

NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES INC
Form DEF 14A
April 17, 2019

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

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

- (5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:

- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

- (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES, INC.

12780 El Camino Real

San Diego, CA 92130

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

To Be Held on May 22, 2019

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on May 22, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., local time, at the Company's corporate headquarters located at 12780 El Camino Real, San Diego, California 92130, for the following purposes as more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice:

1. The election of the two nominees for Class II Director named herein to the Board of Directors to serve for a term of three years;
2. An advisory vote on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers;
3. To approve an amendment to the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance thereunder from 19,000,000 to 21,000,000;
4. The ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019; and
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting of Stockholders or any continuation, adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 29, 2019 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person. Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we hope you will vote as soon as possible. You may vote over the Internet, as well as by telephone or by mailing a proxy or voting instruction form. Please review the instructions on each of your voting options described in these proxy materials. Stockholders attending the Annual Meeting may vote in person even if they have returned a proxy.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Darin Lippoldt
Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary

San Diego, California

April 17, 2019

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholders

Meeting to be Held on May 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Local Time at

12780 El Camino Real, San Diego, California 92130.

The proxy statement and annual report to stockholders are available at

www.proxyvote.com. Please have the control number on your proxy card available.

NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES, INC.

12780 El Camino Real

San Diego, California 92130

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy is solicited on behalf of Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the *Company* or *Neurocrine*), for use at its 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the *Annual Meeting*) to be held on May 22, 2019 beginning at 10:30 a.m., local time, or at any continuations, postponements or adjournments thereof for the purposes set forth in this proxy statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Company's corporate headquarters, located at 12780 El Camino Real, San Diego, California 92130. The Company's phone number is (858) 617-7600.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Why did I receive these proxy materials?

The Company has sent you these proxy materials because the Board of Directors of the Company is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting, including at any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card to submit your proxy over the telephone or Internet.

We intend to mail these proxy materials on or about April 22, 2019 to all shareholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will act upon the matters outlined in these proxy materials, including the election of the two nominees for Class II Director named herein, an advisory vote on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, approval of an amendment increasing the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan from 19,000,000 to 21,000,000, and ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. In addition, following the Annual Meeting, management will report on the performance of the Company and respond to questions from stockholders.

Who can attend the Annual Meeting?

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All stockholders of record at the close of business on March 29, 2019 (the Record Date), or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the Annual Meeting. If you attend, please note that you may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

Please also note that if you hold your shares in street name (that is, through a broker or other nominee), you will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement reflecting your stock ownership as of the record date and check in at the registration desk at the Annual Meeting.

Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

Stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to receive notice of and to participate in the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the Record Date, 91,284,279 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, were issued and outstanding. If you were a stockholder of record on that date, you will be entitled to vote all of the shares that you held on that date at the Annual Meeting, or any continuations, postponements or adjournments of the Annual Meeting.

Each outstanding share of the Company's common stock will be entitled to one vote on each proposal considered at the Annual Meeting.

What constitutes a quorum? What are broker non-votes? What are advisory votes?

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the aggregate voting power of the common stock outstanding on the Record Date will constitute a quorum, permitting the Company to conduct its business at the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, 91,284,279 shares of common stock, representing the same number of votes, were outstanding. Thus, the presence of the holders of common stock representing at least 45,642,140 shares will be required to establish a quorum. The presence of a quorum will be determined by the Inspector of Elections (the Inspector).

Proxies received but marked as abstentions, as well as broker non-votes, will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes occur when a holder of shares in street name does not give instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on non-routine matters. Under the rules and interpretations of the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE), non-routine matters are matters that may substantively affect the rights or privileges of stockholders, such as mergers, stockholder proposals and elections of directors, even if not contested. In addition, as required by Section 957 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, advisory votes on executive compensation are non-routine matters for which brokers do not have discretionary authority to vote shares held by account holders. Only ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm under Proposal Four is considered a routine matter.

The vote on Proposal Two is advisory. The approval or the disapproval of Proposal Two will not be binding on the Company or the Board of Directors and will not create or imply any change to the fiduciary duties of the Board of Directors. However, the Company and the Board of Directors will consider the results of the advisory vote on Proposal Two in making future decisions about compensation of the Company's named executive officers.

How do I vote my shares in person at the Annual Meeting?

You may vote your shares held in your name as the stockholder of record in person at the Annual Meeting. You may vote your shares held beneficially in street name in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank, trustee, or nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Annual Meeting.

How can I vote my shares without attending the Annual Meeting?

Whether you hold shares directly as the stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by proxy. You can vote by proxy over the Internet, by mail or by telephone pursuant to instructions provided on the enclosed proxy card. If you hold shares beneficially in street name, you may also vote by proxy over the

Internet or you can also vote by telephone or mail by following the voting instruction form provided to you by your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee. The deadline for voting by telephone or electronically is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 21, 2019.

Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?

To the extent such costs are incurred, the cost of solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. The Company will reimburse expenses incurred by brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares in forwarding solicitation material to beneficial owners. To assist in soliciting proxies (votes), the Company may retain a professional proxy solicitation firm, at an approximate cost of \$10,000. Proxies also may be solicited by certain of the Company's directors, officers and regular employees, without additional compensation, personally, by telephone or by other appropriate means.

Can I change my vote after I return my proxy?

Yes. Even after you have submitted your proxy, you may change your vote at any time before the proxy is exercised by filing with the Corporate Secretary of the Company either a notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. Your proxy will also be revoked if you attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not by itself revoke a previously granted proxy.

What does it mean if I receive more than one set of proxy materials?

If you receive more than one set of proxy materials, your common stock is registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete a proxy for each separate set of proxy materials that you receive to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

What are the Board of Directors' recommendations?

Unless you give other instructions on your proxy, the persons named as proxy holders on the proxy will vote in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' recommendation is set forth together with the description of each item in this proxy statement. In summary, the Board of Directors recommends a vote:

for election of the two nominees for Class II Director named herein (see Proposal One);

for an advisory vote on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers (see Proposal Two);

for approval of the amendment to the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance thereunder from 19,000,000 to 21,000,000 (see Proposal Three); and

for ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 (see Proposal Four).

With respect to any other matter that properly comes before the meeting, the proxy holders will vote as recommended by the Board of Directors or, if no recommendation is given, in their own discretion.

What vote is required to approve each item?

Election of Directors. The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting is required for the election of directors. A properly executed proxy marked **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY** with respect to the election of one or more directors will not be voted with respect to the director or directors indicated, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

Other Items. For each other item, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the item will be required for approval. A properly executed proxy marked **ABSTAIN** with respect to any such matter will not be voted, although it will be counted for purposes of determining the number of shares represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, an abstention will have the effect of a negative vote for each item. If you hold your shares in street name through a broker or other nominee, your broker or nominee will not be permitted to exercise voting discretion with respect to each of the matters to be acted upon, other than Proposal Four. Thus, if you do not give your broker or nominee specific instructions, your shares will not be voted on and will not be counted for any other matter to be acted upon, other than Proposal Four. Shares represented by such broker non-votes will, however, be counted in determining whether there is a quorum.

Who counts the votes?

Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the Inspector.

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

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

What proxy materials are available on the internet?

The proxy statement and annual report to stockholders are available at www.proxyvote.com. Please have the control number on your proxy card available.

STOCK OWNERSHIP

Who are the principal stockholders, and how much stock does management own?

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock as of March 15, 2019 by (i) each of the executive officers named in the table under the heading Summary Compensation Table, (ii) each current director, (iii) all current directors and executive officers as a group and (iv) all persons known to the Company to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Company's common stock. The table is based upon information supplied by our executive officers, directors and principal stockholders and a review of Schedules 13D and 13G, if any, filed with the SEC. A total of 91,266,478 shares of the Company's common stock were issued and outstanding as of March 15, 2019.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1)	Number of Shares of Common Stock Owned (2)	Number of Shares of Common Stock Acquirable Within 60 Days (3)	Total Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned (4)	Percent Ownership
FMR LLC (5) 245 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210	13,097,329		13,097,329	14.4%
Janus Henderson Group plc (6) 201 Bishopsgate EC2M 3AE, United Kingdom	9,120,212		9,120,212	10.0%
The Vanguard Group (7) 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355	8,079,818		8,079,818	8.9%
BlackRock, Inc. (8) 55 East 52 nd Street, New York, NY 10055	4,978,917		4,978,917	5.5%
Perceptive Advisors LLC (9) 51 Astor Place, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10003	4,608,554		4,608,554	5.0%
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.	417,597	951,443	1,369,040	1.5%
Matthew C. Abernethy	2,276	26,465	28,741	*
Eric Benevich.	20,911	151,491	172,402	*
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D.	86,145	245,256	331,401	*
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D.	3,417	27,500	30,917	*
William H. Rastetter, Ph.D.	24,750	139,750	164,500	*
Gary A. Lyons	245,697	111,458	357,155	*
George J. Morrow		81,458	81,458	*
Richard F. Pops	29,512	111,458	140,970	*
Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.		81,458	81,458	*
Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.	47,548	111,458	159,006	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (15 persons)	1,179,283	2,734,010	3,913,293	4.3%

* Represents beneficial ownership of less than one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock as of March 15, 2019.

(1) The address of each beneficial owner named is c/o Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc., 12780 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130, unless otherwise indicated.

- (2) Represents shares of common stock owned, excluding shares of common stock subject to stock options that are listed under the heading Number of Shares of Common Stock Acquirable Within 60 Days, by the named parties as of March 15, 2019.
- (3) Shares of common stock subject to stock options currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2019, regardless of exercise price, are deemed to be outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of the person holding such options and the percentage ownership of any group of which the holder is a member, but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage of any other person.

- (4) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Except as indicated by footnote, and subject to community property laws where applicable, the Company believes that the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them.
- (5) Based on Amendment No. 9 to Schedule 13G filed by FMR LLC (FMR) on February 13, 2019, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2018. According to such filing, FMR beneficially owns 13,097,329 shares of common stock and has sole voting power as to 1,805,400 shares of common stock. Various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the common stock held by FMR.
- (6) Based on Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed by Janus Henderson Group plc (Janus) on February 8, 2019, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2018. According to such filing, Janus beneficially owns 9,120,212 shares of common stock and sole voting power as to 0 shares of common stock. These securities are owned by various institutional investors for which Janus has a controlling ownership interest. As a result of its role as an investment adviser or sub-adviser to such institutional investors, for the purposes of the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, Janus is deemed to be a beneficial owner of such securities; however, Janus expressly disclaims that it is, in fact, the beneficial owner of such securities.
- (7) Based on Amendment No. 3 to Schedule 13G filed by The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Vanguard Group) on February 11, 2019, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2018. According to such filing, Vanguard Group beneficially owns 8,079,818 shares of common stock and sole voting power as to 49,601 shares of common stock.
- (8) Based on Amendment No. 6 to Schedule 13G filed by BlackRock, Inc. (BlackRock) on February 11, 2019, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2018. According to such filing, BlackRock beneficially owns 4,978,917 shares of common stock and sole voting power as to 4,617,444 shares of common stock. Various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of shares of the common stock held by BlackRock. No one person's interest in the common stock held by BlackRock is more than five percent of the Company's total outstanding common stock.
- (9) Based on Amendment No. 2 to Schedule 13G filed by Perceptive Advisors LLC (Perceptive) on February 14, 2019, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2018. According to such filing, Perceptive beneficially owns 4,608,554 shares of common stock and sole voting power as to 0 shares of common stock.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's officers and directors, and persons who beneficially own 10% or greater of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file reports of ownership on Form 3 and reports of changes in ownership on Form 4 or Form 5 with the SEC. Such officers, directors and 10% or greater stockholders are also required by SEC rules to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on its review of the copies of such forms received by it, and written representations from certain reporting persons, the Company believes that its officers, directors and 10% or greater stockholders complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, except that: (i) one report covering one transaction was inadvertently filed late by the Company on behalf of each of Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mollica, Mr. Morrow, Ms. Nevinny, Mr. Pops, Dr. Rastetter, Dr. Sandrock and Dr. Sherwin; (ii) one report covering three transactions was inadvertently filed late by the Company on behalf of each of Dr. Gano and Dimitri Grigoriadis, Ph.D., our Chief Research Officer; (iii) one report covering seven transactions was inadvertently filed late by the Company on behalf of Christopher O'Brien, M.D., our former Chief Medical Officer; (iv) one report covering six transactions was inadvertently filed late by the Company on behalf of Malcolm Lloyd-Smith, our Chief Regulatory Officer; and (v) two reports covering six transactions were inadvertently filed late by the Company on behalf of Darin Lippoldt, our Chief Legal Officer. Based solely on its review of the copies of such forms received by it, and written representations from certain reporting persons, the Company believes that its officers, directors and 10% or greater stockholders complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

General

The Company's bylaws, as amended, provide that the Board of Directors is comprised of seven directors. The Company's Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Board of Directors is divided into three classes. There are currently two directors in Class I (William H. Rastetter, Ph.D. and George J. Morrow), two directors in Class II (Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.), and three directors in Class III (Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D., Gary A. Lyons and Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.). With the exception of Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D., who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, all current members of the Board of Directors meet the definition of "independent director" under the Nasdaq Stock Market qualification standards.

The directors in Class I hold office until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the directors in Class II hold office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and the directors in Class III hold office until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (or, in each case, until their earlier resignation, removal from office, or death). After each such election, the directors in each such case will then serve in succeeding terms of three years and until a successor is duly elected and qualified. Officers of the Company serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. There are no family relationships among the Company's directors and executive officers.

The term of office for directors Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. At the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders will elect two Class II directors for a term of three years.

Director Biographies of Class I and Class III Directors not Nominated for Reelection at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D. has been employed with the Company since 1993. He was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in January 2008 after having served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since September 2006 and prior to that, as Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Development. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and has served on the Board of Directors since January 2008. From 1990 until 1993, Dr. Gorman was a principal of Avalon Medical Partners, L.P. where he was responsible for the early stage founding of the Company and several other biotechnology companies such as Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Metra Biosystems, Inc., Idun Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Dr. Gorman received his Ph.D. in immunology and M.B.A. in Finance from the University of California, Los Angeles and did further post-doctoral training at The Rockefeller University.

The continued service of Dr. Gorman on the Company's Board of Directors is based on the fact that as Chief Executive Officer of the Company, Dr. Gorman has extensive knowledge of our product candidates, our employees and the industry in which we operate. Dr. Gorman has also demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, sound business judgment and a strong commitment to the Company.

William H. Rastetter, Ph.D. has served on the Board of Directors since February 2010 and as Chairman of the Board of Directors since May 2011. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Fate Therapeutics, a publicly traded company focused on cellular therapies. Dr. Rastetter also serves on the Board of Directors for each of Regulus Therapeutics, a publicly traded company focused on RNA based therapeutics, and Daré Bioscience, Inc. (previously known as Cerulean Pharma Inc.), a publicly traded company focused on women's health care and Grail, Inc., a private company developing deep sequencing approaches for disease diagnosis, with an initial focus on the early diagnosis of cancer. Dr. Rastetter was a partner in the venture capital firm, Venrock, from 2006 through early 2013 and was Executive Chairman of Biogen Idec, Inc. from 2003 to 2005. Earlier, he served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation until its merger with Biogen in 2003; he joined IDEC

Corporation as its Chief Executive Officer at the company s

founding in 1986. From 1984 to 1986, Dr. Rastetter was Director of Corporate Ventures at Genentech, where from 1982 to 1984 he held scientific positions. He held a series of faculty positions including Associate Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1975 to 1982. Dr. Rastetter has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from MIT, and received Master of Art and doctorate degrees in chemistry from Harvard University.

The continued service of Dr. Rastetter on the Company's Board of Directors is based on Dr. Rastetter's scientific and technical expertise combined with his business experience in leading rapidly growing companies in the life science industry. The Company's continued growth is dependent on scientific and technical advances, and the Board of Directors believes that Dr. Rastetter offers both strategic and technical insight into the risks and opportunities associated with our business. In addition, Dr. Rastetter's board and executive leadership experience at other life science companies provides valuable strategic and governance insight to the Board of Directors as a whole.

Gary A. Lyons has served on the Board of Directors since joining Neurocrine in February 1993. Mr. Lyons served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from February 1993 through January 2008. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Lyons held a number of senior management positions at Genentech, Inc., including Vice President of Business Development and Vice President of Sales. Mr. Lyons is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors for each of Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on developing drugs for the treatment of inflammatory/autoimmune and metabolic diseases, and Retrophin, an ultra-orphan disease commercial stage company. Mr. Lyons is a member of the Board of Directors of Vical Incorporated, a biotechnology company focused on the prevention and treatment of serious or life-threatening diseases, and Novus Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on ear, nose and throat therapies. Mr. Lyons was previously a director of Neurogesx, Cytori Therapeutics, and Facet Biotech Corporation. Mr. Lyons holds a B.S. in marine biology from the University of New Hampshire and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

The continued service of Mr. Lyons on the Company's Board of Directors is based on Mr. Lyons' extensive business development and corporate governance experience and, as the Company's former Chief Executive Officer, his in-depth understanding of the Company's product candidates, management and culture. With this history with the Company and management, Mr. Lyons brings a unique perspective and point of view to the Company's Board of Directors.

George J. Morrow has served on the Board of Directors since October 2015. Mr. Morrow served as Executive Vice President, Global Commercial Operations at Amgen Inc., a global biotechnology company, from 2003 until his retirement in 2011. He joined Amgen in 2001 as Executive Vice President, Worldwide Sales and Marketing. His responsibilities included oversight of all commercial functions for Amgen's broad spectrum of products in more than 50 countries worldwide, and the introduction of multiple new products into global markets. From 1992 to 2001, Mr. Morrow held executive management and commercial positions within several subsidiaries of Glaxo Wellcome, including Group Vice President for Commercial Operations (U.S.), Managing Director (U.K.), and most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer of Glaxo Wellcome, Inc. (U.S.). Mr. Morrow currently serves on the board of directors of Vical, Inc., a biotechnology company and Align Technology, Inc., a global medical device company. He has previously served on the boards of Glaxo Wellcome, Inc., Human Genome Sciences, Inc., Safeway, Inc., National Commerce Bank, the John Hopkins School of Public Health, and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business. Mr. Morrow holds a B.S. in chemistry from Southampton College, Long Island University, an M.S. in biochemistry from Bryn Mawr College and an M.B.A. from Duke University.

The continued service of Mr. Morrow on the Company's Board of Directors is based on his extensive commercialization experience at Amgen, his broad executive experience at GlaxoSmithKline Inc., and his years of experience in corporate governance as a board member of several publicly traded companies. Mr. Morrow's board, leadership experience and commercialization expertise prove valuable strategic insights to the Board of Directors.

Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. has served on our Board of Directors since September 2015. Dr. Sandrock is the Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Biogen, Inc., and has served in this role since November 2015. Since joining Biogen in 1998, Dr. Sandrock has held several senior executive positions including Group Senior Vice President of Development Sciences, Senior vice President of Neurology research and Development, and Vice President of clinical Development, Neurology. Prior to joining Biogen, Dr. Sandrock was Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Assistant in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Sandrock currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Praxis Precision Medicines, Inc. and Disarm Therapeutics Inc., and is a member of the Partners Healthcare Innovation Advisory Board. Dr. Sandrock also serves as Chairman of the Board of the PhRMA Foundation. Dr. Sandrock received his B.A. in human biology from Stanford University, an M.D. from Harvard Medical School and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from Harvard University. Dr. Sandrock completed an internship in medicine, a residency and chief residency in neurology, and a clinical fellowship in neuromuscular disease and clinical neurophysiology (electromyography) at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The continued service of Dr. Sandrock on the Company's Board of Directors is based on his extensive experience and credentials in the biotechnology industry as an Executive Vice President of Biogen and his extensive experience in successfully leading development teams. In addition, Dr. Sandrock's medical expertise in neurology and his scientific background provide a unique contribution to the Board of Directors.

Director Biographies of Class II Directors Nominated for Reelection at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Richard F. Pops has served on the Board of Directors since April 1998. Mr. Pops is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Alkermes, Inc. He joined Alkermes as Chief Executive Officer in February 1991. Under his leadership, Alkermes has grown from a privately held research-based company with 25 employees to an international, publicly traded pharmaceutical company with more than 1,200 employees. In addition to Alkermes, he currently serves on the Board of Directors of: Acceleron Pharma, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on musculoskeletal and metabolic therapeutics; Epizyme Corporation, a biotechnology company focused on epigenetics; the Biotechnology Industry Organization; and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). He holds a B.A. in economics from Stanford University.

The nomination of Mr. Pops for election to the Company's Board of Directors is based on his leadership experience and track record for growing companies, his strength in business strategy and his financial acumen and capital markets experience. In addition, Mr. Pops is recognized for his service to the biopharmaceutical industry as a member of the Boards of the Biotechnology Industry Organization and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. His breadth and range of industry experience from operations and strategy is a significant contribution to the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Governance Committee also considers whether each nominee has the time available, in light of other business and personal commitments. Among the criteria considered is whether any incumbent director nominee demonstrates preparedness and engagement required for effective service to the Board and its Committees. In connection with the nomination of Mr. Pops, the Nominating and Governance Committee considered Mr. Pops consistently demonstrated preparedness, attendance, engagement, and vigorous leadership of the Compensation Committee and his contributions to both the Audit Committee and the Board.

Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. has served on the Board of Directors since April 1999. Dr. Sherwin currently divides his time between advisory work in the life science industry and patient care and teaching in his specialty of medical oncology. He is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and a volunteer Attending Physician in Hematology-Oncology at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Sherwin currently serves on the Board of Directors of Aduro Biotech, Biogen and Neon Therapeutics. He is a Venture Partner with Third Rock Ventures and a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. Previously Dr. Sherwin was chairman and chief executive officer of Cell Genesys, a cancer immunotherapy company, from 1990 until the company's merger in 2009 with BioSante

Pharmaceuticals (now ANI Pharmaceuticals). He was also a co-founder and chairman of Abgenix, an antibody company which was acquired by Amgen in 2006, and co-founder and chairman of Ceregene, a gene therapy company which was acquired by Sangamo Biosciences in 2013. From 1983 to 1990, Dr. Sherwin held various positions in clinical research at Genentech, most recently that of Vice President. Prior to 1983, he was on the staff of the National Cancer Institute. In addition, Dr. Sherwin previously served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization from 2001 to 2014 and as its chairman from 2009 to 2011, and was a member of the President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology (PCAST) Working Group on Drug Development from 2011 to 2013. Dr. Sherwin holds a B.A. in biology summa cum laude from Yale University and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, is board-certified in internal medicine and medical oncology, and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

The nomination of Dr. Sherwin for election to the Company's Board of Directors is based on his experience and credentials in the biotechnology industry as the former Chief Executive Officer of Cell Genesys, Inc., the former chairman and co-founder of Abgenix, Inc., the chairman and co-founder of Ceregene, Inc., and his positions at Genentech, Inc. and the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Sherwin is also currently Chairman Emeritus of the Biotechnology Industry Organization. In addition to his biotechnology credentials, Dr. Sherwin's medical expertise in internal medicine and medical oncology provides a unique contribution to the Board of Directors.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

General

We have long believed that good corporate governance is important to ensure that Neurocrine is managed for the long-term benefit of its stockholders. We periodically review our corporate governance policies and practices. The Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines which describe our corporate governance practices and address corporate governance issues such as Board composition, responsibilities and director qualifications. These guidelines are available at www.neurocrine.com.

What is the Board's leadership structure?

It is the Company's policy to separate the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. This separation recognizes the independent roles of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Directors sets Company strategy and provides oversight and accountability for the Chief Executive Officer and Company management. The Chairman of the Board presides over the Board of Directors and provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer and the balance of the Board of Directors set Company goals with the Chief Executive Officer providing leadership and day to day oversight in furtherance of those goals. The Company believes that separation of the Board of Directors and Company leadership reinforces the independence of the Board of Directors in its oversight of the business and affairs of the Company, and creates an environment that is more conducive to objective evaluation and oversight of management's performance, increasing management accountability and improving the ability of the Board of Directors to monitor whether management's actions are in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

Are the members of the Board independent?

The Board of Directors annually reviews the independence of each of the directors. With the exception of Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D., who is the Chief Executive Officer of Neurocrine, all current members of the Board of Directors meet the definition of "independent director" under the Nasdaq Stock Market qualification standards.

How often did the Board meet during fiscal 2018?

The Board of Directors held a total of five meetings during 2018. For 2018, the Board of Directors had an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee, and a Science and Medical Technology Committee. Charters for each of these committees have been established and approved by the Board of Directors and current copies of the charters for each of the committees have been posted on the Company's website at www.neurocrine.com. During 2018, no director attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of the total meetings of the Board of Directors and no director attended fewer than 75% of the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board of Directors on which such director served.

What are the various committees of the Board and which directors are on those committees?

The Company's Audit Committee is comprised entirely of directors who meet the independence requirements set forth in Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5605(c)(2)(A). Information regarding the functions performed by the committee, its membership, and the number of meetings held during the fiscal year is set forth in the Report of the Audit Committee, included in this proxy statement. The members of the Audit Committee are Richard F. Pops, George J. Morrow and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. The Board of Directors has determined that Richard F. Pops, George J. Morrow and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. are "audit committee financial experts" within the meaning of item 407(d)(5) of SEC Regulation S-K. This committee met five times during 2018.

The Company's Compensation Committee consists of directors Richard F. Pops, George J. Morrow and Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. The Compensation Committee reviews and recommends to the Board of

Directors the compensation of executive officers and other employees of the Company. Under its charter, the Compensation Committee may form, and delegate authority to, subcommittees as appropriate. Each of the current members of the Compensation Committee is an independent director as defined by Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5605(a)(2). This committee met seven times during 2018.

The Company's Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee consists of directors Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D., George J. Morrow and Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr. M.D., Ph.D., all of whom are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5605(a)(2). The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for developing and implementing policies and practices relating to corporate governance, including administration of the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which applies to all of the Company's officers, directors and employees, and is available on the Company's website at www.neurocrine.com. The functions of this committee also include consideration of the composition of the Board of Directors and recommendation of individuals for election as directors of the Company. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee will consider nominees recommended by stockholders, provided such nominations are made pursuant to the Company's bylaws and applicable law. This committee met four times during 2018.

The Company's Science and Medical Technology Committee consists of directors Gary A. Lyons, William H. Rastetter, Ph.D. and Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr. M.D., Ph.D. The purpose of the Science and Medical Technology Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in its oversight of management's exercise of its responsibility to make significant scientific judgments relating to the Company's research and development activities and portfolio. This committee met two times during 2018.

Compensation Committee interlocks and insider participation

During 2018, the Compensation Committee consisted of George J. Morrow, Richard F. Pops, Corinne H. Nevinny and Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. Ms. Nevinny served on the Compensation Committee until she resigned from the Board of Directors on September 18, 2018. Dr. Sandrock joined the Compensation Committee in September 2018 after Ms. Nevinny's resignation. No interlocking relationship existed between any member of the Compensation Committee and any member of any other company's Board of Directors or compensation committee.

What is our director nomination process?

In selecting non-incumbent candidates and reviewing the qualifications of incumbent candidates for the Board of Directors, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee considers the Company's corporate governance principles, which include the following:

Directors should possess the highest ethics, integrity and values, and be committed to representing the long-term interest of the stockholders. They also must have experience they can draw upon to help direct the business strategies of the Company together with sound judgment. They must be actively engaged in the pursuit of information relevant to the Company's business and must constructively engage their fellow Board members and management in dialogue and the decision-making process.

Directors must be willing to devote sufficient time to carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively, and should be committed to serve on the Board of Directors for an extended period of time.

Directors should notify the Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee in the event of any significant change in their employment responsibilities or affiliations. Director nominees should meet the Director Qualification requirements set forth in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines.

In evaluating director nominees, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee considers the following factors: personal and professional integrity, ethics and values including any potential conflicts of interest; experience in corporate management and the biopharmaceutical industry, such as serving as an officer or former officer of a publicly held company; experience as a board member of another publicly held company; and additionally, for nominees seeking re-election, meeting attendance and participation and compliance with Company policies.

It is the Company's policy to have a diversity of skills, professional experience, education, associations, achievements, training, points of view and individual qualities and attributes represented on the Board of Directors. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee considers the diversity of the Board of Directors when evaluating candidates for election or re-election to the Board of Directors.

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee's goal is to assemble a Board of Directors that brings to the Company a variety of perspectives and skills derived from high quality business and professional experience. In doing so, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee also considers candidates with appropriate non-business backgrounds.

In addition to the foregoing, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee Charter and Corporate Governance Guidelines set forth minimum criteria for director nominees. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee may also consider such other facts as it may deem are in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee does, however, believe that at least one, and preferably several members of the Board of Directors, meet the criteria for an audit committee financial expert as defined by SEC rules. We believe that all of our directors should have a reputation for honesty, integrity and highest ethical standards, and should demonstrate business acumen, an ability to exercise sound judgment and a commitment to serve the Company.

Board Self-Assessment

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee ensures that each member of the Board, the Committees, and the Chair of the Board are annually assessed annually aimed at enhancing effectiveness. Directors complete a number of different evaluations in order to provide performance feedback and suggestions for improved effectiveness or contributions. The assessments are done by way of a questionnaire conducted by our external legal counsel, Cooley, LLP. The assessments are treated on a confidential basis, with the results tallied on an anonymous basis for review. The results of the evaluation are analyzed by our Chief Legal Officer, the Nomination/Corporate Governance Committee and the Board, who decide whether any changes are needed to the Board's processes, procedures, composition or Committee structure. The evaluation carried out in 2018 indicated that all individuals and groups were effectively fulfilling their responsibilities.

Board Education

The Board recognizes the importance of ongoing director education. In order to facilitate member of the Board of Directors' educational development, the members of the Board of Directors regularly meet with management and are given periodic presentations on our business and recent business developments. Members of the Board of Directors also attend dinners on the evening before regularly scheduled Board meetings. Generally, at these dinners the Board meets with senior decision-makers within the Company or outside experts in order to enhance the Board's understanding of our business and affairs. In addition, on an annual basis an external expert meets with the Board to discuss new developments relating to corporate governance and the operation of public company boards. The Company also provides funding for members of the Board of Directors to attend outside director continuing education programs sponsored by educational and other institutions.

Identification and Evaluation of Nominees for Director

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee identifies nominees for director by first evaluating the current members of the Board of Directors willing to continue in service. Current members with qualifications and skills that are consistent with the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee's criteria for service and who are willing to continue are considered for re-nomination, balancing the value of continuity of service by existing members of the Board of Directors with that of obtaining members who would offer a new perspective. If any member of the Board of Directors does not wish to continue in service, or if the Board of Directors decides not to re-nominate a member for

re-election, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee identifies the

desired skills and experience of a new nominee in light of the criteria above. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee generally polls the Board of Directors and members of management for their recommendations and may also seek input from third-party search firms. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee may also seek input from industry experts or analysts. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee reviews the qualifications, experience and background of the candidates. Final candidates are then interviewed by the Company's independent directors and executive management. In making its determinations, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee evaluates each individual in the context of the Company's Board of Directors as a whole, with the objective of assembling a group that can best perpetuate the success of the Company and represent stockholder interests through the exercise of sound judgment. After review and deliberation of all feedback and data, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee makes its recommendation to the Board of Directors.

We have not received director candidate recommendations from the Company's stockholders and do not have a formal policy regarding consideration of such recommendations. However, any recommendations received from stockholders will be evaluated in the same manner that potential nominees suggested by members of our Board of Directors, management or other parties are evaluated. Accordingly, our Board of Directors believes a formal policy regarding consideration of such recommendations is unnecessary.

What is our process for stockholder communications with the Board of Directors?

Stockholders of the Company wishing to communicate with the Company's Board of Directors or an individual director may send a written communication to the Board of Directors or such director c/o Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc., 12780 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130, Attn: Corporate Secretary. Each communication must set forth:

the name and address of the Company stockholder on whose behalf the communication is sent; and

the number of Company shares that are beneficially owned by such stockholder as of the date of the communication.

Each stockholder communication will be reviewed by the Company's Corporate Secretary to determine whether it is appropriate for presentation to the Board or such director. Examples of inappropriate communications include advertisements, solicitations or hostile communications.

Communications determined by the Corporate Secretary to be appropriate for presentation to the Board or such director will be submitted to the Board or such director on a periodic basis.

What is the Board's role in risk oversight?

While the Board of Directors has ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, it has delegated portions of this responsibility to various committees. The Board of Directors and its committees oversee risk throughout the business with focus on financial risk, legal/compliance risk, scientific/clinical development risk, and strategic risk. The Audit Committee focuses on financial risk and internal controls. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee and Audit Committee each focus on legal/compliance risk with the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee taking the lead on the governance and management process and the Audit Committee taking the lead on SEC reporting and compliance. The Compensation Committee addresses compensation policies and practices as they relate to risk management practices and risk-taking incentives. The Science and Medical Technology Committee reviews the scientific risk associated with the Company's research and development activities and any related legal/compliance risk. The participation of the full Board of Directors in setting the Company's business strategy incorporates assessment of strategic risk for the Company overall.

How do the Company's compensation policies and practices relate to risk management practices and risk-taking incentives?

During 2018, the Compensation Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, conducted an assessment of how the Company's compensation policies and practices relate to risk management practices and risk-taking incentives. As part of the process, the Compensation Committee engaged the services of an external, independent compensation consulting firm to conduct an independent risk assessment. Based on this assessment, the Compensation Committee concluded that the Company's compensation policies and practices do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

What is our policy regarding Board member attendance at the Company's Annual Meeting?

The Company does not have a formal policy regarding attendance by members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. Directors Dr. Rastetter and Dr. Gorman attended the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The following Report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this Report by reference therein.

The Audit Committee is currently comprised of directors George J. Morrow, Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. All current committee members satisfy the definition of independent director as established in the Nasdaq Stock Market qualification requirements. The Audit Committee met five times during the year ended December 31, 2018.

The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the Company's financial statements and the reporting process, including the Company's systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Company's audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee also has reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018 with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as well as their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee under Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (the PCAOB). The independent registered public accounting firm also is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the auditing standards of the PCAOB. In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed the independent registered public accounting firm's independence from management and the Company, including the matters in the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB and considered the compatibility of non-audit services with the auditors independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for their audits. The Audit Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee and the Board of Directors are also seeking stockholder ratification of the selection of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

George J. Morrow

Richard F. Pops

Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.

Audit and non-audit fees

The aggregate fees billed to the Company by Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, for the indicated services for each of the last two fiscal years were as follows:

	2018	2017
Audit fees (1)	\$ 998,939	\$ 1,123,601
Audit related fees (2)		
Tax fees (3)	140,300	89,970
All other fees (4)		
Total	\$ 1,139,239	\$ 1,213,571

- (1) Audit fees consist of fees for professional services performed by Ernst & Young LLP for the integrated audit of the Company's annual financial statements and internal control over financial reporting and review of financial statements included in the Company's 10-Q filings, review of registration statements on Form S-8, and services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
- (2) Audit related fees consist of fees for assurance and related services performed by Ernst & Young LLP that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements.
- (3) Tax fees consist of fees for professional services performed by Ernst & Young LLP with respect to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. For 2018, these fees included \$78,950 for tax preparation services, \$15,450 for services related to Section 382 studies for net operating loss utilization and \$45,900 for state tax planning. For 2017, these fees included \$74,970 for tax preparation services and \$15,000 for services related to Section 382 studies for net operating loss utilization.
- (4) All other fees consist of fees for other permissible work performed by Ernst & Young LLP that does not meet with the above category descriptions

The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independence of Ernst & Young LLP, and has concluded that the provision of such services is compatible with maintaining the independence of that firm. All of the services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP were pre-approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with the Audit Committee pre-approval policy described below.

Audit Committee policy regarding pre-approval of audit and permissible non-audit services of our independent registered public accounting firm

The Company's Audit Committee has established a policy that all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm will be pre-approved by the Audit Committee. These services may include audit services, audit related services, tax services and other services. The Audit Committee considers whether the provision of each non-audit service is compatible with maintaining the independence of the Company's registered public accounting firm. Pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm and management are required to periodically (at least quarterly) report to the Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in accordance with this pre-approval, and the fees for the services performed to date.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The following Report of the Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this Report by reference therein.

The Compensation Committee of the Company has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

Respectfully submitted by:

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

George J. Morrow

Richard F. Pops

Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.

PROPOSAL ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company's bylaws, as amended, provide that the Board of Directors is comprised of seven directors. The Company's Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Board of Directors is divided into three classes. There are currently two directors in Class I (William H. Rastetter, Ph.D. and George J. Morrow), two directors in Class II (Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.), and three directors in Class III (Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D., Gary A. Lyons and Alfred W. Sandrock, M.D., Ph.D.). With the exception of Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D., who is the Chief Executive Officer of Neurocrine, all current members of the Board of Directors meet the definition of "independent director" under the Nasdaq Stock Market qualification standards.

The directors in Class I hold office until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the directors in Class II hold office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the directors in Class III hold office until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (or, in each case, until their earlier resignation, removal from office, or death). After each such election, the elected directors will then serve in succeeding terms of three years and until a successor is duly elected and qualified. Officers of the Company serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. There are no family relationships among the Company's directors and executive officers.

The term of office for directors Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D., will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. At the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the stockholders will elect two Class II directors for a term of three years.

Nominees for Election at the Annual Meeting

All of the nominees (Richard F. Pops and Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.) are currently Class II directors of the Company. All of the nominees were previously elected to the Board of Directors by the Company's stockholders. Information about the nominees is set forth below:

Name of Director	Age	Position in the Company	Director Since
Richard F. Pops (1) (2)	56	Director	1998
Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D. (1) (3)	70	Director	1999

Who are the remaining Directors that are not up for election this year?

The Class I and III directors will remain in office after the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The names and certain other current information about the directors whose terms of office continue after the Annual Meeting are set forth below:

Name of Director	Age	Position in the Company	Director Since
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.	61	Chief Executive Officer and Director	2008
Gary A. Lyons (4)	67	Director	1993
George J. Morrow (1) (2) (3)	67	Director	2015
William H. Rastetter, Ph.D. (4)	70	Chairman of the Board	2010
Alfred W. Sandrock, Jr. M.D., Ph.D. (2) (3) (4)	61	Director	2015

- (1) Member of the Audit Committee.
- (2) Member of the Compensation Committee.
- (3) Member of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee.
- (4) Member of the Science and Medical Technology Committee.

Vote Required

The nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and entitled to vote on the election of directors will be elected to the Board of Directors.

Votes withheld from any director are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum, but have no other legal effect under Delaware law.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy holders will vote the proxies received by them for the Company's Class II nominees named above. If any of the Company's nominees is unable or declines to serve as a director at the time of the Annual Meeting, the proxies will be voted for any nominee who is designated by the present Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. It is not expected that any of the Company's nominees will be unable or will decline to serve as a director. **The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that stockholders vote FOR the Class II nominees named above.**

**PROPOSAL TWO: ADVISORY VOTE ON
COMPENSATION PAID TO THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

General

At the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Board of Directors, as a matter of good corporate governance, recommended that the stockholders approve an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer compensation (say-on-pay) on an annual basis. Approximately 94% of the stockholder votes cast at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders were for the Company's recommendation, and in response the Company holds an annual say-on-pay vote. This annual vote is not intended to address any specific compensation item, but rather the overall compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement.

Summary of the Company's Executive Compensation Philosophy

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the Committee) bases its executive compensation decisions on a number of objectives which include aligning management incentives with interests of stockholders, providing competitive compensation, appropriately balancing compensation risk in the context of the Company's business strategy and meeting evolving compensation governance standards. The philosophy of the Committee in establishing the Company's compensation policy for executive officers as well as all other employees is to:

align compensation plans with both short-term and long-term goals and objectives of the Company and stockholder interests;

attract and retain highly skilled individuals by offering compensation that compares favorably to other employers who are competing for available employees;

incentivize employees through a mix of base salary, bonus amounts based on achievement of defined corporate and personal goals and long-term equity awards to generate returns for stockholders; and

pay for performance by ensuring that an ever-increasing percentage of an individual's compensation is performance-based as they progress to higher levels within the Company.

As discussed below in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, we believe we have adopted a compensation philosophy that provides strong alignment between executive pay and performance based on strategic goals designed to provide both near-term and long-term growth in stockholder value. The historical approval rates, on an advisory basis, for the Company's executive compensation program have been over 98% for each of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings of Stockholders. The Committee and our Board of Directors believe that this level of approval of our executive compensation program is indicative of our stockholders' strong support of our compensation philosophy and goals as well as the overall administration of executive compensation by the Committee and the Board of Directors.

You are being asked to approve on an advisory basis, the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers as set forth in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, Summary Compensation Table and related notes and narrative set forth herein. This vote is not intended to address any specific compensation item, but rather the overall compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement.

Vote Required

The say-on-pay vote is advisory and therefore not binding on the Company, the Committee or the Board of Directors. However, we value the opinions of our stockholders and will review and will continue to consider the outcome of this advisory vote when making future compensation decisions for our Named Executive Officers and will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address the stockholders' concerns. Approval of this advisory vote requires the affirmative vote of the majority of shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the item. **The Board of Directors unanimously recommends voting FOR approval of the Company's Named Executive Officers compensation.**

PROPOSAL THREE: APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2011 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

General

The Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan was originally approved by the Board of Directors and the stockholders of the Company in 2011, and was subsequently amended by the Board of Directors and our stockholders most recently in 2018 (the 2011 Plan). Subject to stockholder approval, our Board of Directors approved an amendment of the 2011 Plan on February 8, 2019 (the 2011 Plan, as amended, the Amended 2011 Plan). The Board of Directors is requesting stockholder approval of the Amended 2011 Plan, which includes the following material changes to the 2011 Plan, as described in more detail under Summary of the Amended 2011 Plan below:

to increase in the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the 2011 Plan from 19,000,000 to 21,000,000 shares.

The Board of Directors believes that the proposed increase in the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan will allow the Company to attract and retain valuable employees and continue to provide its employees, consultants and directors with a proprietary interest in the Company. In particular, the Company anticipates a material increase in its number of employees in 2019 in connection with: (i) the continued commercialization of the Company's first approved product, INGREZZA® (valbenazine) capsules, which began in May 2017; and (ii) development activities related to the Company's other development programs. Within the Company, equity awards foster an ownership culture and are a critical tool for driving stockholder value and for recruiting, retaining and motivating employees. The Company grants annual equity awards to employees as an incentive to retain its work force and remain competitive. The terms of the Company's annual equity awards and the Company's employee policies are designed to align employee and stockholder interests. The Company grants equity awards to a broad group of employees and such awards constitute a significant component of the Company's employees' total compensation. The Company's equity awards contain long-term vesting, performance-based vesting, and provisions designed to encourage employees to focus on the Company's long-term goals and success. If our stockholders do not approve the Amended 2011 Plan, the Company strongly believes that it will be unable to successfully continue to use equity as part of its compensation program, as most of its competitors in the industry do, putting the Company at a significant disadvantage and compromising its ability to enhance stockholder value.

The Amended 2011 Plan authorizes the grant to our employees of options that qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Code. The 2011 Plan also authorizes the grant of nonstatutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, performance stock awards and other stock awards (collectively stock awards) to our employees, directors and consultants. The 2011 Plan also provides that certain nonstatutory stock options will be automatically granted to non-employee directors and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company, as described below.

As of March 15, 2019, under the 2011 Plan there were 6,675,604 options outstanding to purchase shares of common stock, and 4,998,075 shares were available for future stock awards; 1,690,001 shares were subject to outstanding restricted stock units; and 3,400,386 shares previously issued upon exercise of options granted and 2,242,069 shares previously issued upon vesting of restricted stock units under the 2011 Plan are now outstanding shares of common stock. As of March 29, 2019, there were approximately 630 employees and directors eligible to receive grants under the 2011 Plan.

As of the Record Date, whether granted under the 2011 Plan or otherwise, an aggregate of 6,873,590 shares are issuable upon exercise of outstanding options with a weighted average exercise price of \$48.69 and a weighted average remaining contractual term of 7.1 years; and 1,714,376 shares are subject to unvested restricted stock units. The closing price of the Company's common stock on March 29, 2019 was \$88.10 with 91,284,279 shares outstanding.

Vote Required

At the Annual Meeting, the stockholders are being asked to approve the Amended 2011 Plan. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the item will be required to approve the Amended 2011 Plan. **The Board of Directors recommends voting FOR the approval of the Amended 2011 Plan.**

Summary of the Amended 2011 Plan

The essential features of the Amended 2011 Plan are summarized below. This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified by reference to, all provisions of the Amended 2011 Plan. The Amended 2011 Plan, which reflects all of the changes proposed to be made to the 2011 Plan, is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

Purpose. The purpose of the Amended 2011 Plan is to enable the Company to attract and retain the best available personnel, to provide additional incentives to the employees, directors and consultants of the Company and to promote the success of the Company's business.

Administration. Our Board of Directors has the authority to administer the Amended 2011 Plan. Our Board of Directors also has the authority to delegate some or all of the administration of the Amended 2011 Plan (except the Non-Discretionary Grant Program summarized below) to a committee or committees composed of one or more members of the Board of Directors or Company officers (the Board of Directors or any such committee, the Administrator). The Amended 2011 Plan may be administered by different committees with respect to different groups of employees and consultants. The Administrator may make any determinations deemed necessary or advisable for the Amended 2011 Plan. The Administrator, in its discretion, selects the employees, directors and consultants to whom stock awards may be granted, the time or times at which such awards shall be granted, the number of shares subject to each such grant, and other terms of the stock awards. All decisions, determinations and interpretations of the Administrator shall be final and binding on all holders.

Eligibility. Incentive stock options may be granted only to our employees. Nonstatutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards, performance stock awards and other stock awards may be granted under the Amended 2011 Plan to our employees, directors and consultants. Participation in the non-discretionary grant program is limited to our non-employee directors (see Non-Discretionary Grant Program below).

Stock Subject to the Amended 2011 Plan

Subject to stockholder approval of this Proposal Three and adjustments for changes in our capitalization, an aggregate of 21,000,000 shares of common stock will be reserved for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan. Shares may be issued in connection with a merger or acquisition as permitted by the rules of the applicable national securities exchange, and such issuance shall not reduce the number of shares available for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan. If a stock award granted under the Amended 2011 Plan expires or otherwise terminates without all of the shares having been issued, or if any shares of common stock issued pursuant to a stock award are forfeited to us because of the failure to meet a contingency or condition required for the vesting of such shares, then the shares of common stock not issued under such stock award, or forfeited to us, shall revert to and again become available for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan.

If any shares subject to a stock award are not delivered to a participant because such shares are withheld for the payment of taxes or the stock award is exercised through a reduction of shares subject to the stock award (i.e. net exercised), or an appreciation distribution in respect of a stock appreciation right is paid in shares of common stock,

the number of shares that are not delivered will not again become available for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan. If the exercise price of any stock award is satisfied by tendering shares of common stock held by the participant, then the number of shares so tendered will not become available for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan.

The aggregate maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the Amended 2011 Plan pursuant to the exercise of incentive stock options, subject to stockholder approval of this Proposal Three, is 21,000,000 shares.

Per-Person Award Limitations. The Amended 2011 Plan provides that no employee may be granted, in any fiscal year of the Company, stock options, stock appreciation rights (and any other stock awards whose value is determined by reference to an increase over an exercise or strike price of at least the fair market value on the date of grant) (all such options, stock appreciation rights and other stock awards appreciation awards) covering more than 500,000 shares of common stock. Notwithstanding this limit, however, in connection with an employee's initial employment, he or she may be granted appreciation awards covering up to an additional 500,000 shares of common stock. Additional per-person limitations apply to performance stock awards, as described below in the section entitled Terms of Performance Awards .

Full Value Stock Award Limitations. In addition, subject to adjustments upon changes in our capitalization or in connection with a merger or other similar event, the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to the grant of full value stock awards (i.e., restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance stock and other stock awards, but not including stock options or stock appreciation rights) is 50% of the total number of shares of common stock issuable under the Amended 2011 Plan.

Minimum Vesting. Generally, no full value stock award that vests on the basis of the participant's continuous service with the Company shall vest at a rate that is any more rapid than ratably over a three-year period, and no full value stock award that vests based on the satisfaction of performance goals shall have a performance period of less than twelve months.

Limited Exception to Minimum Vesting Restrictions. Up to five percent (5%) of the total number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the Amended 2011 Plan may in the aggregate be issued as full value stock awards that are not subject to the minimum vesting requirements set forth in the Amended 2011 Plan.

Limit on Non-Employee Director Compensation. The aggregate value of all compensation granted or paid, as applicable, to any individual for service as a non-employee director with respect to any period commencing on the date of the Company's annual meeting of stockholders for a particular year and ending on the date of the Company's annual meeting of stockholders for the next subsequent year, including stock awards granted under the Amended 2011 Plan and cash fees paid to such non-employee director, will not exceed \$1,250,000 in total value. In addition, the aggregate value of the initial option grant or other similar stock award(s) granted under the Plan or otherwise to any individual for service as a non-employee director upon or in connection with his or her initial election or appointment to the Board of Directors will not exceed \$2,000,000 in total value. For purposes of these limitations, the value of stock awards is calculated based on the grant date fair value of such stock awards for financial reporting purposes. The Board of Directors has the authority to make exceptions to these limits in extraordinary circumstances, in its discretion, provided that any non-employee director who is granted or paid such additional compensation may not participate in the decision to grant or pay such additional compensation.

Section 162(m) Transition Relief for Performance-Based Compensation. Under Section 162(m) of the Code, compensation paid to any publicly held corporation's covered employees (as defined under Section 162(m) of the Code) that exceeds \$1 million per taxable year for any covered employee is generally non-deductible. Certain provisions in the Amended 2011 Plan refer to the performance-based compensation exception to the \$1 million deduction limit under Section 162(m) of the Code. Pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this exception was repealed with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. However, an award may still be eligible for this exception if, among other requirements, it is intended to qualify, and is eligible to qualify, as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code pursuant to the transition relief provided by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for remuneration provided pursuant to a written binding contract which was in effect on November 2, 2017 and

which was not modified in any material respect on or

after such date. For purposes of this Proposal Three, the term "Section 162(m) Transition Relief" refers to such transition relief. Accordingly, the provisions in the Amended 2011 Plan which refer to the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m) of the Code will only apply to any award that is intended to qualify, and is eligible to qualify, as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code pursuant to the Section 162(m) Transition Relief and, therefore, such provisions are not applicable to any other awards granted under the Amended 2011 Plan. Because of certain ambiguities and uncertainties as to the application and interpretation of Section 162(m) of the Code, as well as other factors beyond the control of the Compensation Committee, no assurance can be given that any award granted under the Amended 2011 Plan will be eligible for such transition relief and be deductible by the Company in the future.

Terms and Conditions of Options and Stock Appreciation Rights

Options and stock appreciation rights may be granted under the Amended 2011 Plan pursuant to stock option agreements and stock appreciation right agreements. The following is a description of the permissible terms of options and stock appreciation rights under the Amended 2011 Plan. Individual grants may be more restrictive as to any or all of the permissible terms described below.

Exercise Price. The Administrator determines the exercise price of options and strike price of stock appreciation rights at the time the options or stock appreciation rights are granted as set forth in the applicable stock award agreement. The exercise price of a stock option and strike price of a stock appreciation right may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date such award is granted. In the case of an incentive stock option granted to an optionee who owns more than 10% of all classes of stock of the Company or any parent or subsidiary of the Company, the exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date such option is granted. The fair market value of the common stock is generally determined with reference to the closing sale price for the common stock on the date the option or stock appreciation right is granted.

Stock Appreciation Rights. Each stock appreciation right is denominated in shares of common stock equivalents. Upon exercise of a stock appreciation right, we will pay the participant an amount equal to the excess of (i) the aggregate fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise over (ii) the strike price determined by the Administrator on the date of grant. The appreciation distribution upon exercise of a stock appreciation right will be paid in shares of our common stock, in cash, any combination of the two or any other form of consideration determined by the Administrator.

Repricing; Cancellation and Re-Grant of Stock Awards. Under the Amended 2011 Plan, the Administrator does not have the authority to reprice any outstanding stock awards by reducing the exercise price of the stock award or to cancel any outstanding stock awards in exchange for cash or other stock awards without obtaining the approval of our stockholders within 12 months prior to the repricing or cancellation and re-grant event.

Exercise; Form of Consideration. The Administrator determines when options and stock appreciation rights become exercisable as set forth in the applicable stock award agreement. The means of payment for shares issued upon exercise of an option is specified in each option agreement. The Amended 2011 Plan permits payment to be made to the extent permitted under applicable laws by cash, check, other shares of common stock of the Company (with some restrictions), net exercise, cashless exercise, any other form of consideration permitted by applicable law, or any combination thereof.

Term. The Administrator determines the term of options and stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2011 Plan as set forth in the applicable stock award agreement. The term of options and stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2011 Plan may be no more than 10 years from the date of grant. In the case of an incentive stock option granted to an optionee who owns more than 10% of all classes of stock of the Company or any parent or subsidiary of the Company, the term of the option may be no more than five years from the date of grant. No

option or stock appreciation right may be exercised after the expiration of its term.

Termination of Continuous Service. Options and stock appreciation rights granted under the Amended 2011 Plan generally terminate three months after termination of the participant's service unless (i) such termination is due to the participant's disability, in which case the stock award may, but need not, provide that it may be exercised (to the extent the stock award was exercisable at the time of the termination of service) at any time within 12 months of such termination; (ii) the participant dies before the participant's service has terminated, or within the period specified in the stock award agreement after termination of such service, in which case the stock award may, but need not, provide that it may be exercised (to the extent the stock award was exercisable at the time of the participant's death) within 18 months of the participant's death by the person or persons to whom the rights to exercise such stock award pass by will or by the laws of descent and distribution; (iii) the stock award by its terms specifically provides otherwise, or (iv) the termination is for cause. Except as provided otherwise in a participant's stock award agreement, or otherwise set forth in an employment agreement, upon termination of a participant's service for cause, the stock award shall immediately terminate and may not thereafter be exercised. A participant may designate a beneficiary who may exercise the stock award following the participant's death. Individual grants by their terms may provide for exercise within a longer or shorter period of time following termination of service. In no event, however, may an option or stock appreciation right be exercised beyond the expiration of its maximum term. The option or stock appreciation right term generally is extended in the event that exercise of the stock award within the foregoing periods is prohibited. A participant's stock award agreement may provide that if the exercise of the stock award following the termination of the participant's service would be prohibited because the issuance of stock would violate the registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, then the stock award will terminate on the earlier of (i) the expiration of the term of the stock award or (ii) three months after the termination of the participant's service during which the exercise of the stock award would not be in violation of such registration requirements.

Other Provisions. The stock option agreement may contain other terms, provisions and conditions not inconsistent with the Amended 2011 Plan as may be determined by the Administrator.

Terms of Restricted Stock Awards and Restricted Stock Unit Awards

Restricted stock awards and restricted stock unit awards may be granted under the Amended 2011 Plan pursuant to restricted stock award and restricted stock unit award agreements. The following is a description of the permissible terms of restricted stock awards and restricted stock unit awards under the Amended 2011 Plan. Individual grants may be more restrictive as to any or all of the permissible terms described below.

Consideration. The Administrator may grant restricted stock awards and restricted stock unit awards in consideration for past services rendered to the Company or in exchange for any other form of legal consideration acceptable to the Administrator.

Vesting. Shares of stock issued under a restricted stock award agreement may, but need not, be subject to forfeiture to the Company in accordance with a vesting schedule as determined by the Administrator. Restricted stock unit awards vest and are issued at the rate specified in the restricted stock unit award agreement as determined by the Administrator. However, at the time of grant, the Administrator may impose additional restrictions or conditions that delay the delivery of stock to be issued in respect of the restricted stock unit award after vesting.

Termination of Service. Unless the Administrator determines otherwise, the restricted stock purchase agreement shall give the Company a repurchase option exercisable upon the voluntary or involuntary termination of the purchaser's employment or consulting relationship with the Company for any reason (including death and disability). The purchase price for any issued shares repurchased by the Company shall be the original price paid by the purchaser, if any. The repurchase option lapses at a rate determined by the Administrator. Except as otherwise provided in the applicable award agreement, restricted stock unit awards that have not vested will be automatically forfeited upon the participant's termination of service.

Dividend Equivalents. Dividend equivalent rights may be credited with respect to shares covered by a restricted stock unit award. However, we do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our common stock for the foreseeable future.

Terms of Performance Awards

The Amended 2011 Plan allows the Administrator to issue performance stock awards. Performance stock awards may be granted, vest or be exercised based upon the attainment during a certain period of time of certain performance goals and will be issued in shares of our common stock, or if determined by the Administrator, cash. All of our employees, consultants and directors are eligible to receive performance stock awards under the Amended 2011 Plan. The length of any performance period, the performance goals to be achieved during the performance period and the measure of whether and to what degree such performance goals have been attained shall be determined by the Administrator. The maximum amount to be granted to any individual in any calendar year attributable to such performance stock awards may not exceed 500,000 shares of our common stock. Notwithstanding this limit, however, in connection with an employee's initial employment, he or she may be granted performance stock awards covering up to an additional 500,000 shares of common stock.

In granting a performance stock award, the Administrator will set a period of time, or a performance period, over which the attainment of one or more goals, or performance goals, will be measured for the purpose of determining whether the stock award recipient has a vested right in or to such performance stock award. With respect to stock awards that are intended to qualify as performance based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Code, within the time period prescribed by Section 162(m) of the Code, the Administrator will establish the performance goals, based upon one or more pre-established criteria, or performance criteria, enumerated in the Amended 2011 Plan and described below. However, in order to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code, among other requirements, such awards must be eligible to qualify for the Section 162(m) Transition Relief (as described in Section 162(m) Transition Relief for Performance-Based Compensation above). As soon as administratively practicable following the end of the performance period, the Administrator will certify (in writing) whether the performance goals have been satisfied.

Performance goals under the Amended 2011 Plan shall be established by the Administrator, based on one or more of the following performance criteria: (i) earnings (including earnings per share and net earnings, in either case before or after any or all of: interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, legal settlements or other income (expense), or stock-based compensation, other non-cash expenses and changes in deferred revenue); (ii) total stockholder return; (iii) return on equity or average stockholder's equity; (iv) return on assets, investment, or capital employed; (v) stock price; (vi) margin (including gross margin); (vii) income (before or after taxes); (viii) operating income; (ix) operating income after taxes; (x) pre-tax profit; (xi) operating cash flow; (xii) sales or revenue targets; (xiii) increases in revenue or product revenue; (xiv) expenses and cost reduction goals; (xv) improvement in or attainment of working capital levels; (xvi) economic value added (or an equivalent metric); (xvii) market share; (xviii) cash flow; (xix) cash flow per share; (xx) cash burn; (xxi) share price performance; (xxii) debt reduction; (xxiii) implementation or completion of projects or processes (including, without limitation, discovery of a pre-clinical drug candidate, recommendation of a drug candidate to enter a clinical trial, clinical trial initiation, clinical trial enrollment and dates, clinical trial results, regulatory filing submissions, regulatory filing acceptances, regulatory or advisory committee interactions, regulatory approvals, presentation of studies and launch of commercial plans, compliance programs or education campaigns); (xxiv) customer satisfaction; (xxv) stockholders' equity; (xxvi) capital expenditures; (xxvii) debt levels; (xxviii) financings; (xxix) operating profit or net operating profit; (xxx) workforce diversity; (xxxii) growth of net income or operating income; (xxxiii) billings; (xxxiv) employee hiring; (xxxv) funds from operations; (xxxvi) budget management; (xxxvii) strategic partnerships or transactions (including acquisitions, joint ventures or licensing transactions); (xxxviii) engagement of thought leaders and patient advocacy groups; (xxxix) litigation preparation and management; and (xl) to the extent that an award is not intended to comply with Section 162(m) of the Code, other measures of performance selected by the Administrator.

Unless otherwise determined by the Administrator, the attainment of performance goals for a performance period will be calculated: (i) to exclude restructuring and/or other nonrecurring charges; (ii) to exclude exchange rate effects, as applicable, for non-U.S. dollar denominated net sales and operating earnings; (iii) to exclude the effects of changes to generally accepted accounting standards required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board; (iv) to exclude the effects of any statutory adjustments to corporate tax rates; (v) to exclude the effects of items that are unusual in nature or occur infrequently as determined under generally accepted accounting principles; (vi) to exclude the dilutive effects of acquisitions or joint ventures; (vii) to assume that any business divested by the Company achieved performance objectives at targeted levels during the balance of a performance period following such divestiture; (viii) to exclude the effect of any change in the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company by reason of any stock dividend or split, stock repurchase, reorganization, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, spin-off, combination or exchange of shares or other similar corporate change, or any distributions to common stockholders other than regular cash dividends; (ix) to exclude the effects of stock based compensation and the award of bonuses under the Company's bonus plans; (x) to exclude costs incurred in connection with potential acquisitions or divestitures that are required to be expensed under generally accepted accounting principles; (xi) to exclude the goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges that are required to be recorded under generally accepted accounting principles; and (xii) to exclude the effects of the timing of acceptance for review and/or approval of submissions to the FDA or any other regulatory body. In addition, the Administrator retains the discretion to reduce or eliminate the compensation or economic benefit due upon attainment of performance goals.

Non-Discretionary Grant Program

The non-discretionary grant program under the Amended 2011 Plan provides for the grant of stock options to non-employee directors over their period of service on the Board of Directors. These stock options will be granted as follows:

Initial Option Grant. Each new non-employee director will, at the time of his or her initial election or appointment to the Board of Directors, receive an option to purchase a number of shares of the Company's common stock determined by the Board of Directors (the initial option grant). The initial option grant shall vest monthly with respect to 1/36th of the shares over the three-year period following the date of grant, subject to the director's continuous service through the applicable vesting dates, so that the initial option grant will be fully vested on the third anniversary of the date of grant.

Annual Option Grant. On each annual meeting, each continuing non-employee director will automatically be granted a stock option to purchase a number of shares of our common stock determined by the Board of Directors (the annual option grant). The annual option grant shall vest monthly with respect to 1/12th of the shares over the one year period following the date of grant, subject to the director's continuous service through the applicable vesting dates, so that the annual option grant will be fully vested on the first anniversary of the date of grant.

General Terms. The exercise price of each option granted under the non-discretionary grant program is 100% of the fair market value of the common stock subject to the option on the date of grant. The maximum term of options granted under the non-discretionary grant program is ten years. All other terms of each option granted under the non-discretionary grant program shall be consistent with the terms of the Amended 2011 Plan.

Corporate Transaction. Each option granted under the non-discretionary grant program shall automatically fully accelerate vesting upon a corporate transaction, subject to the non-employee director's continuous service through the date of the corporate transaction.

Terms of Other Stock Awards

The Administrator may grant other stock awards that are valued in whole or in part by reference to our common stock. Subject to the provisions of the Amended 2011 Plan, the Administrator has the authority to

determine the persons to whom, and the dates on which, such other stock awards will be granted, the number of shares of common stock (or cash equivalents) to be subject to each award, and other terms and conditions of such awards.

General Provisions

Tax Withholding. To the extent provided by the terms of any stock award agreement, a participant may satisfy any federal, state or local tax withholding obligation relating to such stock award by a cash payment, by authorizing the Company to withhold a portion of the stock otherwise issuable to the participant, by withholding from any amounts otherwise payable to the participant, by a combination of these means, or by such other method as set forth in the stock award agreement.

Transferability. Stock awards may not be sold, pledged, transferred, or disposed of in any manner other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, pursuant to a domestic relations order, or with respect to stock awards other than options or stock appreciation rights, with the Administrator's consent, and may be exercised, during the lifetime of the holder, only by the holder or such transferees as have been transferred a stock award with the Administrator's consent. If the Administrator makes a stock award transferable, such stock award shall contain such additional terms and conditions as the Administrator deems appropriate and such award will not otherwise be transferred for consideration.

Adjustments Upon Changes in Capitalization. In the event any change is made to the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock without the receipt of consideration (whether through a stock split or other specified change in our capital structure), the Administrator shall appropriately adjust the number and kind of shares of stock (or other securities or property) subject to the Amended 2011 Plan, the maximum number of shares that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of incentive stock options, the maximum numbers and/or class of securities for which any one person may be granted appreciation awards, full value stock awards and performance stock awards per calendar year, the number and kind of shares of stock (or other securities or property) subject to any stock award outstanding under the Amended 2011 Plan, and the exercise or purchase price of any such outstanding stock award.

Effect of Certain Corporate Events. In the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, all outstanding stock awards under the Amended 2011 Plan shall terminate immediately prior to such dissolution or liquidation. The Amended 2011 Plan further provides that, in the event of a sale, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets or specified types of mergers or consolidations (each, a corporate transaction), any surviving or acquiring corporation shall either assume stock awards outstanding under the Amended 2011 Plan or substitute similar stock awards for those outstanding under the Amended 2011 Plan. If any surviving corporation declines to assume stock awards outstanding under the Amended 2011 Plan or to substitute similar stock awards, then, with respect to participants whose service with the Company has not terminated prior to the time of such corporate transaction, the vesting and the time during which such stock awards may be exercised will be accelerated in full, and all outstanding stock awards will terminate if the participant does not exercise such stock awards at or prior to the corporate transaction. With respect to any stock awards that are held by other participants that terminated service with the Company prior to the corporate transaction, the vesting and exercisability provisions of such stock awards will not be accelerated and such stock awards will terminate if not exercised prior to the corporate transaction.

Amendment and Termination of the Amended 2011 Plan. The Board of Directors may amend, alter, suspend or terminate the Amended 2011 Plan, or any part thereof, at any time and for any reason. Unless sooner terminated, the Amended 2011 Plan will terminate on February 20, 2021. However, the Amended 2011 Plan requires stockholder approval for any amendment to the Amended 2011 Plan to the extent necessary to comply with applicable laws, rules and regulations. No action by the Board of Directors or stockholders may impair any award previously granted under the Amended 2011 Plan without the consent of the holder.

Federal Income Tax Consequences

Incentive Stock Options. An optionee who is granted an incentive stock option does not recognize taxable income at the time the option is granted or upon its exercise, although the exercise is an adjustment item for alternative minimum tax purposes and may subject the optionee to the alternative minimum tax. Upon a disposition of the shares more than two years after grant of the option and one year after exercise of the option, any gain or loss is treated as long-term capital gain or loss. If these holding periods are not satisfied, the optionee recognizes ordinary income at the time of disposition equal to the difference between the exercise price and the lesser of (i) the excess of the stock's fair market value on the date of exercise over the exercise price, or (ii) the participant's actual gain, if any, on the purchase and sale. Any gain or loss recognized on such a premature disposition of the shares in excess of the amount treated as ordinary income is treated as long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. A different rule for measuring ordinary income upon such a premature disposition may apply if the optionee is also an officer, director or 10% stockholder of the Company. Unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company is entitled to a deduction in the same amount as the ordinary income recognized by the optionee.

Nonstatutory Stock Options. An optionee does not recognize any taxable income at the time he or she is granted a nonstatutory stock option. Upon exercise, the optionee recognizes taxable income generally measured by the excess of the then fair market value of the shares over the exercise price. Any taxable income recognized in connection with an option exercise by an employee of the Company is subject to tax withholding by the Company. Unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company is entitled to a deduction in the same amount as the ordinary income recognized by the optionee. Upon a disposition of such shares by the optionee, any difference between the sale price and the optionee's exercise price, to the extent not recognized as taxable income as provided above, is treated as long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period.

Stock Appreciation Rights. No taxable income is realized upon the receipt of a stock appreciation right. Upon exercise of the stock appreciation right, the fair market value of the shares (or cash in lieu of shares) received is recognized as ordinary income to the participant in the year of such exercise. Generally, with respect to employees, we are required to withhold from the payment made on exercise of the stock appreciation right or from regular wages or supplemental wage payments an amount based on the ordinary income recognized. Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, Section 162(m) of the Code and the satisfaction of a reporting obligation, we will be entitled to an income tax deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant.

Restricted Stock Awards. For federal income tax purposes, if an individual is granted a restricted stock award, the recipient generally will recognize taxable ordinary income equal to the excess of the common stock's fair market value over the purchase price, if any. However, to the extent the common stock is subject to certain types of restrictions, such as a repurchase right in favor of the Company, the taxable event will be delayed until the vesting restrictions lapse unless the recipient makes a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Code. If the recipient makes a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Code with respect to restricted stock, the recipient generally will recognize ordinary income at the date of acquisition of the restricted stock in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the fair market value of the shares at that date over the purchase price for the restricted stock. If, however, a valid Section 83(b) election is not made by the recipient, the recipient will generally recognize ordinary income when the restrictions on the shares of restricted stock lapse, in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares at the date such restrictions lapse over the purchase price for the restricted stock. With respect to employees, the Company is generally required to withhold from regular wages or supplemental wage payments an amount based on the ordinary income recognized. Generally, the Company will be entitled (subject to the requirement of reasonableness, the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Code and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation) to a business expense deduction equal to the taxable ordinary income realized by the recipient. Upon disposition of the common stock, the recipient will recognize a capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the selling price and the sum of the

amount paid for such common stock, if any, plus any amount recognized as ordinary income upon acquisition (or the lapse of restrictions) of the common stock. Such gain or loss will be long-term or short-term depending on how long the common stock was held. Slightly different rules may apply to recipients who are subject to Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act.

Restricted Stock Unit Awards. No taxable income is recognized upon receipt of a restricted stock unit award. The participant will recognize ordinary income in the year in which the shares subject to that unit are actually issued to the participant in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of issuance. The participant and the Company will be required to satisfy certain tax withholding requirements applicable to such income. Subject to the requirement of reasonableness, Section 162(m) of the Code and the satisfaction of a tax reporting obligation, we will be entitled to an income tax deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant at the time the shares are issued. In general, the deduction will be allowed for the taxable year in which such ordinary income is recognized by the participant.

Potential Limitation on Company Deductions. Under Section 162(m) of the Code, compensation paid to any publicly held corporation's covered employees (as defined under Section 162(m) of the Code) that exceeds \$1 million per taxable year for any covered employee is generally non-deductible. Prior to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Section 162(m) of the Code provided a performance-based compensation exception, pursuant to which the deduction limit under Section 162(m) of the Code did not apply to any compensation that qualified as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. Pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m) of the Code was repealed with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, except that certain transition relief is provided for compensation paid pursuant to a written binding contract which was in effect on November 2, 2017 and which is not modified in any material respect on or after such date. Compensation paid to each of the Company's covered employees in excess of \$1 million per taxable year generally will not be deductible unless it qualifies for the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m) of the Code pursuant to the transition relief described above. Because of certain ambiguities and uncertainties as to the application and interpretation of Section 162(m) of the Code, as well as other factors beyond the control of the Compensation Committee, no assurance can be given that any compensation paid by the Company (including any award granted under the Amended 2011 Plan) will be eligible for such transition relief and be deductible by the Company in the future.

The foregoing is only a summary of the effect of federal income taxation upon holders of stock awards and the Company with respect to the grant and exercise of stock awards under the Amended 2011 Plan. It does not purport to be complete, and does not discuss the tax consequences of the holder's death or the provisions of the income tax laws of any municipality, state or foreign country in which the holder may reside.

New Plan Benefits**Amended 2011 Plan**

Name	Dollar value	Number of shares
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer and Director	(1)	(1)
Matthew C. Abernethy Chief Financial Officer	(1)	(1)
Eric Benevich Chief Commercial Officer	(1)	(1)
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D. Chief Business Development Officer	(1)	(1)
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D. Chief Medical Officer	(1)	(1)
All current executive officers as a group (nine persons)	(1)	(1)
All current non-employee directors as a group (six persons)	(2)	(2)
All employees, including all current officers who are not executive officers, as a group (approximately 690 persons)	(1)	(1)

- (1) Awards granted under the Amended 2011 Plan to our executive officers and other employees are discretionary and are not subject to set benefits or amounts under the terms of the Amended 2011 Plan, and our Board of Directors and our Compensation Committee have not granted any awards under the Amended 2011 Plan subject to stockholder approval of this Proposal Three. Accordingly, the benefits or amounts that will be received by or allocated to our executive officers and other employees under the Amended 2011 Plan are not determinable.
- (2) Pursuant to the terms of the Amended 2011 Plan, non-employee directors are entitled to receive options as described in Non-Discretionary Grant Program above. Under our compensation arrangements for non-employee directors and the Amended 2011 Plan, in 2018 each of our six current non-employee directors was granted a nonstatutory stock option to purchase 12,500 (15,000 in the case of our Chairman) shares at the 2018 Annual Meeting and such options were granted under the Amended 2011 Plan. For additional information regarding our current compensation arrangements for non-employee directors, please see Director Compensation below. The actual value realized upon exercise of an option will depend on the excess, if any, of the stock price over the exercise prices on the date of exercise. Only non-employee directors of the Company are eligible to receive non-discretionary grants under the Amended 2011 Plan. All other grants under the Amended 2011 Plan are within the discretion of the Administrator.

Plan Benefits

The following table sets forth, for each of the individuals and groups indicated, the total number of shares of our common stock subject to options and stock awards that have been granted (even if not currently outstanding) under the 2011 Plan through the Record Date.

2011 Plan

Name and position	Number of shares Granted
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer and Director	1,882,272
Matthew C. Abernethy Chief Financial Officer	123,264
Eric Benevich Chief Commercial Officer	309,714
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D. Chief Business Development Officer	728,212
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D. Chief Medical Officer	109,662
All current executive officers as a group (nine persons)	5,396,601
All current directors who are not executive officers as a group (six persons)	643,500
Each nominee for election as a director: (two persons)	
Richard F. Pops.	112,500
Stephen A. Sherwin, M.D.	112,500
All employees, including all current officers who are not executive officers, as a group (approximately 690 persons)	8,448,958

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

The following table sets forth information regarding all of the Company's equity compensation plans as of March 1, 2019:

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column a) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1)	8,406,021	\$ 48.17	5,002,799
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders (2)	240,162	\$ 59.37	55,182
Total	8,646,183	\$ 48.45	5,057,981

- (1) The number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans as of March 1, 2019 are from the 2011 Plan. The shares available for issuance under the 2011 Plan may be issued in the form of option awards, restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards or stock bonus awards subject to limitations set forth in the 2011 Plan.
- (2) Consists of shares of common stock issuable pursuant to employment commencement nonstatutory stock option awards and restricted stock unit awards.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL THREE

**PROPOSAL FOUR: RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

General

The Audit Committee has selected Ernst & Young LLP to audit the financial statements of the Company for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. Ernst & Young LLP has audited the Company's financial statements since 1992. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire, and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Stockholders are not required to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Audit Committee is submitting the selection of Ernst & Young LLP to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in their discretion may direct the selection of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the item will be required to approve and ratify the Audit Committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP. **The Board of Directors unanimously recommends voting FOR approval and ratification of such selection.** In the event of a negative vote on such ratification, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

As of the Record Date, our executive officers were as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.	61	Chief Executive Officer and Director
Matthew C. Abernethy	39	Chief Financial Officer
Eric Benevich	53	Chief Commercial Officer
Haig P. Bozigian, Ph.D.	61	Chief Development Officer
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D.	46	Chief Business Development Officer
Dimitri E. Grigoriadis, Ph.D.	61	Chief Research Officer
Darin M. Lippoldt	53	Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary
Malcolm C. Lloyd-Smith	63	Chief Regulatory Officer
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D.	55	Chief Medical Officer

See above for biographical information concerning Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.

Matthew C. Abernethy was appointed Chief Financial Officer in November 2017 and is responsible for leading corporate finance activities and commercial supply chain operations, as well as information technology and investor relations functions at Neurocrine. Mr. Abernethy has nearly 15 years of experience in the financial sector and investor relations with expertise in the healthcare industry. He joined Neurocrine from Zimmer Biomet, where he held various positions from February 2009 to November 2017, including most recently, Vice President, Investor Relations and Treasurer and Vice President of Finance for the Americas and Global Product Engines. He began his career with KPMG LLP and is a certified public accountant. Mr. Abernethy earned his B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration from Grace College and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Eric Benevich was appointed Chief Commercial Officer in May 2015 and is responsible for all aspects of commercial development, marketing and sales of the Neurocrine product portfolio. Previously, Mr. Benevich was at Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Inc., from 2005 to 2015, serving most recently as Vice President of Marketing where he was responsible for NUEDEXTA[®] and commercialization of their CNS pipeline. Mr. Benevich has over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and previously served in various positions of increasing responsibility at Peninsula Pharmaceuticals Inc., Amgen and AstraZeneca in the sales and marketing of drugs such as Enbrel[®], Epogen[®] and Prilosec[®]. Mr. Benevich has a BBA in International Business from Washington State University.

Haig P. Bozigian, Ph.D. was appointed Chief Development Officer in 2013 after having served as Senior Vice President of Pharmaceutical and Preclinical Development. Dr. Bozigian is responsible for all preclinical development, chemistry manufacturing and controls (CMC) and clinical pharmacology, and has led such functions since 2006. Dr. Bozigian joined Neurocrine in 1997. With extensive expertise in CNS related new product development, Dr. Bozigian has participated in research and development for approximately 30 years. Prior to joining Neurocrine, Dr. Bozigian served as Director of Pharmaceutical Development at Procyte Corporation, Associate Director of Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism at Sphinx Pharmaceuticals Corporation and as a Clinical Pharmacokineticist at GlaxoSmithKline. Dr. Bozigian earned his B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Massachusetts, his M.S. in Pharmacodynamics and Toxicology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Arizona.

Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D. was appointed Chief Business Development Officer in 2011 and is responsible for all business and corporate development activities, including the management of ongoing collaborations with AbbVie, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, BIAL, Jnana Therapeutics and Voyager Therapeutics. From 2001 to 2011, Dr. Gano held several positions of increasing responsibility at Neurocrine spanning marketing analytics to

business development. Dr. Gano received his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Oregon, B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry and M.B.A in Finance from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dimitri E. Grigoriadis, Ph.D. was appointed Chief Research Officer in 2013. Dr. Grigoriadis oversees all research functions, including drug discovery, biology and chemistry, and has led such functions since 2006. Dr. Grigoriadis joined Neurocrine in 1993, established the pharmacology and drug screening groups and was most recently a Neurocrine Fellow and Vice President of Discovery Biology. Prior to joining Neurocrine, he was a Senior Scientist in the Neuroscience group at the DuPont Pharmaceutical Company from 1990 to 1993. Dr. Grigoriadis received his B.Sc. from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He conducted his postdoctoral research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1987 to 1990.

Darin M. Lippoldt was appointed Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary in October 2014 and has oversight of all corporate legal matters, intellectual property, compliance, and government relations. Prior to joining Neurocrine, Mr. Lippoldt served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary of Volcano Corporation, a company he joined in 2010. Prior to Volcano, Mr. Lippoldt served as Associate General Counsel at Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. since 2003. He previously practiced corporate and securities law with the law firms of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP and Matthews and Branscomb, P.C. Mr. Lippoldt received a B.B.A. in Finance, an M.A. in International Relations and a J.D. from St. Mary's University.

Malcolm C. Lloyd-Smith was appointed Chief Regulatory Officer in September 2014 and is responsible for regulatory affairs and quality assurance. Prior to joining Neurocrine, Mr. Lloyd-Smith served at Cadence Pharmaceuticals, Inc. as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Quality and Clinical from August 2012 to September 2014, and previously as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance from August 2008. Mr. Lloyd-Smith served as Vice President and Head of Global Regulatory Affairs for Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from September 2003 to August 2008, after having served in the United Kingdom as its Vice President, International Regulatory Affairs from March 2002 to August 2003. Previously, Mr. Lloyd-Smith served in various positions of increasing responsibility with DuPont Pharmaceuticals in Germany, Switzerland, USA and UK. Mr. Lloyd-Smith holds a B.Sc. in Pharmacology from the University of Leeds and a M.Sc. in Pharmacological Biochemistry from Hatfield Polytechnic.

Eiry W. Roberts, M.D., was appointed Chief Medical Officer in January 2018 and is responsible for all clinical development and medical affairs activities at Neurocrine. Dr. Roberts has over 25 years of research and development experience in the pharmaceutical industry across all phases of drug development from research through commercialization in multiple therapeutic areas, including neuroscience, inflammation, oncology and metabolic diseases. She joined Neurocrine from Eli Lilly and Company where she had worked since May 1991. During her tenure at Eli Lilly and Company Dr. Roberts held various positions of increasing responsibility, including Vice President, Clinical Pharmacology/Managing Director of Chorus a position she held from October 2014 until December 2017 and Vice President of R&D, BioMedicines Business Unit. At Eli Lilly Dr. Roberts was the Chair of the Medical Review Committee, where she was responsible for review and approval of all the integrated clinical plans for molecules in the Lilly portfolio. Dr. Roberts was accountable for early clinical development programs across all therapeutic areas within Lilly, as well as registration for new chemical entities and biproducts in Phase III development. During her time at Lilly, Dr. Roberts established a new therapeutic area, which resulted in the development of five potential novel medicines from Phase I through to approval, with two of them successfully receiving regulatory approval. Dr. Roberts also has extensive leadership and business development experience, including the management of strategic alliances, business partnerships and venture capital collaborations. Dr. Roberts is a physician who trained in pharmacology and medicine in the UK, qualifying from the University of London in 1987. Her post-graduate clinical training was in clinical pharmacology and cardiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal London Hospital.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes Neurocrine's executive officer compensation program for 2018 and certain elements of our 2019 program. It provides qualitative information on the factors relevant to these decisions and the manner in which compensation is awarded to the following individuals who are our Named Executive Officers (NEOs) for 2018:

Chief Executive Officer, Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.;

Chief Financial Officer, Matthew C. Abernethy;

Chief Commercial Officer, Eric Benevich;

Chief Business Development Officer, Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D.; and

Chief Medical Officer, Eiry W. Roberts, M.D.(1)

(1) Dr. Roberts joined the Company as our Chief Medical Officer on January 8, 2018.

Executive Summary

Business Overview

We are a company focused on discovering, developing, and commercializing innovative and life-changing pharmaceuticals, in diseases with high unmet medical needs, through our novel research and development (R&D) platform, focused on neurological and endocrine related diseases and disorders. Utilizing a portfolio approach to drug discovery, we have multiple small molecule drug candidates at various stages of pharmaceutical development. We develop proprietary pharmaceuticals for our pipeline, as well as collaborate with other pharmaceutical companies on our products and product candidates.

On April 11, 2017, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved INGREZZA® (valbenazine) capsules for the treatment of adults with tardive dyskinesia (TD). We market INGREZZA for TD in the United States (U.S.) through our specialty sales force focused primarily on physicians who treat TD patients, including psychiatrists and neurologists. The commercial launch of INGREZZA occurred on May 1, 2017.

On July 24, 2018, we were notified by AbbVie Inc. (AbbVie) that FDA approval was granted for ORILISSA® (elagolix) for the management of moderate to severe endometriosis pain in women. Discovered and developed through Phase II clinical trials by us, ORILISSA, the first FDA-approved oral medication for the management of endometriosis with associated moderate to severe pain in over a decade, began to be marketed by AbbVie in August 2018 as part of a collaboration to develop and commercialize elagolix for women's health.

Our clinical development programs include opicapone as an adjunctive therapy to levodopa/DOPA decarboxylase inhibitors in adult Parkinson's disease patients, elagolix for uterine fibroids partnered with AbbVie, NBI-74788 for the treatment of congenital adrenal hyperplasia, a vesicular monoamine transporter 2 inhibitor and a first-in-class central

nervous system compound each with potential use in the treatment of neurologic and psychiatric disorders, and two gene therapy programs in which we are partnered with Voyager Therapeutics, Inc. (Voyager) for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and Friedreich's ataxia.

We currently have several collaborations with other companies. In June 2010, we announced an exclusive worldwide collaboration with AbbVie to develop and commercialize elagolix and all next-generation gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonists. In March 2015, we entered into a collaboration and license agreement with Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation for the development and commercialization of INGREZZA for movement disorders in Japan and other select Asian markets. In February 2017, we in-licensed technology from BIAL Portela & Ca, S.A. for the development and commercialization of opicapone for the

treatment of human diseases and conditions, including Parkinson's disease, in the U.S. and Canada. In October 2018, we entered into a research collaboration with Jnana Therapeutics, Inc. aimed at discovering novel small molecule therapeutics for multiple targets for CNS disorders. In January 2019, we entered into a collaboration and license agreement with a Voyager, clinical-stage gene therapy company. The collaboration is focused on the development and commercialization of four programs using Voyager's proprietary gene therapy platforms. The four programs consist of Voyager's VY-AADC program for Parkinson's disease and VY-FXN01 program for Friedreich's ataxia, as well as rights to two programs to be determined by the parties in the future.

2018 Corporate Performance Highlights

2018 was a year of significant achievement for the Company as we:

continued the successful launch of INGREZZA for the treatment of TD with product revenues of over \$400 million in its first full year of commercialization;

prepared for the submission to the FDA of a New Drug Application for opicapone;

entered into a collaboration with Jnana Therapeutics;

expanded early stage pipeline by filing two new Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs) with the FDA; and

recorded earnings of \$18.1 million.

Pay for Performance/At Risk Pay

Our executive officer compensation program is designed to reward achievement of the specific strategic goals that we believe will advance our business strategy and create long-term value for our stockholders. Consistent with our goal of attracting, motivating and retaining a high-caliber executive team, our executive officer compensation program is designed to pay for performance. We utilize compensation elements that meaningfully align our NEOs' interests with those of our stockholders to create long-term value. As such, a significant portion of our CEO's and other executive officers' compensation is at-risk, performance-based compensation, in the form of long-term equity awards, and annual cash incentives that are only earned if we achieve multiple corporate metrics. The graphics below illustrate the elements of our CEO's compensation mix for 2018 and the aggregate compensation mix for 2018 for the other named executive officers as a group.

Our Compensation Practices

Below are key elements of our compensation program, as well as problematic pay practices that we avoid:

What We Do

Heavily weight our NEO compensation toward at risk, performance-based compensation

Use multi-year vesting for all executive officer equity awards

Have an incentive compensation recoupment or clawback policy

Structure our executive officer compensation program to minimize inappropriate risk-taking

Cap annual cash incentives at a maximum payout amount

Select peer companies that we compete with for executive officer talent, have a similar business and are of similar size as us, and review their pay practices

Solicit advice from the Committee's independent compensation consultant

Have meaningful stock ownership guidelines for NEOs

Have three independent non-employee directors serve on the Committee

Role of the Compensation Committee

As discussed in greater detail below, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors (the Committee) takes into consideration a peer group, survey data and advice from an independent compensation consultant when setting the compensation philosophy and compensation structure for the Company. The Committee's complete roles and responsibilities are set forth in a written charter which was adopted by the Board of Directors and is available at www.neurocrine.com. Some of the significant roles and responsibilities of the Committee include:

reviewing and, if necessary, revising the compensation philosophy of the Company;

reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relating to the compensation of the Company's employees, including executive officers, and evaluating the performance of the Company, and its executive officers, in light of these corporate goals and objectives;

reviewing and approving compensation for all executive officers, including perquisite benefits, if any;

What We Don't Do

× Allow for the repricing of stock options without stockholder approval

× Pay dividends or dividend equivalents on unearned shares

× Permit hedging or other forms of speculative transactions by employees or directors, or permit borrowing against our stock by employees or directors

× Provide single-trigger change in control benefits

reviewing and approving all employment agreements for executive officers;

reviewing and approving all promotions to executive officer positions and the hiring of all new executive officers;

reviewing director compensation by taking into consideration peer group data and advice from an independent compensation consultant, and making recommendations to the Board of Directors;

reviewing and approving guidelines for salaries, merit salary increases, cash incentive payments, stock-based grants and performance-based stock grants for all non-executive officer employees of the Company;

reviewing and approving equity grants to non-employees of the Company, if any;

making recommendations to the Board of Directors with regard to amendments or modifications to equity incentive plans;

administering the Company's equity incentive plans;

reviewing and taking into consideration stockholder feedback regarding compensation matters, including our annual say-on-pay vote;

retaining independent compensation consultant and advisors when appropriate to advise the Committee on compensation policies and plans;

complying with requirements established by the SEC, assessing the risks arising from the Company's compensation policies and taking any actions required as a result thereof;

reviewing executive officer and director compliance with our Stock Ownership Guidelines; and

preparing and approving the Compensation Discussion and Analysis to be included as part of the Company's annual proxy statement.

Committee Actions in Connection with Say-on-Pay Vote

Our Committee is committed to ensuring that our executive officer compensation program is effective and aligned with our stockholders' interests and concerns. Accordingly, a critical component of our Committee's process has been to continue to:

review emerging compensation best practices in the U.S., with a focus toward companies of similar size; and

solicit advice from our Committee's independent compensation consultant.

In 2018, we sought an advisory vote from our stockholders regarding our executive officer compensation program and received a 98.2% favorable vote supporting the program. Each year, the Committee considers the results of the advisory vote as it completes its annual review of each pay element and the compensation provided to our NEOs and other executive officers. Given the significant level of stockholder support, the Committee concluded that our executive officer compensation program continues to align executive officer pay with stockholder interests and provides competitive pay that encourages retention and effectively incentivizes performance of talented NEOs and executive officers. Accordingly, the Committee determined not to make any significant changes to our programs as a result of the vote. The Committee will continue to consider the outcome of our say-on-pay votes and our stockholders' views when making future compensation decisions for the NEOs and executive officers.

Compensation Philosophy and Overall Compensation Determination Process

We believe that in order to create value for our stockholders, it is critical to attract, motivate and retain key executive officer talent by providing competitive compensation packages. Accordingly, we design our executive officer compensation programs to attract, motivate and retain executive officers with the skills and expertise to execute our business plans, and reward those executive officers fairly over time for actions consistent with creating long-term stockholder value. The market for talented individuals in the life sciences industry is highly competitive and becoming more challenging for employers.

Our compensation philosophy for executive officers provides that cash compensation should be structured such that at least one-third of each executive officer's total cash compensation, consisting of base salary and target cash incentives, is at risk and dependent upon the Company's achievement of specific corporate metrics that drive shareholder value. Non-cash long-term equity compensation for executive officers is generally a

combination of performance-based and time-based vesting, and is designed to motivate executive officers to increase long-term stockholder value as well as reward and retain key employees. The Committee believes that this approach provides an appropriate blend of short-term and long-term incentives to maximize stockholder value.

The implementation of the compensation philosophy is carried out under the supervision of the Committee. The Committee uses the services of an independent compensation consultant who is retained by, and reports directly to, the Committee. Management, under guidelines and procedures approved by the Committee, determines the compensation of our non-executive officer employees.

In the early part of each year, the Committee, without the presence of our Chief Executive Officer, deliberates and makes decisions regarding the base salary, target cash incentives and long-term equity award components of compensation to be awarded to our Chief Executive Officer for the new fiscal year, as well as performance-based compensation payouts for the prior fiscal year. In setting compensation for our other NEOs, the Committee solicits the input of our Chief Executive Officer, who recommends to the Committee the base salary, target cash incentives and long-term equity award components of compensation to be awarded to our NEOs for the new fiscal year, as well as performance-based compensation payouts for the prior fiscal year. The Committee remains solely responsible for making the final decisions on compensation for all of our NEOs. Our NEOs are not present during discussions of their compensation packages nor do they participate in approving any portion of their own or other NEO compensation packages.

The Chief Executive Officer annually reviews the performance of each NEO (other than himself) and discusses these performance reviews with the Committee. These recommendations reflect his consideration of the overall performance of the Company, market data prepared by the Committee's independent compensation consultant, the performance of each NEO, internal pay equity among individuals (including qualifications and contributions to meeting our corporate objectives), criticality and scope of job function and our Chief Executive Officer's extensive industry experience. The Committee considers a variety of factors, as described below, which may vary from year to year, to set the compensation of our NEOs at levels that the Committee considers to be competitive and appropriate for each NEO, using the Committee's professional experience and judgment:

Market data from the independent compensation consultant

Chief Executive Officer's recommendations (other than for himself)

Independent compensation consultant recommendations

Internal pay equity among individuals and positions

Criticality and scope of job function

Retention risk

Company performance

Individual performance

Total targeted and historical compensation

Any other factors the Committee determines appropriate

In the first quarter of the year, the performance of each executive officer for the prior year and market data are reviewed by the Committee, and base salary adjustments, cash incentive payouts, following year targets and annual equity grants are discussed and approved. Also, during the first quarter of the year, Company-wide performance goals for the then current year are finalized by the Committee and the Board of Directors. At mid-year meetings, the Committee reviews the Company's compensation philosophy, policies and procedures. Committee meetings in the fourth quarter of the year generally focus on Company goal achievement, selection of the peer group for the following year and the structure of executive officer performance reviews.

Compensation Consultants

The Committee uses the services of an independent compensation consultant who is retained by, and reports directly to, the Committee to provide the Committee with an additional external perspective with respect to its evaluation of relevant market and industry practices. The Committee continued to select Radford, an AON Hewitt Company, as a third-party compensation consultant to assist the Committee in establishing 2018 and 2019 overall compensation levels. Radford conducted analyses and provided advice on, among other things, the appropriate peer group, executive officer compensation for our executive officers and compensation trends in the life sciences industry.

In weighing its recommendations for executive officer compensation for the fiscal year 2018, the Committee directed Radford to advise the Committee on both best practices and peer practices when designing and modifying our compensation program for executive officers in order to achieve our objectives. As part of its duties, Radford provided the Committee with the following services with respect to 2018 compensation decisions:

carried out a comprehensive review of our peer group for use in making 2018 executive officer compensation decisions;

provided compensation data for the peer group and relevant executive officer pay survey data and an analysis of the compensation of the Company's executive officers as compared to this market data;

provided a competitive assessment of, and comparison to, incentive design and executive officer pay program structure based on peer group data;

conducted a comprehensive pay for performance assessment;

provided recommendations regarding the annual cash incentive and long-term equity incentive program design for 2018;

assisted the Committee with the design of 2018 pay programs consistent with the Company's business strategy and pay philosophy;

provided background information and data for 2018 adjustments to the Company's executive officer compensation program consistent with good governance practices and the Company's objectives; and

prepared an analysis of the Board's 2018 compensation program.

The Committee annually assesses whether the work of Radford as a compensation consultant has raised any conflict of interest, taking into consideration the following factors: (i) the provision of other services, if any, to the Company by Radford; (ii) the amount of fees the Company paid to Radford as a percentage of the firm's total revenue; (iii) Radford's policies and procedures that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest; (iv) any business or personal relationship of Radford or the individual compensation advisors employed by the firm with an executive officer of the Company; (v) any business or personal relationship of the individual compensation advisors with any member of the

Committee and (vi) any stock of the Company owned by Radford or the individual compensation advisors employed by the firm. The Committee has determined, based on its analysis of the above factors, that the work of Radford and the individual compensation advisors employed by Radford as compensation consultants to the Company have not created any conflict of interest.

Competitive Assessment of Compensation Peer Group and Market Data

2018 Peer Group. When developing a proposed list of our peer group companies to be used in connection with making compensation decisions for 2018, Radford reexamined our compensation philosophy and peer group and recommended changes to our 2017 peer group company list to reflect our growth, market capitalization and the stage of our commercial development. Radford suggested biopharmaceutical companies that were primarily recently commercial companies with revenue generally less than \$300 million, had market values of

approximately one half (0.5x) to two-and-a-half (2.5x) our market capitalization at the time (resulting in a range of between \$2 billion to \$12 billion in market capitalization) and had headcounts approximately one half (0.5x) to two-and-a-half (2.5x) our headcount at the time (resulting in a range generally between 200 to 1,000 employees approximately). As a result of the growth in revenue, market capitalization and headcount that we experienced from when our 2017 peer group was determined, there was a change to the criteria used to determine our 2018 peer group, as compared to the criteria used to determine our 2017 peer group.

Based on these criteria, for 2018 Radford recommended, and our Committee approved the following peer group:

ACADIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Anylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
bluebird bio, Inc.	Clovis Oncology, Inc.	Exelixis, Inc.
Halozyne Therapeutics, Inc.	Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Juno Therapeutics, Inc.	Nektar Therapeutics	Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Puma Biotechnology, Inc.	Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc.	Seattle Genetics, Inc.
TESARO, Inc.	The Medicines Company	Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.

The 2018 peer group reflects the following changes from our 2017 peer group, all of which were recommended by Radford and approved by our Committee: (i) the removal of the following company Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which no longer met the criteria above, (ii) the removal of the following companies due to such companies being acquired since the 2017 peer group had been approved: ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Kite Pharma, Inc., and (iii) the addition of the following companies, which met the criteria above: Clovis Oncology, Inc., Halozyne Therapeutics, Inc. and Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

In determining executive officer compensation for 2018, the Committee reviewed data from this group of peer companies. At the time of approval of our 2018 peer group, our Company was approximately in the 66th percentile of the peer group for market capitalization, in the 8th percentile of the peer group for revenue.

In early 2018, Radford completed an assessment of executive officer compensation based on the 2018 peer group to inform the Committee's determinations of executive officer compensation for 2018. The data for this assessment was compiled from multiple sources, including: (i) the 2018 peer group companies' publicly disclosed information, or public peer data and (ii) data from public biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in the Radford Global Life Sciences Survey that had market values between \$2 billion and \$12 billion or the general survey data. The components of this data were based on the availability of sufficient comparative data for an executive officer's position. The general survey data and the public peer data, collectively referred to in this proxy statement together as market data, were reviewed by the Committee, with the assistance of Radford, and used as one reference point, in addition to other factors, in setting our executive officers' compensation.

The Committee generally reviews target total direct compensation, comprising both target cash compensation and equity compensation, against the market data described above primarily to ensure that our executive officer compensation program as a whole is positioned competitively to attract and retain the highest caliber executive officers and that the total direct compensation opportunity for the executive officer group is aligned with our corporate objectives and strategic needs. The Committee does not have a specific target compensation level for the NEOs; rather, the Committee reviews a range of market data reference points (generally at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles of the market data) with respect to target total direct compensation, target total cash compensation (including both base salary and the target annual cash incentive) and equity compensation (valued based on an approximation of grant date fair value). In making compensation determinations, the Committee considers the market data, along with the other factors described above under Compensation Philosophy and Overall Compensation Determination Process.

2019 Peer Group. In November 2018, when developing a proposed list of our peer group companies to be used in connection with making compensation decisions for 2019, Radford selected primarily recently

commercial or commercial biopharmaceutical companies with revenue generally between \$200 million and \$1.5 billion, market capitalization between \$4 billion to \$25 billion and employee headcounts up to 2,000, reflecting our growth in revenue, market capitalization and headcount.

Based on these criteria, for 2019 Radford recommended, and our Committee approved the following peer group:

Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc	Alkermes
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	BeiGene	BioMarin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
bluebird bio, Inc.	Exelixis, Inc.	Incyte Corporation
Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Nektar Therapeutics	Sage Therapeutics, Inc.	Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc.
Seattle Genetics, Inc.	Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.	United Therapeutics Corporation

The 2019 peer group reflects the following changes from our 2018 peer group, all of which were recommended by Radford and approved by our Committee: (i) the removal of the following companies ACADIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Clovis Oncology, Inc., Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc., Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Juno Therapeutics, Inc., Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Puma Biotechnology, Inc., TESARO, Inc. and The Medicines Company, which no longer meet the criteria above or were acquired since the 2018 peer group had been approved and (ii) the addition of the following companies, which met the criteria above: Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Alkermes, BeiGene, BioMarin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Incyte Corporation, Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Sage Therapeutics, Inc., and United Therapeutics Corporation.

Components of Executive Compensation

The Committee considers each executive officer's performance, contribution to Company goals, responsibilities, experience, qualifications, and where in the competitive range the executive officer's compensation compares to the Company's identified peer group when determining the appropriate compensation for each executive officer. The Committee considers each component of compensation independently and each component in the context of each executive officer's total compensation. Compensation for our NEOs currently consists of three key elements that are designed to reward performance in a simple and straightforward manner: base salaries, annual performance-based cash incentives and long-term equity awards, which generally include restricted stock unit awards (RSUs) and stock options, which both vest based on continued service over time, and in some years include performance restricted stock units (PRSUs), which vest upon achievement of key corporate metrics that we believe will create shareholder value. The purpose and key characteristics of each of these elements are summarized below.

Element	Purpose	Key Characteristics
Base Salary	Designed to compensate competitively at levels necessary to attract and retain qualified executive officers in the life sciences industry; generally based on the scope of each executive officer's responsibilities, as well as his/her qualifications, breadth of experience, performance record and depth of applicable functional expertise; established and adjusted to be appropriate as compared to the	Fixed compensation where year-to-year adjustments to each executive officer's base salary are based upon sustained superior performance, changes in the general level of base salaries of persons in comparable positions within our industry, and any average merit salary increase for such year for all employees of the Company established by the Committee, as well as other factors the Committee judges to be pertinent

applicable market data, enabling the Company to attract, motivate, reward and retain during an assessment period.

Element	Purpose	Key Characteristics
Annual Cash Incentives	<p>highly skilled executive officers; gives executive officers a degree of certainty in light of having a majority of their compensation at risk.</p> <p>Motivates executive officers to achieve our short-term strategic plan and milestones that are designed to drive long-term growth and performance while providing flexibility to respond to opportunities and changing market conditions.</p>	<p>In making base salary decisions, the Committee exercises its judgment to determine the appropriate weight to be given to each of these factors. Adjustments may also be made during the fiscal year for promotions, highly urgent retention reasons, superior performance in response to changed or challenging circumstances, and similar special circumstances.</p> <p>Annual cash award opportunity based on corporate performance compared to pre-established corporate goals with pre-established target and maximum payout opportunities for each executive officer.</p> <p>The cash incentive program, including corporate goals and target payouts, are reviewed and approved by the Committee annually and may include individual performance targets for each executive officer. The corporate goals are prepared in an interactive process between management and the Board of Directors based on the Company's business plan and budget for the year. Cash incentive payments are linked to the attainment of overall corporate goals and may include individual performance targets for each executive officer, or other factors the Committee determines appropriate.</p>
Long-Term Equity Incentives (RSUs)	<p>Motivates executive officers to achieve our business objectives by tying compensation to the performance of our common stock over the long term; creates an ownership culture; motivates our executive officers to remain with the Company by mitigating swings in incentive values during periods when market volatility impacts our stock price; directly motivates an executive officer to maximize long-term</p>	<p>RSUs generally vest on an annual basis, ratably over four years subject to executive officer's continued service; the ultimate value realized varies with our common stock price.</p>

stockholder value and serve as an

Element	Purpose	Key Characteristics
Long-Term Equity Incentives (Stock Options)	<p>effective tool for incentivizing and retaining those executive officers who are most responsible for influencing stockholder value.</p> <p>Motivates executive officers to achieve our business objectives by tying incentives to the appreciation of our common stock over the long-term and creates an ownership culture.</p>	<p>Stock options with an exercise price equal to the fair market value on the date of grant generally vesting monthly over four years subject to executive officer's continued service; the ultimate realizable value, if any, depends on the appreciation of our common stock price from the date of grant.</p>
Long-Term Equity Incentives (PRsUs)	<p>Creates a strong link to the Company's long-term performance, creates an ownership culture and closely aligns the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders because the value that the grants deliver are directly dependent on our performance goal attainment.</p>	<p>PRsUs only vest upon achievement of objectively measurable performance goals tied to our business strategy that focus executive officers on achieving these long-term Company performance goals and increasing stockholder value.</p>
Other Compensation	<p>Provides benefits that promote employee health and welfare, which assists in attracting and retaining our executive officers; certain additional benefits reflect market standards and are reasonable and necessary to attract and/or retain each of our executive officers and allow the executive officers to realize the full benefit of the other elements of compensation we provide.</p>	<p>Executive officers are eligible to participate in the Company's employee benefit plans on the same terms as all other full-time employees. These plans include medical, dental and life insurance and eligibility to participate in the Company's employee stock purchase plan. Additional benefits include disability insurance premiums, an annual physical examination and financial planning services.</p>
Severance and Change in Control Benefits	<p>Serves our retention objectives by helping our NEOs maintain continued focus and dedication to their responsibilities to maximize</p>	<p>The terms of the Company's 401(k) Savings Plan (the "401(k) Plan") provide for executive officer and broad-based employee participation on the same general terms. Under the 401(k) Plan, all Company employees are eligible to receive basic matching contributions from the Company that vest annually over three years from date of hire.</p> <p>Provides protection in the event of a termination of employment under specified circumstances, including following a change in control of the</p>

Element	Purpose	Key Characteristics
	stockholder value, including in the event of a transaction that could result in a change in control of the Company.	Company as described below under Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control .
		<p>Compensation components for executive officers in the event of a termination by the Company without cause or termination by the executive officer due to constructive termination within six months after the consummation of a change in control include payments for accrued annual base salary, a cash compensation payment, cash compensation for the value of all outstanding stock awards, limited Company-paid health insurance benefits, and any accrued vacation and any accrued benefits under any plans of the Company in which the executive officer is a participant. Eligibility for these benefits requires a signed release agreement by the executive officer.</p>
		<p>Certain individuals whose offer letters were entered into in or before 2007, including Dr. Gorman, are entitled to tax gross-ups in the event of certain levels of payments they may receive upon a change in control. We have not entered into any new change in control gross-ups for executive officers since 2007, nor does the Company intend to enter into any new agreements containing such gross-ups. Accordingly, Mr. Benevich s, Mr. Abernethy s, Dr. Gano s and Dr. Roberts employment agreements do not provide for such tax gross-ups.</p>

2018 Executive Officer Compensation Decisions

Base Salary

In February 2018, our Committee reviewed and determined the 2018 base salaries for each of the NEOs as set forth in the table below, except for Mr. Abernethy s and Dr. Roberts base salary, which the Committee determined in connection with the commencement with Mr. Abernethy s employment in the fourth quarter of 2017 and the commencement of Dr. Roberts employment in the first quarter of 2018, respectively. In making these 2018 decisions, the Committee considered the market data for each individual NEO s position, as well as the individual s historical

salary levels (if applicable), our then-current budget for employee salary adjustments,

anticipated role and responsibilities for the coming year, along with the other factors described under Compensation Philosophy and Overall Compensation Determination Process set forth above. The changes also take into account the adjustments made to our peer group for 2018 as a result of our growth in revenue, market capitalization and headcount since late 2016 when our 2017 peer group was determined. Although the Committee does not have a specific target compensation level for each NEO, the NEOs' salaries are generally within the 25th to 50th percentiles of the market data.

Named Executive Officer	2018 Base Salary	% Change from 2017 Base Salary
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D	\$ 675,000	5.5%
Matthew C. Abernethy	\$ 420,000	N/A
Eric Benevich	\$ 432,600	5.5%
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D.	\$ 403,100	7.5%
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D.	\$ 520,000	N/A

Annual Cash Incentives

In February 2018, the Committee approved the Company's executive officer cash incentive target percentages and performance goals for 2018, with the exception of Dr. Roberts' percentage, which the Committee determined in connection with her commencement of employment with us in January 2018. The table below sets forth the targets for our Chief Executive Officer and other NEOs for 2018. No changes were made to the target percentages of our NEOs who were employed with us in 2017. The target percentage is paid as a percentage of such executive officer's base salary. For example, if 100% of the Company's performance goals are achieved for 2018, this would yield our Chief Executive Officer a cash incentive award of 70% of his 2018 base salary.

Executive Officer	Target Percentage of Base Salary
Chief Executive Officer	70%
All Other Executive Officers	50%

In early 2018, the Committee established the corporate goals described below. Our objective corporate goals are directly aligned with our specific strategic goals, including advancing our development programs, our research function, our clinical activities, commercialization activities and certain corporate and financial goals, which we believe will create long-term value for stockholders. The Board of Directors and the Committee did not assign specific relative weightings to the goals for 2018. The maximum corporate achievement for 2018 was 120% of our 2018 corporate goals. In February 2019, the Committee evaluated the accomplishments and performance of the Company against such corporate goals. After its consideration of the Company's performance, as more specifically described below, the Committee rated our 2018 corporate achievement at 90% of our 2018 corporate goals.

Corporate Goal	Corporate Achievement
Maximize the medical and economic impact of INGREZZA®	Partial Achievement
Enter into collaboration	Achieved

Expand internal clinical pipeline	Achieved
Prepare for 2019 NDA for opicapone	Achieved

In February 2019, after making these determinations regarding level of corporate performance achieved against the pre-established performance goals, the Committee reviewed and approved corporate cash incentives as set forth in the table below. The Committee may, in its sole discretion, eliminate any individual cash incentive or reduce or increase the amount of compensation payable with respect to any individual cash incentive. The

Committee exercised its discretion to increase the amount of individual cash incentives with respect to Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Benevich and Dr. Gano for 2018 by paying their cash incentives at the rates noted below, rather than 90%, due to their significant individual performances related to the achievement of the corporate goals and their individual goals.

Named Executive Officer	2018 Target Annual Cash Incentive		2018 Actual Annual Cash Incentive Paid	
	% of Base Salary	\$	% of Target Annual Cash Incentive	\$
Kevin C. Gorman, Ph.D.	70%	\$ 472,500	90%	\$ 425,250
Matthew C. Abernethy	50%	\$ 210,000	95%	\$ 199,500
Eric Benevich	50%	\$ 216,300	95%	\$ 205,485
Kyle W. Gano, Ph.D.	50%	\$ 201,550	95%	\$ 191,473
Eiry W. Roberts, M.D. (1)	50%	\$ 245,333	90%	\$ 220,800

(1) Dr. Roberts' award was pro-rated due to her commencement of employment with us in January 2018.

Long-Term Equity Awards

Size of Equity Awards. In determining the size of the total equity compensation opportunity in 2018, the Committee:

aimed to have the aggregate target award value result in target total direct compensation at a level that is competitive in the marketplaces in which we compete;

focused a larger portion of total direct compensation in the form of long-term and performance-based equity awards intended to drive long-term differentiated value relative to our peers and maximize long-term stockholder value;

aimed to structure a substantial portion of equity opportunity in the form of awards that vest based on achievement of performance goals to better align our executive officers' long-term compensation opportunity with our stockholders' interests; and

considered the recommendations of Dr. Gorman for the other NEOs.

Equity Award Mix. The Committee determined that the equity awards granted to the NEOs on February 5, 2018 should consist of stock options, time-vesting RSU grants and performance-vesting RSU grants, or PRSUs, as set forth in the table below. The Committee determined these three types of equity awards provided the appropriate balance of long-term incentives for our executive officers. Specifically, PRSUs that vest based on objectively measurable performance goals focus executive officers on achieving longer-term Company performance goals that are key to our business strategy and increasing stockholder value and RSUs that vest over time provide tangible value to executive officers and serve as an incentive and retention tool during a difficult operating or volatile business environment, while still being tied to our stockholder value. It is the Committee's view that stock options are inherently performance oriented because the executive officer realizes no value from stock options unless and until the Company's stock price increases over the strike price. The Committee believes it is important to evaluate the equity award mix each year to determine what types of equity awards should be granted.

In setting the mix of the three types of equity awards for 2018, the Committee determined that a substantial portion of the equity grants should consist of awards that vest based on our performance (in the form of specific and measurable performance goals), in addition to continued service over time. The mix between the three types of awards was determined based on market data of the equity award practices of peer group companies provided by the Committee's consultant. Accordingly, the Committee structured the mix of equity such that the baseline award of options and RSUs would generally deliver value, as determined by the Black-Scholes value of stock options and the value of RSUs as if they were fully vested, to NEOs between approximately the 75th and 90th

percentiles of the market data with PRSUs providing the opportunity for above-market compensation if earned. The opportunity for higher performance-based compensation opportunity reflects our commitment to pay for performance, with compensation above the median of our peers for exceptional performance and compensation below this level if our performance goals are not reached.

Named Executive Officer

Stock Options