequently ARX-02 and ARX-03, our future research and development expenses will depend on the clinical success of each product candidate as well as ongoing assessments of the commercial potential of our product candidates. In addition, we cannot predict which product candidates may be subject to future collaborations, when these arrangements will be secured, if at all, and to what degree these arrangements would affect our development plans and capital requirements. We expect our research and development expenses to substantially increase as we commence two of our planned ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trials, and subject to additional funding, our third Phase 3 clinical trial required to file our NDA.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries, benefits and stock-based compensation for personnel in administration, finance and business development. Other significant expenses include legal expenses to pursue patent protection of our intellectual property, allocated facility costs and professional fees for general legal and consulting services. We expect general and administrative expenses to increase in connection with operating as a public company and as we continue to build our corporate infrastructure in support of continued development of our product candidates.

Interest Income

Interest income consists of interest earned on our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

Interest Expense

Interest expense consists primarily of interest accrued or paid on our loan and security agreement and our convertible notes.

Other Income (Expense), net

Other income (expense), net consisted primarily of the change in the fair value of our warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock. Our outstanding warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock were classified as liabilities and, as such, were remeasured to fair value at each balance sheet date with the corresponding gain or loss from the adjustment recorded as other income (expense), net. Upon the completion of our IPO in February

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2011, all of our warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock were exercised or converted into warrants to purchase common stock. At that time, the then-current aggregate fair value of these warrants was reclassified from liabilities to additional paid-in capital and we will no longer remeasure the liability associated with these warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock to fair value.

Provision for Income Taxes

Since inception, we have incurred net losses and have not recorded any U.S. federal or state income tax provisions as these losses have been offset by valuation allowances.

Reduction in Work Force

On December 7, 2009, we announced a workforce reduction of approximately 44%, or 14 employees, a majority of whom were employed in product development and related support functions. This decision was made based on the challenging economic conditions and a decline in forecasted research and development activities expected during the year ending December 31, 2010.

As a result of this workforce reduction, we recorded a charge of \$119,000 related to employee severance and other benefits which was included as operating expenses in the statement of operations during the year ended December 31, 2009. As of December 31, 2009, we had paid \$30,000 for these employee severance and other termination benefits and had accrued the remaining \$89,000 on the balance sheet. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we paid the remaining \$89,000.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States which requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, costs and expenses and related disclosures. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. In many instances, we could have reasonably used different accounting estimates, and in other instances, changes in the accounting estimates are reasonably likely to occur from period-to-period. Accordingly, actual results could differ significantly from the estimates made by our management. To the extent that there are material differences between these estimates and actual results, our future financial statement presentation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows will be affected. We believe that the accounting policies discussed below are critical to understanding our historical and future performance, as these policies relate to the more significant areas involving management's judgments and estimates.

Stock-Based Compensation

We recognize compensation costs related to stock options and shares of restricted stock granted to employees based on the estimated fair value of the awards on the date of grant, net of estimated forfeitures. We estimate the grant date fair value and the resulting stock-based compensation expense using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The grant date fair value of the stock-based awards is generally recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period of the respective awards.

The fair value of the stock-based awards granted to our employees was estimated on the grant dates using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Expected volatility | 75% | 73% | 74% |
| Expected term (in years) | 5.75-6.25 | 6.25 | 6.25 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 1.6%-4.6% | 3.0% | 3.5% |
| Expected dividend yield | 0% | 0% | 0% |

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The Black-Scholes model requires the use of highly subjective and complex assumptions which determine the fair value of share-based awards, including the option's expected term and the price volatility of the underlying stock. These assumptions include:

Expected Term. The expected term represents the period that our share-based awards are expected to be outstanding and was primarily determined using the simplified method in accordance with guidance provided by the SEC. For option grants considered to be "plain vanilla," the simplified method calculates the expected term as the average of the time-to-vesting and the contractual life of the awards. For awards that are not considered "plain vanilla," the expected term is based on the historical option exercise behavior of our employees and post-vesting cancellations.

Expected Volatility. The expected volatility is derived from historical volatilities of several public companies within our industry that are deemed to be comparable to our business because we have limited information on the volatility of our common stock since we had no trading history prior to completion of our IPO in February 2011. When making the selections of our industry peer companies to be used in the volatility calculation, we considered the size, operational and economic similarities to our principal business operations.

Expected Dividend. The expected dividend was assumed to be zero as we have never paid dividends and have no current plans to do so.

Risk-Free Interest Rate. The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury yield in effect at the time of grant for zero coupon U.S. Treasury notes with maturities approximately equal to each award's expected term.

In addition to assumptions used in the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, we must also estimate a forfeiture rate to calculate the stock-based compensation for our awards. Our forfeiture rate is based on an analysis of our actual forfeitures. We will continue to evaluate the appropriateness of the forfeiture rate based on actual forfeiture experience, analysis of employee turnover and other factors. Quarterly changes in the estimated forfeiture rate can have a significant impact on our stock-based compensation expense as the cumulative effect of adjusting the rate is recognized in the period the forfeiture estimate is changed. If a revised forfeiture rate is higher than the previously estimated forfeiture rate, an adjustment is made that will result in a decrease to the stock-based compensation expense recognized in the financial statements. If a revised forfeiture rate is lower than the previously estimated forfeiture rate, an adjustment is made that will result in an increase to the stock-based compensation expense recognized in the financial statements.

We will continue to use judgment in evaluating the expected term, expected volatility and forfeiture rate related to our own stock-based compensation on a prospective basis. As we continue to accumulate additional data related to our common stock, we may have refinements to the estimates of our expected volatility, expected terms and forfeiture rates, which could materially impact our future stock-based compensation expense.

We were also required to estimate the fair value of the common stock underlying our stock-based awards when performing the fair value calculations with the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Prior to our IPO, the fair values of the common stock underlying our stock-based awards were estimated on each grant date by our board of directors, with input from management. Our board of directors is comprised of a majority of non-employee directors with significant experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. We believe that our board of directors had the relevant experience and expertise to determine a fair value of our common stock on each respective grant date. Given the absence of a public trading market of our common stock prior to our IPO in February 2011, and in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Practice Guide, *Valuation of Privately-Held-Company Equity Securities Issued as Compensation*, our board of directors exercised reasonable judgment and considered numerous objective and subjective factors to determine the best estimate of the fair value of our common stock including:

- contemporaneous and retrospective valuations performed by unrelated third party specialists;
- prices for our convertible preferred stock sold to outside investors in arm's-length transactions;

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- rights, preferences and privileges of our convertible preferred stock relative to those of our common stock;
- actual operating and financial performance;
- hiring of key personnel and the experience of our management;
- status of research and development efforts, including the clinical results for ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03;
- risks inherent in the development of our products and services;
- likelihood of achieving a liquidity event, such as an initial public offering or a sale of our company given prevailing market conditions and the nature and history of our business;
- market value of a comparable group of privately held pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that are in a similar state of development to ours;
- illiquidity of stock-based awards involving securities in a private company;
- industry information such as market size and growth; and
- macroeconomic conditions.

In valuing our common stock, our board of directors determined the equity value of our business by taking a weighted combination of the value indications under two valuation approaches, an income approach and a market approach. The income approach estimates the present value of future estimated cash flows, based upon forecasted revenue and costs. These future cash flows were discounted to their present values using a discount rate derived from an analysis of the cost of capital of comparable publicly traded companies in our industry or similar lines of business as of each valuation date and was adjusted to reflect the risks inherent in our cash flows. The market approach estimated the fair value by applying market multiples of comparable publicly traded companies in our industry or similar lines of business which were based on key metrics implied by the enterprise values or acquisition values of our comparable publicly traded companies.

The fair value of our business was then allocated to each of our classes of stock using either the Option Pricing Method or the Probability Weighted Expected Return Method.

The Option Pricing Method, or OPM, treats common stock and convertible preferred stock as call options on an enterprise value, with exercise prices based on the liquidation preference of the convertible preferred stock. Therefore, the common stock has value only if the funds available for distribution to the stockholders exceed the value of the liquidation preference at the time of a liquidity event such as a merger, sale or initial public offering, assuming the enterprise has funds available to make a liquidation preference meaningful and collectible by the stockholders. The common stock is modeled to be a call option with a claim on the enterprise at an exercise price equal to the remaining value immediately after the convertible preferred stock is liquidated. The OPM uses the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to price the call option. The OPM is appropriate to use when the range of possible future outcomes is so difficult to predict that forecasts would be highly speculative.

The Probability Weighted Expected Return Method, or PWERM, involves a forward-looking analysis of the possible future outcomes of the enterprise. This method is particularly useful when discrete future outcomes can be predicted at a high confidence level with a probability distribution. Discrete future outcomes considered under the PWERM included non-IPO market based outcomes as well as IPO scenarios. In the non-IPO scenarios, a large portion of the equity value would be allocated to the convertible preferred stock to incorporate higher aggregate liquidation preferences. In the IPO scenarios, the equity value would be allocated pro rata among the shares of common stock and each series of convertible preferred stock, which would cause the common stock to have a higher relative value per share than under the non-IPO scenario. The fair value of the enterprise determined using the IPO and non-IPO scenarios was weighted according to our board of directors' estimate of the probability of each scenario at the time.

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Over time, as certainty developed regarding possible discrete events, including our IPO, the allocation methodology utilized to allocate our enterprise value to our common stock transitioned from the OPM, which was utilized through July 2009, to the PWERM, which had been utilized from July 2009 through December 31, 2010.

Information regarding stock option grants to our employees from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 is summarized as follows:

| <u>Grant Date</u> | <u>Number of Options Granted</u> | <u>Exercise Price</u> | <u>Fair Value Per Share of Common Stock</u> | <u>Aggregate Grant Date Fair Value⁽¹⁾</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| July 1, 2009 | 231,875 | \$ 5.52 | \$ 5.52 | \$ 452,000 |
| June 15, 2010 | 83,125 | 1.20 | 2.56 | 165,000 |
| June 15, 2010 | 1,233,485 | 2.56 | 2.56 | 2,471,000 |
| November 4, 2010 | 125,000 | 5.32 | 5.32 | 450,000 |

⁽¹⁾ Aggregate grant date fair value was determined using the Black-Scholes option pricing model.

The intrinsic value of all outstanding options as of December 31, 2010 was \$4.2 million based on the estimated fair value for our common stock of \$5.00 per share, the IPO price.

No single event caused the valuation of our common stock to increase or decrease through December 31, 2010. Instead, a combination of the factors described below in each period led to the changes in the fair value of the underlying common stock.

October 2008 to July 2009. After a period of significant volatility in the United States and global capital markets during the third and fourth quarters of 2008, capital market conditions began to stabilize and recover in early 2009. During this time period, we reported our first successful ARX-01 Phase 2 study results in November 2008, in the midst of significant financial market turmoil. We reported positive results for an additional efficacy study for ARX-01 in April 2009 and a device functionality study for ARX-01 in July 2009.

As of December 31, 2008, our board of directors determined a fair value of our common stock to be \$5.52 per share. The December 31, 2008 contemporaneous valuation determined the enterprise value using a market approach due to the uncertain nature of the financial projections underlying the income approach and the significant ongoing capital requirements for our business to reach profitability. In applying the OPM to the enterprise value during this period, the expected time to a liquidity event of 3.0 years was based on a reasonable time frame for us to achieve significant milestones in our business strategy and experience a liquidity event. The volatility of 62% was based on the median volatility over the expected time to a liquidity event for our comparable publicly traded companies. The risk-free interest rate of 1.0% was based on the yield on a three-year U.S. Treasury bond corresponding to the expected time to a liquidity event. Based on a lack of a public market for our common stock, a discount of 39% was based upon a protective put analysis using the same assumptions for the term, volatility and risk-free rate. For options granted during this period, our board of directors determined that the fair value of our common stock remained unchanged at \$5.52 per share as the positive clinical data results were offset by the deterioration of the financial markets during the period.

December 2009 to June 2010. In late October 2009, we completed a successful ARX-01 End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA. Between November 2009 and April 2010, the United States economy and capital markets continued to improve. We also reported our first positive Phase 2 data from our ARX-03 program in October 2009. In early 2010, we were successful in hiring a new Chief Executive Officer. During the second quarter of 2010, we received positive Phase 2 data on our ARX-02 program and completed an End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA for our ARX-03 program. Despite our positive clinical results, the End of Phase 2 meetings with the FDA and the improved conditions of the public markets, there was a limited availability for private capital. In November 2009, we closed our Series C convertible preferred stock financing for approximately \$3.94 per share raising a total of \$14.7 million in proceeds, which was below the \$16.00 per share we received in connection

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with our Series B convertible preferred stock financing in February 2008. During the first quarter of 2010, we continued to focus on private sources of capital, but traditional venture capital investors continued to be highly risk averse and faced significant industry-wide challenges. During the second quarter of 2010, we became focused on establishing a financing strategy that would enable our product candidates to advance into Phase 3 development. Despite the challenges in the private financing, we began to have initial discussions with a small number of banks regarding our prospects for an IPO.

As of December 31, 2009, our board of directors determined a fair value of our common stock to be \$1.20 per share. As noted previously, the OPM is preferred when future outcomes are difficult to predict and the PWERM becomes useful when discrete future outcomes become more predictable. During the period between July 2, 2009 and December 30, 2009, when our board of directors did not make valuation determinations or grant any stock-based awards, the range of discrete events, specifically IPO scenarios, became fairly well established; therefore, the PWERM was utilized to estimate the fair value of our common stock during this period. The PWERM allocation method used a risk-adjusted discount rate of 46% based upon an adjusted capital asset pricing model and a lack of marketability discount rate of 30% in the remaining private scenario. The expected outcomes were weighted as follows: (1) 20% towards IPO scenarios occurring during late 2010 and through 2012, valued using the market approach; (2) 20% towards a sale occurring during late 2010 and through 2012, valued using the market approach; (3) 20% towards a recapitalization, valued using the income approach; and (4) 40% to remaining a private operating company, valued using the income approach. For options granted in June 2010, our board of directors originally estimated the fair value of our common stock to be \$1.20 per share. However, this fair value, which was used as the exercise price for the stock options granted in June 2010, was subsequently revisited for financial reporting purposes when our board of directors began to analyze the prospects of an IPO. As such, our board of directors subsequently determined a fair value of our common stock for financial reporting purposes to be \$2.56 per share. The PWERM allocation method was used with a risk-adjusted discount rate of 39% based upon an adjusted capital asset pricing model and a lack of marketability discount rate of 30% in the remaining private scenario. The slight decrease in the discount rate from the December 31, 2009 valuation was due to changes in industry and market conditions. The expected outcomes were weighted as follows: (1) 32.5% towards IPO scenarios occurring during late 2010 and through 2012, valued using the market approach; (2) 20% towards a sale occurring during late 2010 and through 2012, valued using the market approach; (3) 20% towards a recapitalization, valued using the income approach; and (4) 27.5% to remaining a private operating company, valued using the income approach. The increase in the fair value of our common stock from our December 30, 2009 valuation was primarily attributable to our business developments in 2010 along with our move towards an IPO, including meeting with banks to discuss our IPO prospects. For the stock options we granted in June 2010, we recorded our stock-based compensation utilizing the updated fair value of \$2.56 per share because our board of directors determined that there were no events in the period between the option grants on June 15, 2010 and the date of the retrospective valuation on June 30, 2010 that would result in a change to the fair value of the underlying common stock. Most of the stock options granted in June 2010 were subsequently modified in December 2010 as discussed further below.

July 2010 to November 2010. As of September 30, 2010, our board of directors determined a fair value of our common stock to be \$5.32 per share. The PWERM allocation method was used with a risk-adjusted discount rate of 33.7% based upon an adjusted capital asset pricing model and a lack of marketability discount rate of 30% in the remaining private scenario. The slight decrease in the discount rate from the June 30, 2010 retrospective valuation was due to changes in industry and market conditions. The expected outcomes were weighted as follows: (1) 57.5% towards IPO scenarios occurring during 2011 and through 2012, valued using the market approach; (2) 20% towards a sale occurring during 2011, valued using the market approach; (3) 12.5% towards a recapitalization, valued using the income approach; and (4) 10% to remaining a private operating company, valued using the income approach. The increase in the fair value of our common stock from our June 2010 valuation was primarily attributable to our progress towards an IPO, including discussions with investment banks regarding our IPO.

Stock option modification in December 2010. In December 2010, our board of directors, out of an abundance of caution, allowed all employees and non-employees to increase the exercise price of stock options granted to them

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on June 15, 2010 in light of the potential risk of adverse tax consequences under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 409A. Under Section 409A, stock options with an exercise price that is less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant may be deemed deferred compensation subject to adverse taxation under Section 409A. As described above, when setting the exercise price for the June 15, 2010 stock option grants, our board of directors determined the fair market value of our common stock to be \$1.20 per share, which valuation was subsequently revisited for financial reporting purposes, when our board of directors began to analyze the prospects of an IPO, and determined it to be \$2.56 per share. We believe that our board of directors' determination of the fair market value of our common stock on June 15, 2010 in reliance upon all material facts available to our board of directors on that date, was reasonable. However, given the potential adverse tax consequences to the optionees if the Internal Revenue Service determines that our original determination was grossly unreasonable, our board of directors decided, out of an abundance of caution, to make the offer to amend. Based on the elections made by the optionees, 1,233,485 of the 1,316,610 options granted on June 15, 2010, including vested and unvested options, were amended on December 27, 2010, such that the original exercise prices of \$1.20 per share were increased to \$2.56 per share. Accordingly, holders of options to purchase an aggregate 83,125 shares of common stock elected to leave their options unchanged. No other terms of the options were modified and there were no incremental stock-based compensation charges as a result of the re-pricing.

Our stock-based compensation expense for awards granted to our employees was as follows:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| | | (in thousands) | |
| Research and development | \$ 680 | \$ 167 | \$ 66 |
| General and administrative | 588 | 115 | 60 |
| Total stock-based compensation | <u>\$1,268</u> | <u>\$282</u> | <u>\$126</u> |

As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we had \$2.4 million, \$710,000 and \$126,000 of unrecognized stock-based compensation expense, net of estimated forfeitures, that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.5, 2.7 and 2.3 years. In future periods, our stock-based compensation expense is expected to increase as a result of our existing unrecognized stock-based compensation to be recognized as these awards vest and as we issue additional stock-based awards to attract and retain employees.

Non-Employee Stock-Based Compensation

We account for stock options and shares of restricted stock granted to non-employees based on the estimated fair value of the awards using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The measurement of stock-based compensation for awards granted to non-employees is subject to periodic adjustments as the awards vest, and the resulting change in value, if any, is recognized in our statement of operations during the period that the related services are rendered.

Stock-based compensation expense for awards granted to non-employees was \$61,000, \$30,000 and \$71,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

There is inherent uncertainty in these estimates and if different assumptions had been used, the fair value of the awards granted to non-employees and the related stock-based compensation expense could have been significantly different.

Liability Associated with Warrants to Purchase Convertible Preferred Stock

Freestanding warrants to purchase shares of our convertible preferred stock were classified as liabilities on our balance sheets at fair value because the warrants could have conditionally obligated us to redeem the underlying convertible preferred stock. The warrants were subject to remeasurement at each balance sheet date, and any change in fair value was recognized as a component of other income (expense), net, in the statements of

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operations. We estimated the fair value of these warrants at the respective balance sheet dates using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. We used assumptions to estimate the fair value of the warrants including the remaining contractual terms of the warrants, risk-free interest rates, expected dividend yields and the fair value and expected volatility of the underlying stock. These assumptions were subjective and the fair value of the warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock could have differed significantly had we used different assumptions.

In connection with an equipment financing agreement entered into in March 2007, we issued warrants to purchase 2,500 shares of our Series A convertible preferred stock. The relative fair value of our Series A warrants of \$1,000 was recorded on our balance sheet upon issuance as a warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The Series A warrant liability was subsequently remeasured to fair value at each reporting date and, as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Series A warrant liability was \$13,000 and \$2,000. The change in the fair value of the Series A warrants resulted in a charge to other income (expense), net of \$11,000 during the year ended December 31, 2010, a benefit to other income (expense), net of \$8,000 during the year ended December 31, 2009 and a charge to other income (expense), net of \$4,000 during the year ended December 31, 2008.

In connection with a loan and security agreement entered into in September 2008, we issued warrants to purchase 56,250 shares of our Series B convertible preferred stock. At the close of our Series C convertible preferred stock offering in November 2009, these warrants became exercisable for the Series C convertible preferred stock and the number of exercisable shares increased to 228,264. The relative fair value of these warrants of \$0.2 million upon issuance was recorded on our balance sheet as a warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The Series C warrant liability related to the loan and security agreement was subsequently remeasured to fair value at each reporting date and, as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 the warrant liability was \$1.2 million and \$0.2 million. The change in the fair value of the warrants resulted in a charge to other income (expense), net of \$1.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2010, a benefit to other income (expense), net of \$0.1 million the year ended December 31, 2009 and a charge to other income (expense), net of \$0.1 million during the year ended December 31, 2008.

In connection with a bridge loan financing in September 2010 (see “—Bridge Loan” below), we issued convertible notes, or the 2010 notes, and warrants, or the 2010 warrants, which 2010 warrants were potentially exercisable into (1) shares of preferred stock sold in the next equity financing with proceeds in excess of \$15.0 million with an exercise price equal to the price of the preferred stock sold in such equity financing or (2) shares of our Series C convertible preferred stock at a price \$3.94 per share. The aggregate number of shares exercisable under the 2010 warrants was to equal 25% of the principal amount of the corresponding 2010 notes divided by (1) the per share price of the equity securities sold in the next qualified equity financing or (2) the price of the Series C convertible preferred stock of \$3.94 per share. In order to determine a fair value for the 2010 warrants issued in the bridge loan, we evaluated multiple potential outcomes using the intrinsic value or Black-Scholes value depending on the scenario and discounted these values back to either September 30, 2010 or December 31, 2010 as appropriate while applying our estimated probabilities to each scenario value. Accordingly, we determined the fair value of the 2010 warrants to be \$1.2 million at September 30, 2010, which was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and a debt discount. As of December 31, 2010, the related warrant liability was \$1.3 million. The change in the fair value of these warrants resulted in a charge of \$77,000 to other income (expense), net during the year ended December 31, 2010. The 2010 warrants were net exercised into 107,246 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock in connection with our IPO, which shares were automatically converted to 107,246 shares of common stock immediately prior to our IPO.

Upon the completion of our IPO in February 2011, all of our warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock had been exercised or converted into warrants to purchase common stock. At that time, the then-current aggregate fair value of these warrants was reclassified from liabilities to additional paid-in capital and we will no longer remeasure the liability associated with these warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock to fair value.

Bridge Loan

On September 14, 2010, we entered into a bridge loan financing, in which we issued the 2010 notes to certain existing investors for an aggregate purchase price of \$8.0 million. The 2010 notes could not be prepaid without the written consent of the holders of the 2010 notes, bore interest at a rate of 4.0% per annum and had a maturity date of the earliest of (1) September 14, 2011 or (2) an event of default. The principal and the interest under the 2010 notes were converted into common stock in connection with our IPO at a conversion price equal to 80% of the IPO price, or \$4.00 per share.

Under the terms of the bridge loan agreement, upon the election of the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount payable under the 2010 notes, we agreed to issue an additional \$4.0 million of the 2010 notes. This additional \$4.0 million was determined to be a call option that was recorded at its fair value of \$0.5 million as a debt discount that was amortized to interest expense during the period when the notes were outstanding until conversion in connection with our IPO. The fair value of the call option was determined by evaluating multiple potential outcomes using a market approach and an income approach depending on the scenario and discounted these values back to December 31, 2010 while applying estimated probabilities to each scenario value. As of December 31, 2010, these scenarios included a potential IPO, merger or sale at different times during 2011 and 2012 as well as remaining private. During the quarter ending March 31, 2011, the 2010 notes were amended so that the call option expired upon the closing of our IPO.

Also in connection with the bridge loan financing, we issued the 2010 warrants with a fair value of \$1.2 million, which was recorded as a debt discount that was amortized to interest expense during the period where the warrants were outstanding until exercised at the time of the IPO as detailed above in “—Liability Associated with Warrants to Purchase Convertible Preferred Stock.”

We used considerable judgment in determining the fair value of these instruments and had we used different assumptions, the resulting fair values could have been materially different.

Subsequent to December 31, 2010, and in conjunction with our IPO, the principal and accrued interest under the 2010 notes converted into 2,034,438 shares of common stock and the 2010 warrants were exercised on a net issuance basis for 107,246 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock, which such shares of Series C convertible preferred stock were automatically converted into 107,246 shares of common stock immediately prior to the closing of our IPO.

Income Taxes

Significant management judgment is required in determining our provision or benefit for income taxes, any uncertain tax positions, deferred tax assets and liabilities, and any valuation allowance recorded against our net deferred tax assets. We make these estimates and judgments about our future taxable income that are based on assumptions that are consistent with our future plans. As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we have recorded a full valuation allowance on our net deferred tax assets due to uncertainties related to our ability to utilize our deferred tax assets in the foreseeable future. These deferred tax assets primarily consist of certain net operating loss carryforwards and research and development tax credits. Should the actual amounts differ from our estimates, the amount of our valuation allowance could be materially impacted.

Since inception, we have incurred operating losses and, accordingly, we have not recorded a provision for income taxes for any of the periods presented. Accordingly, there have not been significant changes to our provision or benefit for income taxes during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 or 2008, and we do not expect any significant changes until we are no longer incurring losses.

As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we had federal net operating loss carryforwards of \$63.8 million, \$52.9 million and \$33.2 million, and state net operating loss carryforwards of \$63.7 million, \$52.8 million and \$33.2 million. We also had \$1.0 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.5 million of federal research credit carryforwards,

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and \$0.7 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.4 million of state research credit carryforwards as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. Realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon future earnings, if any, the timing and amount of which are uncertain. Accordingly, the net deferred tax assets have been fully offset by a valuation allowance. If not utilized, the federal net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards will expire beginning in 2025 and the state net operating loss will begin expiring in 2017. Under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if a corporation undergoes an "ownership change," generally defined as a greater than 50% change (by value) in its equity ownership over a three year period, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards and other pre-change tax attributes (such as research tax credits) to offset its post-change income may be limited.

Results of Operations

Years Ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008

Revenue

To date, we have not generated any revenue. We do not expect to receive any revenues from any product candidates that we develop until we obtain regulatory approval and commercialize our products or enter into collaborative agreements with third parties.

Research and Development Expenses (in thousands, except percentages)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009 | Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008 | Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009 | Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | | | | |
| Research and development expenses | \$8,193 | \$15,502 | \$18,325 | \$ (7,309) | \$ (2,823) | (47)% | (15)% |

The \$7.3 million decrease during the year ended December 31, 2010 was primarily attributable to a decrease of \$4.1 million in development expenses related to our ARX-01 development program which was put on hold due to lack of sufficient funding, and a decrease of \$2.2 million in development expenses related to our ARX-02 development program which was completed in early 2010.

The \$2.8 million decrease during the year ended December 31, 2009 was primarily attributable to a \$1.9 million reduction in clinical development costs for ARX-01 as two Phase 2 studies, which were initiated in the year ended December 31, 2008 and completed later that year and early in the year ended December 31, 2009. This resulted in fewer contract pharmaceutical, engineering and manufacturing costs and lab expenses during the year ended December 31, 2009. The remaining decrease was attributable to a reduction in activity related to contract pharmaceutical, engineering and manufacturing efforts associated with our ARX-02 and ARX-03 development programs during the year ended December 31, 2009.

General and Administrative Expenses (in thousands, except percentages)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009 | Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008 | Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009 | Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | | | | |
| General and administrative expenses | \$3,993 | \$3,529 | \$2,365 | \$ 464 | \$ 1,164 | 13% | 49% |

This \$0.5 million increase during the year ended December 31, 2010 was primarily due to an increase in stock option compensation related to the increase in stock option awards granted in 2010, the majority of which were granted to our new Chief Executive Officer, who was hired in May 2010.

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The \$1.2 million increase during the year ended December 31, 2009 was attributable to a \$0.5 million increase in personnel costs as result of increased headcount, a \$0.4 million increase in consulting and professional services related to market research for ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03, and a \$0.1 million increase in travel costs related to business development and legal fees to pursue international and domestic patents of our intellectual property during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Interest Income (in thousands, except percentages)

| | <u>Years Ended December 31,</u> | | | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|--|--|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | | | | |
| Interest income | \$ 4 | \$ 33 | \$ 484 | \$ (29) | \$ (451) | (88)% | (93)% |

The \$29,000 decrease during the year ended December 31, 2010 was due to the decrease in our average cash, cash equivalent and short-term investment balances. Our interest income is expected to increase as we invest proceeds from our IPO in high credit quality U.S. government agency obligations and commercial paper.

The \$0.5 million decrease during the year ended December 31, 2009 was directly attributable to the \$9.5 million decrease in our working capital during the year ended December 31, 2009 as we used the proceeds received from our Series B convertible preferred stock financing and debt financing during the year ended December 31, 2008 to fund operations until we completed our Series C convertible preferred stock financing in November 2009.

Interest Expense (in thousands, except percentages)

| | <u>Years Ended December 31,</u> | | | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|--|--|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | | | | |
| Interest expense | \$(1,397) | \$(1,242) | \$(404) | \$ 155 | \$ 838 | 12% | 207% |

The \$0.2 million increase during the year ended December 31, 2010 was primarily attributable to interest related to the \$8.0 million in additional debt incurred in September 2010.

The \$0.8 million increase during the year ended December 31, 2009 was primarily due to the interest and deferred financing costs we incurred as a result of the \$12.0 million in proceeds received from our debt financing in November 2008.

Other Income (Expense), net (in thousands, except percentages)

| | <u>Years Ended December 31,</u> | | | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2010 vs. 2009</u> | <u>Percentage Increase/ (Decrease) 2009 vs. 2008</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|--|--|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | | | | |
| Other income (expense), net | \$(765) | \$ 121 | \$(52) | \$ (886) | \$ 173 | (732)% | 333% |

The \$0.9 million decrease in other income (expense), net during the year ended December 31, 2010 was primarily attributable to the \$1.3 million increase in the fair value of our warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock and the warrants and call option related to our convertible notes issued in 2010, offset by income of \$489,000 from the Qualifying Therapeutic Discover Projects grant received in November 2010.

The \$0.2 million increase in other income (expense), net during the year ended December 31, 2009 was due to the decrease in the fair value of our warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock combined with realized gains on the sale of investments during the year ended December 31, 2009.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

We have funded our operations to date primarily with the proceeds from the sale of our securities and the proceeds received from our debt financings. To date, we have not generated any revenue from the sale of our product candidates and do not anticipate generating any revenues for the foreseeable future. We have incurred losses and generated negative cash flows from operations since inception, and we expect to continue to incur significant and increasing losses and negative cash flows for the foreseeable future. As of December 31, 2010, our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments totaled \$3.7 million and we had negative working capital of approximately \$7.6 million. In February 2011, we completed our IPO selling 8.0 million shares at \$5.00 per share with net proceeds to the company of \$35.6 million. We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents, including the net proceeds of \$35.6 million from our IPO in February 2011, and the interest earned thereon, will be sufficient to fund our current operations through the second quarter of 2012. However, our forecast of the period of time through which our financial resources will be adequate to support our operations is forward-looking statement that involves risks and uncertainties, and actual results could vary materially.

From inception through December 31, 2010, we have received net proceeds of \$54.9 million from the sale of convertible preferred stock and \$21.6 million from our debt agreements. As of December 31, 2010, we had \$13.2 million of debt outstanding, of which \$5.2 million relates to our loan and security agreement and \$8.0 million, which does not include the debt discount of \$1.2 million, related to the 2010 notes. Subsequent to the end of the year ended December 31, 2010, and in conjunction with our IPO, the outstanding principal and accrued interest under the 2010 notes converted into 2,034,438 shares of common stock.

While we believe that our current cash and cash equivalents, including the net proceeds of \$35.6 million from our IPO in February 2011, and the interest earned thereon, will be sufficient to fund our current operations through the second quarter of 2012, we may raise additional funds within this period of time through collaborations, or by undertaking public or private debt or equity financings. Our existing capital resources will not be sufficient to enable us to fund our third Phase 3 trial for ARX-01 and, if we choose, to initiate clinical trials for our product candidates other than ARX-01. We will need to raise substantial additional capital to fund our operations, continue to develop our product candidates and commercialize and market our product candidates.

The sale of additional equity securities could result in additional dilution to our stockholders and those securities may have rights senior to those of our common stock. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased debt service obligations and could result in operating and financing covenants that would restrict our operations. We cannot assure you that financing will be available in the amounts we need or on terms acceptable to us, if at all. We currently have no commitments for future external financing.

Cash Flows

The following summary of our cash flows for the periods indicated and has been derived from our financial statements which are included elsewhere in this Form 10-K:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 (in thousands) | 2008 |
| Net cash used in operating activities | \$ (12,225) | \$ (19,418) | \$ (18,903) |
| Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities | 4,765 | 8,616 | (9,935) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 3,365 | 11,880 | 31,899 |

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash used in operating activities amounted to \$12.2 million, \$19.4 million and \$18.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. The primary use of cash for our operating activities during these periods was to fund the development of our product candidates. Our cash used for operating activities also

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reflected changes in our working capital and adjustments for non-cash charges, such as depreciation and amortization of our fixed assets, stock-based compensation, interest expense related to our debt financings, and the revaluation of our convertible preferred stock warrant liability.

Cash used in operating activities of \$12.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2010, reflected a net loss of \$14.3 million, partially offset by aggregate non-cash charges of \$3.9 million and a net change of \$1.8 million in our net operating assets and liabilities. Non-cash charges primarily included \$0.7 million for interest on our debt, \$1.3 million for the revaluation of the warrant liability and the call option liability, \$0.5 million of depreciation and amortization and \$1.4 million in stock-based compensation. The net change in our operating assets and liabilities was primarily a result of an increase in prepaid expense of \$1.5 million.

Cash used in operating activities of \$19.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2009 reflected a net loss of \$20.1 million, partially offset by aggregate non-cash charges of \$1.1 million and a net change of \$0.4 million in our net operating assets and liabilities. Non-cash charges primarily included \$0.5 million of depreciation and amortization, \$0.5 million of stock-based compensation and \$0.3 million of interest expense relating to our debt, offset by a \$0.1 million gain on the revaluation of our convertible preferred stock warrant liability. The net change in our operating assets and liabilities was primarily a result of a \$0.4 million decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities during the year.

Cash used in operating activities of \$18.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2008 reflected a net loss of \$20.7 million, partially offset by aggregate non-cash charges of \$1.1 million and a net change of \$0.7 million in our net operating assets and liabilities. Non-cash charges primarily included \$0.4 million of depreciation and amortization, \$0.5 million of stock-based compensation, \$0.1 million on the revaluation of the convertible preferred stock warrant liability and \$0.2 million of interest expense relating to our debt. The net change in our operating assets and liabilities was primarily a result of a \$0.7 million increase in our accounts payable and accrued expenses during the year.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Our investing activities have consisted primarily of our capital expenditures and purchases and sales of our available-for-sale investments. To date, we have not had significant capital expenditures and we do not have any significant capital expenditures currently planned.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, cash provided by investing activities of \$4.8 million was primarily as a result of \$9.7 million in proceeds from sale of investments, partially offset by \$4.9 million used for purchases of our investments.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, cash provided by investing activities of \$8.6 million was primarily a result of \$22.6 million in proceeds received from the sale of our investments to fund our working capital needs, partially offset by \$13.9 million used for purchases of our investments.

During the year ended December 31, 2008, cash used in investing activities of \$9.9 million was primarily a result of \$0.5 million in capital expenditures and \$14.1 million in purchases of investments using the proceeds we received in our Series B convertible preferred stock financing and the proceeds from a debt financing, partially offset by \$4.7 million in proceeds received from sales of our investments.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

To date, we have financed our operations primarily with the proceeds from the sale of our securities and the proceeds received from our debt financings. As of December 31, 2010, we had outstanding debt of \$13.2 million. Subsequent to December 31, 2010, and in conjunction with our IPO, the outstanding principal amount of \$8.0 million and accrued interest under the 2010 notes converted into 2,034,438 shares of common stock.

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During the year ended December 31, 2010, cash provided by financing activities of \$3.4 million was primarily a result of the receipt of \$8.0 million in borrowings received from the convertible note agreement entered into in September 2010, partially offset by principal repayments on our long-term debt of \$4.7 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, cash provided by financing activities of \$11.9 million was primarily a result of the receipt of \$14.7 million from the sale of our Series C convertible preferred stock in November 2009, partially offset by principal repayments on our long-term debt of \$2.9 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2008, cash provided by financing activities of \$31.9 million was primarily a result of the receipt of \$20.1 million in proceeds from the sale of our Series B convertible preferred stock in February 2008 combined with the receipt of \$12.0 million in connection with debt financing.

Contractual Obligations

The following table summarizes our outstanding contractual obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2010 (in thousands):

| Contractual Obligations: | Payment by Period | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Total | Less than 1 year | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than 5 years |
| Long-term debt obligations, including current portion ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 5,465 | \$ 5,465 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Convertible notes ⁽²⁾ | 8,097 | 8,097 | — | — | — |
| Operating lease agreements ⁽³⁾ | 445 | 348 | 97 | — | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 14,007</u> | <u>\$ 13,910</u> | <u>\$ 97</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Long-term debt includes our obligations as of December 31, 2010, including principal and accrued interest under the \$12.0 million loan and security agreement entered into in September 2008. As of December 31, 2010, our outstanding obligations under the loan and security agreement were \$5.2 million, all of which was in the current portion. Long-term debt obligations as of December 31, 2010 does not reflect our obligations under the 2010 notes as of December 31, 2010 (see note (2) below).

⁽²⁾ Amounts include principal and accrued interest under the 2010 notes. The entire outstanding principal and accrued interest under the 2010 notes converted into common stock in connection with our IPO in February 2011.

⁽³⁾ Operating lease agreements represent our obligation to make payments under our non-cancelable lease agreement for office and laboratory facilities in Redwood City, California.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Through December 31, 2010, we have not entered into any off-balance sheet arrangements and do not have any holdings in variable interest entities.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued an amendment to an accounting standard which requires new disclosures for fair value measurements and provides clarification for existing fair value disclosure requirements. The amendment will require an entity to disclose separately the amounts of significant transfers in and out of Levels I and II fair value measurements and to describe the reasons for the transfers; and to disclose information about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements separately in the reconciliation for fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs, or Level III inputs. This amendment clarifies existing disclosure requirements for the level of disaggregation used for classes of assets and liabilities measured at fair value and require disclosures about the valuation techniques and inputs used to measure fair value for both recurring and nonrecurring fair value measurements using Level II and Level III inputs. This guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009, except for certain Level III activity disclosure requirements that will be effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2010. Accordingly, we adopted this amendment on January 1, 2010, except for the additional Level III requirements which will be adopted in 2011.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks primarily include risk related to interest rate sensitivities.

Our exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to our investment portfolio and our outstanding debt obligations. Our cash, cash equivalents and investment accounts as of December 31, 2010 totaled \$3.7 million and consisted primarily of cash, money market funds and U.S. government obligations with maturities of less than one year from the date of purchase. Our primary exposure to market risk is interest income sensitivity, which is affected by changes in the general level of the interest rates in the United States. However, because of the short-term nature of the instruments in our portfolio, a sudden change in market interest rates would not be expected to have a material impact on our financial condition or our results of operations.

As of December 31, 2010, we had debt obligations outstanding relating to our outstanding obligations under a loan and security agreement and a convertible note agreement totaling \$13.2 million, of which \$5.2 million related to our loan and security agreement. The entire outstanding principal and accrued interest under the convertible notes sold pursuant to the convertible note agreement converted into common stock in connection with our IPO in February 2011. Our obligations under the loan and security agreement carry interest rates that are fixed and are not subject to fluctuations. However, to the extent in the future we enter into other long-term debt arrangements, we would be subject to fluctuations in interest rates which could have a material impact on our future financial condition and results of operations.

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Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Our financial statements as listed below are attached to this Form 10-K as pages F-1 through F-30.

[AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#)

[Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm](#)

[Balance Sheets at December 31, 2010 and 2009](#)

[Statements of Operations for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from July 13, 2005 \(inception\) through December 31, 2010](#)

[Statements of Convertible Preferred Stock and Stockholders' Deficit for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from July 13, 2005 \(inception\) through December 31, 2010](#)

[Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from July 13, 2005 \(inception\) through December 31, 2010](#)

[Notes to Financial Statements](#)

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Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on their evaluation as of December 31, 2010, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, with the participation of management, have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

This annual report does not include a report of management's assessment regarding internal control over financial reporting or an attestation report of our independent registered public accounting firm due to a transition period established by the rules of the SEC for newly public companies.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

During the quarter ended December 31, 2010 there have been no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

Board of Directors

Our board of directors is divided into three classes designated as Class I, Class II and Class III, with each class having a three-year term. Under our charter documents, at our first annual meeting of stockholders following our IPO, the term of office of the Class I directors will expire and Class I directors will be elected for a full term of three years. At the second annual meeting of stockholders following our IPO, the term of office of the Class II directors will expire and Class II directors will be elected for a full term of three years. At the third annual meeting of stockholders following our IPO, the term of office of the Class III directors will expire and Class III directors will be elected for a full term of three years. At each succeeding annual meeting of stockholders, directors will be elected for a full term of three years to succeed the directors of the class whose terms expire at such annual meeting. We currently expect to hold such first annual meeting of stockholders in May or June of 2012.

The following is a brief biography of each member of our board of directors, as of March 30, 2011, with each biography including information regarding the experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that caused our board of directors to determine that each member of our board of directors should serve as a director as of the date of this Form 10-K.

Class I Directors

Guy P. Nohra, age 50, has served as our director since August 2006. Mr. Nohra co-founded Alta Partners, a venture capital firm investing in life science companies in 1996, and has served as Managing Director of Alta Partners since 1996. Mr. Nohra was also a partner at Burr, Egan, Deleage & Co., a venture capital firm, which he joined in 1989. From January 1984 until June 1987, Mr. Nohra was Product Manager of Medical Products with Security Pacific Trading Corporation, a consumer and commercial bank. Currently, Mr. Nohra serves on the board of directors of numerous private companies, including Carbylan Biosurgery, Inc., Coapt Systems, PneumRx, Inc. and Vertiflex, Inc., and is the Chairman of the Board of USGI Medical, Inc. In addition, Mr. Nohra previously served on the board of directors of ATS Medical, Inc., a company focused on the manufacture of cardiac surgery products, that was acquired by Medtronic, Inc., a medical device company, in 2010 and Cutera, Inc., a global medical device company. Mr. Nohra also serves on the board of directors of the Medical Device Manufacturing Association, a national trade organization that advocates for entrepreneurial medical technology companies. Mr. Nohra holds a B.A. in History from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. Mr. Nohra's medical technology and venture capital industry experience provides him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Thomas A. Schreck, age 53, has served as our Chairman since he co-founded our company in July 2005, and as our President and Chief Executive Officer from July 2005 until April 2010. Since June 2010, Mr. Schreck has been co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Sinusys Corporation, a medical device company. Prior to July 2005, he served as a founding President, and then Chief Financial Officer and a director of DURECT Corporation, an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company he co-founded in June 1998. Prior to 1998, Mr. Schreck held various investment banking positions in the San Francisco Bay Area and London, including Montgomery Securities and Manufacturers Hanover Limited. Mr. Schreck holds a B.A. in American Studies from Williams College. Mr. Schreck's historical knowledge of our company, his financial background and experience and his experience in the pharmaceutical industry provide him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Class II Directors

Stephen J. Hoffman, Ph.D., M.D., age 57, has served as our director since February 2010. Dr. Hoffman has served as a managing director at Skyline Ventures, a venture capital firm, since May 2007. From January 2003 to March 2007, Dr. Hoffman was a general partner at TVM Capital, a venture capital firm. Prior to that, he served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Allos Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company from 1994 to 2002, where he remains Chairman of the board. From 1990 to 1994, Dr. Hoffman completed a

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fellowship in clinical oncology and a residency/fellowship in dermatology, both at the University of Colorado. Dr. Hoffman was the scientific founder of Somatogen Inc., a biotechnology company that was acquired by Baxter International, Inc., a global medical products and services company, in 1998, where he held the position of Vice President of Science and Technology from 1987 until 1990. He serves on the board of directors of Allos Therapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company, Kai Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company and Tolorex, Inc., a biotechnology company. Previously, Dr. Hoffman served on the board of directors of Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a pharmaceutical company that was acquired by GlaxoSmithKline in 2008. Dr. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in bio-organic 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.

Richard A. King, age 46, has served as our director and President and Chief Executive Officer since May 2010. From April 2009 until May 2010, Mr. King acted as an independent consultant to a number of private and public biotechnology and venture capital companies. From October 2008 to April 2009, Mr. King served as President and General Manager of Tercica, Inc., a biotechnology company that was acquired by Ipsen, SA in 2008, and from February 2008 to October 2008, Mr. King served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Tercica, Inc., and from February 2007 until February 2008, served as Chief Operating Officer of Tercica, Inc. From January 2002 to October 2006, Mr. King served as Executive Vice President of Commercial Operations of Kos Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a pharmaceutical company that was acquired by Abbott Laboratories, a global, broad-based health care company, in 2006. From January 2000 to January 2002, Mr. King served as Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations at Solvay Pharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical company that was acquired by Abbott Laboratories in 2009. From April 1992 to January 2000, Mr. King held various marketing positions at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, now known as GlaxoSmithKline, a global pharmaceutical company. Mr. King holds a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from University of Surrey and an M.B.A. from Manchester Business School. Mr. King's extensive experience as an executive officer in public pharmaceutical companies and his knowledge of the day-to-day operations of our company provide him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D., age 48, has served as our director and Chief Medical Officer since she co-founded the company in July 2005. Dr. Palmer has been on faculty at the University of California, San Francisco since 1996 and is currently a Clinical Professor of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care. 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 been a consultant of Omeros Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company, since she co-founded that company 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 provide her with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

Class III Directors

Howard B. Rosen, age 53, has served as our director since 2008. Mr. Rosen served as interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Pearl Therapeutics, Inc. 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 in 2001, from 2003 until 2004 and Vice President, Product Development from 2002 until 2003. Prior to that, from 1994 until 2002, Mr. Rosen held various positions at ALZA Corporation. From 1993 to 1994, Mr. Rosen managed the west coast practice of Integral, Inc., a consulting firm. From 1989 until 1993, Mr. Rosen was Director of Corporate Development at GenPharm International, Inc., a company focusing on transgenic animal technology that was acquired by Medarex, Inc., in 1997 and later acquired by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, a global biopharmaceutical company, in 2009. Mr. Rosen is also a member of the board of directors of PavVax, Inc., a biotechnology company, CNS Therapeutics, Inc., a pharmaceutical company and Pearl Therapeutics, Inc., a company focused on developing combination therapies for the treatment of highly prevalent chronic respiratory

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diseases. Previously, Mr. Rosen served on the board of directors of Pharsight Corporation, a company focused on providing software products and consulting services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that was acquired by Tripos International, a company focused on drug discovery informatics products and services in 2008. Mr. Rosen also served on the board of directors of CoTherix, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that was acquired by Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a biopharmaceutical company in 2007. 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 45, has served as our director since August 2006. Mr. Wan is 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. Since 1999, Mr. Wan has served on the board of directors of Epocrates, Inc., a company focused on providing mobile drug reference tools. Mr. Wan also serves as a director of Biosensors International Group, Ltd. a company focused on the development, manufacture and marketing of medical devices for interventional cardiology and critical care procedures. Mr. Wan also serves on the board of directors of numerous private companies, including Ascend Health Corporation, Eleme Medical, Inc., Ingenuity Systems, Inc., TriReme Medical, Inc. and Quattro Vascular Pte Ltd. Mr. Wan holds a B.S. in Engineering and a B.A. in Economics 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.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our executive officers as of March 30, 2011:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| Richard A. King | 46 | Director, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| James H. Welch | 53 | Chief Financial Officer |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 48 | Director, Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 59 | Chief Development Officer |
| Badri Dasu | 48 | Chief Engineering Officer |

Richard A. King. Mr. King's biography is included above under the section titled "—Board of Directors—Class II Directors."

James H. Welch has served as our Chief Financial Officer since October 1, 2010. From June 2006 until September 2010 Mr. Welch served as Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary for Cerimon Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company. Mr. Welch served as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary for Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a drug development company from October 2000 until May 2006, and as Vice President, Finance and Administration from May 1999 until October 2000. From June 1998 until May 1999, Mr. Welch served as an independent consultant at various companies. Mr. Welch served as Chief Financial Officer of Biocircuits Corporation, a company focused on developing immunodiagnostic testing systems from February 1997 until June 1998, and from June 1992 until February 1997, he served as Corporate Controller. Mr. Welch holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Whitworth College and an M.B.A. from Washington State University.

Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Palmer's biography is included above under the section titled "—Board of Directors—Class II Directors."

Lawrence G. Hamel has served as our Chief Development Officer since September 2006. From 1986 until September 2006, Mr. Hamel served as Product Development Manager, Director Project Management, Executive Director Oral Product Development, and Vice President Oral Products Development at ALZA Corporation. From

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1977 until 1985, Mr. Hamel held a number of positions at ALZA Corporation, including Senior Chemist, Research Scientist, and Senior Research Fellow. Mr. Hamel holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan.

Badri Dasu has served as our Chief Engineering Office since September 2007. From December 2005 until September 2007, Mr. Dasu served as Vice President of Medical Device Engineering at Anesiva, 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. 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 M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of common stock and other equity securities of our company. Officers, directors and greater than ten percent stockholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

We became a public company effective February 2011, and our officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners were not required to comply with Section 16(a) filing requirements during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

Certain Corporate Governance Matters

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

The AcelRx Pharmaceuticals' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics 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. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.ace.rx.com. Stockholders may request a free copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by submitting a written request to: AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 575 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063. 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.

Director Nominations

The nominating and corporate governance committee of the board of directors, 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. Stockholders wishing to recommend individuals for consideration by the nominating and corporate governance committee may do so by delivering a written recommendation to our Secretary at 575 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063 and providing the candidate's name, biographical data and qualifications and a document indicating the candidate's willingness to serve if elected. The nominating and corporate governance committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates based on whether the candidate was recommended by a stockholder or not. 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.

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Audit Committee

Our audit committee consists of Messrs. Rosen and Nohra and Dr. Hoffman, each of whom is a non-employee member of our board of directors. Mr. Rosen serves as the chair of our audit committee. Our board of directors 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. We are currently seeking an audit committee member who will be a financial expert as defined under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and who has the requisite financial sophistication as defined under the applicable rules and regulations of NASDAQ. The audit committee will be comprised of independent directors, subject to the phase-in periods available to companies listing on NASDAQ in connection with an initial public offering. Each member of the audit committee will be financially literate at the time such member is appointed. The composition of the audit committee will satisfy the independence and other requirements of NASDAQ and the SEC. The audit committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable standards of the SEC and NASDAQ and is available on our website at www.aceirx.com.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Overview

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis explains our compensation philosophy, policies and practices for the following current and former executives, our named executive officers:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Richard A. King | President and Chief Executive Officer |
| James H. Welch | Chief Financial Officer |
| Thomas A. Schreck | Former Chief Executive Officer and Former Principal Financial Officer |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | Chief Medical Officer |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | Chief Development Officer |
| Badri Dasu | Chief Engineering Officer |

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

We believe in providing a total compensation package to our executive management team through a combination of base salary, discretionary annual bonuses, grants under our long-term equity incentive compensation plan, and severance and change of control benefits, as well as broad-based health and welfare benefits programs that are available to all salaried employees. Our executive compensation programs are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- attract and retain talented and experienced executives, whose knowledge, skills and performance are critical to our success;
- motivate executives to achieve our business objectives;
- create a meaningful link between pay and performance;
- promote teamwork while also recognizing the role each executive plays in our success; and
- align the interests of our executive officers and stockholders.

We believe that our executive compensation programs should include short-term and long-term components, including cash and equity-based compensation, and should reward performance that consistently meets or exceeds expectations, including by increasing base salary levels, awarding cash bonuses and granting additional equity awards.

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When setting executive compensation in any given year, we may consider a number of factors, including the following:

- corporate and/or individual performance, including specific business challenges for a given year, as we believe this encourages our executive officers to focus on achieving our business objectives;
- the experiences and individual knowledge of the members of our board of directors regarding compensation programs at other companies, as we believe this approach helps us to compete in hiring and retaining the best possible talent while at the same time maintaining a reasonable and responsible cost structure;
- compensation paid by other companies, as publicly reported by such companies or as reported in third party surveys, although in any given year, and with respect to any specific compensation element, we may or may not benchmark to any specified level of compensation;
- internal pay equity of the compensation paid to one executive officer as compared to another—that is, that the compensation paid to each executive should reflect the importance of his or her role to the company as compared to the roles of the other executives;
- the potential dilutive effect on our stockholders of equity awards granted to executive officers, as well as the potentially dilutive effect on our employees of financings undertaken prior to our IPO;
- broader economic conditions, in order to ensure that our pay strategies are effective yet responsible, particularly in the face of any unanticipated consequences of the broader economy on our business; and
- individual negotiations with executives, particularly in connection with their initial compensation package, as these executives may be leaving meaningful compensation opportunities at their prior employer in order to work for us, as well as negotiations upon their departures, as we recognize the benefit to our stockholders of smooth transitions.

Our historical practice and our intent going forward is to perform at least an annual review of our executive officers' overall compensation packages to determine whether they meet our compensation objectives.

Role of Our Board and Our Compensation Committee in Setting Executive Compensation

Prior to our IPO, our compensation committee had the primary responsibility for approving the cash compensation packages for our executive officers and making recommendations to our board of directors with regard to setting equity compensation. Certain elements of our compensation program, such as granting equity incentive awards and approving severance and change of control benefits, were determined by our board of directors in consultation with the compensation committee. As part of its responsibility, the compensation committee considered both the aggregate level of compensation offered (without necessarily benchmarking to a specific level of total target compensation, although with a view toward providing total cash compensation at or around the 50th to 75th percentile of survey data, as described in more detail below) and the mix of individual compensation elements (without necessarily trying to achieve a specific weighting as between the elements). As further described under the specific elements of compensation below, the compensation committee considered the recommendations of management with respect to the various elements of compensation and then either made a recommendation to our board of directors or, with respect to cash compensation, made the final determination of base salary levels or bonus amounts. Currently, our compensation committee is generally responsible for reviewing, modifying, approving and otherwise overseeing the compensation policies and practices applicable to our employees (including our executive officers), including the administration of our equity and cash incentive plans.

As part of its deliberations in any given year, our board of directors and the compensation committee may review and consider factors such as the achievement of predefined milestones, the company's financial condition, operational data, tax and accounting consequences, the total compensation that may become payable to

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executives in various hypothetical scenarios, executive stock ownership information, company stock performance, analyses of historical executive compensation levels and current company-wide compensation levels, and the recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer.

Role of Our Management

Our Chief Executive Officer evaluates the performance of the other executive officers and employees on an annual basis and makes recommendations to the compensation committee with respect to salary adjustments, bonuses and stock option grants. Our Chief Executive Officer also makes recommendations on new hire compensation packages. Our board of directors and our compensation committee review the performance of our Chief Executive Officer. Our Chief Executive Officer also makes recommendations regarding the design of compensation programs applicable to our executive officers and other senior executives, changes to existing compensation programs, and financial and other performance targets to be achieved under those programs. Our finance department works with our Chief Executive Officer to gather compensation data that he reviews in making his recommendations.

No executive officer participated directly in the final determinations or deliberations of our compensation committee (or our board of directors, as applicable) regarding the amount of any component of his or her own compensation package. From time to time members of our finance team attend meetings (or portions of meetings) of our board of directors and the compensation committee in order to present survey and financial data and answer questions.

Limited Role of Compensation Consultants

Prior to our IPO, neither our board of directors nor our compensation committee had retained its own independent compensation consultant. In October 2010, in connection with preparations for our IPO, we retained Kara Halvorson Consulting LLC to assist management in reviewing human resources and compensation matters. The consultant worked directly with our management team to review employment agreements and our compensation practices in connection with preparations for our IPO. This consultant is paid by us and has not been present at the deliberations of our board of directors or the compensation committee. The compensation committee plans to retain its own independent compensation consultant in the future to provide independent advice and recommendations for our compensation practices.

Benchmarking

We have not established a peer group of companies. As is the case with many private companies, prior to our IPO, our compensation committee and our board of directors discussed compensation levels in the context of the experiences and individual knowledge of each board member. This approach called for our board members to use their reasonable business judgment in determining compensation levels that would allow us to compete in hiring and retaining the best possible employees, without the cost of engaging a compensation consultant. In making its determinations with respect to 2009 and 2010 compensation, while we were a private company, our board members reviewed compensation data as compiled by our finance department from the following surveys:

- 2008 Thelander Pre-IPO Survey: a survey of 193 pre-IPO companies, predominantly in life sciences, located primarily on the west coast, with an average stage of financing of less than \$50 million;
- 2008 E&Y Life Sciences Survey: a survey of 189 pre-IPO and post-IPO life science companies located across the country, with an average stage of financing of less than three venture rounds; and
- 2007 BEDC Compensation Survey: a survey of 87 public and private life science companies, many of whom had fewer than 50 employees, located in the greater San Diego area.

In setting compensation for 2009, the finance department provided our compensation committee with the data points from only the Thelander Survey for total cash compensation and percentage stock ownership for each

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executive officer position, at the 50th and 75th percentiles. In setting compensation for 2010, the finance department provided our compensation committee with an average of all three of the surveys above, as adjusted by 4.5% to reflect cost of living increases since the dates of the surveys, at each of the 50th and 75th percentiles, for total cash compensation and percentage stock ownership for each executive.

Our compensation committee has used the survey data to check their own assumptions and expectations about compensation levels. Our board of directors and the compensation committee may, but do not always, aim to set a specific element of compensation at or around the 50th to 75th percentiles as reflected by this survey data. We believe this approach helps us hire and retain the best possible talent while at the same time maintaining a reasonable and responsible cost structure. Our compensation committee has not yet selected a peer group or benchmarking level to be used. Information about whether a given element of compensation was benchmarked in a given year is provided below under the discussion of each element.

Elements of Executive Compensation

The compensation program for our executive officers consists principally of base salary and long-term compensation in the form of stock options and, after our IPO, restricted stock units, or RSUs, with discretionary cash bonuses paid from time to time. We also offer limited severance protection through the terms of our stock options, RSUs and certain employment agreements with our executive officers, with the benefits generally in the form of accelerated vesting of stock options and RSUs in the case of termination of employment following a change of control. We believe that this mix of compensation elements appropriately retains executives, provides longer term incentives and rewards, and allows us to conserve our cash for use in the development of our products. We do not affirmatively set out in any given year to apportion compensation in any specific ratio between cash and equity. Rather, in any given year, total compensation may skew more heavily toward either element, as a result of cash constraints, company performance, the value of our common stock and other factors described in the following table and narrative.

| <u>Compensation element</u> | <u>Material factors considered in 2009 and 2010</u> | <u>Objective</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Base salary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members' experience and knowledge• Historical salary levels• Achievement of corporate objectives• Lack of a formal cash bonus plan• Expected future cash flows• Internal pay equity• Survey data• Individual negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract and retain experienced executives• Reward executives for achievement of company objectives |
| Cash bonuses | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members' experience and knowledge• Achievement of corporate objectives• Subjective review of each executive's overall individual performance• Internal pay equity• Expected future cash flows• Survey data• Individual negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract and retain experienced executives• Reward executives for achievement of company objectives• Link performance with compensation paid |

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| <u>Compensation element</u> | <u>Material factors considered in 2009 and 2010</u> | <u>Objective</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Long-term equity incentive awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members' experience and knowledge• Achievement of corporate objectives• Subjective review of an executive's overall individual performance• Internal pay equity• Survey data• The potential dilutive effect on our stockholders• The potential dilutive effect of our financings on our employees' equity awards• Individual negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract and retain experienced executives• Motivate and reward executives for achievement of company objectives• Link performance with compensation paid• Provide incentives to promote our growth and create stockholder value• Align the financial interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders |
| Severance benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members' experience and knowledge• Internal pay equity• Individual negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract and retain experienced executives• Motivate executives to achieve company objectives• Align the financial interests of the executive officers with those of our stockholders |
| Employee benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members' experience and knowledge• Internal pay equity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract and retain experienced executives |

Base Salary

We provide base salary as a fixed source of compensation for our executives, allowing them a degree of certainty in the face of working for a development stage pharmaceutical company and having a meaningful portion of their compensation "at risk" in the form of RSUs and options to purchase shares of the company. The compensation committee recognizes the importance of base salaries as an element of compensation that helps to attract and retain our executives.

Base salaries for our executives are established based in part on individual negotiations with the executives when they join the company, and reflect the scope of their anticipated responsibilities, the individual experience they bring to the company, the committee members' experiences and knowledge in compensating similarly situated individuals at other companies, the company's annual budget for salary increases, internal pay equity among executives, reference to survey data, and performance (company and/or individual) in the prior year. Historically, base salaries have been reviewed, and, if necessary, adjusted annually, typically in connection with our annual performance review process. The compensation committee does not apply specific formulas to determine increases. While the compensation committee members consider existing salaries plus any discretionary bonuses awarded as compared to the 50th and 75th percentiles of total cash compensation paid to similarly situated executives using the survey data described above, such reference points are not solely determinative.

In the first quarter of 2009, our compensation committee reviewed the base salaries of our executive officers, as well as Dr. Palmer's then current rate of consulting fees, taking into account the factors described above. In particular, our compensation committee considered the achievement in 2008 of a number of significant company milestones, including successful preparation for Phase 2 studies, efficient completion of the first Phase 2 study and

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the first positive Phase 2 data for the ARX-01 program, the limited financial budget that our board of directors had allocated for salary increases on a company-wide basis in 2009, and attention to internal pay equity as among officers. Specifically, given our limited budget for salary increases due to our expected cash flow constraints, more of the salary increase budget was allocated to our Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Palmer (that is, an increase in her consulting fees), reflecting the compensation committee deference to internal pay equity (that is, their greater level of duties and responsibilities in running the company as compared to our other executives) and so that their total cash compensation would be closer to the 50th to 75th percentile of total cash compensation (given that we do not have a formal cash bonus program) as reflected in the survey data. The compensation committee determined that since the majority of the base salary compensation increases were awarded to Mr. Schreck and Dr. Palmer, only limited salary increases were made to Messrs. Hamel and Dasu. Therefore, the compensation committee awarded cash bonuses in respect of 2008 performance in the first quarter of 2009 to Messrs. Hamel and Dasu (and not Mr. Schreck or Dr. Palmer given their salary increases), in recognition of the significant roles Messrs. Hamel and Dasu played in 2008 in achieving the first positive Phase 2 data for the ARX-01 program and advancing our engineering efforts and so that their total cash compensation would be closer to the 50th to 75th percentile of total cash compensation as reflected in the survey data. Based on these factors, our compensation committee decided to adjust base salaries, retroactive to January 1, 2009, as set forth in the table below.

In July 2009, Dr. Palmer transitioned from her role as a consultant to a full time executive officer and employee. In connection with this transition, the compensation committee set her base salary for 2009 at \$375,000 on an annual basis, representing, on an annual basis, an increase from her consulting fee rates of \$350,000 per year (that is, from the level determined in the first quarter of 2009). The compensation committee set her base salary at this level based on her prior consulting rates, her individual negotiations and through assessment of internal pay equity (that is, the committee believed that as a founder and an executive officer, and given the scope of her responsibility, Dr. Palmer's salary should be closer to that of Mr. Schreck than the other executives).

In the first quarter of 2010, our compensation committee reviewed base salaries for our executive officers. The compensation committee considered the expected transition of Mr. Schreck from Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Palmer's recent hiring (and therefore the adequacy of her salary given her recent transition to full time employment) and did not make any adjustments to their salaries. However, the compensation committee wished to increase the base salary levels for Messrs. Hamel and Dasu to a level more reflective of their responsibilities and the importance of their role to our successful development of its product candidates. The adjustments set forth in the table below were made so that their base salaries would be closer to the 50th percentile of total cash compensation (given that we do not have a formal cash bonus program) as reflected in the survey data. Based on these factors, our compensation committee decided to adjust base salaries, retroactive to January 1, 2010, as set forth in the table below.

In the spring of 2010, we hired Mr. King and in October 2010, hired Mr. Welch. In connection with these new hires, the compensation committee set their base salaries on an annual basis as set forth in the table below. These decisions were based on individual negotiations (which reflect, in part, base salaries that these executives were being paid by their prior employers), internal pay equity (that is, Mr. King's salary should be greater than the other executive officers) and the scope of their expected responsibilities, particularly in connection with our preparations for our IPO.

| <u>Executive Officer</u> | <u>First quarter 2009 increase in base salary for 2009</u> | <u>New 2009 base salary</u> | <u>Percentile against Survey Data⁽¹⁾</u> | <u>Increase in base salary for 2010</u> | <u>New 2010 base salary</u> | <u>Percentile against Survey Data⁽¹⁾</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Richard A. King | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$ 400,000 | >75 th (2) |
| James H. Welch | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$ 290,000 | >75 th (2) |
| Thomas A. Schreck | \$ 50,000 | \$ 375,000 | <50 th | — | \$ 375,000 | <50 th |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | \$ 50,000 ⁽³⁾ | \$ 375,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | <50 th | — | \$ 375,000 | 50 th – 75 th |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | \$ 17,500 | \$ 262,500 | <50 th | \$ 12,500 | \$ 275,000 | <50 th |
| Badri Dasu | \$ 12,500 | \$ 247,500 | 50 th – 75 th | \$ 15,000 | \$ 262,500 | 50 th |

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- (1) Percentile of the executive's base salary, plus any bonus awarded to him or her for the applicable year (as set forth in the table below), as compared to total cash compensation reported in the surveys.
- (2) Assumes achievement of target bonus.
- (3) Increase in annual consulting fee level from \$300,000 to \$350,000 that occurred in the first quarter of 2009 prior to Dr. Palmer joining as an employee.
- (4) Upon joining as an employee in July 2009.

In March 2011, our board of directors, upon recommendation by our compensation committee, set 2011 salary increases for the named executive officers as set forth on the table below, effective January 1, 2011. The 2011 merit increase in the annual base salary of the named executive officers and the rest of the company was set at 3.3%, below the budgeted salary increase amount of 4%, an amount determined following the review of 2010 employment data compiled by Radford, an Aon Hewitt Company.

| <u>Executive officer</u> | <u>2011 Base Salary(\$)</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Richard A. King | 411,600 |
| James H. Welch | 290,000 |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 385,000 |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 283,000 |
| Badri Dasu | 270,500 |

Cash Bonuses

In addition to base salaries, from time to time we have paid discretionary cash bonuses to reward our executives for achieving our strategic objectives or to provide a one time additional cash payment in lieu of providing a salary increase in order to manage budgetary constraints. As part of our annual performance reviews, the compensation committee reviews the company's performance, as well as each executive's contributions to the company in the prior year and makes decisions regarding cash bonuses to be paid in respect of such performance. We have not historically set in advance specific performance goals related to bonus amounts that may be earned by our executive officers. Rather, as with many private companies, our compensation committee had decided to use a discretionary cash bonus system that looked at performance at the conclusion of the applicable year, and awarded cash bonuses based on its evaluation of performance, budgetary constraints, internal pay equity, the board members' experiences and knowledge in compensating similarly situated individuals at other companies, and, from time to time, compiled survey data.

At the conclusion of 2009, the compensation committee considered the company's financial position, including a reduction in force in December 2009, partnering status, and achievement against financing milestones. As a result, no cash bonuses were earned or paid in respect of 2009 performance.

Historically, the company has not set target bonus amounts, expressed as a percentage of base salary or otherwise, for its executive officers. However, in 2010, in connection with hiring Messrs. King and Welch, the compensation committee approved annual cash bonus targets of 35% of base salary for Mr. King and 30% of base salary for Mr. Welch. The compensation committee approved these levels based on individual negotiations which reflect, in part, target bonus opportunities that these executives were foregoing from their prior employers, the board members' experiences and internal pay equity. On December 17, 2010, upon recommendation by our compensation committee, our board of directors, in its discretion, based on the company's progress toward an IPO and Mr. King's general performance, and without weighting any specific factors, approved Mr. King's bonus of \$94,500. In March 2011, our board of directors, upon recommendation by our compensation committee, approved a bonus payment for 2010 performance in the amount of \$21,750 to Mr. Welch. No other named executive officers were eligible for bonus payments in 2010 pursuant to their offer letters.

Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards

We utilize long-term equity incentive awards in the form of options to purchase our common stock that, prior to our IPO, have been granted under our 2006 Stock Plan. Following our IPO, we have utilized long-term equity

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incentive awards in the form of stock options and RSUs granted under our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, or 2011 Incentive Plan. We believe that by providing our executives the opportunity to increase their ownership of our stock, the interests of stockholders and executives will be more aligned and our executives will be encouraged to focus on long-term performance. Stock options enable our executive officers to benefit, like stockholders, from any increases in the value of our shares, while also exposing them to the risk of loss from any decrease in the value of our shares. In contrast, RSUs provide value when they vest, so they retain some retention value even if our stock price declines or stays flat. We also believe that equity compensation is an integral component of our efforts to attract exceptional executives, senior management and employees.

As noted above, we believe that properly structured equity compensation works to align the long-term interests of stockholders and employees by creating a strong, direct link between employee compensation and stock price appreciation. Specifically, because we grant stock options with an exercise price not less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant (which in the past has been determined by our board of directors, as described below under “—Equity Granting Policies”), these options will have value to our executive officers only if the fair market value of our common stock increases after the date of grant and the date of vesting. Typically, stock options granted to our executive officers vest over 48 months, with 25% of the options vesting after 12 months, and the remainder vesting monthly over the next 36 months. This vesting schedule provides a retention incentive to our executive officers. Typically, the grants are made with a vesting commencement date of January 1 of the year of the grant to reflect that the grants are made with respect to prior year performance. We began issuing RSUs in March 2011 in order to provide additional incentives to our executive officers. The RSUs granted to our executive officers vest over 36 months, with 25% of the RSUs vesting six months from the vesting commencement date, 25% of the RSUs vesting 12 months from the vesting commencement date, 25% of the RSUs vesting 24 months from the vesting commencement date and 25% of the RSUs vesting 36 months from the vesting commencement date. This vesting schedule provides a retention incentive to our executive officers. In addition, we have agreed to the accelerated vesting of stock options and RSUs held by our executive officers upon an involuntary termination of employment following certain material corporate transactions, subject to executing an effective release of claims. We believe these accelerated vesting provisions reflect current market practices, based on the collective knowledge and experiences of our board members (and without reference to any specific peer group data), and allow us to attract and retain highly qualified executives. In addition, these accelerated vesting provisions allow our executive officers to focus on closing a transaction that may be in the best interest of our stockholders even though the transaction may otherwise result in a termination of their employment and, absent such accelerated vesting, a forfeiture of their unvested equity awards. In addition, we believe the automatic accelerated vesting upon a change of control (regardless of a termination event) that was approved by our board of directors in 2010 for Mr. Schreck’s options and other equity awards are appropriate given his transition in 2010 from a member of the company’s management team to Chairman of the Board as our other board member with outstanding options at that time, Mr. Rosen, had this vesting provision. Additional information regarding accelerated vesting prior to, upon or following a change in control is discussed below under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits.”

In early 2008, our board of directors established a fiscal budget and set of corporate objectives against which company performance would generally be evaluated. However, our board of directors did not prospectively establish a specific pool of shares or weighting of individual milestones that would result in equity awards to our executive officers. Major objectives for 2008 included the successful preparation for, initiation and completion of the ARX-01 Phase 2 knee replacement study, advancing ARX-02 towards initiation of a Phase 2 study, and the completion of the ARX-03 Phase 1 study. In mid-2008, our board of directors approved the addition of a second ARX-01 Phase 2 study start in abdominal surgery as a company goal. In early 2009, the compensation committee reviewed achievement against these goals and the recommendations our Chief Executive Officer on grant size. The compensation committee considered the role each executive played in achieving these goals, internal pay equity (that is, more of the grants should be allocated to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer given their responsibilities for running the company), and the compensation committee’s judgment based on its experience and knowledge. Our board of directors met in March 2009 and tentatively approved the compensation

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committee's recommendations, including an option grant to Mr. Schreck for 25,000 shares, with all of the option grants to be made at a future board meeting upon receipt of a third party valuation. In July 2009, our board of directors met after considering a third party valuation and other factors, and formally approved the grants that were tentatively approved in March 2009. In addition, our board of directors reflected on the fact that certain anticipated hires had not occurred in the interim, freeing up additional shares to be used for additional grants from the company's available share pool, and their evaluation of the need for an additional grant to Mr. Schreck to reward and motivate him, and granted an additional option award to him covering an additional 25,000 shares on the same date (for a total award on July 1, 2009 of 50,000 shares).

In early 2009, our board of directors established a budget of 150,000 to 180,000 shares for equity grants to be made to all of our employees, including executive officers, in respect of performance in 2009 – that is, it was intended that annual equity grants for 2009 would be made from this pool of shares at the end of the year based on achievement of certain performance goals. The pool was set at a level that our board of directors determined would provide adequate compensation for employees while limiting the dilutive impact on stockholders and prior to our preparations for the Series C preferred stock financing. The performance goals focused on milestones in the development of ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03, including the completion of the ARX-01 Phase 2 abdominal surgery study, the completion of the ARX-01 device functionality study, completion of the ARX-01 End of Phase 2 meeting, initiation of the ARX-02 Phase 2 cancer breakthrough pain study, and completion of the ARX-03 Phase 2 study. These goals were proposed by management and approved by the compensation committee. Any award of options at the end of 2009 after achievement of these goals was to be made entirely in the discretion of our board of directors without any reference to a formula or specific weighting.

In early 2010, our board of directors determined achievement against these goals. However, notwithstanding our actual achievement against these goals, our board of directors used its discretion and eliminated the original pool as a result of the dilution to employees caused by the closing of our Series C preferred stock financing that closed in November 2009. Instead, our board of directors determined the number of shares each executive officer was eligible to receive (based on factors described below) once the fair market value of our common stock could be reasonably determined, but did not make the actual grants of the options, as it was awaiting a third party valuation of our common stock. After considering that valuation and other factors, our board of directors met in June 2010 and made grants to our executive officers as set forth in the table below. The size of these grants reflected our board of directors' subjective consideration of internal pay equity (including the belief that more of the grants should be allocated to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer given their founder status and responsibilities for running the company), our board of directors' judgment based on its experiences and knowledge, and, most importantly the fact that the equity holdings of our employees, including our executive officers, were substantially diluted due to the closing of the Series C preferred stock financing. Prior to the closing of the Series C preferred stock financing, we had approximately 4.75 million shares outstanding; after the closing of the Series C preferred stock financing, we had approximately 11.5 million shares outstanding. Therefore, the grants made in 2010 as set forth in the table below reflect the decision to offset approximately 50% of the dilution the officers suffered as a result of the Series C preferred stock financing. The grants that were specifically intended to address the impact of the Series C preferred stock financing contained vesting provisions such that 25% of the stock option shares were vested on January 1, 2010 with the remaining 75% of the stock option shares vesting over three years. Management requested, and our board of directors approved, this special vesting schedule to help ameliorate the impact of the dilution from the financing. Our board of directors also, at that time, made an additional merit grant to Mr. Dasu in light of the importance of his role as the engineering leader of the ARX-01 device functionality study that achieved positive Phase 2 results. This grant was made with our standard four year vesting schedule. These grants were priced at 100% of the fair market value of our common stock, as determined by our board based in part on an independent third party valuation as of December 31, 2009.

In early 2010, our board established a budget of 175,000 to 237,500 shares for equity grants to all of our then-current employees (that is, exclusive of Messrs. King and Welch) to be granted in 2011 based on the achievement of certain performance goals in 2010. The pool was set at a level that our board of directors determined would

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provide adequate compensation for employees while limiting the dilutive impact on stockholders. These performance goals focused on milestones in the development of ARX-01, ARX-02 and ARX-03 as well as broader strategic objectives. These goals were proposed by management and approved by the compensation committee. Any award of options at the end of 2010 after achievement of these goals was to be made entirely at the discretion of our board of directors without any reference to a formula or specific weighting. In March 2011, our board of directors determined achievement against these goals, as described below.

In the spring of 2010, the company hired Mr. King and in the fall of 2010, the company hired Mr. Welch. In connection with these new hires, our board of directors granted stock options to these executives, in the amounts set forth below, based primarily on individual negotiations (which reflect, in part, equity awards that these executives were eligible for with their prior employers), and survey data providing for grants at the 50th percentile to chief executive officers in an amount equal to 4.8% of the outstanding stock of such companies and chief financial officers in an amount equal to 1% of the outstanding stock of such companies. Mr. King negotiated a limited severance vesting provision for his initial option grant that expired in May 2010, and our board of directors agreed to it as an inducement to have Mr. King join. The grants shown in the table below are equal to approximately 4% of the company for Mr. King and 1% of the company for Mr. Welch, on a fully diluted basis. In addition, Mr. King was eligible to be granted an option to purchase 115,208 shares of common stock of the company upon achievement of one of the following corporate milestones prior to June 30, 2011: (i) completion by the company of a qualifying partnering transaction, (ii) completion of our IPO, or (iii) completion of a private financing raising at least \$15 million from new investors. Mr. Welch was eligible to be granted an option covering 25,000 shares if we completed our IPO or a private financing raising at least \$15 million from new investors prior to June 30, 2011. All of these new hire grants are separate and apart from the 2010 pool described above, which pool was not increased as a result of the hiring of these executives. In March 2011, our board of directors, upon recommendation by our compensation committee, granted Messrs. King and Welch options to purchase 115,208 and 25,000 shares of common stock in connection with the completion of our IPO.

| <u>Executive officer</u> | <u>Number of options related to 2008 performance (granted 2009)</u> | <u>Number of options related to Series C dilution (granted in 2010)</u> | <u>Merit and special grants in 2010 (including new hire grants)</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Richard A. King | N/A | N/A | 456,610 |
| James H. Welch | N/A | N/A | 125,000 |
| Thomas A. Schreck | 50,000 | 218,750 | N/A |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 37,500 | 250,000 | N/A |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 12,500 | 62,500 | N/A |
| Badri Dasu | 6,250 | 30,000 | 25,000 |

In December 2010, our board of directors, out of an abundance of caution, allowed eligible optionees, including our named executive officers, to increase the exercise price of stock options granted to them on June 15, 2010 in light of the potential risk of adverse tax consequences under Code Section 409A. Under Section 409A, stock options with an exercise price that is less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant may be deemed deferred compensation subject to adverse taxation under Section 409A. When setting the exercise price for the June 15, 2010 stock option grants, our board of directors determined the fair market value of our common stock to be \$1.20 per share, which valuation was subsequently revisited for financial reporting purposes when our board of directors began to analyze the prospects of an IPO as described in more detail under “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of our Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation.” As such, our board of directors subsequently determined a fair value of our common stock for financial reporting purposes to be \$2.56 per share. We believe that our board of directors’ determination of the fair market value of our common stock on June 15, 2010 in reliance upon all material facts available to our board of directors on that date, was reasonable. However, given the potential adverse tax consequences to the optionees if the Internal Revenue Service determines that our original determination was grossly unreasonable, our board decided, out of an abundance of caution, to make the

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offer to amend. All of our eligible named executive officers accepted the offer, and their eligible options were amended on December 27, 2010 (as further set forth in the 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table below).

In March 2011, our board of directors evaluated the goals associated with the budget of 175,000 to 237,500 shares for equity grants set aside in early 2010, and upon recommendation by our compensation committee, granted stock options to our named executive officers taking into consideration corporate performance in 2010. The goals involved all aspects of the company, including clinical development objectives, business development objectives as well as issuance of patents concerning our product candidates. Additionally, Dr. Palmer and Messrs. Dasu and Hamel received incremental stock option grants as an additional incentive in recognition of the important roles each of them is anticipated to play going forward. In addition, our board of directors, upon recommendation by our compensation committee, granted RSUs to our named executive officers as further compensation in light of the option price increase that occurred in December 2010, as more fully described above and in “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase” elsewhere in this Form 10-K. At this time, our board of directors also granted to Messrs. King and Welch stock options in connection with the completion of our IPO pursuant to each of their employment agreements.

The following table sets forth the equity-based awards granted by the Committee under the 2011 Incentive Plan to our named executive officers in March 2011:

| <u>Named Executive Officer</u> | <u>Number of Shares Underlying Option Award⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</u> | <u>Number of Shares Underlying Option Award⁽²⁾⁽³⁾</u> | <u>Number of Shares Underlying Option Award⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾</u> | <u>Number of Restricted Stock Units⁽⁵⁾</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Richard A. King | — | — | 115,208 | 123,457 |
| James H. Welch | — | — | 25,000 | — |
| Thomas A. Schreck ⁽⁶⁾ | — | — | — | 59,145 |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 25,000 | 75,000 | — | 67,594 |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 11,000 | 20,000 | — | 16,899 |
| Badri Dasu | 12,500 | 40,000 | — | 14,871 |

(1) Stock options were granted pursuant to the 2011 Incentive Plan in recognition of company performance in 2010.

(2) The exercise price of each of the stock option grants is equal to \$3.45, which was the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant, March 2, 2011, as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market. The option vests as to 25% of the shares subject to the grant on the first anniversary of the vesting commencement date of the grant, March 2, 2011, with the remainder vesting in equal monthly installments over the following 36 months. The option includes a provision for double-trigger acceleration upon a change of control, as described in “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits—Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration” elsewhere in this Form 10-K. Vesting is contingent upon continued service.

(3) Stock options were granted pursuant to the 2011 Incentive Plan as an additional incentive to key employees in recognition of the important roles each of them are anticipated to play moving forward.

(4) Stock options were granted pursuant to the named executive officer’s employment agreement, which included a contingent option in the event our IPO occurred prior to June 30, 2011.

(5) RSUs were granted pursuant to the 2011 Incentive Plan as an additional incentive in light of the option exercise price increase that occurred in December 2010, as more fully described above and in “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase” elsewhere in this Form 10-K. The vesting commencement date of the RSUs was March 2, 2011. The RSUs vest 25% on the six month anniversary of the vesting commencement date, 25% on the 12 month anniversary of the vesting commencement date, 25% on the 24 month anniversary the vesting commencement date and 25% on the 36 month anniversary of the vesting commencement date. Except for Mr. Schreck, RSUs include a provision for double-trigger acceleration upon a change of control as described in “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits—Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration” elsewhere in this Form 10-K. For Mr. Schreck, RSUs include a provision for single trigger acceleration upon a change of control as described in “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits—Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration” elsewhere in this Form 10-K. Vesting is contingent upon continued service.

(6) Mr. Schreck resigned as our President and Chief Executive Officer effective April 30, 2010, but continues to serve on our board of directors.

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Equity Granting Policies

- We encourage our named executive officers to hold a significant equity interest in our company, but have not set specific ownership guidelines.
- While our board of directors has delegated authority to our compensation committee to make grants of long-term equity incentive awards to executive officers, all grants of long-term equity incentive awards previously awarded to our executive officers have been granted by our full board of directors.
- Prior to our IPO, other than our usual practice of granting equity awards in connection with our annual review process, we did not have any program, plan or obligation that required us to grant equity compensation on specified dates and, because we had not been a public company, we had not made equity grants in connection with the release or withholding of material non-public information. We do not currently have any program, plan or obligation requiring us to grant equity compensation on specific dates because the compensation committee believes its compensation practices are sufficient to retain the necessary talent.
- In the absence of a public trading market for our common stock prior to our IPO, our board of directors had historically determined the fair market value of our common stock in good faith based upon consideration of a number of relevant factors including our financial condition, the likelihood of a liquidity event, the liquidation preference of our participating preferred stock, the price at which our preferred stock was sold, the enterprise values of comparable companies, our cash needs, operating losses, progress in the research and development of our product candidates, market conditions, material risks to our business and valuation reports obtained from independent valuation firms.

Severance and Change in Control Benefits

The employment of all of our executive officers is “at will.” However, Messrs. King, Welch and Schreck and Dr. Palmer have been eligible to receive cash severance benefits upon certain involuntary terminations of employment under the terms of their respective offer letter agreements. In addition, our executive officers are eligible for accelerated vesting upon an involuntary termination following a change in control and Mr. Schreck, in his capacity as a board member, is now eligible for accelerated single trigger vesting upon a change of control, as described in more detail under “—Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards.” The terms of these severance and change in control benefits are further described below under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits.” These benefits reflect the negotiations of each of the applicable executive officers with the company, as well as a desire to reflect internal pay equity among our executive officers with respect to their potential severance benefits (for instance, only our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Medical Officer are currently offered cash severance benefits, and the severance benefits offered to our current Chief Executive Officer provide for a greater number of months of salary continuation than to our Chief Financial Officer or Chief Medical Officer, due to the breadth of his responsibilities within the company). We consider these severance benefits critical to attracting and retaining high caliber executives and our board believes the benefits are comparable to benefits provided to similarly situated executives at other private companies. In addition, we believe that change in control severance benefits, including accelerated vesting provisions, if structured appropriately, serve to minimize the distractions to an executive and reduce the risk that an executive officer terminates his employment with us before an acquisition is consummated. We believe that our existing arrangements allow our executive officers to focus on continuing normal business operations and, in the case of change in control benefits, on the success of a potential business combination, rather than being distracted by how business decisions that may be in the best interest of our stockholders will impact each executive officer’s own financial security. Specifically, our board believes these existing arrangements help ensure stability among our executive officers, and will help enable our executive officers to maintain a balanced perspective in making overall business decisions during periods of uncertainty.

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Other Employee Benefits

We provide the following benefits to the executive officers, on the same terms and conditions as provided to all other eligible employees:

- health, dental and vision insurance benefits;
- a limited life insurance benefit of \$15,000 as part of our health insurance plan; and
- participation in a 401(k) plan, with non-discretionary 3% safe harbor profit sharing contribution.

We believe these benefits are important to attracting and retaining experienced executives. Like many private companies, the company does not currently provide perquisites to the executive officers, given our attention to the cost-benefit tradeoff of such benefits, and our board of directors' knowledge of the benefit offerings at other private companies.

Tax Deductibility of Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Code limits our deduction for federal income tax purposes to not more than \$1.0 million of compensation paid to certain executive officers in a calendar year. Compensation above \$1.0 million may be deducted if it is "performance-based compensation." The compensation committee has not yet established a policy for determining which forms of incentive compensation awarded to our executive officers will be designed to qualify as "performance-based compensation." To maintain flexibility in compensating our executive officers in a manner designed to promote our objectives, the compensation committee has not adopted a policy that requires all compensation to be deductible. However, the compensation committee intends to evaluate the effects of the compensation deduction limits of Section 162(m) on any compensation it proposes to grant, and the compensation committee intends to provide future compensation in a manner consistent with the best interests of our stockholders.

Compensation Recovery Policies

The compensation committee has not determined whether it would attempt to recover bonuses from our executive officers if the performance objectives that led to the bonus determination were to be restated, or found not to have been met to the extent originally believed by the compensation committee. However, as a public company subject to the provisions of Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, if we are required as a result of misconduct to restate our financial results due to our material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirements under the federal securities laws, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer may be legally required to reimburse us for any bonus or other incentive-based or equity-based compensation they receive. In addition, the company will comply with the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and will adopt a compensation recovery policy once final regulations on the subject have been adopted.

Accounting Considerations

We account for equity compensation paid to our employees under FASB ASC 718, or ASC 718, which requires us to estimate and record an expense over the service period of the award. Our cash compensation is recorded as an expense at the time the obligation is accrued. The accounting impact of our compensation programs is one of many factors that are considered in determining the size and structure of our programs.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain summary information for the year indicated with respect to the compensation earned by our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, our former President and Chief Executive Officer (and acting principal financial officer) who resigned effective April 30, 2010, and each of our three other most highly compensated executive officers as of December 31, 2010. We refer to these individuals as our “named executive officers” elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

2010 and 2009 Summary Compensation Table

| <u>Name and Principal Position</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Salary (S)</u> | <u>Bonus (S)</u> | <u>Option Awards (S)(1)</u> | <u>All Other Compensation (S)(2)</u> | <u>Total (S)</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Richard A. King ⁽³⁾ <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> | 2010 | 306,667 | 94,500 | 925,032 | 6,000 | 1,332,199 |
| | 2009 | — | — | — | — | — |
| James H. Welch ⁽⁴⁾ <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> | 2010 | 72,500 | 21,750 | 450,426 | — | 544,676 |
| | 2009 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thomas A. Schreck ⁽⁵⁾ <i>Former President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer</i> | 2010 | 125,000 | — | 432,142 | 214,082 ⁽⁶⁾ | 771,224 |
| | 2009 | 375,000 | — | 98,071 | 7,350 | 480,421 |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. <i>Chief Medical Officer</i> | 2010 | 375,000 | — | 493,876 | 7,350 | 876,226 |
| | 2009 | 187,500 | — | 73,554 | 177,813 ⁽⁷⁾ | 438,867 |
| Lawrence G. Hamel <i>Chief Development Officer</i> | 2010 | 275,000 | — | 123,469 | 7,350 | 405,819 |
| | 2009 | 262,500 | — | 24,518 | 7,350 | 294,368 |
| Badri Dasu <i>Chief Engineering Officer</i> | 2010 | 262,500 | — | 109,912 | 7,350 | 379,762 |
| | 2009 | 247,500 | — | 12,259 | 7,350 | 267,109 |

⁽¹⁾ 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 Note 10 to our financial statements and the discussion under “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation” included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be recognized from the option awards by the named executive officers. The modification of stock option awards originally granted in June 2010 as described under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase” did not result in an increase in the fair value of such stock option awards under ASC 718.

⁽²⁾ Except as otherwise noted, the dollar amounts in this column represent company profit sharing contributions under our 401(k) plan.

⁽³⁾ Mr. King has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since May 1, 2010 and did not receive any compensation from us in any capacity during the year ended December 31, 2009. Mr. King also served as our principal financial officer from May 1, 2010 until September 30, 2010.

⁽⁴⁾ Mr. Welch has served as our Chief Financial Officer since October 1, 2010 and did not receive any compensation from us in any capacity during the year ended December 31, 2009.

⁽⁵⁾ Mr. Schreck resigned as our President and Chief Executive Officer effective April 30, 2010 but continues to serve on our board of directors. Mr. Schreck also served as our principal financial officer until his resignation.

⁽⁶⁾ Represents \$7,350 in company profit sharing contributions under our 401(k) plan, \$187,500 in base salary continuation and \$19,232 in company-paid health coverage and benefits. For more information regarding Mr. Schreck’s post-employment compensatory arrangements, please see “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits—Thomas Schreck Employment and Resignation Agreements.”

⁽⁷⁾ Represents \$2,813 in company profit sharing contributions under our 401(k) plan and \$175,000 in consulting fees.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

The following table provides information regarding grants of plan-based awards to each of our named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2010. During the year ended December 31, 2010, none of our named executive officers were awarded any equity incentive plan awards, non-equity incentive plan awards or stock awards.

2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Grant Date</u> ⁽¹⁾ | <u>All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options</u> ^(#) ⁽²⁾ | <u>Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards</u> ^(\$/Sh) ⁽³⁾ | <u>Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards</u> ^(\$) ⁽⁴⁾ |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Richard A. King | 06/15/10 | 456,610 ⁽⁵⁾ | 1.20 | 925,032 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |
| James H. Welch | 11/04/10 | 125,000 ⁽⁷⁾ | 5.32 | 450,426 |
| Thomas A. Schreck | 06/15/10 | 218,750 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.20 | 432,142 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 06/15/10 | 250,000 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.20 | 493,876 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 06/15/10 | 62,500 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.20 | 123,469 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |
| Badri Dasu | 06/15/10 | 30,000 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.20 | 59,265 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |
| | 06/15/10 | 25,000 ⁽⁹⁾ | 1.20 | 50,647 |
| | 12/27/10 | ⁽⁶⁾ | 2.56 | — |

⁽¹⁾ Grant date of the option awards or, in the case of repriced option awards, the date of repricing.

⁽²⁾ The stock options reflected in this column were granted under our 2006 Plan. For a description of the terms of stock options granted under our 2006 Plan, please see “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—2006 Stock Plan.”

⁽³⁾ Our common stock was not publicly traded during 2010, and the exercise price of the options was determined by our board of directors on the grant date based on its determination of the fair market value of our common stock on such grant date. For more information on our methodology for determining the exercise price of the options, see “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation” appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

⁽⁴⁾ The dollar amounts in this column represent the grant date fair value of each option award 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 Note 10 to our financial statements and the discussion under “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation” appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by the named executive officers.

⁽⁵⁾ 28,538 of the shares subject to the option award were vested as of the grant date, 85,614 of the shares subject to the option award will vest on March 3, 2011, and the remaining shares subject to the option award will vest on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

⁽⁶⁾ Shows the increase in the exercise price of the option award referenced in the line immediately above. As described under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase,” certain of the option awards granted to our named executive officers in 2010 were amended to increase the exercise price of the option awards from \$1.20 per share to \$2.56 per share. The repricing did not result in an increase in the fair value of these option awards under ASC 718.

⁽⁷⁾ The shares subject to this option award will vest as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option award on September 30, 2011 with the remaining shares subject to the option award vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

⁽⁸⁾ The shares subject to this option award vested as to 1/2 of the shares subject to the option award on December 31, 2010 with the remaining shares subject to the option award vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 24 months.

⁽⁹⁾ The shares subject to this option award vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option award on December 31, 2010 with the remaining shares subject to the option award vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits

Thomas Schreck Employment and Resignation Agreements

In August 2006, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Schreck that provides for an initial base salary and discretionary bonus eligibility, as well as certain severance benefits. Under the employment agreement, in the event that Mr. Schreck's employment had terminated without cause or had terminated as a result of a voluntary termination by Mr. Schreck for certain stated reasons within 18 months after a change of control, as these terms are used in the employment agreement, Mr. Schreck would have been entitled to the following severance benefits, subject to Mr. Schreck executing a general release of claims in favor of us:

- a single lump-sum payment equal to six months of his base salary in effect as of the date of his termination;
- full vesting acceleration of all stock options and stock awards granted to Mr. Schreck under the 2006 Plan; and
- the same level of company-paid health coverage and benefits in effect for Mr. Schreck as of immediately prior to his termination date for a period of up to six months provided, among other things, that Mr. Schreck would have timely elected continuation under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, or COBRA.

In addition, under the employment agreement, in the event that Mr. Schreck's employment had terminated without cause or had terminated as a result of a voluntary termination by Mr. Schreck for certain stated reasons before a change of control, as these terms are used in the employment agreement, Mr. Schreck would have been entitled to the same benefits described above except for the stock option and stock award vesting acceleration.

Effective April 30, 2010, Mr. Schreck resigned as our President and Chief Executive Officer, but continues to serve on our board of directors. In connection with his resignation, we entered into a resignation letter agreement with Mr. Schreck that provides for continuation of his base salary in effect as of the effective date of resignation (\$375,000) for six months, commencing within 30 days after the effective date of his resignation, and the same level of company-paid health coverage and benefits in effect for Mr. Schreck as of the effective date of his termination for a period of six months (subject to his timely COBRA election). The resignation letter agreement also provides for continued vesting of his stock option awards and restricted stock for so long as he continues to serve on our board of directors or as a consultant to us, and provides for a general release of claims in favor of us. Please refer to "—Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration" below for description of Mr. Schreck's current stock option vesting acceleration.

Offer Letter Agreements

We have entered into offer letter agreements with each of our named executive officers, other than Mr. Schreck, in connection with each named executive officer's commencement of employment with us. These offer letter agreements provide for the named executive officer's initial base salary, eligibility to participate in our standard benefit plans and in certain cases, the named executive officer's initial stock option grant along with vesting provisions with respect to that initial stock option grant. We amended and restated these offer letter agreements in December 2010 to clarify certain terms for compliance with tax laws, to specify the terms of the option to be granted to Mr. King upon achievement of certain milestones and to provide additional change of control severance benefits to Mr. Welch and Dr. Palmer.

Under Mr. King's, Mr. Welch's and Dr. Palmer's respective offer letter agreements, in the event that such executive's employment is terminated by us without cause, or such executive resigns for good reason, or in a manner that constitutes an involuntary termination, in each case within one year following a change in control, as these terms are defined in the offer letters, each will be entitled to base salary and health benefits continuation for

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a period of twelve months in the case of Mr. King, and six months in the case of each of Mr. Welch and Dr. Palmer. Mr. King is also entitled to base salary and health benefits continuation for a period of twelve months in connection with a termination by us without cause that is not in connection with a change of control. Dr. Palmer's offer letter agreement also provides for a lump sum cash severance payment if she is terminated by us without cause (other than in connection with a change of control) during the first two years of her employment, which commenced on July 1, 2009, equal to four months of Dr. Palmer's base salary at the time of her termination plus two weeks of salary for every full year of regular, full time employment she has completed with us as of her termination. Please refer to "—Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration" below for description of the current stock option vesting acceleration for each of our executive officers. In order to receive severance benefits, each such executive must sign a waiver and release of claims.

Mr. King's and Mr. Welch's offer letters also provide for an opportunity to earn a target annual bonus of 35% and 30% of base salary, and Mr. King was entitled to an additional option grant covering 115,208 shares of our common stock upon achievement of one of the following corporate milestones prior to June 30, 2011: (i) completion by the company of a qualifying partnering transaction, (ii) completion of our IPO, or (iii) completion of a private financing raising at least \$15 million from new investors. Mr. Welch was entitled to an additional option grant covering 25,000 shares if we completed our IPO or a private financing raising at least \$15 million from new investors prior to June 30, 2011. In December 2010, our board of directors approved a bonus payment of \$94,200 to Mr. King in connection with his annual target bonus pursuant to his employment agreement. In March 2011, our board of directors approved a bonus payment of \$21,750 to Mr. Welch in connection with his annual target bonus pursuant to his employment agreement. In March 2011, our board of directors also granted Mr. King and Mr. Welch options to purchase 115,208 and 25,000 shares of our common stock in connection with the completion of our IPO pursuant to each of their employment agreements.

Each of our executive officers are employed "at-will," and each such executive officer's employment may be terminated at any time by us or the named executive officer.

Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting Acceleration

Each of our executive officers, other than Mr. Schreck, are entitled to full "double-trigger" stock option and RSU vesting acceleration benefits (for all currently outstanding stock options and RSUs and any stock options and RSUs that may be granted in the future) in the event their service with us is terminated by us without cause, or such executive resigns for good reason, or in a manner that constitutes an involuntary termination, in each case within 18 months following a change in control, subject to signing an effective release of claims. Mr. Schreck was entitled to double-trigger vesting acceleration benefits while he served as our President and Chief Executive Officer. In September 2010, we amended the terms of each of Mr. Schreck's stock options granted to him while he was an employee to provide for full stock option vesting acceleration on a "single-trigger" basis, meaning that he is entitled to full stock option vesting acceleration immediately upon such a change in control transaction. Mr. Schreck's RSUs provide for full vesting acceleration on a "single-trigger" basis, meaning that he is entitled to full RSU vesting acceleration immediately upon a change in control transaction.

Founder's Vesting Agreements

Each of Mr. Schreck and Dr. Palmer, our co-founders, entered into founder's vesting agreements with us in August 2006. Under these agreements, 125,000 of the 250,000 shares of our common stock held by each of Mr. Schreck and Dr. Palmer became restricted and made subject to vesting in equal monthly installments over a four year period commencing on September 15, 2006. As of August 15, 2010, all of these restricted shares had vested in full. Under the founder's vesting agreement with Dr. Palmer, in the event that Dr. Palmer's service with us as an employee or consultant had terminated without cause or had terminated as a result of a voluntary termination by Dr. Palmer for certain stated reasons within 18 months after a change of control, as these terms are used in her founder's vesting agreement, and Dr. Palmer had signed a general release of claims in favor of us, any of her unvested restricted shares then held would have become fully vested as of the date of her termination.

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Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

Please refer to the section entitled “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits” above for a description of the compensation and benefits payable to each of our named executive officers in certain termination situations. The amount of compensation and benefits payable to each named executive officer, other than Mr. Schreck, in various termination situations has been estimated in the tables below, assuming the applicable termination event occurred on December 31, 2010. All of the potential compensation and benefits listed in the tables below are compensation or benefits that would have been made, pursuant to the terms of the offer letter agreements with our named executive officers and the terms of the 2006 Plan and the stock option agreements thereunder. For purposes of the tables below, we have assumed that none of the potential compensation and benefits would be subject to the excise tax imposed pursuant Section 4999 of the Code and therefore reduced in accordance with the terms of the applicable agreements.

We entered into a resignation letter agreement with Mr. Schreck in connection with his resignation as our President and Chief Executive Officer as described under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits.” Pursuant to the resignation letter agreement with Mr. Schreck, we continued to pay his base salary that was in effect as of the effective date of his resignation for a six month period following his resignation, or a total of \$187,500 in base salary continuation payments, and provided Mr. Schreck with six months of continued company-paid health coverage and benefits at a cost to us of \$19,232 in the aggregate. The resignation letter agreement also provides for continued vesting of his stock option awards and restricted stock for so long as he continues to serve on our board of directors or as a consultant to us, and provides for a general release of claims in favor of us.

Richard A. King

| <u>Compensation and Benefits</u> | <u>Termination Without Cause Not in Connection With a Change in Control (\$)</u> | <u>Change in Control and Termination Without Cause or For Good Reason (\$)</u> |
|--|--|--|
| Base continuation ⁽¹⁾ | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| Continued health coverage ⁽²⁾ | 19,320 | 19,320 |
| Stock option vesting acceleration ⁽³⁾ | — | 1,044,495 |

⁽¹⁾ Represents twelve months of base salary continuation payments.

⁽²⁾ Represents twelve months of continued company-paid health coverage.

⁽³⁾ Because we were a privately-held concern at December 31, 2010, the value of vesting acceleration is calculated based on our IPO price per share of \$5.00 with respect to unvested option shares subject to acceleration minus the exercise price of these unvested option shares.

James H. Welch

| <u>Compensation and Benefits</u> | <u>Change in Control and Termination Without Cause or Eligible Voluntary Termination (\$)</u> |
|--|---|
| Base continuation ⁽¹⁾ | 145,000 |
| Continued health coverage ⁽²⁾ | 11,197 |
| Stock option vesting acceleration ⁽³⁾ | 0 |

⁽¹⁾ Represents six months of base salary continuation payments.

⁽²⁾ Represents six months of continued company-paid health coverage.

⁽³⁾ Because we were a privately-held concern at December 31, 2010, the value of vesting acceleration is calculated based on the IPO price per share of \$5.00 with respect to unvested option shares subject to acceleration minus the exercise price of these unvested option shares.

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

| <u>Compensation and Benefits</u> | <u>Upon Termination Prior to Employment Anniversary Not in Connection With a Change in Control (s)(1)</u> | <u>Change in Control and Termination Without Cause or Eligible Voluntary Termination (\$)</u> |
|--|---|---|
| Severance payment | 140,625 | — |
| Base continuation ⁽²⁾ | — | 187,500 |
| Continued health coverage ⁽³⁾ | — | 5,742 |
| Stock option vesting acceleration ⁽⁴⁾ | — | 304,625 |

⁽¹⁾ Dr. Palmer is entitled to severance in the event her employment is terminated during the first two years of her employment, which commenced on July 1, 2009. The amount listed in this column represents a severance payment equal to four months of Dr. Palmer's base salary plus two weeks of salary for the full year of regular, full time employment Dr. Palmer had completed with us as of December 31, 2010.

⁽²⁾ Represents six months of base salary continuation payments.

⁽³⁾ Represents six months of continued company-paid health coverage.

⁽⁴⁾ Because we were a privately-held concern at December 31, 2010, the value of stock option vesting acceleration is calculated based on the IPO price per share of \$5.00 with respect to unvested option shares subject to acceleration minus the exercise price of these unvested option shares.

Other Named Executive Officers

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Change in Control and Termination Without Cause or Eligible Voluntary Termination Stock Option Vesting Acceleration (s)(1)</u> |
|-------------------|---|
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 93,738 |
| Badri Dasu | 107,444 |

⁽¹⁾ Because we were a privately-held concern at December 31, 2010, the value of vesting acceleration is calculated based on the IPO price per share of \$5.00 with respect to unvested option shares subject to acceleration minus the exercise price of these unvested option shares.

Employee Benefit and Stock Plans

2006 Stock Plan

Our board of directors adopted, and our stockholders approved, the 2006 Stock Plan, or 2006 Plan, in August 2006. The 2006 Plan was subsequently amended by our board or directors and approved by our stockholders in each of February 2008 and November 2009. The 2006 Plan provides for the grant of incentive stock options, nonstatutory stock options and rights to acquire restricted stock. Effective upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, no additional stock options or other stock awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan. All outstanding stock options and other stock awards previously granted under the 2006 Plan will remain subject to the terms of the 2006 Plan.

Share reserve. There were initially 2,093,059 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the 2006 Plan. As of the date of the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, 32,569 shares of common stock had been issued upon the exercise of stock options or pursuant to stock awards granted under the 2006 Plan, and options to purchase 2,008,797 shares of common stock were outstanding at a weighted average exercise price of \$2.91 per share. As of the date of the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, the 51,693 shares available for future grant under the 2006 Plan became available for future grant under the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, and no additional shares were available for grant under the 2006 Plan.

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Administration. Our board of directors administers our 2006 Plan. Our board of directors, referred to as the plan administrator, has the authority to interpret the 2006 Plan, as well as to determine the terms of a stock award or amend the terms of a stock award. No amendment to the 2006 Plan or any award agreement thereunder may adversely affect the rights under any outstanding stock award unless the holder consents to that amendment. However, the plan administrator may unilaterally amend the 2006 Plan or the terms of an outstanding award agreement to conform the 2006 Plan or such stock award to any law, regulation or rule applicable to the 2006 Plan, including, but not limited to, Section 409A of the Code, as the plan administrator deems necessary or advisable.

Eligibility. The 2006 Plan provided for the grant of options and stock awards to our employees, directors and consultants. Incentive stock options were granted only to employees. Nonstatutory stock options and stock awards were granted to employees, directors and consultants.

Stock option provisions generally. In general, the exercise price of a stock option could not be less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. However, an incentive stock option granted to a person who on the date of grant owned more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of our stock or any of our affiliates' stock must have had an exercise price that is at least 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant.

Generally, an optionee may not transfer his or her stock option other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. Shares subject to options under the 2006 Plan generally vest and become exercisable in periodic installments. With the exception of stock options issued to an officer, a director or a consultant, shares subject to stock options under the 2006 Plan must vest and become exercisable at a rate not less than 20% per year over a period of five years from the date of grant of the option, subject to the optionee's continued service.

The aggregate fair market value, determined at the time of grant, of shares of our common stock with respect to which incentive stock options are exercisable for the first time by an optionee during any calendar year under all of our stock plans may not exceed \$100,000. Options or portions thereof that exceed such limit will be treated as nonstatutory stock options.

The plan administrator determined the term of stock options granted under the 2006 Plan, up to a maximum of 10 years, provided that incentive stock options granted to persons who own more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of our stock or any of our affiliates' stock may not have a term of more than five years. Unless the terms of an optionee's stock option agreement provided otherwise, if an optionee's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases for any reason other than disability, death or cause, the optionee generally may exercise the vested portion of any stock options for a period of three months following the cessation of service. If an optionee's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases due to disability or death, or an optionee dies within three months following cessation of service, the optionee or a beneficiary may generally exercise any vested options for a period of 12 months. The option term may be further extended in the event that exercise of the stock option following termination of the optionee's service is prohibited by applicable securities laws. In no event may an option be exercised beyond the expiration of its term. In the event of a termination for cause, options generally terminate immediately upon the termination of the optionee's service. Unless otherwise defined in an optionee's award agreement or in a written employment agreement or contract of service between an optionee and us, cause refers to an optionee's termination due to (1) the optionee's theft, dishonesty, willful misconduct, breach of fiduciary duty for personal profit, or falsification of any of our documents or records; (2) the optionee's material failure to abide by a code of conduct or other policies of ours (including, without limitation, policies relating to confidentiality and reasonable workplace conduct); (3) the optionee's unauthorized use, misappropriation, destruction or diversion of any tangible or intangible asset or corporate opportunity of ours (including, without limitation, the optionee's improper use or disclosure of our confidential or proprietary information); (4) any intentional act by the optionee which has a material detrimental effect on our reputation or business; (5) the optionee's repeated failure or inability to perform any reasonable assigned duties after written notice from us of, and a reasonable opportunity

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to cure, such failure or inability; (6) any material breach by the optionee of any employment or service agreement between the optionee and us, which breach is not cured pursuant to the terms of such agreement; or (7) the optionee'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 optionee's ability to perform his or her duties with us.

Acceptable consideration for the purchase of common stock issued upon the exercise of a stock option will be determined by the plan administrator and may include (a) cash, check or cash equivalent, (b) the tender to us, or attestation to the ownership, of shares of our common stock previously owned by the optionee, (c) a broker-assisted cashless exercise, (d) other legal consideration approved by the plan administrator or (e) any combination of the foregoing.

Changes to capital structure. In the event that there is a specified type of change in our capital structure, such as a stock split or recapitalization, appropriate adjustments will be made to the number of shares and price per share of all outstanding options and stock awards under the 2006 Plan.

Change in control. In the event of certain change in control transactions involving us, such as our liquidation or dissolution or an event that results in a material change in the ownership of our company, the plan administrator has the discretion to take any of the following actions with respect to stock awards under the 2006 Plan:

- accelerate the vesting of a stock award;
- arrange for the assumption, continuation or substitution of a stock award by the surviving or acquiring entity or its parent company; or
- cancel or arrange for the cancellation of the stock award in exchange for a payment in (1) cash, (2) stock, or (3) other property, and in any such case in an amount equal to the fair market value of the consideration to be paid per share of stock in the change of control over the exercise price per share.

Stock awards that are neither assumed or continued by the surviving or acquiring entity or its parent company nor exercised as of the effective time of the change in control will terminate and cease to be outstanding as of the effective time of the change in control.

Option Exercise Price Increase

In December 2010, our board of directors, out of an abundance of caution, allowed eligible optionees, including our named executive officers, to increase the exercise price of stock options granted to them on June 15, 2010 in light of the potential risk of adverse tax consequences under Code Section 409A. Under Section 409A, stock options with an exercise price that is less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant may be deemed deferred compensation subject to adverse taxation under Section 409A. When setting the exercise price for the June 15, 2010 stock option grants, our board of directors determined the fair market value of our common stock to be \$1.20 per share, which valuation was subsequently revisited for financial reporting purposes when our board of directors began to analyze the prospects of an IPO as described in more detail under "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of our Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation." As such, our board of directors subsequently determined a fair value of our common stock for financial reporting purposes to be \$2.56 per share. We believe that our board of directors' determination of the fair market value of our common stock on June 15, 2010 in reliance upon all material facts available to our board of directors on that date, was reasonable. However, given the potential adverse tax consequences to the optionees if the Internal Revenue Service determines that our original determination was grossly unreasonable, our board decided, out of an abundance of caution, to make the offer to amend. All of our eligible named executive officers accepted the offer, and their eligible options were amended on December 27, 2010 (as further set forth in the 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table above).

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2011 Equity Incentive Plan

Our board of directors adopted, and our stockholders approved, the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, or 2011 Incentive Plan, in January 2011 as a successor to the 2006 Plan. The 2011 Incentive Plan became effective immediately upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO. The 2011 Incentive Plan will terminate on January 4, 2021, unless sooner terminated by our board of directors. Our board of directors may amend or suspend the 2011 Incentive Plan at any time, although no such action may impair the rights under any then-outstanding award without the holder's consent.

Stock awards. The 2011 Incentive Plan provides for the grant of incentive stock options, nonstatutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards, performance-based stock awards, and other forms of equity compensation, or collectively, stock awards, all of which may be granted to employees, including officers, and to non-employee directors and consultants. Additionally, the 2011 Incentive Plan provides for the grant of performance cash awards. Incentive stock options may be granted only to employees. All other awards may be granted to employees, including officers, and to non-employee directors and consultants.

Share reserve. The initial aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued pursuant to stock awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan is 1,875,000 shares, which number was the sum of (i) 51,693 shares remaining available for future grant under the 2006 Plan at the time of the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, and (ii) an additional 1,823,307 new shares. Then, the number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting on January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, by 4% of the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, or such lesser number of shares of common stock as determined by our board of directors. The maximum number of shares that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of incentive stock options under the 2011 Incentive Plan is 10,000,000 shares.

No person may be granted stock awards covering more than 1,000,000 shares of our common stock under our 2011 Incentive Plan during any calendar year pursuant to stock options, stock appreciation rights and other stock awards whose value is determined by reference to an increase over an exercise or strike price of at least 100% of the fair market value on the date the stock award is granted. Additionally, no person may be granted in a calendar year a performance stock award covering more than 750,000 shares or a performance cash award having a maximum value in excess of \$1,000,000. Such limitations are designed to help assure that any deductions to which we would otherwise be entitled with respect to such awards will not be subject to the \$1,000,000 limitation on the income tax deductibility of compensation paid to any covered executive officer imposed by Section 162(m) of the Code.

If a stock award granted under the 2011 Incentive Plan expires or otherwise terminates without being exercised in full, or is settled in cash, the expiration, termination or settlement shall not reduce (or otherwise offset) the number of shares of common stock that may be available for issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan. In addition, the following types of shares under the 2011 Incentive Plan may become available for the grant of new stock awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan: (1) shares that are forfeited to or repurchased by us prior to becoming fully vested; (2) shares withheld to satisfy income or employment withholding taxes; or (3) shares used to pay the exercise price of an option. Shares issued under the 2011 Incentive Plan may be previously unissued shares or reacquired shares bought by us on the open market. As of the date hereof, no awards have been granted and no shares of our common stock have been issued under the 2011 Incentive Plan.

Administration. Our board of directors, or a duly authorized committee thereof, has the authority to administer the 2011 Incentive Plan. Our board of directors has delegated its authority to administer the 2011 Incentive Plan to our compensation committee under the terms of the compensation committee's charter. Our board of directors may also delegate to one or more of our officers the authority to (1) designate employees (other than other officers) to be recipients of stock options or stock appreciation rights, and (2) determine the number of shares of

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common stock to be subject to such stock awards, provided that our board of directors must specify the total number of shares of common stock that may be subject to stock awards granted by such officer and that such officer may not grant a stock award to himself or herself. Subject to the terms of the 2011 Incentive Plan, our board of directors or the authorized committee or officer, referred to as the plan administrator, determines recipients, dates of grant, the numbers and types of stock awards to be granted and the terms and conditions of the stock awards, including the period of their exercisability and vesting schedule applicable to a stock award. Subject to the limitations set forth below, the plan administrator will also determine the exercise price, strike price or purchase price of awards granted and the types of consideration to be paid for the award.

The plan administrator has the authority to reduce the exercise price (or strike price) of any outstanding option or stock appreciation right, cancel and re-grant any outstanding option or stock appreciation right or take any other action that is treated as a repricing under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, with the consent of any adversely affected participant.

Stock options. Incentive and nonstatutory stock options are granted pursuant to stock option agreements adopted by the plan administrator. The plan administrator determines the exercise price for a stock option, within the terms and conditions of the 2011 Incentive Plan, provided that the exercise price of a stock option generally cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Options granted under the 2011 Incentive Plan vest at the rate specified by the plan administrator.

The plan administrator determines the term of stock options granted under the 2011 Incentive Plan, up to a maximum of 10 years. Unless the terms of an optionee's stock option agreement provides otherwise, if an optionee's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases for any reason other than disability, death or cause, the optionee may generally exercise any vested options for a period of three months following the cessation of service. The option term may be extended in the event that exercise of the option or sale of shares received upon exercise of the option following such a termination of service is prohibited by applicable securities laws or our insider trading policy. If an optionee's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases due to disability or death, or an optionee dies within a certain period following cessation of service, the optionee or a beneficiary may generally exercise any vested options for a period of 12 months in the event of disability and 18 months in the event of death. In the event of a termination for cause, options generally terminate immediately upon the occurrence of the event giving rise to the right to terminate the individual for cause. In no event may an option be exercised beyond the expiration of its term.

Acceptable consideration for the purchase of common stock issued upon the exercise of a stock option will be determined by the plan administrator and may include (1) cash, check, bank draft or money order, (2) a broker-assisted cashless exercise, (3) the tender of shares of our common stock previously owned by the optionee, (4) a net exercise of the option if it is a nonstatutory option, and (5) other legal consideration approved by the plan administrator.

Unless the plan administrator provides otherwise, options generally are not transferable except by will, the laws of descent and distribution, or pursuant to a domestic relations order. An optionee may designate a beneficiary, however, who may exercise the option following the optionee's death.

Tax limitations on incentive stock options. The aggregate fair market value, determined at the time of grant, of our common stock with respect to incentive stock options that are exercisable for the first time by an optionee during any calendar year under all of our stock plans may not exceed \$100,000. Options or portions thereof that exceed such limit will generally be treated as nonstatutory stock options. No incentive stock option may be granted to any person who, at the time of the grant, owns or is deemed to own stock possessing more than 10% of our total combined voting power or that of any of our affiliates unless (1) the option exercise price is at least 110% of the fair market value of the stock subject to the option on the date of grant, and (2) the term of the incentive stock option does not exceed five years from the date of grant.

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Restricted stock awards. Restricted stock awards are granted pursuant to restricted stock award agreements adopted by the plan administrator. Restricted stock awards may be granted in consideration for (1) cash, check, bank draft or money order, (2) past services rendered to us or our affiliates, or (3) any other form of legal consideration. Common stock acquired under a restricted stock award may, but need not, be subject to a share repurchase option in our favor in accordance with a vesting schedule to be determined by the plan administrator. Rights to acquire shares under a restricted stock award may be transferred only upon such terms and conditions as set by the plan administrator.

Restricted stock unit awards. Restricted stock unit awards are granted pursuant to restricted stock unit award agreements adopted by the plan administrator. The plan administrator will determine the vesting terms of restricted stock unit awards. The plan administrator will determine the consideration to be paid, if any, by the participant upon delivery for each share subject to a restricted stock unit award, which may be paid in any form of legal consideration acceptable to the plan administrator. A restricted stock unit award may be settled by cash, delivery of stock, a combination of cash and stock as deemed appropriate by the plan administrator, or in any other form of consideration set forth in the restricted stock unit award agreement. Additionally, dividend equivalents may be credited in respect of shares covered by a restricted stock unit award. Except as otherwise provided in the applicable award agreement, restricted stock units that have not vested will be forfeited upon the participant's cessation of continuous service for any reason.

Stock appreciation rights. Stock appreciation rights are granted pursuant to stock appreciation right grant agreements adopted by the plan administrator. The plan administrator determines the strike price for a stock appreciation right, which generally cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Upon the exercise of a stock appreciation right, we will pay the participant an amount equal to the product of (1) the excess of the per share fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise over the strike price, multiplied by (2) the number of shares of common stock with respect to which the stock appreciation right is exercised. A stock appreciation right granted under the 2011 Incentive Plan vests at the rate specified in the stock appreciation right grant agreement as determined by the plan administrator.

The plan administrator determines the term of stock appreciation rights granted under the 2011 Incentive Plan, up to a maximum of ten years. Unless the terms of a participant's stock appreciation right grant agreement provides otherwise, if a participant's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases for any reason other than cause, disability or death, the participant may generally exercise any vested stock appreciation right for a period of three months following the cessation of service. The stock appreciation right term may be further extended in the event that exercise of the stock appreciation right or the sale of shares received upon exercise of the stock appreciation right following such a termination of service is prohibited by applicable securities laws. If a participant's service relationship with us, or any of our affiliates, ceases due to disability or death, or a participant dies within a certain period following cessation of service, the participant or a beneficiary may generally exercise any vested stock appreciation right for a period of 12 months in the event of disability and 18 months in the event of death. In the event of a termination for cause, stock appreciation rights generally terminate immediately upon the occurrence of the event giving rise to the right to terminate the individual for cause. In no event may a stock appreciation right be exercised beyond the expiration of its term.

Performance awards. The 2011 Incentive Plan permits the grant of performance-based stock and cash awards that may qualify as performance-based compensation not subject to the \$1,000,000 limitation on the income tax deductibility of compensation paid to a covered executive officer imposed by Section 162(m) of the Code. To help assure that the compensation attributable to performance-based awards will so qualify, our compensation committee can structure such awards so that stock or cash will be issued or paid pursuant to such award only after the achievement of certain pre-established performance goals during a designated performance period.

The performance goals that may be selected include one or more of the following: (1) earnings (including earnings per share and net earnings); (2) earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation; (3) earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; (4) total stockholder return; (5) return on equity or average

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stockholders' equity; (6) return on assets, investment, or capital employed; (7) stock price; (8) margin (including gross margin); (9) income (before or after taxes); (10) operating income; (11) operating income after taxes; (12) pre-tax profit; (13) operating cash flow; (14) sales or revenue targets; (15) increases in revenue or product revenue; (16) expenses and cost reduction goals; (17) improvement in or attainment of working capital levels; (18) economic value added (or an equivalent metric); (19) market share; (20) cash flow; (21) cash flow per share; (22) share price performance; (23) debt reduction; (24) implementation or completion of projects or processes; (25) customer satisfaction; (26) stockholders' equity; (27) capital expenditures; (28) debt levels; (29) operating profit or net operating profit; (30) workforce diversity; (31) growth of net income or operating income; (32) billings; and (33) to the extent that an award is not intended to comply with Section 162(m) of the Code, other measures of performance selected by our board of directors.

The 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 (1) in the award agreement at the time the award is granted or (2) in such other document setting forth the performance goals at the time the goals are established, the plan administrator will appropriately make adjustments in the method of calculating the attainment of performance goals as follows: (1) to exclude restructuring and/or other nonrecurring charges; (2) to exclude exchange rate effects, as applicable, for non-U.S. dollar denominated goals; (3) to exclude the effects of changes to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (4) to exclude the effects of any statutory adjustments to corporate tax rates; (5) to exclude the effects of any "extraordinary items" as determined under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (6) to exclude the dilutive effects of acquisitions or joint ventures; (7) to assume that any business divested by us 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 our common stock 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/or the award of bonuses under our bonus plans; and (10) to exclude the effect of any other unusual, non-recurring gain or loss or other extraordinary item. In addition, the plan administrator retains the discretion to reduce or eliminate the compensation or economic benefit due upon attainment of the goals and to define the manner of calculating the performance criteria it selects to use for a performance period. The performance goals may differ from participant to participant and from award to award.

Other stock awards. The plan administrator may grant other awards based in whole or in part by reference to our common stock. The plan administrator will set the number of shares under the stock award and all other terms and conditions of such awards.

Changes to capital structure. In the event that there is a specified type of change in our capital structure, such as a stock split or recapitalization, the plan administrator shall appropriately and proportionately adjust: (a) the class(es) and maximum number of shares reserved for issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan and the class(es) and maximum number of shares by which the share reserve may increase automatically each year, (b) the class(es) and maximum number of shares that may be issued upon the exercise of incentive stock options, (c) the class(es) and maximum number of shares subject to stock awards that can be granted in a calendar year (as established under the 2011 Incentive Plan pursuant to Section 162(m) of the Code) and (d) the class(es) and number of shares and price per share of stock subject to outstanding stock awards.

Corporate transactions. In the event of certain specified significant corporate transactions, unless otherwise provided in the instrument evidencing the stock award or any other written agreement between us or any affiliate and the holder of the stock award, the plan administrator has the discretion to take any of the following actions with respect to stock awards:

- arrange for the assumption, continuation or substitution of a stock award by a surviving or acquiring entity or parent company;

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- arrange for the assignment of any reacquisition or repurchase rights held by us to the surviving or acquiring entity or parent company;
- accelerate the vesting of the stock award and provide for its termination prior to the effective time of the corporate transaction;
- arrange for the lapse of any reacquisition or repurchase right held by us;
- cancel or arrange for the cancellation of the stock award in exchange for such cash consideration, if any, as our board of directors may deem appropriate; or
- make a payment equal to the excess of (a) the value of the property the participant would have received upon exercise of the stock award over (b) the exercise price otherwise payable in connection with the stock award.

Our board of directors is not obligated to treat all stock awards, even those that are of the same type, in the same manner.

Change in control. The plan administrator may provide, in an individual award agreement or in any other written agreement between a participant and us, that the stock award will be subject to additional acceleration of vesting and exercisability in the event of a certain specified change in control. However, in the absence of such a provision, no such acceleration of the stock award will occur.

2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Our board of directors adopted, and our stockholders approved, the 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or ESPP, in January 2011. The ESPP became effective immediately upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO.

Share reserve. The ESPP initially authorizes the issuance of 250,000 shares of our common stock pursuant to purchase rights granted to our employees or to employees of any of our designated affiliates. The number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, in an amount equal to the lower of (1) 2% of the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, or (2) a number of shares of common stock as determined by our board of directors. If a purchase right granted under the ESPP terminates without having been exercised, the shares of our common stock not purchased under such purchase right will be available for issuance under the ESPP.

Administration. Our board of directors, or a duly authorized committee thereof, has the authority to administer the ESPP. Our board of directors has delegated its authority to administer the ESPP to our compensation committee. Our board of directors or the authorized committee is referred to as the plan administrator.

Purchase rights. The ESPP is implemented through a series of offerings of purchase rights to eligible employees. Purchase rights are generally not transferable. Under the ESPP, we may specify offerings with a duration of not more than 27 months, and may specify one or more shorter purchase periods within each offering. Each offering will have one or more purchase dates on which shares of our common stock will be purchased for the employees who are participating in the offering. An offering may be terminated early under certain circumstances such as a material change in control of our company. The plan administrator has the discretion to structure an offering so that if the fair market value of the shares of our common stock on the first day of a new purchase period within such offering is less than or equal to the fair market value of the shares of our common stock on the first day of the offering, then (a) that offering shall terminate immediately, and (b) the participants in such terminated offering shall be automatically enrolled in a new offering beginning on the first day of such new purchase period.

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Payroll deductions. Generally, all regular employees, including executive officers, employed by us or by any of our designated affiliates, may participate in the ESPP and may contribute, normally through payroll deductions, up to 15% of their earnings toward the purchase of our common stock under the ESPP. Unless otherwise determined by the plan administrator, common stock will be purchased for participating employees at a price per share equal to the lower of (a) 85% of the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the first date of an offering, or (b) 85% of the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of purchase.

Limitations. Employees may have to satisfy one or more of the following service requirements before participating in the ESPP, as determined by the plan administrator: (a) customary employment with us or one of our affiliates for more than 20 hours per week and more than five months per calendar year or (b) continuous employment with us or one of our affiliates for a minimum period of time prior to the first date of an offering, provided that such minimum period may not to exceed two years. No employee may purchase shares under the ESPP at a rate in excess of \$25,000 worth of our common stock, based on the fair market value per share of our common stock at the beginning of an offering, for each calendar year in which such purchase right is outstanding. Finally, no employee will be eligible for the grant of any purchase rights under the ESPP if, immediately after such rights are granted, such employee owns our stock possessing five percent or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of our outstanding capital stock.

Changes to capital structure. In the event that there is a specified type of change in our capital structure such as a stock split or recapitalization, appropriate adjustments will be made to (a) the class(es) and maximum number of shares reserved under the ESPP, (b) the class(es) and maximum number of shares by which the share reserve may increase automatically each year, (c) the class(es) and number of shares subject to, and purchase price applicable to, all outstanding purchase rights, and (d) any limits on the class(es) and number of shares that may be purchased in an ongoing offering.

Corporate transactions. In the event of certain significant corporate transactions, such as an acquisition of the our company that results in a material change in the ownership of our company, any then-outstanding purchase rights under the ESPP may be assumed, continued or substituted for by any surviving or acquiring entity or its parent company, provided that the rights of any participant under any such assumption, continuation or substitution will not be impaired. If the surviving or acquiring entity or its parent company elects not to assume, continue or substitute for such purchase rights, then the participants' accumulated contributions will be used to purchase shares of our common stock within 10 business days prior to such corporate transaction, and such purchase rights will terminate immediately thereafter.

Plan amendments. The plan administrator has the authority to amend, suspend or terminate the ESPP, provided any such action will not be taken without the consent of an adversely affected participant except as necessary to comply with any laws, listing requirements or governmental regulations or to maintain favorable tax, listing or regulatory treatment. We will obtain stockholder approval of any amendment to our ESPP as required by applicable law.

401(k) Plan

We maintain a tax-qualified 401(k) retirement plan for all employees who satisfy certain eligibility requirements, including requirements relating to age and length of service. Under our 401(k) plan, employees may elect to defer a portion of their eligible compensation subject to applicable annual Internal Revenue Code limits. We provide a discretionary safe harbor profit sharing contribution equal to 3% of a participant's compensation to our eligible participants, which is 100% vested when made. We intend for the 401(k) plan to qualify under Section 401(a) and 501(a) of the Code so that contributions by employees to the 401(k) plan, and income earned on those contributions, are not taxable to employees until withdrawn from the 401(k) plan.

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Pension Benefits

We do not maintain any pension or retirement plans.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

We do not maintain any nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2010

The following table presents information regarding outstanding equity awards held by our named executive officers as of December 31, 2010.

2010 Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Option Awards</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| | <u>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable</u> | <u>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable</u> | <u>Option Exercise Price (\$)⁽¹⁾</u> | <u>Option Expiration Date</u> |
| Richard A. King | 28,538 | 428,072 ⁽²⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| James H. Welch | — | 125,000 ⁽³⁾ | 5.32 | 11/04/2020 |
| Thomas A. Schreck | 109,375 | 109,375 ⁽⁴⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| | 12,500 | 12,500 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5.52 | 07/01/2019 |
| | 12,500 | 12,500 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5.52 | 07/01/2019 |
| | 28,125 | 9,375 ⁽⁶⁾ | 4.00 | 08/14/2018 |
| | 18,750 | — ⁽⁷⁾ | 1.32 | 04/03/2017 |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 125,000 | 125,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| | 18,750 | 18,750 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5.52 | 07/01/2019 |
| | 28,125 | 9,375 ⁽⁶⁾ | 4.00 | 08/14/2018 |
| | 25,000 | — ⁽⁷⁾ | 1.32 | 04/03/2017 |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | 31,250 | 31,250 ⁽⁴⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| | 6,250 | 6,250 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5.52 | 07/01/2019 |
| | 14,062 | 4,688 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.20 | 12/05/2017 |
| | 25,000 | — ⁽⁹⁾ | 1.20 | 04/03/2017 |
| | 12,500 | — ⁽⁷⁾ | 1.20 | 04/03/2017 |
| Badri Dasu | 15,000 | 15,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| | 6,250 | 18,750 ⁽⁵⁾ | 2.56 | 06/15/2020 |
| | 3,125 | 3,125 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5.52 | 07/01/2019 |
| | 30,468 | 7,032 ⁽¹⁰⁾ | 1.20 | 10/25/2017 |

⁽¹⁾ The dollar amounts in this column reflect the increase in the exercise price of the options we granted to our named executive officers on June 15, 2010 as described under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase.”

⁽²⁾ The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 28,538 of the shares subject to the option on June 15, 2010, with 85,614 of the shares subject to the stock option vesting on March 3, 2011 and the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

⁽³⁾ The shares subject to this stock option will vest as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on September 30, 2011, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

⁽⁴⁾ The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/2 of the shares subject to the option on December 31, 2010 with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 24 months.

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- (5) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on December 31, 2010 with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- (6) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on December 31, 2008, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- (7) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on December 31, 2007, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- (8) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on December 4, 2008, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- (9) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on September 20, 2007, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- (10) The shares subject to this stock option vested as to 1/4th of the shares subject to the option on September 25, 2008, with the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table shows information regarding the vesting of restricted stock held by our named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2010. No stock options were exercised by our named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2010.

2010 Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table

| Name | Stock Awards | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) ⁽¹⁾ |
| Richard A. King | — | — |
| James H. Welch | — | — |
| Thomas A. Schreck | 20,833 | 104,165 |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | 20,833 | 104,165 |
| Lawrence G. Hamel | — | — |
| Badri Dasu | — | — |

⁽¹⁾ Because we were a privately-held concern at December 31, 2010, the value realized on vesting has been calculated based on the IPO price per share of \$5.00 multiplied by the number of shares vested. More information about the restricted stock held by Mr. Schreck and Dr. Palmer can be found under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Executive Employment Agreements and Termination Benefits —Founder’s Vesting Agreements.”

Director Compensation

Non-Employee Director Compensation

Cash Compensation Arrangements

In 2010, other than Mr. Rosen, our non-employee directors did not receive any cash compensation for their services as members of our board of directors or any committee of our board of directors. In 2010, Mr. Rosen received a retainer of \$30,000. Our other non-employee directors were reimbursed for travel, lodging and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their attendance at board of director or committee meetings.

In January 2011, our board of directors adopted a non-employee director compensation policy, which became effective for all of our non-employee directors upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO. Pursuant to the non-employee director compensation policy, each member of our board of directors who is not our employee receives an annual retainer of \$30,000 plus \$2,000 as a meeting fee for each board meeting attended by the non-employee director in person. 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 \$25,000;
- the audit committee chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000;

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- the compensation committee chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$5,000;
- the nominating and corporate governance committee chair receives an additional annual retainer of \$5,000; and
- each committee member receives \$1,000 as a meeting fee for each committee meeting attended by the non-employee director in person.

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

Equity Compensation Arrangements

Prior to our IPO, our non-employee directors were eligible to receive stock awards under our 2006 Stock Plan, as amended, or the 2006 Plan. Prior to our IPO, Mr. Rosen was our only non-employee director to receive any stock awards under the 2006 Plan while serving in such capacity. In August 2008, we granted a stock option to purchase 22,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.00 per share to Mr. Rosen under the 2006 Plan. This option has a four year vesting schedule, with 1/4th of the shares vesting one day prior to the one year anniversary of the vesting commencement date and the remaining shares vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months. We also granted a stock option to Mr. Rosen to purchase 16,250 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.20 per share under the 2006 Plan in June 2010. This option was subsequently amended in December 2010 to increase the exercise price to \$2.56 per share as described in more detail under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase.” This option has a three year vesting schedule, with 1/4th of the shares vested on the vesting commencement date and the remaining shares subject to the stock option vesting on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months. In the event of a change in control transactions involving us, such as our liquidation or dissolution of or an event that results in a material change in the ownership of our company, the vesting of all shares subject to each option granted to Mr. Rosen will accelerate in full and be fully exercisable. Effective upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, no additional stock options or other stock awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan. For a description of the terms of the 2006 Plan, see “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—2006 Stock Plan.”

Our non-employee director compensation policy, which became effective for all of our non-employee directors upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, provides for automatic grants of stock options to our non-employee directors under our 2011 Incentive Plan. Upon election or appointment to our board, each non-employee director will receive an initial grant of a stock option to purchase 15,000 shares of our common stock, which will vest as to 1/36th of the shares subject to the option on an equal monthly basis over a three-year period. Additionally, on the date of each annual meeting of stockholders, each non-employee director who is then serving as a director or who is elected to our board of directors on the date of such annual meeting will receive a grant of a stock option to purchase 12,500 shares of our common stock, which will vest as to 1/24th of the shares subject to the option on an equal monthly basis over a two-year period. All these options will be granted with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of the grant, and shall be entitled to full vesting acceleration as of immediately prior to the effective date of certain change in 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 our company. For a description of the terms of the 2011 Incentive Plan, see “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—2011 Equity Incentive Plan.”

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Director Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain summary information for the year ended December 31, 2010 with respect to the compensation of our non-employee directors. Neither Mr. King (who has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since May 1, 2010) nor Dr. Palmer, each of whom are executive officers, received or receives any additional compensation for serving on our board of directors or its committees. In addition, Mr. Schreck, who served as our President and Chief Executive Officer until April 30, 2010, did not receive any additional compensation for serving on our board of directors or its committees during the year ended December 31, 2010, and all of his compensation for 2010 is summarized under “—Summary Compensation Table” above.

2010 Director Compensation Table

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (S)</u> | <u>Option Awards (S)⁽¹⁾</u> | <u>Total (S)</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| Howard B. Rosen | 30,000 | 32,102 | 62,102 |
| Stephen J. Hoffman Ph.D., M.D. | — | — | — |
| Guy P. Nohra | — | — | — |
| Mark Wan | — | — | — |

⁽¹⁾ The dollar amount in this column for Mr. Rosen represents the grant date fair value of the stock option award granted to Mr. Rosen on June 15, 2010. 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 Note 10 to our financial statements and the discussion under “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Stock-Based Compensation” included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be recognized from the option award by Mr. Rosen. The modification of Mr. Rosen’s stock option award originally granted on June 15, 2010 as described under “—Employment Agreements and Arrangements—Employee Benefit and Stock Plans—Option Exercise Price Increase” did not result in an increase in the fair value of the stock option award under ASC 718. As of December 31, 2010, Mr. Rosen held stock options exercisable for 22,656 shares of our common stock. A description of the terms of these options can be found under the heading “Equity Compensation Arrangements” above. None of the other non-employee directors listed in the table above were granted any option awards during 2010 nor did they hold any outstanding stock options at December 31, 2010.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

In 2010, our Compensation Committee was composed of three directors: Messrs. Nohra, Rosen and Wan. None of the members of our Compensation Committee has at any time been an officer or employee of our company. None of our executive officers serve, or in the past fiscal year has served, as a member of our board of directors or the compensation committee of any entity that has one or more of its executive officers serving on our Board or Compensation Committee. For information regarding certain transactions with entities that members of our compensation committee are affiliated with, see “Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions and Director Independence” appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

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Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides certain information with respect to our equity compensation plans in effect as of December 31, 2010.

| <u>Plan Category</u> | <u>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights</u> (a) | <u>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights</u> (b) | <u>Number of securities remaining available for issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))</u> (c) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders: ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
| 2006 Stock Plan | 2,008,797 | \$ 2.91 | 51,693 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders: | — | \$ — | — |
| Total | 2,008,797 | | 51,693 |

⁽¹⁾ This table does not include the shares remaining available for future issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan and the ESPP, each of which became effective upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement in connection with our IPO in February 2011. Each of the 2011 Incentive Plan and ESPP were approved by our stockholders prior to our IPO.

The initial aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be issued pursuant to stock awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan is 1,875,000 shares, which number was the sum of (i) 51,693 shares remaining available for future grant under the 2006 Plan at the time of the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for our IPO, and (ii) an additional 1,823,307 new shares. The number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting on January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, by 4% of the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, or such lesser number of shares of common stock as determined by our board of directors. The maximum number of shares that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of incentive stock options under the 2011 Incentive Plan is 10,000,000 shares.

The initial aggregate number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to purchase rights granted to our employees or to employees of any of our designated affiliates under the ESPP is 250,000 shares. The number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, in an amount equal to the lower of (i) 2% of the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, and (ii) a number of shares of common stock as determined by our board of directors. If a purchase right granted under the ESPP terminates without having been exercised, the shares of our common stock not purchased under such purchase right will be available for issuance under the ESPP.

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Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of March 1, 2011 by: (i) each director; (ii) each named executive officer; (iii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group; and (iv) all those known by us to be beneficial owners of more than five percent of our common stock. We are aware that one or more institutional investors purchased a number of shares of our common stock in our IPO in amounts representing in excess of five percent of our common stock as of March 1, 2011, and as a result, one or more of such institutional investors may continue to beneficially own in excess of five percent of our common stock as of March 1, 2011. However, as of the date of this Form 10-K, we are not aware of any filings made with the SEC with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by such institutional investors and we were otherwise unable to verify the beneficial ownership of our common stock by any such institutional investor as of the date of this Form 10-K.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Beneficial Ownership ⁽¹⁾ | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|
| | Number of Shares | % of Total |
| 5% Stockholders: | | |
| Funds affiliated with Three Arch Entities ⁽²⁾ | 7,665,425 | 39.57% |
| Funds affiliated with Skyline Venture Partners ⁽³⁾ | 3,887,235 | 20.07% |
| Funds affiliated with Alta Partners ⁽⁴⁾ | 2,794,907 | 14.43% |
| Named Executive Officers and Directors: | | |
| Richard A. King ⁽⁵⁾ | 123,665 | 0.63% |
| Jim H. Welch | — | — |
| Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. ⁽⁶⁾ | 473,958 | 2.42% |
| Badri Dasu ⁽⁷⁾ | 63,072 | 0.32% |
| Thomas A. Schreck ⁽⁸⁾ | 522,703 | 2.67% |
| Lawrence G. Hamel ⁽⁹⁾ | 96,874 | 0.50% |
| Mark Wan ⁽¹⁰⁾ | 7,665,425 | 39.57% |
| Stephen J. Hoffman, Ph.D., M.D. ⁽¹¹⁾ | 3,887,235 | 20.07% |
| Guy P. Nohra ⁽¹²⁾ | 2,794,907 | 14.43% |
| Howard B. Rosen ⁽¹³⁾ | 25,885 | 0.13% |
| All executive officers and directors as a group (10 persons) ⁽¹⁴⁾ | 15,653,724 | 77.83% |

- ⁽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 19,371,750 shares outstanding on March 1, 2011, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. The number of shares beneficially owned includes shares of common stock issuable pursuant to the exercise of stock options that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011. Shares issuable pursuant to the exercise of stock options that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011 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. Unless otherwise noted below, the address of each beneficial owner listed in the table is c/o AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 575 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063.
- ⁽²⁾ Includes 195,543 shares held by Three Arch Associates III, L.P., 82,795 shares held by Three Arch Associates IV, L.P., 3,637,169 shares held by Three Arch Partners III, L.P. and 3,749,918 shares held by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. The voting and dispositive decisions with respect to the shares held by Three Arch Associates III, L.P. and Three Arch Partners III, L.P., are made by the following Managing Members of its general partner Three Arch Management III, L.L.C.: Mark Wan and Wilfred Jaeger, each of whom disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. The voting and dispositive decisions with respect to the shares held by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. and Three Arch Associates IV, L.P. are made by the following Managing Members of its general partner, Three Arch Management IV, L.L.C.: Mark Wan and Wilfred Jaeger, each of whom disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. The address for the funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners is 3200 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.
- ⁽³⁾ The 3,877,235 shares are held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. John G. Freund and Yasunori Kaneko are the Managing Members of Skyline Venture Management IV, LLC, which is the general partner of Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P., and as such Drs. Freund and Kaneko may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares of common stock held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. In addition, Dr. Hoffman, one of our directors, is a Managing Director of Skyline Ventures and as such may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares of common stock held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. Each of Drs. Freund, Kaneko and Hoffman disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. The address for Skyline Ventures is 525 University Avenue, Ste. 520, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

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- (4) The 2,794,907 shares are held by ACP IV, L.P., or ACPIV. ACMP IV, LLC, or ACMPIV, is the general partner of ACPIV. Dan Janney, David Mack, and Guy Nohra are directors of ACMPIV and they exercise shared voting and investment power with respect to the securities held by ACPIV. Mr. Janney, Mr. Mack, and Mr. Nohra disclaim beneficial ownership of such securities. The address for ACPIV is One Embarcadero Center 37th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111.
- (5) Represents 123,665 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.
- (6) Includes 223,958 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.
- (7) Represents 63,072 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.
- (8) Includes 206,770 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011, and 16,482 shares held in trust for Mr. Schreck's children. Mr. Schreck disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held in trust for Mr. Schreck's children.
- (9) Represents 96,874 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.
- (10) Mr. Wan is a managing partner of Three Arch Management III, L.L.C. and Three Arch Management IV, L.L.C., and in such capacities he may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned by the funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners. Mr. Wan disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares. The address of Mr. Wan is c/o Three Arch Partners, 3200 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.
- (11) Dr. Hoffman, one of our directors, is a Managing Director of Skyline Ventures and as such may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares of common stock held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchasers Fund IV, L.P. Dr. Hoffman disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. The address for Dr. Hoffman is c/o Skyline Ventures, 525 University Avenue, Suite 520, Palo Alto, CA 94301.
- (12) Mr. Nohra is a director of ACMPIV, and in such capacity he may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned by ACPIV. Mr. Nohra disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares. The address for Mr. Nohra is c/o Alta Partners, One Embarcadero Center 37th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111.
- (13) Represents 25,885 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.
- (14) Includes 740,224 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2011.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence

Policy and Procedures for Review of Related Party Transactions

In January 2011, our board of directors adopted an audit committee charter, which charter became effective in connection with our IPO. The audit committee charter provides that the audit committee will review and approve 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. None of the transactions below were required to be approved under the terms of the audit committee charter, because the audit committee charter was not effective until our IPO.

Certain Transactions With or Involving Related Persons

The following is a summary of transactions since January 1, 2009 to which we have been a party in which the amount involved exceeded the lesser of \$120,000 or one percent of the average of our total assets at fiscal years ended 2009 and 2010 and in which any of our executive officers, directors or holders of more than 5% of our capital stock, or any member of the immediate family of any of the foregoing persons, had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, other than compensation arrangements which are described under "Item 11. Executive Compensation" appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

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Preferred Stock Financing

The following table summarizes purchases of our Series C convertible preferred stock since January 1, 2009 by holders of more than 5% of our capital stock and their affiliated entities.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Series C Preferred Stock</u> | <u>Aggregate Purchase Price of Series C Preferred Stock</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners ⁽¹⁾ | 1,752,337 | \$ 6,909,117 |
| Funds affiliated with Skyline Venture Partners ⁽²⁾ | 915,798 | 3,610,810 |
| Funds affiliated with Alta Partners ⁽³⁾ | 810,129 | 3,194,178 |
| Funds affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals ⁽⁴⁾ | 278,989 | 1,100,001 |
| Approximate price per share | \$ 3.94 | |
| Date of purchase | 11/23/09 | |

⁽¹⁾ Includes 44,702 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by Three Arch Associates III, L.P., 18,928 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by Three Arch Associates IV, L.P., 831,466 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by Three Arch Partners III, L.P. and 857,241 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. Mark Wan, one of our directors, is managing partner of Three Arch Management III, L.L.C. and Three Arch Management IV, L.L.C., and in such capacities he may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned by the funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners.

⁽²⁾ These shares were purchased by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. Stephen Hoffman, one of our directors, is a Managing Director of Skyline Ventures and as such may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares of stock held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchasers Fund IV, L.P.

⁽³⁾ These shares were purchased by ACP IV, L.P. Guy Nohra is one of our directors and is a director of ACMP IV, LLC, the general partner of ACP IV, L.P., and shares voting and investment power with respect to such shares.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes 139,494 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, a prior 5% holder, and 139,495 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock purchased by The Permanente Federation LLC – Series I.

2010 Bridge Loan Financing

On September 14, 2010, we sold the 2010 notes, and the 2010 warrants, to certain of our existing investors for an aggregate purchase price of \$8.0 million. Upon the election of the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount payable under the 2010 notes outstanding, we were to sell an additional \$4.0 million of 2010 notes and corresponding 2010 warrants. However, this \$4.0 million call option expired upon the closing of our IPO.

The 2010 notes bore interest at a rate of 4.0% per annum. No payment of principal or interest was paid on the 2010 notes and the aggregate amount of principal outstanding was \$8.0 million as of February 16, 2011, the closing of our IPO. In connection with our IPO, the outstanding principal and accrued interest under the 2010 notes automatically converted into common stock at a conversion price equal to \$4.00.

The 2010 warrants became exercisable by their terms for an aggregate of 507,249 shares of Series C preferred stock at an exercise price of approximately \$3.94 immediately prior to the closing of our IPO. Each 2010 warrant contained a customary net issuance feature, which allowed the warrant holder to pay the exercise price of the warrant by forfeiting a portion of the exercised warrant shares with a value equal to the aggregate exercise price. All of the holders of the 2010 warrants elected to exercise the 2010 warrants on a net issuance basis contingent upon and effective immediately prior to the completion of our IPO.

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2010 Bridge Loan Financing Participation

The following table summarizes the participation in the 2010 bridge financing by holders of more than 5% of our capital stock and their affiliated entities:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Aggregate Loan Amount</u> | <u>Aggregate Shares of Series C Preferred Stock Issued Upon Exercise of 2010 Warrants⁽¹⁾</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners ⁽²⁾ | \$ 3,793,273 | 50,854 |
| Funds affiliated with Skyline Venture Partners ⁽³⁾ | 1,977,503 | 26,511 |
| Funds affiliated with Alta Partners ⁽⁴⁾ | 1,742,044 | 23,355 |
| Funds affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals ⁽⁵⁾ | 487,180 | 6,530 |

⁽¹⁾ The above table and footnotes give effect to the exercise, on a net issuance basis, of the 2010 warrants, which were exercised upon and effective immediately prior to the completion of our IPO. The shares of Series C preferred stock issued upon the exercise of the 2010 warrants were automatically converted into common stock in connection with our IPO.

⁽²⁾ Includes a note purchased by Three Arch Associates III, L.P. with a principal amount of \$96,767, a note purchased by Three Arch Associates IV, L.P. with a principal amount of \$40,973, a note purchased by Three Arch Partners III, L.P. with a principal amount of \$1,799,869 and a note purchased by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. with a principal amount of \$1,855,663. Includes a warrant purchased by Three Arch Associates III, L.P., exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 1,297 shares of Series C preferred stock, a warrant purchased by Three Arch Associates IV, L.P., exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 549 shares of Series C preferred stock, a warrant purchased by Three Arch Partners III, L.P., exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 24,130 shares of Series C preferred stock and a warrant purchased by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P., exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 24,878 shares of Series C preferred stock. Mark Wan, one of our directors, is managing partner of Three Arch Management II, L.L.C. and Three Arch Management IV, L.L.C., and in such capacities he may be deemed to beneficially own the securities owned by the funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners.

⁽³⁾ This note and warrant were purchased by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. Stephen Hoffman, one of our directors, is a Managing Director of Skyline Ventures and as such may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all securities held by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchasers Fund IV, L.P.

⁽⁴⁾ This note and warrant were originally purchased by ACP IV, L.P. Guy Nohra is one of our directors and is a director of ACP IV, LLC, the general partner of ACP IV, L.P., and shares voting and investment power with respect to such securities. In February 2011, ACP IV, L.P. agreed to transfer a portion of the note and the associated portion of the warrant held by ACP IV, L.P. as described under “—Bridge Note and Warrant Transfer” below.

⁽⁵⁾ Includes a note purchased by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, a prior 5% holder, with a principal amount of \$243,590 and a note purchased by The Permanente Federation LLC – Series I with a principal amount of \$243,590. Includes a warrant purchased by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 3,265 shares of Series C preferred stock and a warrant purchased by The Permanente Federation LLC – Series I, exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 3,265 shares of Series C preferred stock.

Bridge Note and Warrant Transfer

In February 2011, ACP IV, L.P. agreed to transfer a 37% interest in the 2010 note and the associated portion of the 2010 warrant then held by ACP IV, L.P. for nominal consideration to funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners, Skyline Venture Partners and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals pro rata among them based on each entity’s affiliated funds’ current beneficial ownership of our outstanding capital stock, with such transfer effective immediately prior to the closing of our IPO. As a result of the foregoing transfer, effective immediately prior to the closing of our IPO:

- funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners acquired 2010 warrants which were subsequently exercised, on a net issuance basis, for an aggregate of 5,236 shares of Series C preferred stock (which shares were converted into the same number of shares of common stock in connection with our IPO) and 2010 notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$390,704;
- funds affiliated with Skyline Venture Partners acquired a 2010 warrant which was subsequently exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 2,730 shares of Series C preferred stock (which shares were converted into the same number of shares of common stock in connection with our IPO) and a 2010 note in a principal amount of \$203,676;
- funds affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals acquired 2010 warrants which were subsequently exercised, on a net issuance basis, for an aggregate of 672 shares of Series C preferred stock (which

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shares were converted into the same number of shares of common stock in connection with our IPO) and 2010 notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$50,176; and

- funds affiliated with ACP IV, L.P. continued to hold a 2010 warrant which was subsequently exercised, on a net issuance basis, for 14,713 shares of Series C preferred stock (which shares were converted into the same number of shares of common stock in connection with our IPO) and a 2010 note in a principal amount of \$1,097,487.

Investors' Rights Agreement

We entered into an investors' rights agreement with certain holders of our previously outstanding preferred stock and previously outstanding warrants to purchase our preferred stock, including our principal stockholders with which certain of our directors are affiliated. Pursuant to the investors' rights agreement, these holders will have the right to demand that we file a registration statement or request that the common stock issued upon conversion of our previously outstanding preferred stock and the common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants to purchase common stock (which, in connection with our IPO, were converted from previously outstanding warrants to purchase our preferred stock), collectively, the registrable securities, be covered by a registration statement that we are otherwise filing. In the event that we propose to register any of our securities under the Securities Act, either for our own account or for the account of other security holders, these holders are entitled to notice of our registration and are entitled to certain piggyback registration rights allowing the holders to include their registrable securities in such registration, subject to certain marketing and other limitations. Pursuant to the investors' rights agreement, the holders of registrable securities have the right to require us to file a registration statement under the Securities Act in order to register the resale of their shares of registrable securities, provided that the registration meets certain thresholds. We may, in certain circumstances, defer such registrations. In an underwritten offering, the managing underwriter has the right, subject to specified conditions, to limit the number of registrable securities such holders may include.

Voting Agreement

We entered into a voting agreement under which holders of our previously outstanding preferred stock, including our principal stockholders with which certain of our directors are affiliated, agreed to vote in a certain way on certain matters, including with respect to the election of directors. Pursuant to the voting agreement, holders of our previously outstanding preferred stock agreed to vote such that one director be a designee of Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. or its affiliates, who is currently Mark Wan; one director be a designee of ACP IV, L.P. or its affiliates, who is currently Guy Nohra; and one director be a designee of Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. or its affiliates, who is currently Stephen Hoffman. Upon the closing of our IPO, the voting agreement terminated in its entirety and none of our stockholders have any special rights regarding the election or designation of members of our board of directors.

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Participation in Our Initial Public Offering

Entities affiliated with Three Arch Partners, Skyline Venture Partners, Alta Partners and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, each of which was a holder of more than 5% of our capital stock, purchased an aggregate of 4,800,000 shares of our common stock in our IPO, as follows:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Common Stock Purchased in Initial Public Offering</u> | <u>Aggregate Purchase Price</u> |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners ⁽¹⁾ | 2,579,579 | \$ 12,897,895 |
| Funds affiliated with Skyline Venture Partners ⁽²⁾ | 1,235,943 | 6,179,715 |
| Funds affiliated with Alta Partners ⁽³⁾ | 680,000 | 3,400,000 |
| Funds affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals ⁽⁴⁾ | 304,478 | 1,522,390 |
| Price per share | \$ 5.00 | |
| Date of purchase | 2/11/11 | |

- ⁽¹⁾ Includes 65,806 shares of common stock purchased by Three Arch Associates III, L.P., 27,863 shares of common stock purchased by Three Arch Associates IV, L.P., 1,223,983 shares of common stock purchased by Three Arch Partners III, L.P. and 1,261,927 shares of common stock purchased by Three Arch Partners IV, L.P. Mark Wan, one of our directors, is managing partner of Three Arch Management III, L.L.C. and Three Arch Management IV, L.L.C., and in such capacities he may be deemed to beneficially own the shares owned by the funds affiliated with Three Arch Partners. Mr. Wan disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- ⁽²⁾ These shares were purchased by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund IV, L.P. Stephen Hoffman, one of our directors, is a Managing Director of Skyline Ventures and as such may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares of stock purchased by Skyline Venture Partners Qualified Purchasers Fund IV, L.P. Dr. Hoffman disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- ⁽³⁾ These shares were purchased by ACP IV, L.P. Guy Nohra is one of our directors and is a director of ACMP IV, LLC, the general partner of ACP IV, L.P., and shares voting and investment power with respect to such shares. Mr. Nohra disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Includes shares of common stock purchased by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and The Permanente Federation LLC – Series I. Upon the closing of our IPO, funds affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals ceased to be a holder of 5% of our common stock.

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 bylaw provisions and 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 and have increased the level upon the completion of the our IPO.

Other Transactions

We have entered into various employment related agreements and compensatory arrangements with our directors and executive officers that, among other things, provide for compensatory and certain severance and change in control benefits. For a description of these agreements and arrangements, see the sections entitled “Item 11. Executive Compensation—Employment Agreements and Arrangements” and “Item 11. Executive Compensation—Director Compensation—Non-Employee Director Compensation” appearing elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

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Director Independence

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 within a specified period following that company’s listing date in conjunction with its IPO. 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 of directors undertook a review of the independence of each director and considered whether any director has a material relationship with us that could compromise his ability to exercise independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities. As a result of this review, our board of directors determined that all of our directors, other than Messrs. King and Schreck and Dr. Palmer, 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. In making this determination, our board considered Mr. Nohra’s affiliation with Alta Partners, one of our stockholders, Dr. Hoffman’s affiliation with Skyline Ventures, one of our stockholders and Mr. Wan’s affiliation with Three Arch Partners, one of our stockholders. As required under applicable NASDAQ rules, we anticipate that our independent directors will meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees and Services

In connection with the audit of our 2011 financial statements, we entered into an engagement agreement with Ernst & Young LLP which sets forth the terms by which Ernst & Young LLP will perform audit and interim services for our company. That agreement is subject to alternative dispute resolution procedures and an exclusion of punitive damages.

The following table represents aggregate fees billed to our company for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 by Ernst & Young LLP, our company’s independent registered public accounting firm:

| | Fiscal Year Ended | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Audit Fees | \$ 1,220,000 | \$ 92,000 |
| Audit-Related Fees | — | — |
| Tax Fees | — | — |
| All Other Fees | — | — |
| Total Fees | \$ 1,220,000 | \$ 92,000 |

Audit Fees: Consists of fees for professional services rendered for the audit of our financial statements, review of interim financial statements, assistance with registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and services that are normally provided by Ernst & Young LLP in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements. Related to the year ended December 31, 2010, fees of \$890,000 were billed in connection with our Registration Statements on Form S-1 filings.

Audit-Related Fees: Consists of fees for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported under “Audit Fees” above. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, there were no audit-related fees billed to us.

Tax Fees: Consists of fees for professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, there were no tax fees billed to us.

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All Other Fees: Consists of fees for products and services other than the services described above. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, there were no other fees billed to us by Ernst & Young LLP.

Because our IPO commenced in February 2011, our audit committee was not required to, and did not pre-approve, all of the fees described above in 2009. Our audit committee did pre-approve all of the fees described above in 2010. Since the commencement of our IPO, our audit committee has pre-approved all audit and permissible non-audit services by Ernst & Young LLP.

The audit committee has determined that the rendering of the services other than audit services by Ernst & Young LLP is compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Our audit committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by Ernst & Young LLP, 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.

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PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this Form 10-K:

1. Financial Statements:

See Index to Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

2. Financial Statement Schedules:

No schedules are provided because they are not applicable, not required under the instructions, or the requested information is shown in the financial statements or related notes thereto.

(b) Exhibits—The following exhibits are included herein or incorporated herein by reference:

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of the Document</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, currently in effect. ⁽¹⁾ |
| 3.2 | Bylaws of the Registrant, currently in effect. ⁽²⁾ |
| 4.1 | Reference is made to Exhibits 3.1 through 3.2. |
| 4.2 | Specimen Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant. ⁽³⁾ |
| 4.3 | Amended and Restated Investor's Rights Agreement, among the Registrant and certain of its security holders, dated as of November 23, 2009. ⁽⁴⁾ |
| 4.4 | Warrant to Purchase Stock of the Registrant, issued to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated March 15, 2007. ⁽⁵⁾ |
| 4.5 | Warrant to Purchase Preferred Stock of the Registrant, issued to Pinnacle Ventures II Equity Holdings, L.L.C., dated September 16, 2008. ⁽⁶⁾ |
| 10.1+ | Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and each of its directors and executive officers. ⁽⁷⁾ |
| 10.2+ | 2006 Stock Plan, as amended. ⁽⁸⁾ |
| 10.3+ | Forms of Notice of Grant of Stock Option, Stock Option Agreement and Stock Option Exercise Notice under 2006 Stock Plan. |
| 10.4+ | 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. ⁽⁹⁾ |
| 10.5+ | Forms of Stock Option Grant Notice, Stock Option Exercise Notice and Stock Option Agreement under 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. |
| 10.6+ | Forms of Restricted Stock Unit Grant Notice and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement under 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. |
| 10.7+ | 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. ⁽¹⁰⁾ |
| 10.8 | Lease Agreement, between Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Registrant, dated January 2, 2007. ⁽¹¹⁾ |
| 10.9 | Loan and Security Agreement between Registrant and Pinnacle Ventures, L.L.C., as agent for the Lenders (as defined therein) and the Lenders, dated September 16, 2008. ⁽¹²⁾ |
| 10.10 | Note and Warrant Purchase Agreement between Registrant and the Purchasers defined therein, dated September 14, 2010, as amended. ⁽¹³⁾ |

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| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of the Document</u> |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.11+ | Founder's Vesting Agreement between Registrant and Pamela Palmer, dated August 16, 2006. ⁽¹⁴⁾ |
| 10.12+ | Founder's Vesting Agreement between Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated August 16, 2006. ⁽¹⁵⁾ |
| 10.13+ | Offer Letter between the Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated August 15, 2006. ⁽¹⁶⁾ |
| 10.14+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Larry Hamel, dated December 31, 2010. ⁽¹⁷⁾ |
| 10.15+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Badri (Anil) Dasu, dated December 30, 2010. ⁽¹⁸⁾ |
| 10.16+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Pamela Palmer, dated December 29, 2010. ⁽¹⁹⁾ |
| 10.17+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Richard King, dated December 31, 2010. ⁽²⁰⁾ |
| 10.18+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and James Welch, dated December 29, 2010. ⁽²¹⁾ |
| 10.19+ | Resignation Agreement, between the Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated May 6, 2010. ⁽²²⁾ |
| 10.20+ | Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy. ⁽²³⁾ |
| 23.1 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included in signature page) |
| 31.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |
| 32.1 | Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.* |

+ Indicates management contract or compensatory plan.

⁽¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-35068), as filed with the SEC on February 18, 2011.

⁽²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.4 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽³⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 31, 2011.

⁽⁴⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁵⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁶⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁷⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽⁸⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-172409), as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2011.

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- ⁽¹⁰⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.6 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-172409), as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2011.
- ⁽¹¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.
- ⁽¹²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.
- ⁽¹³⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 31, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁴⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁵⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁶⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁷⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁸⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽¹⁹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²⁰⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²³⁾ Incorporated by reference to the information under “Item 11. Executive Compensation—Director Compensation—Non-Employee Director Compensation” of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- * The certifications attached as Exhibit 32.1 accompany this Annual Report on Form 10-K pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and shall not be deemed “filed” by the Registrant for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 30, 2011

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(Registrant)

/s/ Richard A. King

Richard A. King
Chief Executive Officer and Director
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ James H. Welch

James H. Welch
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Richard A. King and James H. Welch, and each of them, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution for him or her, and in his or her name in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and any of them, his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

| <u>Signature</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--|---|----------------|
| /s/ Richard A. King Richard A. King | Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ James H. Welch James H. Welch | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Thomas A. Schreck Thomas A. Schreck | Chairman | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. Pamela P. Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. | Chief Medical Officer and Director | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Stephen J. Hoffman, Ph.D., M.D. Stephen J. Hoffman, Ph.D., M.D. | Director | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Guy P. Nohra Guy P. Nohra | Director | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Howard B. Rosen Howard B. Rosen | Director | March 30, 2011 |
| /s/ Mark Wan Mark Wan | Director | March 30, 2011 |

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ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a development stage company) (the "Company") as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of operations, convertible preferred stock and stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a development stage company) at December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Palo Alto, California
March 30, 2011

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)
Balance Sheets
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

| | December 31, 2010 | December 31, 2009 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 3,055 | \$ 7,150 |
| Short-term investments | 627 | 5,396 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 2,097 | 397 |
| Total current assets | 5,779 | 12,943 |
| Property and equipment, net | 800 | 1,280 |
| Restricted cash | 205 | 205 |
| Other assets | 46 | 63 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 6,830 | \$ 14,491 |
| LIABILITIES, CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 543 | \$ 917 |
| Accrued liabilities | 859 | 369 |
| Convertible notes | 6,805 | — |
| Long-term debt, current portion | 5,204 | 4,726 |
| Total current liabilities | 13,411 | 6,012 |
| Deferred rent | 245 | 425 |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | — | 5,008 |
| Call option liability | 596 | — |
| Convertible preferred stock warrant liability | 2,529 | 169 |
| Total liabilities | 16,781 | 11,614 |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 8) | | |
| Convertible preferred stock, \$0.001 par value—46,736,125 shares authorized as of December 31, 2010 and 2009; 7,151,802 and 7,132,527 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2010 and 2009; liquidation preference of \$56,224 and \$56,148 as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 | 55,941 | 55,871 |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT): | | |
| Common stock, \$0.001 par value—71,000,000 shares authorized as of December 31, 2010 and 2009; 674,353 and 620,116 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 | 3 | 3 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 2,668 | 1,224 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | 0 | (2) |
| Deficit accumulated during the development stage | (68,563) | (54,219) |
| Total stockholders' equity (deficit) | (65,892) | (52,994) |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES, CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT | \$ 6,830 | \$ 14,491 |

See notes to financial statements.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)
Statements of Operations
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | Period from July 13, 2005 (Inception) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | Through December 31, 2010 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | | |
| Research and development | \$ 8,193 | \$ 15,502 | \$ 18,325 | \$ 53,797 |
| General and administrative | 3,993 | 3,529 | 2,365 | 12,494 |
| Total operating expenses | <u>12,186</u> | <u>19,031</u> | <u>20,690</u> | <u>66,291</u> |
| Loss from operations | (12,186) | (19,031) | (20,690) | (66,291) |
| Interest income | 4 | 33 | 484 | 1,555 |
| Interest expense | (1,397) | (1,242) | (404) | (3,130) |
| Other income (expense), net | (765) | 121 | (52) | (697) |
| Net loss | <u>\$ (14,344)</u> | <u>\$ (20,119)</u> | <u>\$ (20,662)</u> | <u>\$ (68,563)</u> |
| Net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | <u>\$ (21.84)</u> | <u>\$ (34.93)</u> | <u>\$ (43.69)</u> | |
| Shares used in computing net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | <u>656,650</u> | <u>576,021</u> | <u>472,914</u> | |

See notes to financial statements.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)

Statements of Convertible Preferred Stock and Stockholders' Deficit
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

| | Convertible Preferred Stock | | Common Stock | | | Deficit Accumulated During the Development Stage | Other Comprehensive Income (loss) | Total Stockholders' (Deficit) |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | Additional Paid-in Capital | | | |
| Balance as of July 13, 2005 (Inception) | — | \$ — | — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Net and comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | — | (40) | — | (40) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2005 | — | — | — | — | — | (40) | — | (40) |
| Issuance of restricted common stock to founders | — | — | 250,000 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Issuance of Series A convertible preferred stock (net of issuance costs of \$100) | 2,111,639 | 21,016 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Issuance of common stock upon the exercise of common stock warrants | — | — | 25,534 | 1 | 50 | — | — | 51 |
| Stock-based compensation related to restricted stock | — | — | 20,833 | — | 42 | — | — | 42 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of taxes | — | — | — | — | — | — | (1) | (1) |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (3,768) | — | (3,768) |
| Total comprehensive loss | | | | | | | | (3,769) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2006 | 2,111,639 | 21,016 | 296,367 | 2 | 92 | (3,808) | (1) | (3,715) |
| Stock-based compensation related to restricted stock | — | — | 127,448 | 1 | 116 | — | — | 117 |
| Stock-based compensation related to stock options | — | — | — | — | 33 | — | — | 33 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of taxes | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 6 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (9,630) | — | (9,630) |
| Total comprehensive loss | | | | | | | | (9,624) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2007 | 2,111,639 | 21,016 | 423,815 | 3 | 241 | (13,438) | 5 | (13,189) |
| Issuance of Series B convertible preferred stock (net of issuance costs of \$78) | 1,263,635 | 20,140 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stock-based compensation related to restricted stock | — | — | 97,812 | — | 271 | — | — | 271 |
| Stock-based compensation related to stock options | — | — | — | — | 197 | — | — | 197 |
| Contribution of common stock to a charitable organization | — | — | 2,500 | — | 14 | — | — | 14 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of taxes | — | — | — | — | — | — | 34 | 34 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (20,662) | — | (20,662) |
| Total comprehensive loss | | | | | | | | (20,628) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2008 (carried forward) | 3,375,274 | 41,156 | 524,127 | 3 | 723 | (34,100) | 39 | (33,335) |

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)

Statements of Convertible Preferred Stock and Stockholders' Deficit
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

| | Convertible Preferred Stock | | Common Stock | | | Deficit Accumulated During the Development Stage | Other Comprehensive Income (loss) | Total Stockholders' (Deficit) |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | Additional Paid-in Capital | | | |
| Balance as of December 31, 2008 | 3,375,274 | 41,156 | 524,127 | \$ 3 | \$ 723 | \$ (34,100) | \$ 39 | \$ (33,335) |
| Issuance of Series C convertible preferred stock (net of issuance costs of \$99) | 3,757,253 | 14,715 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stock-based compensation related to restricted stock | — | — | 74,375 | — | 163 | — | — | 163 |
| Stock-based compensation related to stock options | — | — | — | — | 312 | — | — | 312 |
| Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options | — | — | 21,614 | — | 26 | — | — | 26 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of taxes | — | — | — | — | — | — | (41) | (41) |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (20,119) | — | (20,119) |
| Total comprehensive loss | | | | | | | | (20,160) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2009 | 7,132,527 | 55,871 | 620,116 | 3 | 1,224 | (54,219) | (2) | (52,994) |
| Issuance of Series C convertible preferred stock (net of issuance costs of \$99) | 19,275 | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stock-based compensation related to restricted stock | — | — | 43,282 | — | 93 | — | — | 93 |
| Stock-based compensation related to stock options | — | — | — | — | 1,330 | — | — | 1,330 |
| Issuance of common stock upon exercise of stock options | — | — | 10,955 | — | 21 | — | — | 21 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | | |
| Change in unrealized gains and losses on investments, net of taxes | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (14,344) | — | (14,344) |
| Total comprehensive loss | | | | | | | | (14,342) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2010 | 7,151,802 | \$ 55,941 | 674,353 | \$ 3 | \$ 2,668 | \$ (68,563) | — | \$ (65,892) |

See notes to financial statements.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)
Statements of Cash Flows
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | Period from July 13, 2005 (Inception) Through December 31, 2010 |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Net loss | \$ (14,344) | \$ (20,119) | \$ (20,662) | \$ (68,563) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities: | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 479 | 481 | 383 | 1,565 |
| Interest expense related to debt financing | 717 | 280 | 161 | 1,208 |
| Stock-based compensation | 1,424 | 463 | 456 | 2,513 |
| Contribution of shares to charitable organizations | — | — | 14 | 14 |
| Revaluation of convertible preferred stock warrant liability and call option liability | 1,257 | (71) | 77 | 1,428 |
| Realized gain on sale of investments | — | (29) | — | (29) |
| Loss on disposal of property and equipment | 5 | — | — | 5 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | | | |
| Prepays and other assets | (120) | 138 | 109 | (549) |
| Restricted cash | — | — | (27) | (205) |
| Accounts payable | (371) | (271) | 319 | 543 |
| Accrued liabilities | (1,091) | (119) | 317 | (910) |
| Deferred rent | (181) | (171) | (50) | 244 |
| Net cash used in operating activities | <u>(12,225)</u> | <u>(19,418)</u> | <u>(18,903)</u> | <u>(62,736)</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Purchase of property and equipment | (4) | (111) | (547) | (2,369) |
| Purchase of investments | (4,922) | (13,906) | (14,088) | (45,300) |
| Proceeds from sale of investments | 9,691 | 22,633 | 4,700 | 44,724 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | <u>4,765</u> | <u>8,616</u> | <u>(9,935)</u> | <u>(2,945)</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Proceeds from the issuance long-term debt | — | — | 12,000 | 12,621 |
| Payment of long-term debt | (4,726) | (2,861) | (241) | (7,924) |
| Proceeds from issuance of convertible promissory notes | 8,000 | — | — | 9,000 |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | 21 | 26 | — | 98 |
| Proceeds from issuance of convertible preferred stock, net of issuance costs | 70 | 14,715 | 20,140 | 54,941 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | <u>3,365</u> | <u>11,880</u> | <u>31,899</u> | <u>68,736</u> |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (4,095) | 1,078 | 3,061 | 3,055 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—Beginning of period | 7,150 | 6,072 | 3,011 | — |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—End of period | \$ 3,055 | \$ 7,150 | \$ 6,072 | \$ 3,055 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION: | | | | |
| Cash paid for interest | <u>\$ 584</u> | <u>\$ 979</u> | <u>\$ 204</u> | <u>\$ 1,740</u> |
| NONCASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Issuance of convertible preferred stock warrants | \$ 1,223 | \$ — | \$ 162 | \$ 1,386 |
| Issuance of call option related to convertible note | <u>\$ 476</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 476</u> |

See notes to financial statements.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(A Development Stage Company)
Notes to Financial Statements
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Company

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., or the Company, is a development stage company that was incorporated in Delaware on July 13, 2005 as SuRx, Inc. In January 2006, the Company changed its name to AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The Company's operations are based in Redwood City, California.

The Company is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies for the treatment of acute and breakthrough pain. Since incorporation, primary activities have consisted of establishing facilities, recruiting personnel, conducting research and development of its products, developing intellectual property, and raising capital. To date, the Company has not yet commenced primary operations or generated any revenues and, accordingly, the Company is considered to be in the development stage.

The Company has one business activity, which is the development and commercialization of product candidates for the treatment of pain, and a single reporting and operating unit structure.

The Company has incurred recurring operating losses and negative cash flows from operating activities since inception through December 31, 2010. In addition, the Company had an accumulated deficit of \$68.6 million, \$54.2 million and \$34.1 million as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. Through December 31, 2010, the Company has relied primarily on the proceeds from equity offerings and loan proceeds to finance its operations. Management believes that the Company's current cash and cash equivalents including the net proceeds of \$35.6 million from its IPO in February 2011 as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events," and the interest earned thereon, will be sufficient to fund the Company's current operations through the second quarter of 2012. The Company will need to raise additional funding or otherwise enter into collaborations to complete the third ARX-01 Phase 3 clinical trial required to file its NDA with the FDA for ARX-01. However, there is no assurance that additional funding will be available to the Company on acceptable terms on a timely basis, if at all, or that the Company will achieve profitable operations. If the Company is unable to raise additional capital to fund its operations, it will need to curtail planned activities to reduce costs. Doing so may affect the Company's ability to operate effectively. The accompanying financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of these uncertainties.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Such management estimates include the fair value of common stock, stock-based compensation expense, valuation of deferred tax assets and the fair value of convertible preferred stock warrants. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and also on assumptions that it believes are reasonable, however, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments and restricted cash. The Company is exposed to credit risk in the event of default by the institutions holding the cash, cash equivalents and investments to the extent of the amounts recorded on the balance sheet. Cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments and restricted cash are invested with banks and other financial institutions in the United States and are only invested in high-credit quality instruments. Such deposits may be in excess of insured limits provided on such deposits.

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Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The Company considers highly liquid investments with original maturities from the date of purchase of 90 days or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of demand deposits and money market mutual funds and are held primarily by two domestic financial institutions with high credit standings.

Short-Term Investments

The Company's investments are all short-term and consist of high-credit quality U.S. government agency obligations that have maturities greater than 90 days, but less than 365 days from the date of purchase. Short-term investments are classified as available-for-sale and are, therefore, recorded at fair value, and unrealized gains and losses, net of any related tax effects, are not reflected in the statement of operations but are reported in the statements of convertible preferred stock and stockholders' (deficit) as a separate component of other comprehensive income (loss) until realized. The Company uses the specific-identification method to compute gains and losses on the investments. The amortized cost of securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts to maturity. Such amortization and accretion is included in interest income or expense. Realized gains and losses and declines in fair value that are deemed to be other-than-temporary are reported in the statement of operations.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally three years for computer equipment and software, five years for research equipment, and seven years for furniture and fixtures. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the improvements, generally five years, or the remaining lease term. Maintenance and repairs that do not extend the life or improve an asset are expensed in the period incurred.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company periodically assesses the impairment of long-lived assets and, if indicators of asset impairment exist, the Company assesses the recoverability of the affected long-lived assets by determining whether the carrying value of such assets can be recovered through an analysis of the undiscounted future expected operating cash flows. If impairment is indicated, the Company records the amount of such impairment for the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its estimated fair value. As of December 31, 2010, the Company has not written down any of its long-lived assets as a result of impairment.

Restricted Cash

Under the Company's facility lease and corporate credit card agreements, the Company is required to maintain letters of credit as security for performance under these agreements. The letters of credit are secured by certificates of deposit in amounts equal to the letters of credit, which are classified as restricted cash on the balance sheet.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development costs are charged to expense when incurred. Research and development expenses include salaries, employee benefits, laboratory supplies, costs associated with clinical trials and manufacturing,

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other professional services and facility costs. Expenses related to clinical trials generally are accrued based on the level of patient enrollment and activity according to the protocol. The Company monitors patient enrollment levels and related activity to the extent possible and adjusts accrual estimates accordingly.

Comprehensive Loss

Comprehensive loss is comprised of net loss and other comprehensive income (loss). For the Company, other comprehensive income (loss) consists of changes in unrealized gains and losses on the Company's investments. Total comprehensive loss for all periods presented has been disclosed in the statements of convertible preferred stock and stockholders' (deficit).

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company measures and reports its cash equivalents, short-term investments and the liability associated with the outstanding warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock at fair value. Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or an exit price paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy defines a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements as follows:

Level I—Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level II—Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level I that are observable, unadjusted quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the related assets or liabilities; and

Level III—Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity for the related assets or liabilities.

The categorization of a financial instrument within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Company's financial instruments consist of Level I and Level II assets and Level III liabilities. Level I securities include highly liquid money market funds. If quoted market prices are not available for the specific security, then the Company estimates fair value by using benchmark yields, reported trades, broker dealer quotes and issuer spreads. Such Level II instruments include U.S. government agency and corporate obligations. Level III liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis consisted of convertible preferred stock warrant liabilities and call option liabilities. The fair values of the then-outstanding convertible preferred stock warrants were measured using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Inputs used to determine estimated fair market value included the estimated fair value of the underlying stock at the valuation measurement date, the remaining contractual term of the warrants, risk-free interest rates, expected dividends and the expected volatility of the underlying stock. The fair value of the call option was determined by evaluating multiple potential outcomes using a market approach and an income approach depending on the scenario and discounting the values back to December 31, 2010 while applying estimated probabilities to each scenario value. Immediately prior to the closing of the Company's IPO, the convertible preferred stock warrants were either converted into warrants to purchase common stock or exercised into shares of convertible preferred stock, which shares were automatically converted into common stock, as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events." Upon the closing of the Company's IPO, the call option expired, as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

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Income Taxes

The Company estimates actual current tax exposure together with assessing temporary differences resulting from differences in accounting for reporting purposes and tax purposes for certain items, such as accruals and allowances not currently deductible for tax purposes. These temporary differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included in the Company's balance sheets. In general, deferred tax assets represent future tax benefits to be received when certain expenses previously recognized in the Company's statements of operations become deductible expenses under applicable income tax laws or when net operating loss or credit carryforwards are utilized. Accordingly, realization of the Company's deferred tax assets is dependent on future taxable income against which these deductions, losses and credits can be utilized.

The Company must assess the likelihood that the Company's deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income, and to the extent the Company believes that recovery is not likely, the Company establishes a valuation allowance. The Company recorded a full valuation allowance as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. Based on the available evidence, the Company believed it was more likely than not that it would not be able to utilize its deferred tax assets in the future. The Company intends to maintain valuation allowance until sufficient evidence exists to support its reversal.

The Company regularly reviews its tax positions and for benefits to be realized, a tax position must be more likely than not to be sustained upon examination. The amount recognized is measured as the largest amount of benefit that is more likely than not to be realized upon settlement. The Company's policy is to recognize interest and penalties related to income tax matters as an income tax expense. Through December 31, 2010, the Company did not have any interest or penalties associated with unrecognized tax benefits.

Liability Associated with Warrants to Purchase Convertible Preferred Stock

Prior to the Company's IPO, the Company accounted for freestanding warrants to purchase shares of convertible preferred stock that were contingently redeemable as liabilities on the balance sheet at their estimated fair value because such warrants could have obligated the Company to redeem them at some point in the future. At the end of each reporting period, changes in the estimated fair value of the warrants to purchase shares of the convertible preferred stock during the period were recorded to other income (expense) in the statements of operations. Warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock associated with the 2010 Convertible Notes (as defined below) were net exercised for shares of Series C convertible preferred stock, which shares automatically converted into shares of the Company's common stock immediately prior to its IPO, at which time the related liability was reclassified to stockholders' equity. Warrants to purchase Series A and Series C convertible preferred stock automatically converted to warrants to purchase common stock upon closing of the IPO and remain outstanding as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

Stock-Based Compensation

Compensation costs related to stock options and shares of restricted stock granted to employees of the Company are based on the fair value of the awards on the date of grant, net of estimated forfeitures. The Company determines the grant date fair value of the awards using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and generally recognizes the fair value as stock-based compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the vesting period of the respective awards.

The Company accounts for stock options and shares of restricted stock granted to non-employees also based on the fair value of the awards determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The fair value of the

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awards granted to non-employees is remeasured as the awards vest, and the resulting change in value, if any, is recognized in the statement of operations during the period the related services are rendered, which is generally the vesting period.

Reduction in Work Force

On December 7, 2009, the Company announced a workforce reduction of approximately 44%, or 14 employees, a majority of whom were employed in product development and related support functions. This decision was made based on the challenging economic conditions and a decline in forecasted research and development activities expected during the year ending December 31, 2010.

As a result of this workforce reduction, the Company recorded a charge of \$119,000 related to employee severance and other benefits which was included as operating expenses in the statement of operations during the year ended December 31, 2009. As of December 31, 2009, the Company had paid \$30,000 for these employee severance and other termination benefits and had accrued the remaining \$89,000 on the balance sheet. During the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company paid the remaining \$89,000.

Net Loss per Share of Common Stock

The Company's basic net loss per share of common stock is calculated by dividing the net loss by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding for the period. The weighted average number of shares of common stock used to calculate the Company's basic net loss per share of common stock excludes restricted stock held by the Company's founders that were subject to repurchase as these shares were not deemed to be issued for accounting purposes until they vested. The diluted net loss per share of common stock is computed by giving effect to all potential common stock equivalents outstanding for the period determined using the treasury stock method. For purposes of this calculation, convertible preferred stock, options to purchase common stock, restricted stock subject to repurchase, warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock and warrants to purchase common stock were considered to be common stock equivalents but have been excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per share of common stock as their effect is antidilutive.

Reclassifications

Certain amounts in prior period financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2010, the FASB issued an amendment to an accounting standard which requires new disclosures for fair value measurements and provides clarification for existing fair value disclosure requirements. The amendment will require an entity to disclose separately the amounts of significant transfers in and out of Levels I and II fair value measurements and to describe the reasons for the transfers; and to disclose information about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements separately in the reconciliation for fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs, or Level III inputs. This amendment clarifies existing disclosure requirements for the level of disaggregation used for classes of assets and liabilities measured at fair value and require disclosures about the valuation techniques and inputs used to measure fair value for both recurring and nonrecurring fair value measurements using Level II and Level III inputs. This guidance is effective for interim

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and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009, except for certain Level III activity disclosure requirements that will be effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2010. Accordingly, the Company adopted this amendment as of January 1, 2010, except for the additional Level III requirements which will be adopted during the year ending December 31, 2011.

2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments

Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments consist of the following (in thousands):

| | As of December 31, 2010 | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
| Cash | \$ 103 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 103 |
| Money market funds | 79 | — | — | 79 |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 3,500 | — | — | 3,500 |
| | <u>\$ 3,682</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 3,682</u> |

| | As of December 31, 2009 | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
| Cash | \$ 960 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 960 |
| Money market funds | 6,190 | — | — | 6,190 |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 5,398 | — | (2) | 5,396 |
| | <u>\$ 12,548</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ (2)</u> | <u>\$ 12,546</u> |

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the contractual maturity of all investments held was less than one year.

3. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company measured and reported its convertible preferred stock warrant liability and short-term investments at fair value. The following table sets forth the fair value of the Company's financial assets and liabilities by level within the fair value hierarchy (in thousands):

| | As of December 31, 2010 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Fair Value | Level I | Level II | Level III |
| Assets | | | | |
| Money market funds | \$ 79 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 79 |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 3,500 | — | 3,500 | — |
| Total assets measured at fair value | <u>\$ 3,579</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 3,500</u> | <u>\$ 79</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Convertible preferred stock warrant liability | \$ 2,529 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 2,529 |
| Call option liability | \$ 596 | — | — | \$ 596 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value | <u>\$ 3,125</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 3,125</u> |

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| | As of December 31, 2009 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Fair Value | Level I | Level II | Level III |
| Assets | | | | |
| Money market funds | \$ 6,190 | \$6,190 | \$ — | \$ — |
| U.S. government agency obligations | 5,396 | — | 5,396 | — |
| Total assets measured at fair value | <u>\$11,586</u> | <u>\$6,190</u> | <u>\$5,396</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Convertible preferred stock warrant liability | \$ 169 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 169 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value | <u>\$ 169</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 169</u> |

The following table sets forth a summary of the changes in the fair value of the Company's Level III financial liabilities (in thousands):

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Fair value—beginning of period | \$ 169 | \$ 240 |
| Issuance of warrants | 1,223 | — |
| Issuance of call option | 476 | — |
| Change in fair value of Level III liabilities | 1,257 | (71) |
| Fair value—end of period | <u>\$3,125</u> | <u>\$169</u> |

The determination of the fair value of the convertible preferred stock warrants and call option liability is discussed in Note 7.

4. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consist of the following (in thousands):

| | As of December 31, | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Research equipment | \$ 1,003 | \$ 1,003 |
| Leasehold improvements | 1,008 | 1,008 |
| Computer equipment and software | 230 | 248 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 107 | 107 |
| Total property, plant and equipment | 2,348 | 2,366 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | (1,548) | (1,086) |
| | <u>\$ 800</u> | <u>\$ 1,280</u> |

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$479,000, \$481,000, \$383,000 and \$1,565,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

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5. Long-Term Debt

Equipment Financing Obligation

In March 2007, the Company entered into an equipment financing agreement in which the Company could receive advances for an amount up to \$750,000. Advances under the agreement were repaid in 30 monthly installments of principal and interest and carried an average interest rate of 9.4% per annum. As of December 31, 2009, the Company had repaid all amounts outstanding under the agreement.

In connection with the equipment financing agreement, the Company issued immediately exercisable and fully vested warrants to purchase 2,500 shares of its Series A convertible preferred stock, or Series A, at an exercise price of \$10.00 per share. As discussed in Note 7 "Warrants," the Company determined the fair value of the Series A warrant on the date of issuance to be \$1,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, and was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The deferred financing cost was amortized to interest expense over the draw down term. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the deferred financing cost had been fully amortized. In connection with the Company's IPO, the warrants underlying the equipment financing agreement became exercisable for common stock as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

Loan and Security Agreement

In September 2008, the Company entered into a \$12.0 million loan and security agreement with Pinnacle Ventures L.L.C. In November 2008, the Company drew down all \$12.0 million of the loan facility. The loan is repayable over 36 months, carries an interest rate of 8.5% per annum and is collateralized by the Company's tangible assets and proceeds from intellectual property. An additional \$600,000 will be due as a final payment at the end of the loan term in November 2011, representing a 5.0% final payment fee. The final payment is being accreted on an effective interest basis over the term of the loan agreement. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company accrued \$507,000 and \$311,000 relating to this final payment, which is classified as a component of long-term debt in the balance sheet. During the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company made regular payments on the loan and security agreement of \$4.7 million. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company had outstanding borrowings under the loan and security agreement of \$5.2 million and \$9.7 million.

In connection with the loan and security agreement, the Company issued immediately exercisable and fully vested warrants to purchase 56,250 shares of Series B convertible preferred stock, or Series B, with an exercise price of \$16.00 per share. Upon the closing of the Company's Series C convertible preferred stock, or Series C, financing during the year ended December 31, 2009, the warrants underlying the loan and security agreement became exercisable for 228,264 shares of Series C with an exercise price of \$3.94 per share. In connection with the Company's IPO, the warrants underlying the loan and security agreement became exercisable for 228,264 shares of the Company's common stock with an exercise price of \$3.94 per share. See Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

As discussed in Note 7 "Warrants," the Company determined the fair value of the Series B and Series C warrants on the dates of issuance to be \$162,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The deferred financing cost is being amortized to interest expense over the loan term. During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, amortization of the deferred financing cost to interest expense was \$17,000, \$19,000 and \$110,000. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, deferred financing cost on the balance sheets related to this loan and security agreement was \$16,000 and \$33,000.

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6. Convertible Notes

2006 Convertible Notes

In March and April 2006, the Company issued convertible notes, or 2006 Convertible Notes, to various individuals, including Company executives, in exchange for \$1.0 million in cash. These notes bore interest at 6.0% per annum and were due to be repaid on March 1, 2008. In August 2006, the 2006 Convertible Notes and related accrued interest totaling \$1.0 million automatically converted into 102,141 shares of Series A upon the closing of the Company's Series A financing.

In conjunction with the issuance of the 2006 Convertible Notes during the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company issued warrants to purchase an aggregate of 25,534 shares of common stock with an exercise price of \$0.04 per share. The Company calculated the fair value of the warrants on the date of issuance to be \$25,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which was amortized as interest expense during the year ended December 31, 2006. In addition, the Company also recognized a beneficial conversion feature on the 2006 Convertible Notes in the amount of \$25,000 as interest expense during the year ended December 31, 2006.

2010 Convertible Notes

On September 14, 2010, the Company sold convertible promissory notes, or 2010 Convertible Notes, to purchase shares of the Company's equity securities to certain existing investors for an aggregate purchase price of \$8.0 million. The 2010 Convertible Notes could not be prepaid without written consent of the holders, bore interest at a rate of 4.0% per annum and had a maturity date of the earliest of (1) September 14, 2011 or (2) an event of default. The principal and the accrued interest under the 2010 Convertible Notes were automatically convertible (1) into the securities sold in the Company's next equity financing prior to September 14, 2011, with total proceeds of not less than \$15.0 million, or a Qualified Financing, at the price at which such securities were sold to other investors, (2) into securities sold in the Company's IPO at a conversion price equal to 80% of the IPO price or (3) following September 14, 2011, with the consent of the holders of a majority of the principal amount of the 2010 Convertible Notes still outstanding, into shares of Series C at the Series C price of \$3.94 per share. In addition, holders of the 2010 Convertible Notes had the option to convert the 2010 Convertible Notes into shares of Series C in connection with a liquidation, sale of substantially all of the Company's assets, or merger, if such liquidation, sale of substantially all of the Company's assets, or merger occurred before the Qualified Financing or IPO. In connection with the Company's IPO in February 2011, the outstanding principal and accrued interest under the 2010 Convertible Notes automatically converted into shares of common stock immediately prior to the Company's IPO.

Upon the election of the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount payable under the 2010 Convertible Notes outstanding, the Company was required to sell an additional \$4.0 million of 2010 Convertible Notes. This additional \$4.0 million was determined to be a call option that has been recorded at its fair value of \$476,000 as a debt discount that would have been amortized to interest expense over the one-year term of the 2010 Convertible Notes. The fair value of the call option was determined by evaluating multiple potential outcomes using a market approach and an income approach depending on the scenario and discounted these values back to December 31, 2010 while applying estimated probabilities to each scenario value. These scenarios included a potential IPO, merger or sale at different times during 2011 and 2012 as well as remaining private. The fair value of the call option at December 31, 2010 was \$596,000. The call option expired upon the completion of the IPO as detailed in Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

In conjunction with the issuance of the 2010 Convertible Notes, the Company issued warrants that were exercisable into (1) shares of convertible preferred stock sold in the Company's next equity financing with proceeds in excess of \$15.0 million with an exercise price equal to the price of the convertible preferred stock

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sold in such equity financing or (2) shares of Series C at a price per share of the Series C. The aggregate number of shares exercisable under the warrants was equal to 25% of the principal amount of the 2010 Convertible Notes divided by (1) the per share price of the equity securities sold in the next qualified equity financing or (2) the price of the Series C of \$3.94 per share. As discussed in Note 7 “Warrants,” the Company calculated the fair value of the warrants to be \$1.2 million, which was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and a debt discount. As of December 31, 2010, the related warrant liability was \$1.3 million. The change in the fair value of these warrants resulted in a charge of \$77,000 to other income (expense), net during the year ended December 31, 2010. In connection with the Company’s IPO in February 2011, these warrants were net exercised into shares of Series C convertible preferred stock, which shares were automatically converted to shares of common stock immediately prior to the Company’s IPO.

In addition, the 2010 Convertible Notes had contingent beneficial conversion features related to the conversion options following the maturity of the 2010 Convertible Notes or in connection with a liquidation, sale or merger into Series C. The contingent beneficial features were determined on the date of the issuance of the 2010 Convertible Notes based on the intrinsic value of this feature in the amount of \$5.2 million. This beneficial conversion feature was not recorded, since the contingent events never occurred.

Amortization expense for the debt discount from the issuance of the 2010 Convertible Notes on September 14, 2010 through the end of the reporting period December 31, 2010 was \$503,000.

7. Warrants

Series A Warrants

In March 2007, the Company entered into an equipment financing agreement in which the Company issued immediately exercisable and fully vested warrants to purchase 2,500 shares of its Series A with an exercise price of \$10.00 per share. These warrants expire in March 2017. The fair value of the Series A warrants on the date of issuance was \$1,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model using the following assumptions: 10 year contractual term, 72% expected volatility, 4.1% risk-free interest rate and no expected dividend. This fair value was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The Company revalued the convertible preferred stock warrant liability related to the Series A warrants at the end of each reporting period using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

| | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> |
| Expected term (in years) | 6.2 | 7.2 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 2.4% | 3.1% |
| Expected volatility | 80% | 74% |
| Expected dividend rate | 0% | 0% |

The fair value of the liability related to the Series A warrants was estimated to be \$13,000 and \$2,000 as of December 31, 2010 and 2009. The change in the fair value of the Series A warrants resulted in a charge to other income (expense), net of \$11,000 during the year ended December 31, 2010, a benefit to other income (expense), net of \$8,000 during the year ended December 31, 2009 and a charge to other income (expense), net of \$4,000 during the year ended December 31, 2008. As of December 31, 2010, the Series A warrants had not been exercised and were still outstanding. In connection with the Company’s IPO in February 2011, the Series A warrants were automatically converted into warrants to purchase shares of common stock as detailed in Note 14 “Subsequent Events.”

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Series B and Series C Warrants

In September 2008, the Company entered into a \$12.0 million loan and security agreement with Pinnacle Ventures. In November 2008, the Company drew down all \$12.0 million of the loan facility. In connection with the loan and security agreement, the Company issued immediately exercisable and fully vested warrants to purchase 56,250 shares of Series B with an exercise price of \$16.00 per share. Upon the closing of the Series C financing during the year ended December 31, 2009, the warrants underlying the loan and security agreement became exercisable for 228,264 shares of Series C with an exercise price of \$3.94 per share. These warrants expire in September 2018.

The Company determined the fair value of the Series B and Series C warrants on the dates of issuance to be \$162,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model using the following assumptions: 10 year contractual term, 76% expected volatility, 3.4% risk-free interest rate and no expected dividend, which was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and as a deferred financing cost in other assets. The Company revalued the convertible preferred stock warrant liability related to the Series B and Series C warrants at the end of each reporting period using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

| | Year Ended | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------|
| | December 31, | |
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Expected term (in years) | 7.7 | 8.7 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 2.4% | 3.4% |
| Expected volatility | 82% | 76% |
| Expected dividend rate | 0% | 0% |

The fair value of the convertible preferred stock warrant liability related to these Series B and Series C warrants was estimated to be \$1.2 million and \$0.2 million as of December 31, 2010 and 2009. The change in the fair value of the warrants resulted in a charge to other income (expense), net of \$1.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2010, a benefit to other income (expense), net of \$0.1 million the year ended December 31, 2009 and a charge to other income (expense), net of \$0.1 million during the year ended December 31, 2008.

As of December 31, 2010, the Series C warrants had not been exercised and were still outstanding. In connection with the Company's IPO in February 2011, the Series C warrants were automatically converted to warrants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock.

2010 Warrants

The Company issued warrants in connection with the 2010 Convertible Notes in September 2010, or the 2010 Warrants. The 2010 Warrants were exercisable into (1) shares of convertible preferred stock sold in the Company's next equity financing with proceeds in excess of \$15.0 million with an exercise price equal to the price of the convertible preferred stock sold in such equity financing or (2) shares of Series C at a price per share of the Series C (x) if the next equity financing with proceeds in excess of \$15.0 million had not occurred prior to September 14, 2011, upon the election of holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the 2010 Convertible Notes or (y) in the event of the IPO, a liquidation, sale of substantially all of the Company's assets, or merger. Each 2010 Warrant was exercisable for a number of shares equal to the quotient obtained by dividing 25% of the principal amount of the 2010 Convertible Note to which such 2010 Warrants related by the applicable per share price indicated above. The 2010 Warrants would have terminated if not exercised immediately prior to an IPO. The 2010 Warrants were exercisable upon issuance and allowed for cashless exercises.

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In order to determine a fair value for the 2010 Warrants upon issuance of the 2010 Convertible Notes as well as for the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company evaluated multiple potential outcomes using the intrinsic value or Black-Scholes value depending on the scenario and discounted these values back to either September 30, 2010 or December 31, 2010 as appropriate while applying estimated probabilities to each scenario value. These scenarios included a potential IPO or potential merger or sale at different times during 2011 and 2012 as well as remaining private with estimated future qualifying equity financings. Accordingly, the Company determined the fair value of the 2010 Warrants to be \$1.2 million as of September 30, 2010, which was recorded as a convertible preferred stock warrant liability and a debt discount. As of December 31, 2010, the related warrant liability was \$1.3 million. The change in the fair value of these warrants resulted in a charge of \$77,000 to other income (expense), net during the year ended December 31, 2010. In connection with the Company's IPO in February 2011, the 2010 Warrants were net exercised into shares of Series C convertible preferred stock, which shares were automatically converted to shares of common stock immediately prior to the Company's IPO.

8. Commitments and Contingencies

Operating Leases

In January 2007, the Company entered into a non-cancelable lease agreement for office and laboratory facilities in Redwood City, California. The lease term commenced in April 2007 and expires in April 2012. Rental expense from the facility lease is recognized on a straight-line basis from the inception of the lease in January 2007, the early access date, through the end of the lease. Rent expense was \$158,000, \$158,000, \$158,000 and \$817,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

Future minimum payments under the lease agreement as of December 31, 2010 are as follows (in thousands):

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Year Ending December 31: | |
| 2011 | \$ 348 |
| 2012 | <u>97</u> |
| Total minimum payments | <u>\$445</u> |

During the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company made regular payments on the operating lease of \$338,000.

During 2007, the landlord provided a tenant improvement allowance of \$746,000 to the Company to complete the office and lab facility. The Company has recorded the tenant improvement allowance paid by the landlord as a leasehold improvement asset and a deferred rent liability on the balance sheet. The allowance is amortized as a credit to rent expense over the term of the lease, and the leasehold improvements are amortized as depreciation expense over the period from when the improvements were placed in service until the end of their useful life, which is the end of the lease term. As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company has an unamortized tenant improvement allowance of \$245,000, \$425,000 and \$596,000.

Litigation

The Company is not a party to any litigation and does not have contingent reserves established for any litigation liabilities.

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9. Stockholders' Equity**Common Stock**

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009 the Company had reserved shares of common stock, on an as if converted basis, for issuance as follows:

| | As of December 31, | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 |
| Issuances under stock option plan | 2,060,490 | 2,071,445 |
| Conversion of convertible preferred stock | 8,555,713 | 8,536,438 |
| Issuances upon exercise of convertible preferred stock warrants | 231,678 | 231,678 |
| | <u>10,847,881</u> | <u>10,839,561</u> |

The above table does not include reserved common stock related to the 2010 Convertible Notes or the 2010 Warrants.

Convertible Preferred Stock

During the year ended December 31, 2010, the Company issued 19,275 shares of Series C at \$3.94 per share, resulting in net cash proceeds of \$70,000.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company issued 3,757,253 shares of Series C at \$3.94 per share, resulting in net cash proceeds of \$14.7 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company issued 1,263,635 shares of Series B at \$16.00 per share, resulting in net cash proceeds of \$20.1 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company completed a private placement of an aggregate of 2,111,639 shares of Series A, which included 102,141 shares issued upon conversion of the 2006 Convertible Notes, at a price of \$10.00 per share, resulting in net cash proceeds of \$21.0 million.

| | As of December 31, 2010 | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | Shares Authorized | Shares Issued and Outstanding | Aggregate Liquidation Preference |
| Series A | 8,456,581 | 2,111,639 | \$21,116,000 |
| Series B | 5,279,544 | 1,263,635 | 20,218,000 |
| Series C | 33,000,000 | 3,776,528 | 14,890,000 |
| Total | <u>46,736,125</u> | <u>7,151,802</u> | <u>\$56,224,000</u> |

| | As of December 31, 2009 | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | Shares Authorized | Shares Issued and Outstanding | Aggregate Liquidation Preference |
| Series A | 8,456,581 | 2,111,639 | \$21,116,000 |
| Series B | 5,279,544 | 1,263,635 | 20,218,000 |
| Series C | 33,000,000 | 3,757,253 | 14,814,000 |
| Total | <u>46,736,125</u> | <u>7,132,527</u> | <u>\$56,148,000</u> |

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The Company recorded the convertible preferred stock at fair value on the dates of issuance, net of issuance costs. The Company classified the convertible preferred stock outside of stockholders' deficit because the shares contain redemption features that were not solely within the Company's control. During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company did not adjust the carrying values of the redeemable convertible preferred stock to the deemed redemption values of such shares since a liquidation event was not probable.

At December 31, 2010, the rights, preferences and privileges of the convertible preferred stockholders were as follows:

Conversion Rights

Each share of convertible preferred stock was convertible at the option of the holder into the number of shares determined by dividing the original purchase price by the applicable conversion price. The original per share purchase price was \$10.00, \$16.00 and \$3.94 for Series A, Series B and Series C. At the applicable conversion prices, each share of Series A, Series B and Series C was convertible into 1.37, 1.50 and 1.00 share(s) of common stock. The conversion price per share for convertible preferred stock was subject to adjustment for certain recapitalizations, splits, combinations, common stock dividends, or similar events. The convertible preferred stock automatically converted into shares of common stock at the conversion price in effect upon the earlier of (1) the closing of an underwritten IPO at a public offering price of at least \$12.00 per share (adjusted for stock dividends, stock splits, recapitalizations, or similar events) with aggregate gross cash proceeds to the Company of at least \$30 million, or (2) when the holders of 60% of the outstanding shares of convertible preferred stock elected conversion.

Voting Rights

Each share of convertible preferred stock had a number of votes equal to the number of shares of common stock into which it was convertible. The Series A holders, as a class, were entitled to elect two members of the board of directors; the Series B holders, as a class, were entitled to elect one member of the board of directors; the common stock holders, as a class, were entitled to elect two members of the board of directors. The common stock holders and the holders of the convertible preferred stock voting together were entitled to elect the remaining members of the board of directors.

Liquidation Preferences

In the event of any liquidation of the Company, the holders of the Series A, Series B and Series C were entitled to liquidation preferences of \$10.00, \$16.00 and \$3.94 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends. Upon distribution of the liquidation preferences to the holders of the convertible preferred stock, if assets remain, holders of the common stock would have received all of the remaining assets on a pro rata basis.

Dividends Rights

The holders of the Series A, Series B and Series C were entitled to receive dividends, when and if declared by the board of directors, in the amount of \$0.80, \$1.28 and \$0.32 per share, per annum on each outstanding share of convertible preferred stock. The dividends were payable in preference and priority to any dividend on common stock and are noncumulative. No dividends have been declared through December 31, 2010.

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Redemption Rights

The Series A, Series B and Series C were not redeemable. All convertible preferred stock converted into common shares upon completion of our IPO in February 2011.

10. Stock-Based Compensation

The Company recorded stock-based compensation expense for its stock-based awards as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | | | <u>Period from</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>July 13, 2005 (Inception)</u> <u>Through December 31,</u> <u>2010</u> |
| Employee stock options | \$ 1,268 | \$ 282 | \$ 126 | \$ 1,705 |
| Non-employee stock options | 61 | 30 | 71 | 196 |
| Restricted stock | 93 | 151 | 259 | 612 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,422</u> | <u>\$ 463</u> | <u>\$ 456</u> | <u>\$ 2,513</u> |

Stock Option Plans

As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company had one stock-based compensation plan, the 2006 Stock Plan, or the 2006 Plan. In August 2006, the Company established the 2006 Plan in which 342,000 shares of common stock were originally reserved for the issuance of incentive stock options, or ISOs, and nonstatutory stock options, or NSOs, to employees, directors or consultants of the Company. In February 2008, an additional 375,000 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the 2006 Plan and, in November 2009, an additional 1,376,059 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the 2006 Plan. Per the 2006 Plan, the exercise price of ISOs and NSOs granted to a stockholder who at the time of grant owns stock representing more than 10% of the voting power of all classes of the stock of the Company could not be less than 110% of the fair value per share of the underlying common stock on the date of grant.

The Company's stock options generally vest over four years at a rate of 25% on the first anniversary and 1/48th per month thereafter. The stock options generally expire ten years from the date of grant. However, in the case of an ISO issued to an optionee who at the time of grant owned stock representing more than 10% of the voting power of all classes of the stock of the Company, the term of the option could be no more than five years. Stock bonus awards and rights to immediately purchase stock were also permitted to be granted under the 2006 Plan, with terms, conditions and restrictions determined by the board of directors. Effective upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for the Company's IPO, no additional stock options or other stock awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan. See Note 14 "Subsequent Events."

Stock Option Modification

In December 2010, the Company's board of directors allowed all employees and non-employees to increase the exercise price of stock options granted to them on June 15, 2010 in light of the potential risk of adverse tax consequences under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 409A. Based on the elections by the optionees, 1,233,485 of the 1,316,610 options granted on June 15, 2010, including vested and unvested options, were modified such that the original exercise prices of \$1.20 per share were increased to \$2.56 per share. Accordingly, holders of options to purchase an aggregate 83,125 shares of common stock elected to leave their options unchanged. No other terms of the options were modified and there were no incremental stock-based compensation charges as a result of the re-pricing.

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The following table summarizes option activity under the 2006 Plan and related information:

| | <u>Shares Available for Grant</u> | <u>Number of Stock Options Outstanding</u> | <u>Weighted-Average Exercise Price</u> | <u>Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)</u> | <u>Aggregate Intrinsic Value</u> (in thousands) |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Outstanding—January 1, 2007 | 342,000 | — | \$ — | | |
| Granted | (290,625) | 290,625 | 1.20 | | |
| Forfeited | <u>1,250</u> | <u>(1,250)</u> | 1.20 | | |
| Outstanding—December 31, 2007 | 52,625 | 289,375 | 1.20 | | |
| Additional options authorized | 375,000 | — | — | | |
| Granted | <u>(196,875)</u> | <u>196,875</u> | 4.00 | | |
| Outstanding—December 31, 2008 | 230,750 | 486,250 | 2.36 | | |
| Additional options authorized | 1,376,059 | — | — | | |
| Granted | <u>(231,875)</u> | <u>231,875</u> | 5.52 | | |
| Forfeited | 30,885 | (30,885) | 2.56 | | |
| Exercised | <u>—</u> | <u>(21,614)</u> | 1.20 | | |
| Outstanding—December 31, 2009 | 1,405,819 | 665,626 | 3.48 | | |
| Granted | <u>(1,441,610)</u> | <u>1,441,610</u> | 2.72 | | |
| Forfeited | 87,484 | (87,484) | 5.52 | | |
| Exercised | <u>—</u> | <u>(10,955)</u> | 1.89 | | |
| Outstanding—December 31, 2010 | <u>51,693</u> | <u>2,008,797</u> | \$ 2.91 | 8.3 | \$ 7,171 |
| Vested options—December 31, 2010 | | 844,147 | \$ 2.71 | 8.5 | \$ 3,187 |
| Vested and expected to vest—December 31, 2010 | | 2,008,797 | \$ 3.07 | 9.2 | \$ 7,163 |
| Exercisable—December 31, 2010 | | 844,147 | \$ 2.91 | 8.5 | \$ 3,187 |

Additional information regarding the Company's stock options outstanding and vested and exercisable as of December 31, 2010 is summarized below:

| <u>Exercise Prices</u> | <u>Options Outstanding</u> | | | <u>Options Vested and Exercisable</u> | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <u>Number of Stock Options Outstanding</u> | <u>Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)</u> | <u>Weighted-Average Exercise Price per Share</u> | <u>Shares Subject to Stock Options</u> | <u>Weighted-Average Exercise Price per Share</u> |
| \$1.20 | 261,875 | 7.6 | \$ 1.20 | 195,437 | \$ 1.20 |
| \$1.32 | 43,750 | 6.3 | \$ 1.32 | 43,750 | \$ 1.32 |
| \$2.56 | 1,233,484 | 9.5 | \$ 2.56 | 396,765 | \$ 2.56 |
| \$4.00 | 160,000 | 7.6 | \$ 4.00 | 114,293 | \$ 4.00 |
| \$5.32 | 125,000 | 9.9 | \$ 5.32 | — | \$ 5.32 |
| \$5.52 | 184,688 | 8.2 | \$ 5.52 | 93,902 | \$ 5.52 |
| | <u>2,008,797</u> | 8.3 | \$ 2.91 | <u>844,147</u> | \$ 2.71 |

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Additional information regarding the Company's stock options outstanding and vested and exercisable as of December 31, 2009 is summarized below:

| Exercise Prices | Options Outstanding | | | Options Vested and Exercisable | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | Number of Stock Options Outstanding | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years) (Unaudited) | Weighted-Average Exercise Price per Share | Shares Subject to Stock Options | Weighted-Average Exercise Price per Share (Unaudited) |
| \$1.20 | 208,125 | 7.5 | \$ 1.20 | 141,867 | \$ 1.20 |
| \$1.32 | 43,750 | 7.3 | 1.32 | 33,723 | 1.32 |
| \$4.00 | 181,875 | 8.6 | 4.00 | 85,151 | 4.00 |
| \$5.52 | 231,876 | 9.3 | 5.52 | 48,114 | 5.52 |
| | <u>665,626</u> | 8.4 | 3.48 | <u>308,855</u> | 2.66 |

The weighted average grant-date fair value of options granted during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010, was \$2.72, \$1.96, \$2.88 and \$2.94 per share. Total future stock-based compensation expense related to these unvested options based on grant date fair value estimates to be recorded subsequent to December 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$2.4 million and \$710,000 which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years and 2.7 years. The grant date fair value of shares vested during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010, was \$1.1 million, \$244,000, \$169,000 and \$1.5 million. The grant date fair value of options forfeited during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010, was \$312,000, \$79,000, \$0 and \$393,000. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010 was \$3,000, \$62,000, \$0 and \$65,000.

Determining Fair Value of Stock Options

The fair value of each grant of stock options was determined by the Company and its board of directors using the methods and assumptions discussed below. Each of these inputs is subjective and generally requires significant judgment to determine.

Valuation Method—The Company estimates the fair value of its stock options using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model.

Expected Term—The expected term represents the period that the stock-based awards are expected to be outstanding. For option grants that are considered to be “plain vanilla,” the Company used the simplified method to determine the expected term as provided by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The simplified method calculates the expected term as the average of the time-to-vesting and the contractual life of the options. For other option grants, the expected term is derived from the Company's historical data on employee exercises and post-vesting employment termination behavior taking into account the contractual life of the award.

Expected Volatility—The expected volatility was based on the historical stock volatilities of several of the Company's publicly listed peers over a period approximately equal to the expected terms of the options as the Company did not have a sufficient trading history to use the volatility of its own common stock.

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Fair Value of Common Stock—The fair value of the common stock underlying the stock options has historically been determined by the Company’s board of directors. Because there had been no public market for the Company’s common stock prior to the Company’s IPO, the board of directors determined the fair value of the common stock at the time of grant of the option by considering a number of objective and subjective factors including valuations of comparable companies, sales of convertible preferred stock to unrelated third parties, operating and financial performance, lack of liquidity of capital stock and general and industry-specific economic outlook, amongst other factors. The fair value of the underlying common stock was to be determined by the board of directors until such time that the Company’s common stock became listed on an established stock exchange or national market system.

Risk-Free Interest Rate—The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant for zero coupon U.S. Treasury notes with maturities approximately equal to the expected term of the options.

Expected Dividend—The expected dividend has been zero as the Company has never paid dividends and does not expect to pay dividends.

Forfeiture Rate—The Company estimates its forfeiture rate based on an analysis of its actual forfeitures and will continue to evaluate the adequacy of the forfeiture rate based on actual forfeiture experience, analysis of employee turnover behavior, and other factors. The impact from a forfeiture rate adjustment will be recognized in full in the period of adjustment, and if the actual number of future forfeitures differs from that estimated by the Company, the Company may be required to record adjustments to stock-based compensation expense in future periods.

Summary of Assumptions—The fair value of each employee stock option was estimated at the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | Period from July 13, 2005 (Inception) Through December 31, 2010 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | |
| Expected term (in years) | 5.75-6.25 | 6.25 | 6.25 | 5.75-6.25 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 1.6%-4.6% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 1.6%-4.6% |
| Expected volatility | 75% | 73% | 74% | 70%-75% |
| Expected dividend rate | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Employee Stock-Based Compensation for Stock Options

The Company recorded compensation expense for options granted to employees as follows (in thousands):

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | Period from July 13, 2005 (Inception) Through December 31, 2010 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | |
| Research and development | \$ 680 | \$ 167 | \$ 66 | \$ 938 |
| General and administrative | 588 | 115 | 60 | 767 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,268</u> | <u>\$ 282</u> | <u>\$ 126</u> | <u>\$ 1,705</u> |

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There were no capitalized stock-based compensation costs or recognized stock-based compensation tax benefits during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 or the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

Non-Employee Stock-Based Compensation for Stock Options

During the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010, the Company granted zero, zero, 37,500 and 62,500 stock options to non-employees of the Company. Also during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010, certain employees of the Company transitioned to non-employees; therefore, 67,061, 2,708, 19,791 and 89,560 options became non-employee options during these periods. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company had non-employee stock options to purchase 65,907 and 32,395 shares of common stock outstanding with exercise prices ranging from \$1.20 to \$5.52 and contractual lives up to ten years. As of December 31, 2010 and 2009, 45,347 and 29,973 of these shares were vested, zero and 3,124 of these options had been exercised, and zero and 15,885 of these options had been forfeited. The Company has recorded stock-based compensation expense for these non-employee options of \$61,000, \$30,000, \$71,000 and \$167,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

Restricted Stock

In January 2006, the Company issued 500,000 shares of its common stock, which consisted of 250,000 shares to each of the Company's two founders, for \$0.004 per share. These shares were initially fully vested but were subject to a right of first refusal by the Company until such time as a public market existed for the common stock. In August 2006, as a condition of the closing of the Series A financing, the founders signed a vesting agreement which required that 50% of the shares purchased by each founder be subject to a right of repurchase by the Company which lapses at a rate of 1/48th per month over four years. Under the terms of the agreements, the repurchase price was the original exercise price. As such, the shares subject to vesting repurchase right were not deemed outstanding for accounting purposes until the shares vested and a liability had been included on the balance sheets for an amount equal to the purchase price of the unvested founder shares. These amounts were reclassified to stockholders' equity when the repurchase rights lapsed. As of December 31, 2010, all founders' shares were no longer subject to repurchase. As of December 31, 2009, 41,666 of the founders' shares were still subject to repurchase.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, three employees purchased an aggregate of 85,000 shares of the Company's common stock for \$0.004 per share, and two employees purchased an aggregate of 47,500 shares of common stock for \$1.00 per share, the estimated fair value of the Company's common stock at the time of each purchase. These shares are subject to a right of repurchase by the Company, which lapses with respect to 25% of the shares one year from the purchase date and 1/48th per month thereafter if the holders remain employees of the Company. Under the terms of these agreements, the repurchase price is the original exercise price. As such, these shares were not deemed outstanding for accounting purposes until the repurchase rights lapsed and a liability had been included on the balance sheets for an amount equal to the purchase price of the shares. These amounts were reclassified to stockholders' equity when the repurchase rights lapsed. In August 2008, the Company repurchased 18,750 of these restricted shares of common stock for \$0.004 per share. As of December 31, 2010 these restricted shares were no longer subject to repurchase. As of December 31, 2009, 1,614 of these restricted shares were still subject to repurchase.

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The Company determined the aggregate fair value of these restricted shares on the grant dates to be \$362,000, as determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Stock-based compensation expense related to these shares was \$93,000, \$151,000, \$259,000 and \$567,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010. These amounts are net of the amortization of the liability related to the restricted shares that are subject to repurchase of \$2,000, \$12,000, \$12,000 and \$49,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

11. Net Loss per Share of Common Stock

The following table sets forth the computation of the Company's basic and diluted net loss per share of common stock during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 (in thousands, except for share and per share amounts):

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Net loss | \$ (14,344) | \$ (20,119) | \$ (20,662) |
| Shares used in computing net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | 656,650 | 576,021 | 472,914 |
| Net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted | \$ (21.84) | \$ (34.93) | \$ (43.69) |

The following outstanding shares of common stock equivalents were excluded from the computation of diluted net loss per share of common stock for the periods presented because including them would have been antidilutive:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Convertible preferred stock | 7,151,802 | 7,132,527 | 3,375,274 |
| Stock options to purchase common stock | 2,008,797 | 665,626 | 488,750 |
| Restricted shares of common stock subject to repurchase | — | 43,282 | 117,657 |
| Convertible preferred stock warrants | 230,764 | 230,764 | 58,750 |

The above table does not include common stock equivalents related to the 2010 Convertible Notes or the 2010 Warrants.

12. 401(k) Plan

The Company sponsors a 401(k) plan that stipulates that eligible employees can elect to contribute to the 401(k) plan, subject to certain limitations. Pursuant to the 401(k) plan, the Company makes a discretionary safe harbor profit-sharing contribution equal to 3% of the related compensation. Eligible employees are 100% vested in this safe harbor profit-sharing contribution regardless of whether they make salary deferrals into the 401(k) plan. Contributions were \$106,000, \$133,000, \$93,000 and \$365,000 during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and the period from July 13, 2005 (inception) through December 31, 2010.

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13. Income Taxes

The Company did not record a provision for income taxes during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008. Net deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 consist of the following (in thousands):

| | <u>December 31,</u> <u>2010</u> | <u>December 31,</u> <u>2009</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Accruals and other | \$ 470 | \$ 296 |
| Research credits | 1,554 | 1,283 |
| Net operating loss carryforward | <u>25,403</u> | <u>21,070</u> |
| Total deferred tax assets | 27,427 | 22,649 |
| Gross deferred tax assets | 27,427 | 22,649 |
| Valuation allowance | <u>(27,427)</u> | <u>(22,649)</u> |
| Net deferred tax assets | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |

Reconciliations of the statutory federal income tax to the Company's effective tax during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 are as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> |
| Tax at statutory federal rate | \$(4,877) | \$(6,840) | \$(7,034) |
| State tax—net of federal benefit | (757) | (1,300) | (1,334) |
| Other | 853 | (272) | (263) |
| Change in valuation allowance | <u>4,781</u> | <u>8,412</u> | <u>8,631</u> |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |

A valuation allowance is provided when it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The Company has established a valuation allowance to offset net deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 due to the uncertainty of realizing future tax benefits from its net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets.

The valuation allowance increased by \$4.8 million, \$8.4 million and \$8.6 million during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company has federal net operating loss carryforwards of \$63.8 million, \$52.9 million and \$33.2 million expiring beginning in 2025. As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company has state net operating loss carryforwards of \$63.7 million, \$52.8 million and \$33.2 million, expiring beginning in 2017.

As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company has federal research credit carryovers of \$1.1 million, \$887,000 and \$525,000 expiring beginning in 2026. As of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, the Company has state research credit carryovers of \$748,000, \$599,000 and \$153,000 which will carryforward indefinitely.

Under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if a corporation undergoes an "ownership change," generally defined as a greater than 50% change (by value) in its equity ownership over a three year period, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards and other pre-change tax attributes (such as research tax credits) to offset its post-change income may be limited.

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Uncertain Tax Positions

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the unrecognized tax benefits during the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 is as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> |
| Unrecognized benefit—beginning of period | \$495 | \$292 | \$ 96 |
| Gross increases—current period tax positions | 108 | 203 | 196 |
| Unrecognized benefit—end of period | <u>\$ 603</u> | <u>\$ 495</u> | <u>\$ 292</u> |

The entire amount of the unrecognized tax benefits would not impact the Company's effective tax rate if recognized.

Accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits are classified as income tax expense and were immaterial. The Company files income tax returns in the United States and in California. The tax years 2005 through 2008 remain open in both jurisdictions. The Company is not currently under examination by income tax authorities in federal, state or other foreign jurisdictions.

14. Subsequent Events

2010 Convertible Notes Amendment

During the quarter ending March 31, 2011, the 2010 Convertible Notes were amended so that the note holders' option to invest the second tranche of \$4.0 million expired upon the closing of an IPO by the Company.

Reverse Stock Split

In January 2011, the Company's board of directors and stockholders approved an amended and restated certificate of incorporation effecting a 1-for-4 reverse stock split of the Company's issued and outstanding shares of common stock and convertible preferred stock and on January 28, 2011, the Company filed an amended and restated certificate of incorporation effecting a 1-for-4 reverse stock split. The par value of the common and convertible preferred stock was not adjusted as a result of the reverse stock split. All issued and outstanding common stock, options for common stock, convertible preferred stock, warrants for common stock, warrants for convertible preferred stock, and per share amounts contained in the Company's financial statements have been retroactively adjusted to reflect this reverse stock split for all periods presented.

Initial Public Offering

On February 10, 2011, the Company sold 8,000,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$5.00 per share in an IPO. The shares began trading on the NASDAQ Global Market on February 11, 2011. The Company received \$35.6 million in net proceeds from the IPO, after deducting offering-related expenses payable by the Company estimated at \$4.4 million, on February 16, 2011, which was the closing date of the offering. Upon the closing of the offering, all outstanding shares of convertible preferred stock converted into common stock, as adjusted for the 1-for-4 reverse stock split described above. The convertible preferred stock converted into 8,555,713 shares of common stock. In addition, the principal and accrued interest under the 2010 Convertible Notes converted into 2,034,438 shares of common stock upon the closing of the Company's IPO and the 2010 Warrants were net

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exercised for 107,246 shares of Series C convertible preferred stock, which shares were converted to common stock upon the closing of the Company's IPO. All other outstanding warrants to purchase convertible preferred stock became exercisable into shares of common stock. Concurrently, the Company increased the number of authorized shares of common stock to 100,000,000 with a par value of \$0.001 per share and decreased the number of authorized shares of preferred stock to 10,000,000 with a par value of \$0.001 per share.

2011 Stock Plans

2011 Equity Incentive Plan

In January 2011, the board of directors adopted, and the Company's stockholders approved, the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, or 2011 Incentive Plan, as a successor to the 2006 Plan. The 2011 Incentive Plan became effective immediately upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for the IPO on February 10, 2011. As of February 10, 2011, no more awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan, although all outstanding stock options and other stock awards previously granted under the 2006 Plan will continue to remain subject to the terms of the 2006 Plan. The 51,693 shares reserved under the 2006 Plan that remained available for future grant at the time of the IPO were transferred to the share reserve of the 2011 Incentive Plan.

The initial aggregate number of shares of the Company's common stock that may be issued pursuant to stock awards under the 2011 Incentive Plan is 1,875,000 shares, which number was the sum of (i) 51,693 shares remaining available for future grant under the 2006 Plan at the time of the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for the Company's IPO, and (ii) an additional 1,823,307 new shares. Then, the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the 2011 Incentive Plan will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting on January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, by 4% of the total number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, or such lesser number of shares of common stock as determined by the board of directors.

2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Additionally, in January 2011, the board of directors adopted, and the Company's stockholders approved, the 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or the ESPP, which also became effective immediately upon the execution and delivery of the underwriting agreement for the IPO.

Initially, 250,000 shares of the Company's common stock were authorized for issuance under the ESPP pursuant to purchase rights granted to the Company's employees or to employees of any of its designated affiliates. The number of shares of the Company's common stock reserved for issuance will automatically increase on January 1st each year, starting January 1, 2012 and continuing through January 1, 2020, in an amount equal to the lower of (1) 2% of the total number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding calendar year, or (2) a number of shares of common stock as determined by the board of directors. If a purchase right granted under the ESPP terminates without having been exercised, the shares of the Company's common stock not purchased under such purchase right will be available for issuance under the ESPP.

EXHIBIT INDEX

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of the Document</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, currently in effect. ⁽¹⁾ |
| 3.2 | Bylaws of the Registrant, currently in effect. ⁽²⁾ |
| 4.1 | Reference is made to Exhibits 3.1 through 3.2. |
| 4.2 | Specimen Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant. ⁽³⁾ |
| 4.3 | Amended and Restated Investor's Rights Agreement, among the Registrant and certain of its security holders, dated as of November 23, 2009. ⁽⁴⁾ |
| 4.4 | Warrant to Purchase Stock of the Registrant, issued to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated March 15, 2007. ⁽⁵⁾ |
| 4.5 | Warrant to Purchase Preferred Stock of the Registrant, issued to Pinnacle Ventures II Equity Holdings, L.L.C., dated September 16, 2008. ⁽⁶⁾ |
| 10.1+ | Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and each of its directors and executive officers. ⁽⁷⁾ |
| 10.2+ | 2006 Stock Plan, as amended. ⁽⁸⁾ |
| 10.3+ | Forms of Notice of Grant of Stock Option, Stock Option Agreement and Stock Option Exercise Notice under 2006 Stock Plan. |
| 10.4+ | 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. ⁽⁹⁾ |
| 10.5+ | Forms of Stock Option Grant Notice, Stock Option Exercise Notice and Stock Option Agreement under 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. |
| 10.6+ | Forms of Restricted Stock Unit Grant Notice and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement under 2011 Equity Incentive Plan. |
| 10.7+ | 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. ⁽¹⁰⁾ |
| 10.8 | Lease Agreement, between Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Registrant, dated January 2, 2007. ⁽¹¹⁾ |
| 10.9 | Loan and Security Agreement between Registrant and Pinnacle Ventures, L.L.C., as agent for the Lenders (as defined therein) and the Lenders, dated September 16, 2008. ⁽¹²⁾ |
| 10.10 | Note and Warrant Purchase Agreement between Registrant and the Purchasers defined therein, dated September 14, 2010, as amended. ⁽¹³⁾ |
| 10.11+ | Founder's Vesting Agreement between Registrant and Pamela Palmer, dated August 16, 2006. ⁽¹⁴⁾ |
| 10.12+ | Founder's Vesting Agreement between Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated August 16, 2006. ⁽¹⁵⁾ |
| 10.13+ | Offer Letter between the Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated August 15, 2006. ⁽¹⁶⁾ |
| 10.14+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Larry Hamel, dated December 31, 2010. ⁽¹⁷⁾ |
| 10.15+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Badri (Anil) Dasu, dated December 30, 2010. ⁽¹⁸⁾ |
| 10.16+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Pamela Palmer, dated December 29, 2010. ⁽¹⁹⁾ |
| 10.17+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and Richard King, dated December 31, 2010. ⁽²⁰⁾ |
| 10.18+ | Amended and Restated Offer Letter between the Registrant and James Welch, dated December 29, 2010. ⁽²¹⁾ |

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| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of the Document</u> |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.19+ | Resignation Agreement, between the Registrant and Thomas Schreck, dated May 6, 2010. ⁽²²⁾ |
| 10.20+ | Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy. ⁽²³⁾ |
| 23.1 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included in signature page) |
| 31.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |
| 32.1 | Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.* |

+ Indicates management contract or compensatory plan.

⁽¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-35068), as filed with the SEC on February 18, 2011.

⁽²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.4 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽³⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 31, 2011.

⁽⁴⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁵⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁶⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁷⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽⁸⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽⁹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-172409), as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2011.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.6 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-172409), as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2011.

⁽¹¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽¹²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on November 12, 2010.

⁽¹³⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 31, 2011.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.

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- ⁽²⁰⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²¹⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²²⁾ Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the Registrant’s registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-170594), as filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011.
- ⁽²³⁾ Incorporated by reference to the information under “Item 11. Executive Compensation—Director Compensation—Non-Employee Director Compensation” of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- The certifications attached as Exhibit 32.1 accompany this Form 10-K pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and shall not be deemed “filed” by the Registrant for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

**ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
NOTICE OF GRANT OF STOCK OPTION**

The Participant has been granted an option (the "*Option*") to purchase certain shares of Stock of AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. pursuant to the AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2006 Stock Plan (the "*Plan*"), as follows:

Option Grant Number:

Participant:

Date of Grant:

Number of Option Shares:

Exercise Price:

Initial Vesting Date:

Option Expiration Date:

Tax Status of Option:

Vested Shares: Except as provided in the Stock Option Agreement, the number of Vested Shares (disregarding any resulting fractional share) as of any date is determined by multiplying the Number of Option Shares by the "*Vested Ratio*" determined as of such date as follows:

The Exercise Price represents an amount the Company believes to be no less than the fair market value of a share of Stock as of the Date of Grant, determined in good faith in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. However, there is no guarantee that the Internal Revenue Service will agree with the Company's determination. A subsequent IRS determination that the Exercise Price is less than such fair market value could result in adverse tax consequences to the Participant. By signing below, the Participant agrees that the Company, its directors, officers and shareholders shall not be held liable for any tax, penalty, interest or cost incurred by the Participant as a result of such determination by the IRS. The Participant is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the Option, including the application of Section 409A.

By their signatures below, the Company and the Participant agree that the Option is governed by this Grant Notice and by the provisions of the Plan and the Stock Option Agreement, both of which are attached to and made a part of this document. The Participant acknowledges receipt of copies of the Plan and the Stock Option Agreement, represents that the Participant has read and is familiar with their provisions, and hereby accepts the Option subject to all of their terms and conditions.

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

PARTICIPANT

By: _____

Signature

Its: _____

Date

Address: 575 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, CA 94063

Address

ATTACHMENTS: 2006 Stock Plan, as amended to the Date of Grant; Stock Option Agreement and Exercise Notice

THE SECURITIES WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF THIS AGREEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN QUALIFIED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATIONS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH SECURITIES OR THE PAYMENT OR RECEIPT OF ANY PART OF THE CONSIDERATION THEREFOR PRIOR TO SUCH QUALIFICATION IS UNLAWFUL, UNLESS THE SALE OF SECURITIES IS EXEMPT FROM QUALIFICATION BY SECTION 25100, 25102, OR 25105 OF THE CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS CODE. THE RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE EXPRESSLY CONDITIONED UPON SUCH QUALIFICATION BEING OBTAINED, UNLESS THE SALE IS SO EXEMPT.

THE SECURITIES WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF THIS AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED FOR INVESTMENT AND NOT WITH A VIEW TO, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION THEREOF. NO SUCH SALE OR DISPOSITION MAY BE EFFECTED WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION STATEMENT RELATED THERETO OR AN OPINION OF COUNSEL SATISFACTORY TO THE COMPANY THAT SUCH REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has granted to the Participant named in the *Notice of Grant of Stock Option* (the “**Grant Notice**”) to which this Stock Option Agreement (the “**Option Agreement**”) is attached an option (the “**Option**”) to purchase certain shares of Stock upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant Notice and this Option Agreement. The Option has been granted pursuant to and shall in all respects be subject to the terms and conditions of the AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2006 Stock Plan (the “**Plan**”), as amended to the Date of Grant, the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference. By signing the Grant Notice, the Participant: (a) acknowledges receipt of, and represents that the Participant has read and is familiar with the terms and conditions of, the Grant Notice, this Option Agreement and the Plan, (b) accepts the Option subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Grant Notice, this Option Agreement and the Plan, and (c) agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board upon any questions arising under the Grant Notice, this Option Agreement or the Plan.

1. DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION.

1.1 **Definitions.** Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms shall have the meanings assigned to such terms in the Grant Notice or the Plan.

1.2 **Construction.** Captions and titles contained herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this Option Agreement. Except when otherwise indicated by the context, the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular. Use of the term “or” is not intended to be exclusive, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

2. **TAX CONSEQUENCES.**

2.1 **Tax Status of Option.** This Option is intended to have the tax status designated in the Grant Notice.

(a) ***Incentive Stock Option.*** If the Grant Notice so designates, this Option is intended to be an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422(b) of the Code, but the Company does not represent or warrant that this Option qualifies as such. The Participant should consult with the Participant's own tax advisor regarding the tax effects of this Option and the requirements necessary to obtain favorable income tax treatment under Section 422 of the Code, including, but not limited to, holding period requirements. (NOTE TO PARTICIPANT: If the Option is exercised more than three (3) months after the date on which you cease to be an Employee (other than by reason of your death or permanent and total disability as defined in Section 22(e)(3) of the Code), the Option will be treated as a Nonstatutory Stock Option and not as an Incentive Stock Option to the extent required by Section 422 of the Code.)

(b) ***Nonstatutory Stock Option.*** If the Grant Notice so designates, this Option is intended to be a Nonstatutory Stock Option and shall not be treated as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422(b) of the Code.

2.2 **ISO Fair Market Value Limitation.** *If the Grant Notice designates this Option as an Incentive Stock Option*, then to the extent that the Option (together with all Incentive Stock Options granted to the Participant under all stock option plans of the Participating Company Group, including the Plan) becomes exercisable for the first time during any calendar year for shares having a Fair Market Value greater than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the portion of such options which exceeds such amount will be treated as Nonstatutory Stock Options. For purposes of this Section 2.2, options designated as Incentive Stock Options are taken into account in the order in which they were granted, and the Fair Market Value of stock is determined as of the time the option with respect to such stock is granted. If the Code is amended to provide for a different limitation from that set forth in this Section 2.2, such different limitation shall be deemed incorporated herein effective as of the date required or permitted by such amendment to the Code. If the Option is treated as an Incentive Stock Option in part and as a Nonstatutory Stock Option in part by reason of the limitation set forth in this Section 2.2, the Participant may designate which portion of such Option the Participant is exercising. In the absence of such designation, the Participant shall be deemed to have exercised the Incentive Stock Option portion of the Option first. Separate certificates representing each such portion shall be issued upon the exercise of the Option. (NOTE TO PARTICIPANT: If the aggregate Exercise Price of the Option (that is, the Exercise Price multiplied by the Number of Option Shares) plus the aggregate exercise price of any other Incentive Stock Options you hold (whether granted pursuant to the Plan or any other stock option plan of the Participating Company Group) is greater than \$100,000, you should contact the Chief Financial Officer of the Company to ascertain whether the entire Option qualifies as an Incentive Stock Option.)

3. **ADMINISTRATION.**

All questions of interpretation concerning the Grant Notice, this Option Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Board. All determinations by the Board shall be final and binding upon all persons having an interest in the Option. Any Officer shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Company with respect to any matter, right, obligation, or election which is the responsibility of or which is allocated to the Company herein, provided the Officer has apparent authority with respect to such matter, right, obligation, or election.

4. **EXERCISE OF THE OPTION.**

4.1 **Right to Exercise.** Except as otherwise provided herein, the Option shall be exercisable on and after the Initial Vesting Date and prior to the termination of the Option (as provided in Section 6) in an amount not to exceed the number of vested shares less the number of shares previously acquired upon exercise of the Option, subject to the Company's repurchase rights set forth in Section 11. In no event shall the Option be exercisable for more shares than the Number of Option Shares, as adjusted pursuant to Section 9.

4.2 **Method of Exercise.** Exercise of the Option shall be by means of electronic or written notice (the "**Exercise Notice**") in a form authorized by the Company. An electronic Exercise Notice must be digitally signed or authenticated by the Participant in such manner as required by the notice and transmitted to the Company or an authorized representative of the Company (including a third-party administrator designated by the Company). In the event that the Participant is not authorized or is unable to provide an electronic Exercise Notice, the Option shall be exercised by a written Exercise Notice addressed to the Company, which shall be signed by the Participant and delivered in person, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, by confirmed facsimile transmission, or by such other means as the Company may permit, to the Company, or an authorized representative of the Company (including a third-party administrator designated by the Company). Each Exercise Notice, whether electronic or written, must state the Participant's election to exercise the Option, the number of whole shares of Stock for which the Option is being exercised and such other representations and agreements as to the Participant's investment intent with respect to such shares as may be required pursuant to the provisions of this Option Agreement. Further, each Exercise Notice must be received by the Company prior to the termination of the Option as set forth in Section 6 and must be accompanied by full payment of the aggregate Exercise Price for the number of shares of Stock being purchased. The Option shall be deemed to be exercised upon receipt by the Company of such electronic or written Exercise Notice and the aggregate Exercise Price.

4.3 **Payment of Exercise Price.**

(a) **Forms of Consideration Authorized.** Except as otherwise provided below, payment of the aggregate Exercise Price for the number of shares of Stock for which the Option is being exercised shall be made (i) in cash or by check or cash equivalent, (ii) if permitted by the Company, by tender to the Company, or attestation to the ownership, of whole shares of Stock owned by the Participant having a Fair Market Value not less than the aggregate Exercise Price, (iii) by means of a Cashless Exercise, as defined in Section 4.3(b), or (iv) by any combination of the foregoing.

(b) **Limitations on Forms of Consideration.**

(i) **Tender of Stock.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Option may not be exercised by tender to the Company, or attestation to the ownership, of shares of Stock to the extent such tender or attestation would constitute a violation of the provisions of any law, regulation or agreement restricting the redemption of the Company's stock. If required by the Company, the Option may not be exercised by tender to the Company, or attestation to the ownership, of shares of Stock unless such shares either have been owned by the Participant for more than six (6) months or such other period, if any, required by the Company (and not used for another option exercise by attestation during such period) or were not acquired, directly or indirectly, from the Company.

(ii) **Cashless Exercise.** A "**Cashless Exercise**" means the delivery of a properly executed notice together with irrevocable instructions to a broker in a form acceptable to the Company providing for the assignment to the Company of the proceeds of a sale or loan with respect to some or all of the shares of Stock acquired upon the exercise of the Option pursuant to a program or procedure approved by the Company (including, without limitation, through an exercise complying with the provisions of Regulation T as promulgated from time to time by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System). The Company reserves, at any and all times, the right, in the Company's sole and absolute discretion, to establish, decline to approve, or terminate any such program or procedure, including with respect to the Participant notwithstanding that such program or procedures may be available to others.

4.4 **Tax Withholding.** At the time the Option is exercised, in whole or in part, or at any time thereafter as requested by the Company, the Participant hereby authorizes withholding from payroll and any other amounts payable to the Participant, and otherwise agrees to make adequate provision for (including by means of a Cashless Exercise to the extent permitted by the Company), any sums required to satisfy the federal, state, local and foreign tax withholding obligations of the Participating Company Group, if any, which arise in connection with the Option. The Company shall have no obligation to deliver shares of Stock until the tax withholding obligations of the Participating Company Group have been satisfied by the Participant.

4.5 **Certificate Registration.** Except in the event the Exercise Price is paid by means of a Cashless Exercise, the certificate for the shares as to which the Option is exercised shall be registered in the name of the Participant, or, if applicable, in the names of the heirs of the Participant.

4.6 **Restrictions on Grant of the Option and Issuance of Shares.** The grant of the Option and the issuance of shares of Stock upon exercise of the Option shall be subject to compliance with all applicable requirements of federal, state or foreign law with respect to such securities. The Option may not be exercised if the issuance of shares of Stock upon exercise would constitute a violation of any applicable federal, state or foreign securities laws or other law or regulations or the requirements of any stock exchange or market system upon which the Stock may then be listed. In addition, the Option may not be exercised unless (i) a registration statement under the Securities Act shall at the time of exercise of the Option be in effect with respect to the shares issuable upon exercise of the Option or (ii) in the opinion of legal counsel to the Company, the shares issuable upon exercise of the Option may be issued in accordance with

the terms of an applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. THE PARTICIPANT IS CAUTIONED THAT THE OPTION MAY NOT BE EXERCISED UNLESS THE FOREGOING CONDITIONS ARE SATISFIED. ACCORDINGLY, THE PARTICIPANT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THE OPTION WHEN DESIRED EVEN THOUGH THE OPTION IS VESTED. The inability of the Company to obtain from any regulatory body having jurisdiction the authority, if any, deemed by the Company's legal counsel to be necessary to the lawful issuance and sale of any shares subject to the Option shall relieve the Company of any liability in respect of the failure to issue or sell such shares as to which such requisite authority shall not have been obtained. As a condition to the exercise of the Option, the Company may require the Participant to satisfy any qualifications that may be necessary or appropriate, to evidence compliance with any applicable law or regulation and to make any representation or warranty with respect thereto as may be requested by the Company.

4.7 **Fractional Shares.** The Company shall not be required to issue fractional shares upon the exercise of the Option.

5. **NONTRANSFERABILITY OF THE OPTION.**

During the lifetime of the Participant, the Option shall be exercisable only by the Participant or the Participant's guardian or legal representative. The Option shall not be subject in any manner to anticipation, alienation, sale, exchange, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance, or garnishment by creditors of the Participant or the Participant's beneficiary, except transfer by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. Following the death of the Participant, the Option, to the extent provided in Section 7, may be exercised by the Participant's legal representative or by any person empowered to do so under the deceased Participant's will or under the then applicable laws of descent and distribution.

6. **TERMINATION OF THE OPTION.**

The Option shall terminate and may no longer be exercised after the first to occur of (a) the close of business on the Option Expiration Date, (b) the close of business on the last date for exercising the Option following termination of the Participant's Service as described in Section 7, or (c) a Change in Control to the extent provided in Section 8.

7. **EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF SERVICE.**

7.1 **Option Exercisability.** The Option shall terminate immediately upon the Participant's termination of Service to the extent that it is then unvested and shall be exercisable after the Participant's termination of Service to the extent it is then vested only during the applicable time period as determined below and thereafter shall terminate.

(a) **Disability.** If the Participant's Service terminates because of the Disability of the Participant, the Option, to the extent unexercised and exercisable for vested shares on the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, may be exercised by the Participant (or the Participant's guardian or legal representative) at any time prior to the expiration of twelve (12) months after the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, but in any event no later than the Option Expiration Date.

(b) **Death.** If the Participant's Service terminates because of the death of the Participant, the Option, to the extent unexercised and exercisable for vested shares on the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, may be exercised by the Participant's legal representative or other person who acquired the right to exercise the Option by reason of the Participant's death at any time prior to the expiration of twelve (12) months after the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, but in any event no later than the Option Expiration Date. The Participant's Service shall be deemed to have terminated on account of death if the Participant dies within three (3) months after the Participant's termination of Service.

(c) **Termination for Cause.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Option Agreement, if the Participant's Service is terminated for Cause, the Option shall terminate and cease to be exercisable immediately upon such termination of Service.

(d) **Other Termination of Service.** If the Participant's Service terminates for any reason, except Disability, death or Cause, the Option, to the extent unexercised and exercisable for vested shares by the Participant on the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, may be exercised by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration of three (3) months after the date on which the Participant's Service terminated, but in any event no later than the Option Expiration Date.

7.2 **Extension if Exercise Prevented by Law.** Notwithstanding the foregoing other than termination for Cause, if the exercise of the Option within the applicable time periods set forth in Section 7.1 is prevented by the provisions of Section 4.6, the Option shall remain exercisable until three (3) months after the date the Participant is notified by the Company that the Option is exercisable, but in any event no later than the Option Expiration Date.

8. CHANGE IN CONTROL.

8.1 **Effect of Change in Control on Awards.** In the event of a Change in Control, the surviving, continuing, successor, or purchasing entity or parent thereof, as the case may be (the "**Acquiror**"), may, without the consent of the Participant, assume or continue in full force and effect the Company's rights and obligations under the Option or any portion thereof or substitute for the Option or any portion thereof a substantially equivalent option for the Acquiror's stock. For purposes of this Section, the Option shall be deemed assumed if, following the Change in Control, the Option confers the right to receive, subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan and this Option Agreement, for each share of Stock subject to the Option immediately prior to the Change in Control, the consideration (whether stock, cash, other securities or property or a combination thereof) to which a holder of a share of Stock on the effective date of the Change in Control was entitled; provided, however, that if such consideration is not solely common stock of the Acquiror, the Board may, with the consent of the Acquiror, provide for the consideration to be received upon the exercise of the Option, for each share of Stock subject to the Option, to consist solely of common stock of the Acquiror equal in Fair Market Value to the per share consideration received by holders of Stock pursuant to the Change in Control. The Option shall terminate and cease to be outstanding effective as of the time of consummation of the Change in Control to the extent that the Option is neither assumed or continued by the Acquiror in connection with the Change in Control nor exercised as of the date of the Change in Control. Notwithstanding the foregoing, shares acquired upon exercise of the Option prior to the Change in Control and any consideration received pursuant to the Change

in Control with respect to such shares shall continue to be subject to all applicable provisions of this Option Agreement except as otherwise provided herein.

8.2 Acceleration of Vesting. [For executive officers: The other provisions of this Section 8 notwithstanding, if Participant's Service terminates as a result of an Involuntary Termination or termination without Cause at any time within eighteen (18) months after a Change in Control, and the Participant signs a general release of claims against the Company, any shares that are not vested shares shall become fully vested upon such termination. For purposes of this Agreement "***Involuntary Termination***" shall mean Participant's termination of Service with the Company within thirty (30) days following the occurrence of any of the following without Participant's consent: (i) a material reduction or change in job duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements inconsistent with Participant's position with the Company and prior duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements prior to the Change in Control, provided that neither a mere change in title alone nor reassignment following a Change in Control to a position that is substantially similar to the position held prior to the Change in Control in terms of job duties, responsibilities or requirements shall constitute a material reduction in job responsibilities; (ii) a reduction in Participant's then-current base salary by at least 20%, provided that an across-the-board reduction in the salary level of all other senior executives by the same percentage amount as a part of a general salary level reduction shall not constitute such a salary reduction or (iii) Participant's refusal to relocate the principal place for performance of Company duties to a location more than thirty (30) miles from the Company's then current location at the time of the Change in Control.] [For non-employee directors: Notwithstanding the vesting schedule in the Notice of Grant of Stock Option, in the event that the Company consummates a Change in Control, 100% of the Shares shall vest and become exercisable immediately prior to the effective date of the Change in Control.]

9. ADJUSTMENTS FOR CHANGES IN CAPITAL STRUCTURE.

Subject to any required action by the stockholders of the Company, in the event of any change in the Stock effected without receipt of consideration by the Company, whether through merger, consolidation, reorganization, reincorporation, recapitalization, reclassification, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, split-up, split-off, spin-off, combination of shares, exchange of shares, or similar change in the capital structure of the Company, or in the event of payment of a dividend or distribution to the stockholders of the Company in a form other than Stock (excepting normal cash dividends) that has a material effect on the Fair Market Value of shares of Stock, appropriate and proportionate adjustments shall be made in the number, Exercise Price and kind of shares subject to the Option, in order to prevent dilution or enlargement of the Participant's rights under the Option. For purposes of the foregoing, conversion of any convertible securities of the Company shall not be treated as "effected without receipt of consideration by the Company." Any fractional share resulting from an adjustment pursuant to this Section shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number and the Exercise Price shall be rounded up to the nearest whole cent. In no event may the Exercise Price be decreased to an amount less than the par value, if any, of the stock subject to the Option. Such adjustments shall be determined by the Board, and its determination shall be final, binding and conclusive.

10. RIGHTS AS A STOCKHOLDER, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEE OR CONSULTANT.

The Participant shall have no rights as a stockholder with respect to any shares covered by the Option until the date of the issuance of the shares for which the Option has been exercised (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized

transfer agent of the Company). No adjustment shall be made for dividends, distributions or other rights for which the record date is prior to the date the shares are issued, except as provided in Section 9. If the Participant is an Employee, the Participant understands and acknowledges that, except as otherwise provided in a separate, written employment agreement between a Participating Company and the Participant, the Participant's employment is "at will" and is for no specified term. Nothing in this Option Agreement shall confer upon the Participant any right to continue in the Service of a Participating Company or interfere in any way with any right of the Participating Company Group to terminate the Participant's Service as a Director, an Employee or Consultant, as the case may be, at any time.

11. **RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.**

11.1 **Grant of Right of First Refusal.** Except as provided in Section 11.7 and Section 16 below, in the event the Participant, the Participant's legal representative, or other holder of shares acquired upon exercise of the Option proposes to sell, exchange, transfer, pledge, or otherwise dispose of any vested shares (the "***Transfer Shares***") to any person or entity, including, without limitation, any stockholder of a Participating Company, the Company shall have the right to repurchase the Transfer Shares under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Section 11 (the "***Right of First Refusal***").

11.2 **Notice of Proposed Transfer.** Prior to any proposed transfer of the Transfer Shares, the Participant shall deliver written notice (the "***Transfer Notice***") to the Company describing fully the proposed transfer, including the number of Transfer Shares, the name and address of the proposed transferee (the "***Proposed Transferee***") and, if the transfer is voluntary, the proposed transfer price, and containing such information necessary to show the bona fide nature of the proposed transfer. In the event of a bona fide gift or involuntary transfer, the proposed transfer price shall be deemed to be the Fair Market Value of the Transfer Shares, as determined by the Board in good faith. If the Participant proposes to transfer any Transfer Shares to more than one Proposed Transferee, the Participant shall provide a separate Transfer Notice for the proposed transfer to each Proposed Transferee. The Transfer Notice shall be signed by both the Participant and the Proposed Transferee and must constitute a binding commitment of the Participant and the Proposed Transferee for the transfer of the Transfer Shares to the Proposed Transferee subject only to the Right of First Refusal.

11.3 **Bona Fide Transfer.** If the Company determines that the information provided by the Participant in the Transfer Notice is insufficient to establish the bona fide nature of a proposed voluntary transfer, the Company shall give the Participant written notice of the Participant's failure to comply with the procedure described in this Section 11, and the Participant shall have no right to transfer the Transfer Shares without first complying with the procedure described in this Section 11. The Participant shall not be permitted to transfer the Transfer Shares if the proposed transfer is not bona fide.

11.4 **Exercise of Right of First Refusal.** If the Company determines the proposed transfer to be bona fide, the Company shall have the right to purchase all, but not less than all, of the Transfer Shares (except as the Company and the Participant otherwise agree) at the purchase price and on the terms set forth in the Transfer Notice by delivery to the Participant of a notice of exercise of the Right of First Refusal within thirty (30) days after the date the Transfer Notice is delivered to the Company. The Company's exercise or failure to exercise the

Right of First Refusal with respect to any proposed transfer described in a Transfer Notice shall not affect the Company's right to exercise the Right of First Refusal with respect to any proposed transfer described in any other Transfer Notice, whether or not such other Transfer Notice is issued by the Participant or issued by a person other than the Participant with respect to a proposed transfer to the same Proposed Transferee. If the Company exercises the Right of First Refusal, the Company and the Participant shall thereupon consummate the sale of the Transfer Shares to the Company on the terms set forth in the Transfer Notice within sixty (60) days after the date the Transfer Notice is delivered to the Company (unless a longer period is offered by the Proposed Transferee); provided, however, that in the event the Transfer Notice provides for the payment for the Transfer Shares other than in cash, the Company shall have the option of paying for the Transfer Shares by the present value cash equivalent of the consideration described in the Transfer Notice as reasonably determined by the Company. For purposes of the foregoing, cancellation of any indebtedness of the Participant to any Participating Company shall be treated as payment to the Participant in cash to the extent of the unpaid principal and any accrued interest canceled.

11.5 Failure to Exercise Right of First Refusal. If the Company fails to exercise the Right of First Refusal in full (or to such lesser extent as the Company and the Participant otherwise agree) within the period specified in Section 11.4 above, the Participant may conclude a transfer to the Proposed Transferee of the Transfer Shares on the terms and conditions described in the Transfer Notice, provided such transfer occurs not later than ninety (90) days following delivery to the Company of the Transfer Notice. The Company shall have the right to demand further assurances from the Participant and the Proposed Transferee (in a form satisfactory to the Company) that the transfer of the Transfer Shares was actually carried out on the terms and conditions described in the Transfer Notice. No Transfer Shares shall be transferred on the books of the Company until the Company has received such assurances, if so demanded, and has approved the proposed transfer as bona fide. Any proposed transfer on terms and conditions different from those described in the Transfer Notice, as well as any subsequent proposed transfer by the Participant, shall again be subject to the Right of First Refusal and shall require compliance by the Participant with the procedure described in this Section 11.

11.6 Transferees of Transfer Shares All transferees of the Transfer Shares or any interest therein, other than the Company, shall be required as a condition of such transfer to agree in writing (in a form satisfactory to the Company) that such transferee shall receive and hold such Transfer Shares or interest therein subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Option Agreement, including this Section 11 providing for the Right of First Refusal with respect to any subsequent transfer. Any sale or transfer of any shares acquired upon exercise of the Option shall be void unless the provisions of this Section 11 are met.

11.7 Transfers Not Subject to Right of First Refusal. The Right of First Refusal shall not apply to any transfer or exchange of the shares acquired upon exercise of the Option if such transfer or exchange is in connection with an Ownership Change Event. If the consideration received pursuant to such transfer or exchange consists of stock of a Participating Company, such consideration shall remain subject to the Right of First Refusal unless the provisions of Section 11.9 below result in a termination of the Right of First Refusal.

11.8 **Assignment of Right of First Refusal.** The Company shall have the right to assign the Right of First Refusal at any time, whether or not there has been an attempted transfer, to one or more persons as may be selected by the Company.

11.9 **Early Termination of Right of First Refusal.** The other provisions of this Option Agreement notwithstanding, the Right of First Refusal shall terminate and be of no further force and effect upon (a) the occurrence of a Change in Control, unless the Acquiror assumes the Company's rights and obligations under the Option or substitutes a substantially equivalent option for the Acquiror's stock for the Option, or (b) the existence of a public market for the class of shares subject to the Right of First Refusal. A "**public market**" shall be deemed to exist if (i) such stock is listed on a national securities exchange (as that term is used in the Exchange Act) or (ii) such stock is traded on the over-the-counter market and prices therefor are published daily on business days in a recognized financial journal.

12. **STOCK DISTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO OPTION AGREEMENT.**

If, from time to time, there is any stock dividend, stock split or other change, as described in Section 9, in the character or amount of any of the outstanding stock of the corporation the stock of which is subject to the provisions of this Option Agreement, then in such event any and all new, substituted or additional securities to which the Participant is entitled by reason of the Participant's ownership of the shares acquired upon exercise of the Option shall be immediately subject to the Right of First Refusal with the same force and effect as the shares subject to the Right of First Refusal immediately before such event.

13. **NOTICE OF SALES UPON DISQUALIFYING DISPOSITION.**

The Participant shall dispose of the shares acquired pursuant to the Option only in accordance with the provisions of this Option Agreement. In addition, *if the Grant Notice designates this Option as an Incentive Stock Option*, the Participant shall (a) promptly notify the Chief Financial Officer of the Company if the Participant disposes of any of the shares acquired pursuant to the Option within one (1) year after the date the Participant exercises all or part of the Option or within two (2) years after the Date of Grant and (b) provide the Company with a description of the circumstances of such disposition. Until such time as the Participant disposes of such shares in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Option Agreement, unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Company, the Participant shall hold all shares acquired pursuant to the Option in the Participant's name (and not in the name of any nominee) for the one-year period immediately after the exercise of the Option and the two-year period immediately after Date of Grant. At any time during the one-year or two-year periods set forth above, the Company may place a legend on any certificate representing shares acquired pursuant to the Option requesting the transfer agent for the Company's stock to notify the Company of any such transfers. The obligation of the Participant to notify the Company of any such transfer shall continue notwithstanding that a legend has been placed on the certificate pursuant to the preceding sentence.

14. **LEGENDS.**

The Company may at any time place legends referencing the Right of First Refusal and any applicable federal, state or foreign securities law restrictions on all certificates representing shares of stock subject to the provisions of this Option Agreement. The Participant shall, at the

request of the Company, promptly present to the Company any and all certificates representing shares acquired pursuant to the Option in the possession of the Participant in order to carry out the provisions of this Section. Unless otherwise specified by the Company, legends placed on such certificates may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

14.1 “THE SECURITIES EVIDENCED BY THIS CERTIFICATE HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, AND MAY NOT BE SOLD, TRANSFERRED, ASSIGNED OR HYPOTHECATED UNLESS THERE IS AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER SUCH ACT COVERING SUCH SECURITIES, THE SALE IS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 144 OR RULE 701 UNDER THE ACT, OR THE COMPANY RECEIVES AN OPINION OF COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO THE COMPANY, STATING THAT SUCH SALE, TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT OR HYPOTHECATION IS EXEMPT FROM THE REGISTRATION AND PROSPECTUS DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH ACT.”

14.2 “THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER, INCLUDING A RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL OPTION IN FAVOR OF THE CORPORATION OR ITS ASSIGNEE SET FORTH IN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION AND THE REGISTERED HOLDER, OR SUCH HOLDER’S PREDECESSOR IN INTEREST, A COPY OF WHICH IS ON FILE AT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THIS CORPORATION.”

14.3 “THE SHARES EVIDENCED BY THIS CERTIFICATE WERE ISSUED BY THE CORPORATION TO THE REGISTERED HOLDER UPON EXERCISE OF AN INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 422 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (“ISO ”). IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE PREFERENTIAL TAX TREATMENT AFFORDED TO ISOs, THE SHARES SHOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED PRIOR TO [*INSERT DISQUALIFYING DISPOSITION DATE HERE*]. SHOULD THE REGISTERED HOLDER ELECT TO TRANSFER ANY OF THE SHARES PRIOR TO THIS DATE AND FOREGO ISO TAX TREATMENT, THE TRANSFER AGENT FOR THE SHARES SHALL NOTIFY THE CORPORATION IMMEDIATELY. THE REGISTERED HOLDER SHALL HOLD ALL SHARES PURCHASED UNDER THE INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION IN THE REGISTERED HOLDER’S NAME (AND NOT IN THE NAME OF ANY NOMINEE) PRIOR TO THIS DATE OR UNTIL TRANSFERRED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.”

15. **LOCK-UP AGREEMENT.**

The Participant hereby agrees that in the event of any underwritten public offering of stock, including an initial public offering of stock, made by the Company pursuant to an effective registration statement filed under the Securities Act, the Participant shall not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge, hypothecate, grant any option to purchase or make any short sale of, or otherwise dispose of any shares of stock of the Company or any rights to acquire stock of the Company for such period of time from and after the effective date of such registration statement as may be established by the underwriter for such public offering; provided, however, that such period of time shall not exceed one hundred eighty (180) days from the effective date of the registration statement to be filed in connection with such public offering. The foregoing limitation shall not apply to shares registered in the public offering under the Securities Act. The

Participant hereby agrees to enter into any agreement reasonably required by the underwriters to implement the foregoing within a reasonable timeframe if so requested by the Company.

16. **RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER OF SHARES.**

No shares acquired upon exercise of the Option may be sold, exchanged, transferred (including, without limitation, any transfer to a nominee or agent of the Participant), assigned, pledged, hypothecated or otherwise disposed of, including by operation of law in any manner which violates any of the provisions of this Option Agreement, and any such attempted disposition shall be void. The Company shall not be required (a) to transfer on its books any shares which will have been transferred in violation of any of the provisions set forth in this Option Agreement or (b) to treat as owner of such shares or to accord the right to vote as such owner or to pay dividends to any transferee to whom such shares will have been so transferred.

17. **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

17.1 **Further Instruments.** The parties hereto agree to execute such further instruments and to take such further action as may reasonably be necessary to carry out the intent of this Option Agreement.

17.2 **Binding Effect.** Subject to the restrictions on transfer set forth herein, this Option Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

17.3 **Termination or Amendment.** The Board may terminate or amend the Plan or the Option at any time; provided, however, that except as provided in Section 8 in connection with a Change in Control, no such termination or amendment may adversely affect the Option or any unexercised portion hereof without the consent of the Participant unless such termination or amendment is necessary to comply with any applicable law or government regulation. No amendment or addition to this Option Agreement shall be effective unless in writing.

17.4 **Delivery of Documents and Notices.** Any document relating to participation in the Plan, or any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be given in writing and shall be deemed effectively given (except to the extent that this Option Agreement provides for effectiveness only upon actual receipt of such notice) upon personal delivery electronic delivery at the e-mail address, if any, provided for the Participant by the Participating Company, or, upon deposit in the U.S. Post Office or foreign postal service, by registered or certified mail, or with a nationally recognized overnight courier service with postage and fees prepaid, addressed to the other party at the address of such party set forth in the Grant Notice or at such other address as such party may designate in writing from time to time to the other party.

(a) **Description of Electronic Delivery.** The Plan documents, which may include but do not necessarily include: the Plan, the Grant Notice, this Option Agreement, and any reports of the Company provided generally to the Company's shareholders, may be delivered to the Participant electronically. In addition, if permitted by the Company, the Participant may deliver electronically the Grant Notice and Exercise Notice called for by Section 4.2 to the Company or to such third party involved in administering the Plan as the Company may designate from time to time. Such means of electronic delivery may include but

do not necessarily include the delivery of a link to a Company intranet or the internet site of a third party involved in administering the Plan, the delivery of the document via e-mail or such other means of electronic delivery specified by the Company.

(b) **Consent to Electronic Delivery.** The Participant acknowledges that the Participant has read Section 17.4(a) of this Option Agreement and consents to the electronic delivery of the Plan documents and, if permitted by the Company, the delivery of the Grant Notice and Exercise Notice, as described in Section 17.4(a). The Participant acknowledges that he or she may receive from the Company a paper copy of any documents delivered electronically at no cost to the Participant by contacting the Company by telephone or in writing. The Participant further acknowledges that the Participant will be provided with a paper copy of any documents if the attempted electronic delivery of such documents fails. Similarly, the Participant understands that the Participant must provide the Company or any designated third party administrator with a paper copy of any documents if the attempted electronic delivery of such documents fails. The Participant may revoke his or her consent to the electronic delivery of documents described in Section 17.4(a) or may change the electronic mail address to which such documents are to be delivered (if Participant has provided an electronic mail address) at any time by notifying the Company of such revoked consent or revised e-mail address by telephone, postal service or electronic mail. Finally, the Participant understands that he or she is not required to consent to electronic delivery of documents described in Section 17.4(a).

17.5 **Integrated Agreement.** The Grant Notice, this Option Agreement and the Plan, together with any employment, service or other agreement with the Participant and a Participating Company referring to the Option, shall constitute the entire understanding and agreement of the Participant and the Participating Company Group with respect to the subject matter contained herein or therein and supersede any prior agreements, understandings, restrictions, representations, or warranties among the Participant and the Participating Company Group with respect to such subject matter. To the extent contemplated herein or therein, the provisions of the Grant Notice, the Option Agreement and the Plan shall survive any exercise of the Option and shall remain in full force and effect.

17.6 **Applicable Law.** This Option Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California as such laws are applied to agreements between California residents entered into and to be performed entirely within the State of California.

17.7 **Counterparts.** The Grant Notice may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

- Incentive Stock Option
- Nonstatutory Stock Option

Participant: _____

Date: _____

STOCK OPTION EXERCISE NOTICE

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Attention: Chief Financial Officer
575 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, CA 94063

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. **Option.** I was granted an option (the "**Option**") to purchase shares of the common stock (the "**Shares**") of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the "**Company**") pursuant to the Company's 2006 Stock Plan (the "**Plan**"), my Notice of Grant of Stock Option (the "**Grant Notice**") and my Stock Option Agreement (the "**Option Agreement**") as follows:

Date of Grant: _____

Number of Option Shares: _____

Exercise Price per Share: _____

2. **Exercise of Option.** I hereby elect to exercise the Option to purchase the following number of Shares, all of which are vested shares, in accordance with the Grant Notice and the Option Agreement:

Total Shares Purchased: _____

Total Exercise Price (Total Shares X Price per Share) \$ _____

3. **Payments.** I enclose payment in full of the total exercise price for the Shares in the following form(s), as authorized by my Option Agreement:

Cash: \$ _____

Check: \$ _____

Tender of Company Stock: Contact Plan Administrator

4. **Tax Withholding.** I authorize payroll withholding and otherwise will make adequate provision for the federal, state, local and foreign tax withholding obligations of the Company, if any, in connection with the Option. If I am exercising a Nonstatutory Stock Option, I enclose payment in full of my withholding taxes, if any, as follows:

(Contact Plan Administrator for amount of tax due.)

Cash: _____ \$ _____

Check: _____ \$ _____

5. **Participant Information.**

My address is: _____

My Social Security Number is: _____

6. **Notice of Disqualifying Disposition.** If the Option is an Incentive Stock Option, I agree that I will promptly notify the Chief Financial Officer of the Company if I transfer any of the Shares within one (1) year from the date I exercise all or part of the Option or within two (2) years of the Date of Grant.

7. **Binding Effect.** I agree that the Shares are being acquired in accordance with and subject to the terms, provisions and conditions of the Grant Notice, the Option Agreement, including the Right of First Refusal set forth therein, and the Plan, to all of which I hereby expressly assent. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

8. **Transfer.** I understand and acknowledge that the Shares have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “*Securities Act*”), and that consequently the Shares must be held indefinitely unless they are subsequently registered under the Securities Act, an exemption from such registration is available, or they are sold in accordance with Rule 144 or Rule 701 under the Securities Act. I further understand and acknowledge that the Company is under no obligation to register the Shares. I understand that the certificate or certificates evidencing the Shares will be imprinted with legends which prohibit the transfer of the Shares unless they are registered or such registration is not required in the opinion of legal counsel satisfactory to the Company.

I am aware that Rule 144 under the Securities Act, which permits limited public resale of securities acquired in a nonpublic offering, is not currently available with respect to the Shares and, in any event, is available only if certain conditions are satisfied. I understand that any sale of the Shares that might be made in reliance upon Rule 144 may only be made in limited amounts in accordance with the terms and conditions of such rule and that a copy of Rule 144 will be delivered to me upon request.

I understand that I am purchasing the Shares pursuant to the terms of the Plan, the Grant Notice and my Option Agreement, copies of which I have received and carefully read and understand.

Very truly yours,

(Signature)

Receipt of the above is hereby acknowledged.

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: _____

Title: _____

Dated: _____

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
STOCK OPTION GRANT NOTICE
(2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN)

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “Company”), pursuant to its 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), hereby grants to Optionholder an option to purchase the number of shares of the Company’s Common Stock set forth below. This option is subject to all of the terms and conditions as set forth herein and in the Option Agreement, the Plan, and the Notice of Exercise, all of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein in their entirety.

Optionholder: _____
Date of Grant: _____
Vesting Commencement Date: _____
Number of Shares Subject to Option: _____
Exercise Price (Per Share): _____
Total Exercise Price: _____
Expiration Date: _____

Type of Grant: Incentive Stock Option Nonstatutory Stock Option

Exercise Schedule: Same as Vesting Schedule

Vesting Schedule: Subject to Continuous Service on each vesting date, [_____]

Change in Control Acceleration: See Section 1 of the Option Agreement

Payment: By one or a combination of the following items (described in the Option Agreement):

- By cash or check
- By bank draft or money order payable to the Company
- Pursuant to a Regulation T Program if the Shares are publicly traded
- By delivery of already-owned shares if the Shares are publicly traded
- If and only to the extent this option is a Nonstatutory Stock Option, and subject to the Company’s consent at the time of exercise, by a “net exercise” arrangement

Additional Terms/Acknowledgements: The undersigned Optionholder acknowledges receipt of, and understands and agrees to, this Stock Option Grant Notice, the Option Agreement and the Plan. Optionholder further acknowledges that as of the Date of Grant, this Stock Option Grant Notice, the Option Agreement, and the Plan set forth the entire understanding between Optionholder and the Company regarding the acquisition of stock in the Company and supersede all prior oral and written agreements on that subject with the exception of (i) options previously granted and delivered to Optionholder by the Company under the Plan or the Company’s 2006 Stock Plan, and (ii) the following agreements only:

OTHER AGREEMENTS: _____

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
By: _____
Signature
Title: _____
Date: _____

OPTIONHOLDER:
Signature
Date: _____

ATTACHMENTS: Option Agreement, 2011 Equity Incentive Plan and Notice of Exercise

ATTACHMENT I

ACELRx PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

OPTION AGREEMENT
(INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION OR NONSTATUTORY STOCK OPTION)

Pursuant to your Stock Option Grant Notice (“*Grant Notice*”) and this Option Agreement, AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “*Company*”) has granted you an option under its 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (the “*Plan*”) to purchase the number of shares of the Company’s Common Stock indicated in your Grant Notice at the exercise price indicated in your Grant Notice. Defined terms not explicitly defined in this Option Agreement but defined in the Plan shall have the same definitions as in the Plan.

The details of your option are as follows:

1. VESTING; CHANGE IN CONTROL ACCELERATION.

(a) Subject to the limitations contained herein and the potential vesting acceleration provisions set forth in Section 9 of the Plan and Section 1(b) below, your option will vest as provided in your Grant Notice, provided that vesting will cease upon the termination of your Continuous Service.

(b) [For non-employee directors: Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a Change in Control, the vesting of any then-unvested portion of your option shall accelerate in full such that 100% of the then unvested shares underlying such option will become vested and exercisable as of immediately prior to the effective date of the Change in Control.][For executive officers: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if your Continuous Service terminates as a result of a termination by the Company without Cause or a voluntary resignation for Good Reason at any time on or within eighteen (18) months after a Change in Control, and provided you sign a general release of claims against the Company that is effective not later than 30 days after your termination, then the vesting of any then-unvested portion of your option shall accelerate in full such that 100% of the then unvested shares underlying such option will become vested and exercisable as of your termination date.

(i) For purposes of this Option Agreement, “*Good Reason*” means your voluntary resignation from all positions you then hold with the Company within sixty (60) days following the occurrence of any of the following events without your written consent and after providing written notice of such event to the Company and providing the Company at least thirty (30) days to cure such event: (i) a material reduction or change in your job duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements inconsistent with your position with the Company and prior duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements prior to the Change in Control, provided that neither a mere change in title alone nor reassignment following a Change in Control to a position that is substantially similar to the position held prior to the Change in Control in terms of job duties, responsibilities or requirements shall constitute a

material reduction in job responsibilities; (ii) a reduction in your then-current base salary by at least 20%, provided that an across-the-board reduction in the salary level of all other senior executives by the same percentage amount as part of a general salary level reduction shall not constitute such a salary reduction, or (iii) the relocation of your principal place for performance of your Company duties to a location more than thirty (30) miles from the Company's then current location at the time of the Change in Control.]

2. NUMBER OF SHARES AND EXERCISE PRICE. The number of shares of Common Stock subject to your option and your exercise price per share referenced in your Grant Notice may be adjusted from time to time for Capitalization Adjustments.

3. EXERCISE RESTRICTION FOR NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES. In the event that you are an Employee eligible for overtime compensation under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (*i.e.*, a "**Non-Exempt Employee**"), and except as otherwise provided in the Plan, you may not exercise your option until you have completed at least six (6) months of Continuous Service measured from the Date of Grant specified in your Grant Notice, notwithstanding any other provision of your option.

4. EXERCISE PRIOR TO VESTING ("EARLY EXERCISE"). If permitted in your Grant Notice (*i.e.*, the "Exercise Schedule" indicates "Early Exercise Permitted") and subject to the provisions of your option, you may elect at any time that is both (i) during the period of your Continuous Service and (ii) during the term of your option, to exercise all or part of your option, including the unvested portion of your option; *provided, however*, that:

(a) a partial exercise of your option shall be deemed to cover first vested shares of Common Stock and then the earliest vesting installment of unvested shares of Common Stock;

(b) any shares of Common Stock so purchased from installments that have not vested as of the date of exercise shall be subject to the purchase option in favor of the Company as described in the Company's form of Early Exercise Stock Purchase Agreement;

(c) you shall enter into the Company's form of Early Exercise Stock Purchase Agreement with a vesting schedule that will result in the same vesting as if no early exercise had occurred; and

(d) if your option is an Incentive Stock Option, then, to the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined at the time of grant) of the shares of Common Stock with respect to which your option plus all other Incentive Stock Options you hold are exercisable for the first time by you during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and its Affiliates) exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), your option(s) or portions thereof that exceed such limit (according to the order in which they were granted) shall be treated as Nonstatutory Stock Options.

5. METHOD OF PAYMENT. Payment of the exercise price is due in full upon exercise of all or any part of your option. You may elect to make payment of the exercise price in cash or by check or in any other manner *permitted by your Grant Notice*, which may include one or more of the following:

(a) Provided that at the time of exercise the Common Stock is publicly traded, pursuant to a program developed under Regulation T as promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board that, prior to the issuance of Common Stock, results in either the receipt of cash (or check) by the Company or the receipt of irrevocable instructions to pay the aggregate exercise price to the Company from the sales proceeds.

(b) Provided that at the time of exercise the Common Stock is publicly traded, by delivery to the Company (either by actual delivery or attestation) of already-owned shares of Common Stock that are owned free and clear of any liens, claims, encumbrances or security interests, and that are valued at Fair Market Value on the date of exercise. "Delivery" for these purposes, in the sole discretion of the Company at the time you exercise your option, shall include delivery to the Company of your attestation of ownership of such shares of Common Stock in a form approved by the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, you may not exercise your option by tender to the Company of Common Stock to the extent such tender would violate the provisions of any law, regulation or agreement restricting the redemption of the Company's stock.

(c) If the Option is a Nonstatutory Stock Option, *subject to the consent of the Company at the time of exercise*, by a "net exercise" arrangement pursuant to which the Company will reduce the number of shares of Common Stock issued upon exercise of your option by the largest whole number of shares with a Fair Market Value that does not exceed the aggregate exercise price; *provided, however*, that the Company shall accept a cash or other payment from you to the extent of any remaining balance of the aggregate exercise price not satisfied by such reduction in the number of whole shares to be issued; provided further, however, that shares of Common Stock will no longer be outstanding under your option and will not be exercisable thereafter to the extent that (1) shares are used to pay the exercise price pursuant to the "net exercise," (2) shares are delivered to you as a result of such exercise, and (3) shares are withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations, if any.

6. WHOLE SHARES. You may exercise your option only for whole shares of Common Stock.

7. SECURITIES LAW COMPLIANCE. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, you may not exercise your option unless the shares of Common Stock issuable upon such exercise are then registered under the Securities Act or, if such shares of Common Stock are not then so registered, the Company has determined that such exercise and issuance would be exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The exercise of your option also must comply with other applicable laws and regulations governing your option, and you may not exercise your option if the Company determines that such exercise would not be in material compliance with such laws and regulations.

8. TERM. You may not exercise your option before the commencement or after the expiration of its term. The term of your option commences on the Date of Grant and expires, subject to the provisions of Section 5(h) of the Plan, upon the earliest of the following:

(a) immediately upon the termination of your Continuous Service for Cause;

(b) three (3) months after the termination of your Continuous Service for any reason other than Cause, your Disability or death (except as otherwise provided in (d) below), provided that if during any part of such three (3) month period your option is not exercisable solely because of the condition set forth in the section above relating to "Securities Law Compliance," your option shall not expire until the earlier of the Expiration Date or until it shall have been exercisable for an aggregate period of three (3) months after the termination of your Continuous Service; and if (i) you are a Non-Exempt Employee, (ii) your Continuous Service terminates within six (6) months after the Date of Grant specified in your Grant Notice, and (iii) you have vested in a portion of your option at the time of your termination of Continuous Service, your option shall not expire until the earlier of (x) the later of (A) the date that is seven (7) months after the Date of Grant specified in your Grant Notice or (B) the date that is three (3) months after the termination of your Continuous Service, or (y) the Expiration Date;

(c) twelve (12) months after the termination of your Continuous Service due to your Disability;

(d) eighteen (18) months after your death if you die either during your Continuous Service or within three (3) months after your Continuous Service terminates for any reason other than Cause;

(e) the Expiration Date indicated in your Grant Notice; or

(f) the day before the tenth (10th) anniversary of the Date of Grant.

If your option is an Incentive Stock Option, note that to obtain the federal income tax advantages associated with an Incentive Stock Option, the Code requires that at all times beginning on the date of grant of your option and ending on the day three (3) months before the date of your option's exercise, you must be an employee of the Company or an Affiliate, except in the event of your death or Disability. The Company has provided for extended exercisability of your option under certain circumstances for your benefit but cannot guarantee that your option will necessarily be treated as an Incentive Stock Option if you continue to provide services to the Company or an Affiliate as a Consultant or Director after your employment terminates or if you otherwise exercise your option more than three (3) months after the date your employment with the Company or an Affiliate terminates.

9. EXERCISE.

(a) You may exercise the vested portion of your option (and the unvested portion of your option if your Grant Notice so permits) during its term by delivering a Notice of Exercise (in a form designated by the Company) together with the exercise price to the Secretary of the Company, or to such other person as the Company may designate, during regular business hours, together with such additional documents as the Company may then require.

(b) By exercising your option you agree that, as a condition to any exercise of your option, the Company may require you to enter into an arrangement providing for the payment by you to the Company of any tax withholding obligation of the Company arising by reason of (1) the exercise of your option, (2) the lapse of any substantial risk of forfeiture to

which the shares of Common Stock are subject at the time of exercise, or (3) the disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired upon such exercise.

(c) If your option is an Incentive Stock Option, by exercising your option you agree that you will notify the Company in writing within fifteen (15) days after the date of any disposition of any of the shares of the Common Stock issued upon exercise of your option that occurs within two (2) years after the date of your option grant or within one (1) year after such shares of Common Stock are transferred upon exercise of your option.

10. TRANSFERABILITY. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 10, your option is not transferable, except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and is exercisable during your life only by you.

(a) **Certain Trusts.** Upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, you may transfer your option to a trust if you are considered to be the sole beneficial owner (determined under Section 671 of the Code and applicable state law) while the option is held in the trust, provided that you and the trustee enter into transfer and other agreements required by the Company.

(b) **Domestic Relations Orders.** Upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, and provided that you and the designated transferee enter into transfer and other agreements required by the Company, you may transfer your option pursuant to a domestic relations order that contains the information required by the Company to effectuate the transfer. You are encouraged to discuss the proposed terms of any division of this option with the Company prior to finalizing the domestic relations order to help ensure the required information is contained within the domestic relations order. If this option is an Incentive Stock Option, this option may be deemed to be a Nonstatutory Stock Option as a result of such transfer.

(c) **Beneficiary Designation.** Upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, you may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form provided by or otherwise satisfactory to the Company and any broker designated by the Company to effect option exercises, designate a third party who, in the event of your death, shall thereafter be entitled to exercise this option and receive the Common Stock or other consideration resulting from such exercise. In the absence of such a designation, your executor or administrator of your estate shall be entitled to exercise this option and receive, on behalf of your estate, the Common Stock or other consideration resulting from such exercise.

11. OPTION NOT A SERVICE CONTRACT. Your option is not an employment or service contract, and nothing in your option shall be deemed to create in any way whatsoever any obligation on your part to continue in the employ of the Company or an Affiliate, or of the Company or an Affiliate to continue your employment. In addition, nothing in your option shall obligate the Company or an Affiliate, their respective stockholders, Boards of Directors, Officers or Employees to continue any relationship that you might have as a Director or Consultant for the Company or an Affiliate.

12. WITHHOLDING OBLIGATIONS.

(a) At the time you exercise your option, in whole or in part, or at any time thereafter as requested by the Company, you hereby authorize withholding from payroll and any other amounts payable to you, and otherwise agree to make adequate provision for (including by means of a “cashless exercise” pursuant to a program developed under Regulation T as promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board to the extent permitted by the Company), any sums required to satisfy the federal, state, local and foreign tax withholding obligations of the Company or an Affiliate, if any, which arise in connection with the exercise of your option.

(b) Upon your request and subject to approval by the Company, in its sole discretion, and in compliance with any applicable legal conditions or restrictions, the Company may withhold from fully vested shares of Common Stock otherwise issuable to you upon the exercise of your option a number of whole shares of Common Stock having a Fair Market Value, determined by the Company as of the date of exercise, not in excess of the minimum amount of tax required to be withheld by law (or such lower amount as may be necessary to avoid classification of your option as a liability for financial accounting purposes). If the date of determination of any tax withholding obligation is deferred to a date later than the date of exercise of your option, share withholding pursuant to the preceding sentence shall not be permitted unless you make a proper and timely election under Section 83(b) of the Code, covering the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock acquired upon such exercise with respect to which such determination is otherwise deferred, to accelerate the determination of such tax withholding obligation to the date of exercise of your option. Notwithstanding the filing of such election, shares of Common Stock shall be withheld solely from fully vested shares of Common Stock determined as of the date of exercise of your option that are otherwise issuable to you upon such exercise. Any adverse consequences to you arising in connection with such share withholding procedure shall be your sole responsibility.

(c) You may not exercise your option unless the tax withholding obligations of the Company and/or any Affiliate are satisfied. Accordingly, you may not be able to exercise your option when desired even though your option is vested, and the Company shall have no obligation to issue a certificate for such shares of Common Stock unless such obligations are satisfied.

13. TAX CONSEQUENCES. You hereby agree that the Company does not have a duty to design or administer the Plan or its other compensation programs in a manner that minimizes your tax liabilities. You shall not make any claim against the Company, or any of its Officers, Directors, Employees or Affiliates related to tax liabilities arising from your option or your other compensation. In particular, you acknowledge that this option is exempt from Section 409A of the Code only if the exercise price per share specified in the Grant Notice is at least equal to the “fair market value” per share of the Common Stock on the Date of Grant and there is no other impermissible deferral of compensation associated with the option.

14. NOTICES. Any notices provided for in your option or the Plan shall be given in writing and shall be deemed effectively given upon receipt or, in the case of notices delivered by mail by the Company to you, five (5) days after deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to you at the last address you provided to the Company.

15. GOVERNING PLAN DOCUMENT. Your option is subject to all the provisions of the Plan, the provisions of which are hereby made a part of your option, and is further subject to all interpretations, amendments, rules and regulations, which may from time to time be promulgated and adopted pursuant to the Plan. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of your option and those of the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall control.

ATTACHMENT II

2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

ATTACHMENT III

NOTICE OF EXERCISE

2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
575 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, CA 94063-4724

Date of Exercise: _____

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This constitutes notice under my stock option that I elect to purchase the number of shares for the price set forth below.

Type of option (check one):

Incentive

Nonstatutory

Stock option dated:

Number of shares as to which option is exercised:

Shares to be issued in name of:

Total exercise price:

\$ _____

Cash payment delivered herewith:

\$ _____

Regulation T Program (cashless exercise)

\$ _____

Value of _____ shares of AcelRx
Pharmaceuticals, Inc. common stock
pursuant to net exercise¹:

\$ _____

By this exercise, I agree (i) to provide such additional documents as you may require pursuant to the terms of the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan, (ii) to provide for the payment by me to you (in the manner designated by you) of your withholding obligation, if any, relating to the

¹ AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. must have established net exercise procedures at the time of exercise in order to utilize this payment method and must expressly consent to your use of net exercise at the time of exercise. An Incentive Stock Option may not be exercised by a net exercise arrangement.

exercise of this option, and (iii) if this exercise relates to an incentive stock option, to notify you in writing within fifteen (15) days after the date of any disposition of any of the shares of Common Stock issued upon exercise of this option that occurs within two (2) years after the date of grant of this option or within one (1) year after such shares of Common Stock are issued upon exercise of this option.

Very truly yours,

**ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT GRANT NOTICE
(2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN)**

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “*Company*”), pursuant to its 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (the “*Plan*”), hereby awards to Participant a Restricted Stock Unit award for the number of shares of the Company’s Common Stock set forth below (the “*Award*”). The Award is subject to all of the terms and conditions as set forth herein and in the Plan and the Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (the “*Award Agreement*”), both of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein in their entirety. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Plan or the Award Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the terms in the Award and the Plan, the terms of the Plan shall control.

Participant: _____
Date of Grant: _____
Vesting Commencement Date: _____
Number of Restricted Stock Units: _____
Consideration: Participant’s past services

Vesting Schedule: [_____].
Notwithstanding the foregoing, vesting shall terminate upon the Participant’s termination of Continuous Service (as defined in the Plan).

Issuance Schedule: The shares will be issued in accordance with the issuance schedule set forth in Section 6 of the Award Agreement.

Change in Control Acceleration: See Section 2 of the Award Agreement.

Additional Terms/Acknowledgements: The undersigned Participant acknowledges receipt of, and understands and agrees to, this Restricted Stock Unit Grant Notice, the Award Agreement and the Plan. Participant further acknowledges that as of the Date of Grant, this Restricted Stock Unit Grant Notice, the Award Agreement and the Plan set forth the entire understanding between Participant and the Company regarding the award of Restricted Stock Units and supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on that subject, with the exception of (i) awards previously granted and delivered to Participant under the Plan and the Company’s 2006 Stock Plan, (ii) any employment agreement with Participant, and (iii) the following agreements only:

OTHER AGREEMENTS: _____

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. | PARTICIPANT: |
| By: _____ Signature | _____ Signature |
| Title: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Date: _____ | |

ATTACHMENTS: Award Agreement, 2011 Equity Incentive Plan

ATTACHMENT I

ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Restricted Stock Unit Grant Notice (the “*Grant Notice*”) and this Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (the “*Agreement*”) and in consideration of your services, AcclRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “*Company*”) has awarded you a Restricted Stock Unit award (the “*Award*”) under its 2011 Equity Incentive Plan (the “*Plan*”) for the number of Restricted Stock Units indicated in the Grant Notice. This Agreement shall be deemed to be agreed to by the Company and you upon the signing by you of the Grant Notice to which it is attached. Capitalized terms not explicitly defined in this Agreement shall have the same meanings given to them in the Plan or the Grant Notice, as applicable. Except as otherwise explicitly provided herein, in the event of any conflict between the terms in this Agreement and the Plan, the terms of the Plan shall control. The details of your Award, in addition to those set forth in the Grant Notice and the Plan, are as follows.

1. GRANT OF THE AWARD. Subject to adjustment and the terms and conditions as provided herein and in the Plan, this Award represents the right to be issued on a future date the number of shares of the Company’s Common Stock that is equal to the number of stock units indicated in the Grant Notice (the “*Restricted Stock Units*”). As of the Date of Grant, the Company will credit to a bookkeeping account maintained by the Company for your benefit (the “*Account*”) the number of Restricted Stock Units subject to the Award. This Award was granted in consideration of your services to the Company. Except as otherwise provided herein, you will not be required to make any payment to the Company (other than past and future services to the Company) with respect to your receipt of the Award, the vesting of the Restricted Stock Units or the delivery of the Common Stock to be issued in respect of the Award.

2. VESTING; CHANGE IN CONTROL ACCELERATION.

(a) Subject to the limitations contained herein and Section 1(b) below, your Award will vest, if at all, in accordance with the vesting schedule provided in the Grant Notice, provided that vesting will cease upon the termination of your Continuous Service. Upon such termination of your Continuous Service, the Restricted Stock Units credited to the Account that were not vested on the date of such termination will be forfeited at no cost to the Company and you will have no further right, title or interest in the Restricted Stock Units or the shares of Common Stock to be issued in respect of the Award.

(b) [For non-employee directors: Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a Change in Control (as defined in the Plan), the vesting of any then-unvested Restricted Stock Units shall accelerate in full such that 100% of the then unvested Restricted Stock Units will become vested as of immediately prior to the effective date of the Change in Control.] [For executive officers: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if your Continuous Service terminates as a result of a termination by the Company without Cause (and other than in connection with your

death or disability) or a voluntary resignation for Good Reason at any time on or within eighteen (18) months after a Change in Control, and provided you sign a general release of claims against the Company that is effective not later than 30 days after your termination, then the vesting of any then-unvested Restricted Stock Units shall accelerate in full as of the date of your separation from service (as such term is defined in Section 409A(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Code, without regard to alternative definitions (“*Separation from Service*”).

(i) For purposes of this Option Agreement, “*Good Reason*” means your voluntary resignation from all positions you then hold with the Company within sixty (60) days following the occurrence of any of the following events without your written consent and after providing written notice of such event to the Company and providing the Company at least thirty (30) days to cure such event: (i) a material reduction or change in your job duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements inconsistent with your position with the Company and prior duties, reporting relationships, responsibilities and requirements prior to the Change in Control, provided that neither a mere change in title alone nor reassignment following a Change in Control to a position that is substantially similar to the position held prior to the Change in Control in terms of job duties, responsibilities or requirements shall constitute a material reduction in job responsibilities; (ii) a reduction in your then-current base salary by at least 20%, provided that an across-the-board reduction in the salary level of all other senior executives by the same percentage amount as part of a general salary level reduction shall not constitute such a salary reduction, or (iii) the relocation of your principal place for performance of your Company duties to a location more than thirty (30) miles from the Company’s then current location at the time of the Change in Control.]

3. NUMBER OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS & SHARES OF COMMON STOCK.

(a) The number of Restricted Stock Units subject to your Award may be adjusted from time to time for Capitalization Adjustments, as provided in the Plan.

(b) Any additional Restricted Stock Units and any shares, cash or other property that become subject to the Award pursuant to this Section 3 or Section 7 shall be subject, in a manner determined by the Board, to the same forfeiture restrictions, restrictions on transferability, and time and manner of delivery as applicable to the other Restricted Stock Units and shares covered by your Award.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 3, no fractional shares or rights for fractional shares of Common Stock shall be created pursuant to this Section 3. The Board shall, in its discretion, determine an equivalent benefit for any fractional shares or fractional shares that might be created by the adjustments referred to in this Section 3.

4. SECURITIES LAW COMPLIANCE. You may not be issued any Common Stock or other shares under your 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. Your Award also must comply with other applicable laws and regulations governing the Award, and you will not receive such shares if the Company determines that such receipt would not be in material compliance with such laws and regulations.

5. TRANSFERABILITY. Prior to the time that shares of Common Stock have been delivered to you, you may not transfer, pledge, sell or otherwise dispose of the shares in respect of your Award. For example, you may not use shares that may be issued in respect of your Restricted Stock Units as security for a loan, nor may you transfer, pledge, sell or otherwise dispose of such shares. This restriction on transfer will lapse upon delivery to you of shares in respect of your vested Restricted Stock Units.

(a) Death. Your Award is not transferable by will and by the laws of descent and distribution. In addition, upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, you may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form provided by or otherwise satisfactory to the Company and any broker designated by the Company to effect transactions under the Plan, designate a third party who, in the event of your death, shall thereafter be entitled to receive any distribution of Common Stock or other consideration to which you were entitled at the time of your death pursuant to this Agreement. In the absence of such a designation, your executor or administrator of your estate shall be entitled to receive, on behalf of your estate, such Common Stock or other consideration.

(b) Certain Trusts. Upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, you may transfer your Award to a trust if you are considered to be the sole beneficial owner (determined under Section 671 of the Code and applicable state law) while the Award is held in the trust, provided that you and the trustee enter into transfer and other agreements required by the Company.

(c) Domestic Relations Orders. Upon receiving written permission from the Board or its duly authorized designee, and provided that you and the designated transferee enter into transfer and other agreements required by the Company, you may transfer your Award or your right to receive the distribution of Common Stock or other consideration thereunder, pursuant to a domestic relations order that contains the information required by the Company to effectuate the transfer. You are encouraged to discuss the proposed terms of any division of this Award with the Company prior to finalizing the domestic relations order to help ensure the required information is contained within the domestic relations order.

6. DATE OF ISSUANCE.

(a) If the Award is exempt from application of Section 409A of the Code and any state law of similar effect (collectively "**Section 409A**"), the Company will deliver to you a number of shares of the Company's Common Stock equal to the number of vested Restricted Stock Units subject to your Award, including any additional Restricted Stock Units received pursuant to Section 3 above that relate to those vested Restricted Stock Units on the applicable vesting date(s). However, if a scheduled delivery date falls on a date that is not a business day, such delivery date shall instead fall on the next following business day. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that (i) you are subject to the Company's policy permitting officers and directors to sell shares only during certain "window" periods, in effect from time to time (the "**Policy**") or you are otherwise prohibited from selling shares of the Company's Common Stock in the public market and any shares covered by your Award are scheduled to be delivered on a day (the "**Original Distribution Date**") that does not occur during an open "window period" applicable to you or a day on which you are permitted to sell shares of the Company's common

stock pursuant to a written plan that meets the requirements of Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act, as determined by the Company in accordance with the Policy, or does not occur on a date when you are otherwise permitted to sell shares of the Company's common stock on the open market, and (ii) the Company elects not to satisfy its tax withholding obligations by withholding shares from your distribution, then such shares shall not be delivered on such Original Distribution Date and shall instead be delivered on the first business day of the next occurring open "window period" applicable to you pursuant to such policy (regardless of whether you are still providing continuous services at such time) or the next business day when you are not prohibited from selling shares of the Company's Common Stock in the open market, but in no event later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the third calendar month of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the shares covered by the Award vest. Delivery of the shares pursuant to the provisions of this Section 6(a) is intended to comply with the requirements for the short-term deferral exemption available under Treasury Regulations Section 1.409A-1(b)(4) and shall be construed and administered in such manner. The form of such delivery of the shares (e.g., a stock certificate or electronic entry evidencing such shares) shall be determined by the Company.

(b) The provisions of this Section 6(b) are intended to apply if the Award is subject to Section 409A because of the terms of a severance arrangement or other agreement between you and the Company, if any, that provide for acceleration of vesting of the Award upon your 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) or 1.409A-1(b)(9) ("**Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement**"). If the Award is subject to and not exempt from application of Section 409A due to application of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement, the following provisions in this Section 6(b) shall supersede anything to the contrary in Section 6(a).

(i) If the Award vests in the ordinary course during your Continuous Service in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice, without accelerating vesting under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement, in no event will the shares to be issued in respect of your Award be issued any later than the later of: (i) December 31st of the calendar year that includes the applicable vesting date and (ii) the 60th day that follows the applicable vesting date.

(ii) If vesting of the Award accelerates under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement in connection with your Separation from Service, and such vesting acceleration provisions were in effect as of the date of grant of the Award and, therefore, are part of the terms of the Award as of the date of grant, then the shares will be earlier issued in respect of your Award upon your 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 your Separation from Service. However, if at the time the shares would otherwise be issued you are 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 (6) months following the date of your Separation from Service, or, if earlier, the date of your death that occurs within such six month period.

(iii) If vesting of the Award accelerates under the terms of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement in connection with your Separation from Service, and such vesting acceleration provisions were not in effect as of the date of grant of the Award and, therefore, are not a part of the terms of the Award on the date of grant, then such acceleration of vesting of the 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 your Continuous Service, notwithstanding the vesting acceleration of the 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) If the Award is subject to Section 409A because of application of a Non-Exempt Severance Arrangement or a provision for deferral of the delivery of shares in respect of the Award (a “**Non-Exempt Award**”), then the following provisions in this Section shall apply and shall supersede anything to the contrary that may be set forth in the Plan that would provide for accelerated issuance of the shares in respect of your Award in connection with a Corporate Transaction or a Change in Control that is not also a 409A Change of Control (a “**Non-Qualifying Transaction**”). For such purposes, a “**409A Change in Control**” is 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. In the event of a Non-Qualifying Transaction, then with respect to a Non-Exempt Award, the surviving or acquiring corporation (or its parent company) (the “**Acquiring Entity**”) must either assume, continue or substitute your Non-Exempt Award, and shares to be issued in respect of your Non-Exempt Award, to the extent vested, shall be issued to you by the Acquiring Entity on the same schedule that the shares would have been issued to you if the Non-Qualifying Transaction had not occurred.

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, the Company explicitly reserves the right to earlier issue the shares in respect of 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).

(e) The provisions in this Agreement for delivery of the shares in respect of the Award are intended either to comply with the requirements of Section 409A or to provide a basis for exemption from such requirements so that the delivery of the shares will not trigger the additional tax imposed under Section 409A, and any ambiguities herein will be so interpreted.

7. DIVIDENDS. You shall receive no benefit or adjustment to your Award with respect to any cash dividend, stock dividend or other distribution except as provided in the Plan with respect to a Capitalization Adjustment; *provided, however*, that this sentence shall not apply with respect to any shares of Common Stock that are delivered to you in connection with your Award after such shares have been delivered to you.

8. RESTRICTIVE LEGENDS. The Common Stock issued under your Award shall be endorsed with appropriate legends determined by the Company.

9. AWARD NOT A SERVICE CONTRACT.

(a) Your Continuous Service is not for any specified term and may be terminated by you [For executive officers: or by the Company or an Affiliate] at any time, for any reason, with or without cause and with or without notice [For non-employee directors: , or by the Company or an Affiliate subject to the terms of the Company's bylaws]. Nothing in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the vesting of your Award or the issuance of the shares subject to your Award), the Plan or any covenant of good faith and fair dealing that may be found implicit in this Agreement or the Plan shall: (i) confer upon you any right to continue in the employ or service of, or affiliation with, the Company or an Affiliate; (ii) 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 affiliation; (iii) confer any right or benefit under this Agreement or the Plan unless such right or benefit has specifically accrued under the terms of this Agreement or Plan; or (iv) deprive the Company of the right to terminate you at will and without regard to any future vesting opportunity that you may have.

(b) By accepting this Award, you acknowledge and agree that the right to continue vesting in the Award pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section 2 is earned only by continuing as an employee, director or consultant at the will of the Company (not through the act of being hired, being granted this Award or any other award or benefit) and that the Company has the right to reorganize, sell, spin-out or otherwise restructure one or more of its businesses or Affiliates at any time or from time to time, as it deems appropriate (a "reorganization"). You further acknowledge and agree that such a reorganization could result in the termination of your Continuous Service, or the termination of Affiliate status of your employer and the loss of benefits available to you under this Agreement, including but not limited to, the termination of the right to continue vesting in the Award.

10. WITHHOLDING OBLIGATIONS.

(a) On each vesting date, and on or before the time you receive a distribution of the shares subject to your Award, or at any time as reasonably requested by the Company in accordance with applicable tax laws, you hereby authorize any required withholding from the Common Stock issuable to you and otherwise agree to make adequate provision in cash for any sums required to satisfy the federal, state, local and foreign tax withholding obligations of the Company or any Affiliate which arise in connection with your Award (the "**Withholding Taxes**"). Additionally, the Company may, in its sole discretion, satisfy all or any portion of the Withholding Taxes obligation relating to your Award by any of the following means or by a combination of such means: (i) withholding from any compensation otherwise payable to you by the Company or an Affiliate; (ii) causing you to tender a cash payment; or (iii) withholding shares of Common Stock from the shares of Common Stock issued or otherwise issuable to you in connection with the Award with a Fair Market Value (measured as of the date shares of Common Stock are issued to you pursuant to Section 6) equal to the amount of such Withholding Taxes; *provided, however*, that the number of such shares of Common Stock so withheld shall not exceed the amount necessary to satisfy the Company's required tax withholding obligations using the minimum statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign tax purposes, including payroll taxes, that are applicable to supplemental taxable income.

(b) Unless the tax withholding obligations of the Company and/or any Affiliate are satisfied, the Company shall have no obligation to deliver to you any Common Stock.

(c) In the event the Company's obligation to withhold arises prior to the delivery to you of Common Stock or it is determined after the delivery of Common Stock to you that the amount of the Company's withholding obligation was greater than the amount withheld by the Company, you agree to indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any failure by the Company to withhold the proper amount.

11. UNSECURED OBLIGATION. Your Award is unfunded, and as a holder of a vested Award, you shall be considered an unsecured creditor of the Company with respect to the Company's obligation, if any, to issue shares or other property pursuant to this Agreement. You shall not have voting or any other rights as a stockholder of the Company with respect to the shares to be issued pursuant to this Agreement until such shares are issued to you. Upon such issuance, you will obtain full voting and other rights as a stockholder of the Company. Nothing contained in this Agreement, and no action taken pursuant to its provisions, shall create or be construed to create a trust of any kind or a fiduciary relationship between you and the Company or any other person.

12. OTHER DOCUMENTS. You hereby acknowledge receipt or the right to receive a document providing the information required by Rule 428(b)(1) promulgated under the Securities Act, which includes the Plan prospectus. In addition, you acknowledge receipt of the Company's policy permitting certain individuals to sell shares only during certain "window" periods and the Company's insider trading policy, in effect from time to time.

13. NOTICES. Any notices provided for in your Award or the Plan shall be given in writing and shall be deemed effectively given upon receipt or, in the case of notices delivered by the Company to you, five (5) days after deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to you at the last address you provided to the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company may, in its sole discretion, decide to deliver any documents related to participation in the Plan and this Award by electronic means or to request your consent to participate in the Plan by electronic means. You hereby consent to receive such documents by electronic delivery and, if requested, to agree to participate in the Plan through an on-line or electronic system established and maintained by the Company or another third party designated by the Company.

14. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) The rights and obligations of the Company under your Award shall be transferable to any one (1) or more persons or entities, and all covenants and agreements hereunder shall inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by the Company's successors and assigns. Your rights and obligations under your Award may only be assigned with the prior written consent of the Company.

(b) You agree upon request to execute any further documents or instruments necessary or desirable in the sole determination of the Company to carry out the purposes or intent of your Award.

(c) You acknowledge and agree that you have reviewed your Award in its entirety, have had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to executing and accepting your Award, and fully understand all provisions of your Award.

(d) This Agreement shall be subject to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and to such approvals by any governmental agencies or national securities exchanges as may be required.

(e) All obligations of the Company under the Plan and this Agreement shall be binding on any successor to the Company, whether the existence of such successor is the result of a direct or indirect purchase, merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company.

15. GOVERNING PLAN DOCUMENT. Your Award is subject to all the provisions of the Plan, the provisions of which are hereby made a part of your Award, and is further subject to all interpretations, amendments, rules and regulations which may from time to time be promulgated and adopted pursuant to the Plan. Except as expressly provided herein, in the event of any conflict between the provisions of your Award and those of the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall control.

16. SEVERABILITY. If all or any part of this Agreement or the Plan is declared by any court or governmental authority to be unlawful or invalid, such unlawfulness or invalidity shall not invalidate any portion of this Agreement or the Plan not declared to be unlawful or invalid. Any Section of this 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.

17. EFFECT ON OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS. The value of the Award subject to this Agreement shall not be included as compensation, earnings, salaries, or other similar terms used when calculating the Employee'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.

18. CHOICE OF LAW. The interpretation, performance and enforcement of this Agreement will be governed by the law of the state of Delaware without regard to such state's conflicts of laws rules.

19. AMENDMENT. This Agreement may not be modified, amended or terminated except by an instrument in writing, signed by you and by a duly authorized representative of the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement may be amended solely by the Board by a writing which specifically states that it is amending this Agreement, so long as a copy of such amendment is delivered to you, and provided that, except as otherwise expressly provided in the Plan, no such amendment adversely affecting your rights hereunder may be made without

your written consent. Without limiting the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to change, by written notice to you, the provisions of this Agreement in any way it may deem necessary or advisable to carry out the purpose of the grant as a result of any change in applicable laws or regulations or any future law, regulation, ruling, or judicial decision, provided that any such change shall be applicable only to rights relating to that portion of the Award which is then subject to restrictions as provided herein.

20. NO OBLIGATION TO MINIMIZE TAXES. The Company has no duty or obligation to minimize the tax consequences to you of this Award and shall not be liable to you for any adverse tax consequences to you arising in connection with this Award. You are hereby advised to consult with your own personal tax, financial and/or legal advisors regarding the tax consequences of this Award and by signing the Grant Notice, you have agreed that you have done so or knowingly and voluntarily declined to do so.

ATTACHMENT II

**ACELRx PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the 2006 Stock Plan, 2011 Equity Incentive Plan and 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. of our report dated March 30, 2011, with respect to the financial statements of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Palo Alto, California
March 30, 2011

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Richard A. King, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 30, 2011

/s/ Richard A. King
Richard A. King
Chief Executive Officer and Director
(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATIONS

I, James H. Welch, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (c) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 30, 2011

/s/ James H. Welch

James H. Welch
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the requirement set forth in Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. §1350), Richard A. King, Chief Executive Officer of AcetRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the "Company"), and James H. Welch, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, each hereby certifies that, to the best of his or her knowledge:

1. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2010, to which this Certification is attached as Exhibit 32.1 (the "Annual Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, and
2. The information contained in the Annual Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned have set their hands hereto as of the 30th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Richard A. King

Richard A. King
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ James H. Welch

James H. Welch
Chief Financial Officer

"This certification accompanies the Form 10-K to which it relates, is not deemed filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of AcetRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (whether made before or after the date of the Form 10-K), irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filing."