

NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS  
Form DEF 14A  
April 29, 2016  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**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

**Nektar Therapeutics**

**(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:

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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:

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NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS

455 Mission Bay Boulevard South

San Francisco, California 94158

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 23, 2016

AT 2:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nektar Therapeutics, a Delaware corporation. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. local time at Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158, for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors with terms to expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.
2. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.
3. To approve a non-binding advisory resolution regarding our executive compensation (a say-on-pay vote).
4. To conduct any other business properly brought before the 2016 Annual Meeting.

These items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The record date for the 2016 Annual Meeting is April 26, 2016. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the 2016 Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Your vote is very important. Whether or not you attend the 2016 Annual Meeting in person, it is important that your shares be represented. You may vote your proxy on the Internet, by phone or by mail in accordance with the instructions in the Notice of Availability of Proxy Materials.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your participation in this important annual process.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Gil M. Labrucherie

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Gil M. Labrucherie

*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and*

*Secretary*

San Francisco, California

May 13, 2016

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE VOTE ON THE INTERNET, BY PHONE OR BY MAIL AS INSTRUCTED IN THE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS, AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. EVEN IF YOU HAVE VOTED BY PROXY, YOU MAY STILL VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD OF RECORD BY A BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE AND YOU WISH TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, YOU MUST OBTAIN A PROXY ISSUED IN YOUR NAME FROM THAT RECORD HOLDER.

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NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS

455 Mission Bay Boulevard South

San Francisco, California 94158

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 23, 2016

AT 2:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THESE PROXY MATERIALS AND VOTING PROCEDURES**

**WHY AM I RECEIVING THESE MATERIALS?**

We sent you a Notice of Availability of Proxy Materials (the *Notice*) because the board of directors of Nektar Therapeutics (Nektar, the Company, we or us) is soliciting your proxy to vote at our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders (the *Annual Meeting*) to be held on June 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. local time at Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158. We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may vote by proxy over the Internet or by phone by following the instructions provided in the Notice or, if you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote by mail.

The Notice was first sent or made available on or about May 13, 2016 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**WHO CAN VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING?**

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 26, 2016 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On this record date, there were 136,242,245 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

*Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name*

If, on April 26, 2016, your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare Inc., then you are a stockholder of record. The Notice will be sent to you by mail directly by us. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote on the Internet or by phone as instructed in the Notice or by proxy by mail by requesting a paper copy of the proxy materials as instructed in the Notice to ensure your vote is counted.

*Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent*

If, on April 26, 2016, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank or other agent, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in *street name* and the Notice is being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other agent on how to vote the shares in your account. Your brokerage firm, bank or other agent will not be able to vote in the election of directors unless they have your voting instructions, so it is very important that you indicate your voting instructions to the institution holding

your shares.



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You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent.

### **WHAT AM I VOTING ON?**

There are three matters scheduled for a vote:

Proposal 1: To elect three directors with terms to expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Proposal 2: To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

Proposal 3: To approve a non-binding advisory resolution regarding our executive compensation (a say-on-pay vote).

### **HOW ARE PROXY MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED?**

Under rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ), we are sending the Notice to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners as of April 26, 2016. Stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, on the Internet at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com) or to request a printed or electronic set of the proxy materials at no charge. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet and how to request a printed copy may be found on the Notice.

In addition, any stockholder may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. Choosing to receive future proxy materials by email will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to stockholders and will reduce the impact of annual meetings on the environment. A stockholder who chooses to receive future proxy materials by email will receive an email prior to next year's annual meeting with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting website. A stockholder's election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until the stockholder terminates it.

### **HOW DO I VOTE?**

You may either vote For or Against or abstain from voting with respect to each nominee to the board of directors. For each of the other matters to be voted on, you may vote For or Against or abstain from voting. The procedures for voting are:

#### *Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name*

If you are a stockholder of record as of April 26, 2016, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting, vote by proxy over the Internet or by phone by following the instructions provided in the Notice or, if you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote by mail. If your proxy is properly executed in time to be voted at the Annual Meeting, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted in accordance with the instructions you provide. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person if you have already voted by proxy.

1. To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.
2. To vote on the Internet, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the 12-digit control number from the Notice and follow the instructions. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 22, 2016 to be counted.



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3. To vote by phone, request a paper or email copy of the proxy materials by following the instructions on the Notice and call the number provided with the proxy materials to transmit your voting instructions. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 22, 2016 to be counted.
4. To vote by mail, request a paper copy of the proxy materials by following the instructions on the Notice and complete, sign and date the proxy card enclosed with the paper copy of the proxy materials and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

*Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent*

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received a Notice and voting instructions from that organization rather than from us. Simply follow the instructions to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker, bank or other agent included with the Notice, or contact your broker, bank or other agent.

**We provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares on-line, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.**

### **HOW MANY VOTES DO I HAVE?**

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you owned as of April 26, 2016.

### **WHAT IS THE QUORUM REQUIREMENT?**

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to take any action at the meeting (other than to adjourn the meeting). The presence, in person or by proxy duly authorized, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote will constitute a quorum. On April 26, 2016, there were 136,242,245 shares outstanding and entitled to vote.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy or vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Even if your valid proxy card indicates that you abstain from voting or if a broker indicates on a proxy that it lacks discretionary authority to vote your shares on a particular matter, commonly referred to as broker non-votes, your shares will still be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting. If there is no quorum, the chairman of the Annual Meeting or a majority of the votes present at the Annual Meeting may adjourn the Annual Meeting to another date.

### **WHAT IF I RETURN A PROXY CARD BUT DO NOT MAKE SPECIFIC CHOICES?**

If you are a stockholder of record and you return a proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted:

1. Proposal 1: For election of all three nominees for director.
2. Proposal 2: For the ratification of the audit committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.
3. Proposal 3: For the approval of the resolution regarding executive compensation.

If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his best judgment.



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If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, your shares are held by your broker, bank or other agent as your nominee (that is, in street name) and you will need to obtain a proxy form from the organization that holds your shares and follow the instructions included on that form regarding how to instruct the organization to vote your shares. If you do not give instructions to your broker, bank or other agent, it can vote your shares with respect to discretionary items but not with respect to non-discretionary items. Discretionary items are proposals considered routine under the rules of various national securities exchanges, and, in the absence of your voting instructions, your broker, bank or other agent may vote your shares held in street name on such proposals. Non-discretionary items are proposals considered non-routine under the rules of various national securities exchanges, and, in the absence of your voting instructions, your broker, bank or other agent may not vote your shares held in street name on such proposals and the shares will be treated as broker non-votes. Proposals 1 and 3 are matters considered non-routine under the applicable rules. If you do not give your broker specific instructions, the broker will not vote your shares on Proposals 1 and 3 and your shares will constitute broker non-votes which will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists but will not affect the outcome of these proposals. Proposal 2 involves a matter we believe to be routine and thus if you do not give instructions to your broker, the broker may vote your shares in its discretion on Proposal 2 and therefore no broker non-votes are expected to exist in connection with Proposal 2.

### **HOW ARE VOTES COUNTED?**

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting, who will count, with respect to Proposals 1, 2 and 3 For votes, Against votes and abstentions, with respect to Proposals 1 and 3, broker non-votes.

### **WHO WILL SERVE AS INSPECTOR OF ELECTIONS?**

A representative of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. will serve as the inspector of elections.

### **HOW MANY VOTES ARE NEEDED TO APPROVE EACH PROPOSAL?**

For Proposal 1 electing three members of the board of directors, each director must receive a For vote from a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote and cast in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting on the election of the director. A majority of the shares cast shall mean that the number of shares voted For a director's election exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the number of the shares cast with respect to that director's election, with shares cast including shares voted Against in each case and excluding abstentions and broker non-votes with respect to that director's election.

For Proposal 2 ratifying the audit committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, the proposal must receive a For vote from a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote and cast either in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, with shares cast including shares voted Against and excluding abstentions.

For Proposal 3 approving the resolution regarding executive compensation, the proposal must receive a For vote from a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote and cast either in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, with shares cast including shares voted Against and excluding abstentions and broker non-votes with respect to the proposal.

### **WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS PROXY SOLICITATION?**

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to the Notice and the proxy materials, our directors and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication. We will not pay our directors and employees any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding the Notice and any other proxy materials to beneficial owners.

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### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE NOTICE?**

If you receive more than one Notice, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please vote by proxy according to each Notice to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

### **CAN I CHANGE MY VOTE AFTER SUBMITTING MY PROXY?**

Yes, you can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

1. A duly executed proxy card with a later date or time than the previously submitted proxy;
2. A written notice that you are revoking your proxy to our Secretary, care of Nektar Therapeutics, at 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158; or
3. A later-dated vote on the Internet or by phone or a ballot cast in person at the Annual Meeting (simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy).

If you are a beneficial owner, you may revoke your proxy by submitting new instructions to your broker, bank or other agent, or if you have received a proxy from your broker, bank or other agent giving you the right to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting, by attending the meeting and voting in person.

### **WHEN ARE STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS DUE FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING?**

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), some stockholder proposals may be eligible for inclusion in our 2017 proxy statement. Any such proposal must be submitted in writing by January 14, 2017, to our Secretary, care of Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158. If we change the date of our 2017 annual meeting by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's annual meeting, the deadline shall be a reasonable time before we begin to print and send our proxy materials. Stockholders interested in submitting such a proposal are advised to contact knowledgeable counsel with regard to the detailed requirements of the applicable securities laws and our bylaws. The submission of a stockholder proposal does not guarantee that it will be included in our proxy statement.

Alternatively, under our bylaws, if you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year's proxy statement or nominate a director, you must provide specific information to us no earlier than March 25, 2017 and no later than the close of business on April 24, 2017. If we change the date of our 2017 annual meeting by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's annual meeting, the deadline shall be changed to not later than the sixtieth day prior to such annual meeting and no earlier than the close of business on the ninetieth day prior to such annual meeting. In the event we provide less than 70 days' notice or prior public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting, the stockholder proposal or nomination must be received not later than the tenth day following the day on which such notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or such public disclosure was made. The public announcement of an adjournment or postponement of the 2017 annual meeting does not commence a new time period (or extend any time period) for the giving of a stockholder's notice as described in this proxy statement. You are advised to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements with respect to advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominees.

A stockholder's submission must include certain specific information concerning the proposal or nominee, as the case may be, and information as to the stockholder's ownership of our common stock. Proposals or nominations not meeting these requirements will not be entertained at any annual meeting.

In relation to stockholder proposals and nominations, in certain instances we may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies held by the board of directors. For instance, if we do not receive a stockholder proposal by April 26, 2017, we may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies held by the board of



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directors on such stockholder proposal. If we change the date of our 2017 annual meeting by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's annual meeting, the deadline will change to a reasonable time before we begin to print and send our proxy materials. In addition, even if we are notified of a stockholder proposal within the time requirements discussed above, if the stockholder does not comply with certain requirements of the Exchange Act, we may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies held by the board of directors on such stockholder proposal if we include advice in our proxy statement on the nature of the matter and how we intend to exercise our discretion to vote on the matter.

### **WHAT IS HOUSEHOLDING AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?**

We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC called householding. Under this procedure, stockholders who have the same address may receive only one copy of the Notice, unless one or more of these stockholders notifies us that they wish to receive individual copies of the Notice and, if requested, other proxy materials. This process potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

If you are a beneficial owner of our common stock, once you receive notice from your broker, bank or other agent that they will be householding communications to your address, householding will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer to receive separate Notices or other proxy materials, please notify your broker, bank or other agent, direct your written request to Nektar Therapeutics, Secretary, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158 or contact our Secretary at (415) 482-5300. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the Notice or other proxy materials at their address and would like to request householding of their communications should contact their broker, bank or other agent.

### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THE VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING?**

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Final voting results will be published in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC within four business days following the Annual Meeting.



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**PROPOSAL 1**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our board of directors is presently comprised of eight (8) directors and is divided into three (3) classes. Each of Class I and Class III currently consists of three directors and Class II currently consists of two directors. Each class has a three (3) year term. The three (3) current directors in Class III are R. Scott Greer, Christopher A. Kuebler and Lutz Lingnau, whose term expires in 2016. Each of the current directors in Class III has been nominated for reelection at the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Greer, Kuebler and Lingnau were all previously elected by the stockholders. Vacancies on the board, including vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, are filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the board to fill a vacancy in a class serves until the earlier of the remainder of the full term of that class, that director's successor is elected and qualified or their death, resignation or removal.

Directors are elected by a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting on the election of directors. A majority of votes cast shall mean that the number of shares voted For a director's election exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the number of votes cast with respect to that director's election, with votes cast including votes Against in each case but excluding abstentions and broker non-votes with respect to that director's election. Shares represented by executed proxies by stockholders of record will be voted for the election of the three nominees named below, unless the Against or Abstain voting selection has been marked on the proxy card. Neither abstentions nor broker non-votes will have an effect on the outcome of the vote.

If any nominee becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, shares that would otherwise be voted for such nominee will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by the nominating and corporate governance committee and nominated by the board of directors. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected. Our management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each of the nominees will serve until the earliest of the 2019 annual meeting of our stockholders, his successor is elected and qualified or his death, resignation or removal.

The following is a brief biography of each nominee.

**R. Scott Greer**

*R. Scott Greer*, age 57, has served as our director since February 2010. Mr. Greer currently serves as Managing Director of Numenor Ventures, LLC, a venture capital firm. In 1996, Mr. Greer co-founded Abgenix, Inc., a company that specialized in the discovery, development and manufacture of human therapeutic antibodies, and from June 1996 through May 2002, he served as its Chief Executive Officer. He also served as a director of Abgenix from 1996 and Chairman of the board of directors from 2000 until the acquisition of Abgenix by Amgen, Inc. in April 2006. Prior to Abgenix's formation, Mr. Greer held senior management positions at Cell Genesys, Inc., a biotechnology company, initially as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Corporate Development and later as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, and various positions at Genetics Institute, Inc., a biotechnology research and development company. Mr. Greer currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Inogen, Inc., a medical device company that develops and markets oxygen therapy products, Sientra, Inc. a medical aesthetics company, StemCells, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on stem cell therapeutics, and Versartis, Inc., an endocrine focused biopharmaceutical company. Mr. Greer served as a member of the board of directors of Sirna Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, from 2003, and as its Chairman of the board of directors from 2005 through the closing of the acquisition of Sirna by Merck & Co., Inc. in December 2006. From May 2014 to May 2015, Mr. Greer served as director of Auspex Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company developing drugs for patients with movement disorders and other rare diseases, which was acquired by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries in May 2015; from 2001 to 2005, he served as a member of the board of directors of Illumina, Inc., a provider of integrated systems for the analysis of genetic variation

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and biological function; and from 2001 to 2004, he served as member of the board of directors of CV Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company. Mr. Greer received a B.A. in Economics from Whitman College and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard University. He also was a certified public accountant.

### **Christopher A. Kuebler**

*Christopher A. Kuebler*, age 62, has served as our director since December 2001. Mr. Kuebler also currently serves on the board of directors of Waters Corporation, an analytical technologies products and services company. From January 1997 to December 2005, Mr. Kuebler served as Chairman of the Board of Covance Inc., a drug development services company, and from November 1994 to December 2004, served as its Chief Executive Officer. From March 1993 through November 1994, he was the Corporate Vice President, European Operations for Abbott Laboratories, a diversified health care company. From January 1986 until March 1993, Mr. Kuebler served in various commercial positions for Abbott Laboratories Pharmaceutical Division and was that Division's Vice President, Sales and Marketing prior to taking the position of Corporate Vice President, European Operations. Before that, he held positions at Squibb Inc. and Monsanto Health Care. Mr. Kuebler holds a B.S. in Biological Science from Florida State University.

### **Lutz Lingnau**

*Lutz Lingnau*, age 73, has served as our director since August 2007. Mr. Lingnau retired from Schering AG Group, Germany, in December 2005 as a member of Schering AG's Executive Board and as Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Schering Berlin, Inc., a United States subsidiary. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Lingnau was responsible for Schering AG's worldwide specialized therapeutics and dermatology businesses. He joined Schering AG's business trainee program in 1966. Throughout his career at Schering AG, he served in various capacities and in a number of subsidiaries in South America and the United States, including his roles as President of Berlex Laboratories, Inc., from 1983 to 1985, as the Head of Worldwide Sales and Marketing in the Pharmaceutical Division of Schering AG, from 1985 to 1989, and as Chairman of Berlex Laboratories, Inc. from 1985 to 2005. Mr. Lingnau was a member of the Supervisory Board of LANXESS AG, a specialty chemicals company listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange from 2005 to May 2010. From December 2006 through September 2009, he served as Chairman of the board of directors of Micropharma Limited, a private biotechnology company, and was a member of the board of directors of Sirna Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, from February 2006 through the closing of the acquisition of Sirna by Merck & Co., Inc. in December 2006.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH NAMED NOMINEE.**

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**PROPOSAL 2**

**RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The audit committee of the board of directors has selected Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, and has further directed that management submit the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Ernst & Young LLP has audited our consolidated financial statements since our inception in 1990. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Neither our bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our 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 Ernst & Young LLP. Even if the selection is ratified, the audit committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the committee determines that such a change would be in our best interests and our stockholders' best interest.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and cast on this proposal will be required to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. Abstentions are treated as shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and, therefore, will have the effect of a vote against the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. No broker non-votes are expected to exist in connection with this proposal.

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

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**PROPOSAL 3**

**ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The board of directors is committed to excellence in governance and is aware of the significant interest in executive compensation matters by investors and the general public.

We have designed our executive compensation program to attract, motivate, reward and retain the senior management talent required to achieve our corporate objectives and increase stockholder value. We believe that our compensation policies and procedures are centered on pay-for-performance principles and are strongly aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders.

We urge you to carefully review the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement for details on our executive compensation, including our compensation philosophy and objectives and the 2015 compensation of the named executive officers ( NEOs ) described in Information About the Executive Officers Compensation Discussion and Analysis Introduction.

We are presenting this proposal, which gives you as a stockholder the opportunity to endorse or not endorse our compensation program for the NEOs by voting for or against the following resolution (a say-on-pay vote), as required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company s NEOs, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and related narrative discussion contained in the proxy statement for the Company s 2016 Annual Meeting is hereby APPROVED.

While the vote on the resolution is advisory in nature and therefore will not bind us to take any particular action, our board of directors and our organization and compensation committee intend to carefully consider the stockholder vote resulting from the proposal in making future decisions regarding our compensation program.

Based on the results of voting at our 2011 annual meeting of stockholders, we have determined to hold a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of NEOs every year, until the next non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on the compensation of our NEOs. Accordingly, we expect that our next say-on-pay vote will be held at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders. An advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on the compensation paid to our NEOs is required to be held at least once every six years.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by holders of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required (on a non-binding advisory basis) for approval of this proposal. Abstentions are treated as shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and, therefore, will have the effect of a vote against this proposal. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

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

**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of April 15, 2016, by: (i) each director and nominee for director; (ii) each of our NEOs; (iii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group; and (iv) all those known by us to be beneficial owners of more than five percent of our common stock.

Unless otherwise noted below, the address of each beneficial owner listed in the table is c/o Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158.

Beneficial Owner	Beneficial Ownership **	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Total
OppenheimerFunds, Inc. and related entities(1)	26,000,027	19.08%
PRIMECAP Management Company(2)	19,784,286	14.52%
BlackRock, Inc. and certain subsidiaries(3)	16,297,876	11.96%
The Vanguard Group(4)	10,465,889	7.68%
First Trust Portfolios L.P. and related entities(5)	9,599,117	7.05%
Robert B. Chess(6)	483,956	*
R. Scott Greer(7)	276,666	*
Joseph J. Krivulka(8)	258,333	*
Christopher A. Kuebler(9)	228,333	*
Lutz Lingnau(10)	224,783	*
Howard W. Robin(11)	2,472,247	1.81%
Roy A. Whitfield(12)	258,333	*
Dennis Winger(13)	243,333	*
Ivan P. Gergel, M.D.(14)	296,994	*
Maninder Hora, Ph.D.(15)	505,701	*
Gil M. Labrucherie(16)	828,025	*
John Nicholson(17)	947,836	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (14 persons)	8,307,043	6.10%

\* Denotes ownership percentage less than 1%.

\*\* This table is based upon information supplied by officers, directors and principal stockholders and Schedules 13G filed with the SEC. Unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes to this table, and subject to community property laws where applicable, we believe that each of the stockholders named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned. Applicable percentages are based on 136,201,022 shares outstanding on April 15, 2016, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the SEC.

- (1) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 18) filed with the SEC on February 4, 2016 by OppenheimerFunds, Inc., a registered investment adviser under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and Oppenheimer Global Opportunities Fund, an investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Oppenheimer Global Opportunities Fund has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to 26,000,000 shares of our common stock. OppenheimerFunds, Inc. has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to the 26,000,027 shares of our common stock. OppenheimerFunds, Inc. disclaims beneficial ownership as an investment adviser pursuant to Rule 13d-4 of the Exchange Act. The address of OppenheimerFunds, Inc. is Two World Financial Center, 225 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281. The address of Oppenheimer Global Opportunities Fund is 6803 S. Tucson Way, Centennial, CO 80112.
- (2) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 6) filed with the SEC on February 12, 2016 by PRIMECAP Management Company, a registered investment adviser under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. PRIMECAP Management Company has the sole voting power with respect to

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- 17,475,886 shares of our common stock and sole dispositive power with respect to 19,784,286 shares of our common stock. The address of PRIMECAP Management Company is 225 South Lake Ave., #400, Pasadena, CA 91101.
- (3) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 7) filed with the SEC on January 8, 2016 by BlackRock, Inc., a parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). BlackRock, Inc. has the sole voting power with respect to 16,011,624 shares of our common stock and the sole dispositive power with respect to 16,297,876 shares of our common stock. The address of BlackRock, Inc. is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055.
- (4) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 3) filed with the SEC on February 10, 2016 by The Vanguard Group, a registered investment adviser under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Vanguard Group has the sole voting power with respect to 290,053 shares of our common stock, shared voting power with respect to 8,600 shares of our common stock, sole dispositive power with respect to 10,175,236 shares of our common stock and shared dispositive power with respect to 290,653 shares of our common stock. Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc., is the beneficial owner of 282,053 shares as a result of its serving as investment manager of collective trust accounts. Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc., is the beneficial owner of 16,600 shares as a result of its serving as investment manager of Australian investment offerings. The address of The Vanguard Group, Inc. is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355.
- (5) Based solely on the Schedule 13G jointly filed with the SEC on January 28, 2016 by The Charger Corporation, First Trust Portfolios L.P. and First Trust Advisors L.P. pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k)(1). The Charger Corporation is the General Partner of both First Trust Portfolios L.P. and First Trust Advisors L.P. First Trust Portfolios L.P. acts as sponsor of certain unit investment trusts which hold shares of the issuer. First Trust Advisors L.P. and The Charger Corporation both have shared voting power and shared dispositive power of 9,599,117 shares of our common stock. First Trust Advisors L.P., an affiliate of First Trust Portfolios L.P., acts as portfolio supervisor of the unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P., certain of which hold shares of the issuer. Neither First Trust Portfolios L.P., First Trust Advisors L.P. nor The Charger Corporation have the power to vote the shares of the issuer held by these unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. These shares are voted by the trustee of such unit investment trusts so as to insure that the shares are voted as closely as possible in the same manner and in the same general proportion as are the shares held by owners other than such unit investment trusts. The difference, if any, between the aggregate amount of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person, and the number of shares of the issuer held by the unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. represents shares of the issuer which are either held in other registered investment companies, pooled investment vehicles and/or separately managed accounts for which First Trust Advisors L.P. serves as investment advisor and/or investment sub-advisor. Each of First Trust Portfolios L.P., First Trust Advisors L.P. and The Charger Corporation disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of the issuer identified in this filing. The address of The Charger Corporation, First Trust Portfolios L.P. and First Trust Advisors L.P. is 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400, Wheaton, Illinois 60187.
- (6) Includes (i) 233,333 issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, and (ii) 4,914 shares issued pursuant to our 401(k) Retirement Plan.
- (7) Includes 193,333 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016.
- (8) Includes 233,333 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016.
- (9) Includes 208,333 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016.
- (10) Includes 208,333 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016.
- (11) Includes (i) 2,452,734 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, (ii) and 5,625 shares from restricted stock unit awards that are scheduled to vest and be released within 60 days of April 15, 2016 and (iii) 410 shares owned by Mr. Robin s wife.
- (12) Includes (i) 223,333 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016 and (ii) 20,000 shares held in trust for Mr. Whitfield s children under which Mr. Whitfield is the sole trustee.
- (13) Includes 227,083 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016 and (ii) 5,000 shares held in his revocable living trust.

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- (14) Includes (i) 295,050 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, and (ii) 1,250 shares from restricted stock unit awards that are scheduled to vest and be released within 60 days of April 15, 2016.
- (15) Includes (i) 497,705 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, (ii) and 2,166 shares from restricted stock unit awards that are scheduled to vest and be released within 60 days of April 15, 2016, and (iii) 4,500 shares issued pursuant to our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (16) Includes (i) 819,269 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, (ii) and 2,166 shares from restricted stock unit awards that are scheduled to vest and be released within 60 days of April 15, 2016, (iii) 997 shares issued pursuant to our 401(k) Retirement Plan, and (iv) 1,750 shares issued pursuant to our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (17) Includes (i) 869,351 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 15, 2016, and (ii) and 2,166 shares from restricted stock unit awards that are scheduled to vest and be released within 60 days of April 15, 2016.

**SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

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

To our knowledge, based solely on our review of Forms 3, 4 and 5, and any amendments thereto, furnished to us or written representations that no Form 5 was required, we believe that during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, all filing requirements applicable to our executive officers and directors under the Exchange Act were met in a timely manner.

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**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

We review all relationships and transactions between us and (i) any of our directors or executive officers, (ii) any nominee for election as a director, (iii) any security holder who is known to us to own beneficially or of record more than five percent of our common stock or (iv) any member of the immediate family of any of the foregoing. Our legal staff is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of processes and controls to obtain information with respect to related person transactions and for then determining, based on the facts and circumstances, whether the Company or a related person has a direct or indirect material interest in the transaction. In addition, the audit committee reviews and approves or ratifies any related person transaction that is required to be disclosed. In the course of its review and approval or ratification of a disclosable related party transaction, the committee considers:

the nature of the related person's interest in the transaction;

the material terms of the transaction, including, without limitation, the dollar amount and type of transaction;

the importance of the transaction to the related person;

the importance of the transaction to the Company;

whether the transaction would impair the judgment of a director or executive officer to act in the best interest of the Company; and

any other matters the committee deems appropriate.

Any member of the audit committee who is a related person with respect to a transaction under review may not participate in the deliberations or vote respecting approval or ratification of the transaction; however, such director may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting where the audit committee reviews the transaction.

As required under SEC rules, related party transactions that are determined to be directly or indirectly material to us or the related party are disclosed in our proxy statement. Historically, we have not entered into transactions with related parties. Michael Robin, the son of Howard W. Robin, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is employed by the Company in a non-executive officer capacity as a manager in our project management group. During 2015, Michael Robin's total compensation was approximately \$175,800 including base salary, target bonus, equity awards, and benefits. Michael Robin's compensation was established by the Company in accordance with its compensation practices applicable to employees with equivalent qualifications and responsibilities and holding similar positions, without the direct involvement of Howard W. Robin. During the 2015 fiscal year, there were no other relationships or transactions between us and any related party for which disclosure is required under the rules of the SEC.



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**INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following is a brief biography of each current director, including each nominee for reelection at the Annual Meeting to a new term of office and each director whose current term of office continues through the Annual Meeting. Susan Wang, who had served as our director since December 2003, passed away on March 8, 2016, resulting in a vacancy on the Board. The Board has not yet nominated an individual to fill this vacancy.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Joseph J. Krivulka**

*Joseph J. Krivulka*, age 64, has served as our director since March 2005. Mr. Krivulka is the founder and current Chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, LLC, an emerging branded pharmaceutical company, and has served in that capacity since its inception in February 2007. He is also the founder and chairman of Rouses Point Pharmaceuticals LLC, a generic pharmaceutical products company, as well as the founder and chairman of MIST Pharmaceuticals, LLC, a cardiovascular pharmaceutical products company. Mr. Krivulka was the founder and President of Triax Pharmaceuticals, a dermatology products company, a position he held from November 2004 through the sale of the company to PreCision Dermatology in April 2012. Mr. Krivulka was a co-founder and President of Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC, a company that markets pharmaceutical products, from 1999 until 2004. Mr. Krivulka was formerly Chief Executive Officer of Bertek, Inc., a generic pharmaceutical products company that is a subsidiary of Mylan Inc., and Corporate Vice President of Mylan Inc., a generic pharmaceutical products company. He holds a B.S. from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

**Howard W. Robin**

*Howard W. Robin*, age 63, has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since January 2007 and has served as a member of our board of directors since February 2007. Mr. Robin served as Chief Executive Officer, President and a director of Sirna Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, from July 2001 to November 2006 and from January 2001 to June 2001, served as their Chief Operating Officer, President and as a director. From 1991 to 2001, Mr. Robin was Corporate Vice President and General Manager at Berlex Laboratories, Inc., a pharmaceutical products company that is a subsidiary of Schering, AG, and from 1987 to 1991 he served as Vice President of Finance and Business Development and Chief Financial Officer. From 1984 to 1987, Mr. Robin was Director of Business Planning and Development at Berlex. He was a Senior Associate with Arthur Andersen & Co. prior to joining Berlex. He received his B.S. in Accounting and Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University and serves as a member of its Board of Trustees.

**Dennis L. Winger**

*Dennis L. Winger*, age 68, has served as our director since December 2009. Mr. Winger was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Applera Corporation, a life sciences company, from 1997 through December 2008. From 1989 to 1997, Mr. Winger served as Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer of Chiron Corporation. From 1982 to 1989, Mr. Winger was with The Cooper Companies, Inc., where he held positions of increasing responsibility, including that of Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Winger currently serves on the board of directors of Accuray Incorporated (NASDAQ: ARAY), a radiosurgery company. Mr. Winger recently served on the board of directors of each of Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, a pharmaceutical company, until May 2012, Cephalon, Inc. a pharmaceutical company, until its merger with Teva Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited in October 2011 and Cell Genesys, Inc. until its merger with BioSante Pharmaceuticals in October 2009. Mr. Winger received a B.A. from Siena College and an M.B.A. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

**Table of Contents****DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING****Robert B. Chess**

*Robert B. Chess*, age 59, is the Chairman of our board of directors and has served as a director since May 1992. From March 2006 until January 2007, Mr. Chess served as our Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, and from April 1999 to January 2007, served as Executive Chairman. He also served as our Co-Chief Executive Officer from August 1998 to April 2000, as President from December 1991 to August 1998, and as Chief Executive Officer from May 1992 to August 1998. Mr. Chess was previously the co-founder and President of Penederm, Inc., a publicly-traded dermatological pharmaceutical company that was sold to Mylan Laboratories. He has held management positions at Intel Corporation and Metaphor Computer Systems (now part of IBM), and was a member of the first President Bush's White House staff as a White House Fellow and Associate Director of the White House Office of Economic and Domestic Policy. From 1997 until his retirement in 2009, Mr. Chess served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). Mr. Chess served as Chairman of BIO's Emerging Companies Section and Co-Chairman of BIO's Intellectual Property Committee. Mr. Chess was the initial Chairman of Bio Ventures for Global Health and continues to serve on its board. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the California Institute of Technology where he chairs the Technology Transfer Committee. Mr. Chess is the co-founder and Chairman of Biota Technology, a private company developing industrial applications of the analysis of microbial communities, and also serves as a director of each of Pelvalon, Inc., a private medical device company, and Twist Bioscience, a private company in the synthetic DNA production field. He is currently a member of the faculty of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he teaches courses in the MBA program on starting technology-based businesses and the healthcare industry. Mr. Chess received his B.S. degree in Engineering with honors from the California Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Harvard University.

**Roy A. Whitfield**

*Roy A. Whitfield*, age 62, has served as our director since August 2000. Mr. Whitfield is the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Incyte Corporation, a drug discovery and development company he co-founded in 1991. From January 1993 to November 2001, Mr. Whitfield served as its Chief Executive Officer and from November 2001 until June 2003 as its Chairman. He also served as a director of Incyte from 1991 to January 2014. From 1984 to 1989, Mr. Whitfield held senior operating and business development positions with Technicon Instruments Corporation, a medical instrumentation company, and its predecessor company, Cooper Biomedical, Inc., a biotechnology and medical diagnostics company. Prior to his work at Technicon, Mr. Whitfield spent seven years with the Boston Consulting Group's international consulting practice. He currently serves as a director of Illumina, Inc., a developer, manufacturer and marketer of integrated systems for analysis of genetic variations and biological functions, and Station X, Inc. a private company. Since February 2008, he has also served as Executive Chairman of the board of directors of Bioseek. Mr. Whitfield received a B.S. in mathematics from Oxford University and an M.B.A. from Stanford University.

**CURRENT DIRECTORS NOMINATED FOR REELECTION TO SERVE UNTIL THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING****R. Scott Greer**

*R. Scott Greer*, age 57, has served as our director since February 2010. Mr. Greer currently serves as Managing Director of Numenor Ventures, LLC, a venture capital firm. In 1996, Mr. Greer co-founded Abgenix, Inc., a company that specialized in the discovery, development and manufacture of human therapeutic antibodies, and from June 1996 through May 2002, he served as its Chief Executive Officer. He also served as a director of Abgenix from 1996 and Chairman of the board of directors from 2000 until the acquisition of Abgenix by Amgen, Inc. in April 2006. Prior to Abgenix's formation, Mr. Greer held senior management positions at Cell Genesys, Inc., a biotechnology company, initially as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Corporate Development and later as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, and various positions at Genetics Institute, Inc., a biotechnology research and development company. Mr. Greer currently serves as a member of

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the board of directors of Inogen, Inc., a medical device company that develops and markets oxygen therapy products, Sientra, Inc. a medical aesthetics company, StemCells, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on stem cell therapeutics, and Versartis, Inc., an endocrine focused biopharmaceutical company. Mr. Greer served as a member of the board of directors of Sirna Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, from 2003, and as its Chairman of the board of directors from 2005 through the closing of the acquisition of Sirna by Merck & Co., Inc. in December 2006. From May 2014 to May 2015, Mr. Greer served as director of Auspex Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company developing drugs for patients with movement disorders and other rare diseases, which was acquired by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries in May 2015; from 2001 to 2005, he served as a member of the board of directors of Illumina, Inc., a provider of integrated systems for the analysis of genetic variation and biological function; and from 2001 to 2004, he served as member of the board of directors of CV Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company. Mr. Greer received a B.A. in Economics from Whitman College and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard University. He also was a certified public accountant.

### **Christopher A. Kuebler**

*Christopher A. Kuebler*, age 62, has served as our director since December 2001. Mr. Kuebler also currently serves on the board of directors of Waters Corporation, an analytical technologies products and services company. From January 1997 to December 2005, Mr. Kuebler served as Chairman of the Board of Covance Inc., a drug development services company, and from November 1994 to December 2004, served as its Chief Executive Officer. From March 1993 through November 1994, he was the Corporate Vice President, European Operations for Abbott Laboratories, a diversified health care company. From January 1986 until March 1993, Mr. Kuebler served in various commercial positions for Abbott Laboratories Pharmaceutical Division and was that Division's Vice President, Sales and Marketing prior to taking the position of Corporate Vice President, European Operations. Before that, he held positions at Squibb Inc. and Monsanto Health Care. Mr. Kuebler holds a B.S. in Biological Science from Florida State University.

### **Lutz Lingnau**

*Lutz Lingnau*, age 73, has served as our director since August 2007. Mr. Lingnau retired from Schering AG Group, Germany, in December 2005 as a member of Schering AG's Executive Board and as Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Schering Berlin, Inc., a United States subsidiary. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Lingnau was responsible for Schering AG's worldwide specialized therapeutics and dermatology businesses. He joined Schering AG's business trainee program in 1966. Throughout his career at Schering AG, he served in various capacities and in a number of subsidiaries in South America and the United States, including his roles as President of Berlex Laboratories, Inc., from 1983 to 1985, as the Head of Worldwide Sales and Marketing in the Pharmaceutical Division of Schering AG, from 1985 to 1989, and as Chairman of Berlex Laboratories, Inc. from 1985 to 2005. Mr. Lingnau was a member of the Supervisory Board of LANXESS AG, a specialty chemicals company listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange from 2005 to May 2010. From December 2006 through September 2009, he served as Chairman of the board of directors of Micropharma Limited, a private biotechnology company, and was a member of was a member of the board of directors of Sirna Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, from February 2006 through the closing of the acquisition of Sirna by Merck & Co., Inc. in December 2006.

### **MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The board of directors met nine (9) times during 2015. Each board member attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the meetings of the board and of the committees on which he or she served held during the period of the 2015 fiscal year for which he or she was a director or committee member, as applicable. All of our directors on our board attended our 2015 annual meeting of stockholders.

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The board of directors has documented our governance practices in our Corporate Governance Policy Statement to assure that the board will have the necessary authority and practices in place to review and evaluate

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our business operations as needed and to make decisions that are independent of our management. The guidelines are also intended to align the interests of directors and management with those of our stockholders. The Corporate Governance Policy Statement sets forth certain practices the board will follow with respect to board composition, board committees, board nomination, director qualifications and evaluation of the board and committees. The Corporate Governance Policy Statement, as well as the charters for each committee of the board, may be viewed at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com).

### **BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE**

The positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the board of directors are currently held by Howard W. Robin and Robert B. Chess, respectively. The board of directors believes at this time having a separate chairman provides a more effective channel for the board of directors to express its views on management, by enhancing the board's oversight of, and independence from, management, and allows the Chief Executive Officer to focus more on the strategy and operations of the Company.

### **RISK OVERSIGHT**

The board of directors monitors and assesses key business risks directly through deliberations of the board of directors and also by way of delegation of certain risk oversight functions to be performed by committees of the board of directors. The board of directors regularly reviews and assesses, among other matters, the following important areas that present both opportunities and risk to the Company's business:

Review and approval of the Company's annual operating and capital spending plan and review of management's updates as to the progress against the plan and any related risks and uncertainties.

Periodic consideration of the balance of risk and opportunities presented by the Company's medium to long-term strategic plan and the potential implications of success and failure in one or more of the Company's key drug development programs.

Regular consideration of the risks and uncertainties presented by alternative clinical development strategies.

Regular review of the progress and results of the Company's clinical development programs and early research efforts including but not limited to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for these programs.

Periodic review and oversight of material outstanding litigation or threatened litigation.

Review and approval of material collaboration partnerships for the further development and commercial exploitation of the Company's proprietary drug development programs and technologies.

Regular review and approval of the annual corporate goals and an assessment of the Company's level of achievement against these established goals.

Regular review of the Company's financial position relative to the risk and opportunities for the Company's business.

Periodic review of the Company's intellectual property estate.

## Edgar Filing: NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS - Form DEF 14A

Periodic review and assessment of CEO succession planning.

Periodic review of the Company's compensation programs.

The discussion above of risk oversight matters reviewed by the board of directors is intended to be illustrative only and not a complete list of all important matters reviewed and considered by the board of directors in providing oversight and direction for the Company's senior management and business.

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The risk oversight function of the board of directors is also administered through various board committees. The audit committee oversees the management of financial, accounting, internal controls, disclosure controls and the engagement arrangement and regular oversight of the independent auditors. The audit committee also periodically reviews the Company's investment policy for its cash reserves, corporate insurance policies, information technology infrastructure and general fraud monitoring practices and procedures, including the maintenance and monitoring of a whistleblower hotline and the segregation of duties and access controls across various functions. To assist the audit committee in its risk management oversight function, the internal auditor has a direct reporting relationship to the audit committee. The Company's internal audit function is focused on internal control monitoring and activities in support of the audit committee's risk oversight function.

The organization and compensation committee is responsible for the design and oversight of the Company's compensation programs as well as succession planning for the chief executive officer position and other key executive positions. The organization and compensation committee regularly considers whether the Company's compensation policies and practices create risks that could have a material adverse impact on the Company and has concluded that they do not based on several design features of our compensation program that we believe reduces the likelihood of excessive risk-taking, including the following:

The compensation plan design provides a mix of base salary, short-term incentive compensation opportunity and equity compensation earned over multiple-year periods.

The determination of the corporate performance rating under the annual bonus plan is based on our achievement of a diversified mix of development, research, organizational and financial objectives. Thus, the achievement of any single corporate objective does not have a disproportionate impact on the aggregate annual bonus awarded.

Each employee's annual cash bonus is determined by a combination of the corporate performance rating and a subjective determination of individual performance.

The maximum payout levels for annual incentive bonuses are capped at 200% of each employee's annual target bonus.

A substantial portion of each executive's compensation opportunity is in the form of long-term equity incentives, which help to further align the long-term interests of our executives with those of our stockholders.

All employees are subject to our security trading policy which prohibits trading in derivative securities (i.e. puts or calls), short selling, and any trading in the Company's securities on margin.

Each executive officer is subject to our claw-back policy which provides that any compensation received by an executive officer based upon the achievement of financial results that are subsequently revised is subject to cancellation or a reimbursement obligation.

The nominating and corporate governance committee periodically reviews the Company's corporate governance practices, including certain risks that those practices are intended to address. This committee periodically reviews the composition of the board of directors to help ensure that a diversity of skills and experiences is represented by the members of the board of directors taking into account the stage of growth of the Company and its strategic direction.

In carrying out their risk oversight functions, the board of directors and its committees routinely request and review management updates, reports from the independent auditors and legal and regulatory advice from outside experts, as appropriate, to assist in discerning and managing important risks that may be faced by the Company. The board of directors is committed to continuing to ensure and evolve its risk oversight practices as appropriate given the stage of the Company's evolution as a drug development company and the fast-paced changes in the biopharmaceutical industry. In that regard, in 2015 the Company maintained a risk management committee composed of senior managers in charge of important functional areas that regularly reported to the board of directors or one of its designated committees.



**Table of Contents****INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As required under the NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. Our board consults with counsel to ensure that its determinations are consistent with all relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of independent, including those set forth in pertinent NASDAQ listing standards, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these standards, after review of all relevant transactions (if any) or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and us, our senior management and our independent registered public accounting firm, the board has affirmatively determined that all of our directors are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ listing standards, except for Mr. Robin, our President and Chief Executive Officer.

As required under applicable NASDAQ listing standards, in the 2015 fiscal year, our independent directors met at least four times in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors were present. The independent directors regularly rotate responsibility for presiding over the executive sessions.

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The board of directors has three regularly constituted committees: an audit committee, an organization and compensation committee, and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The following table provides membership and meeting information as of December 31, 2015, for each of the board committees:

Name	Audit	Organization and Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance
Robert B. Chess			
R. Scott Greer	X	X	
Joseph J. Krivulka	X	X	
Christopher A. Kuebler		X	X
Lutz Lingnau		X(1)	
Howard W. Robin			
Susan Wang(2)	X(1)		
Roy A. Whitfield			X(1)
Dennis L. Winger	X		X
<b>Total meetings in the 2015 fiscal year</b>	7	7	4

(1) Committee Chairperson.

(2) Ms. Wang passed away in March 2016.

Below is a description of each committee of the board of directors. The board of directors has determined that each member of each committee meets the applicable rules and regulations regarding independence and that each member is free of any relationship that would interfere with his or her individual exercise of independent judgment with regard to us.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The audit committee of the board of directors oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process. For this purpose, the audit committee performs several functions. The audit committee:



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evaluates the performance of and assesses the qualifications of our independent registered public accounting firm;

determines whether to retain or terminate our independent registered public accounting firm or to appoint and engage a new independent registered public accounting firm;

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reviews and determines the engagement of the independent auditors, including the overall scope and plans for their respective audits, the adequacy of staffing and compensation, and negotiates and executes, on behalf of the Company, engagement letters with the independent auditors;

establishes guidelines and procedures with respect to the rotation of the lead or coordinating audit partners having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit;

reviews and approves the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm for any permissible non-audit services and, at least annually, discusses with our independent registered public accounting firm, and reviews, that firm's independence;

obtains and reviews, at least annually, a formal written statement prepared by the independent registered public accounting firm delineating all relationships between the independent registered public accounting firm and the Company and discusses with the independent registered public accounting firm, and reviews, its independence from management and the Company;

reviews with the independent registered public accounting firm any management or internal control letter issued or, to the extent practicable, proposed to be issued by the independent registered public accounting firm and management's response;

reviews with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the scope, adequacy and effectiveness of our financial reporting controls;

reviews and discusses with management, the Company's risk management committee, the internal auditor and the independent registered public accounting firm, as appropriate, the Company's major financial risks, the Company's policies for assessment and management of such risks, and the steps to be taken to control such risks;

establishes and maintains procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, including procedures for the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

investigates and resolves any disagreements between our management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding our financial reporting, accounting practices or accounting policies and reviews with the independent registered public accounting firm any other problems or difficulties it may have encountered during the course of the audit work;

meets with senior management and the independent registered public accounting firm in separate executive sessions;

reviews the consolidated financial statements to be included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our annual reports on Form 10-K;

discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the results of the independent registered public accounting firm's review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements and the results of our annual audit and the disclosures contained under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our periodic reports;

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reviews and discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm any material financial arrangements of the Company which do not appear on the financial statements of the Company and any significant transactions or courses of dealing with parties related to the Company;

reviews with management and the independent registered public accounting firm significant issues that arise regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation;

oversees the Company's internal audit function;

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discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm any correspondence from or with regulators or governmental agencies, any employee complaints or any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's consolidated financial statements, financial reporting process or accounting policies;

oversees the preparation of the audit committee report to be included in the Company's annual report or proxy statement; and

reviews the Company's investment policy for its cash reserves, corporate insurance policies, information technology infrastructure and general fraud monitoring practices and procedures, including the maintenance and monitoring of a whistleblower hotline and the segregation of duties and access controls across various functions.

The audit committee has the authority to retain special legal, accounting or other professional advisors to advise the committee as it deems necessary, at our expense, to carry out its duties and to determine the compensation of any such advisors.

Four directors comprised the audit committee at the end of the 2015 fiscal year: Ms. Wang, who chaired the committee, and Messrs. Greer, Krivulka, and Winger. With the passing away of Ms. Wang on March 8, 2016, the current members of the committee are Messrs. Greer, Krivulka, and Winger. Mr. Greer has been appointed as the Chairman of the audit committee. The board of directors annually reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for audit committee members and has determined that all members of our audit committee are independent.

During the 2015 fiscal year, the board of directors determined that Ms. Wang qualified as an audit committee financial expert as defined in applicable SEC rules. The board of directors made a qualitative assessment of Ms. Wang's level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including her formal education and experience as a Chief Financial Officer of a public reporting company. In addition to our audit committee, Ms. Wang also served on the audit committees of Cirrus Logic, Inc. (NASDAQ: CRUS) and Premier, Inc. (NASDAQ: PINC). The board of directors did not believe that such simultaneous service impaired Ms. Wang's ability to effectively serve on our audit committee and as the chairwoman of such committee. The board of directors has determined that Messrs. Greer and Winger each qualify as an audit committee financial expert as defined in applicable SEC rules. The board of directors made a qualitative assessment of Mr. Greer's level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including his formal education and experience as a Chief Executive Officer at a public reporting company, a Chief Financial Officer, and the chairman of public company audit committees. The board of directors also made a qualitative assessment of Mr. Winger's level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including his formal education and experience as a Chief Financial Officer of a public reporting company. In addition to our audit committee, Mr. Winger also serves on the audit committee of Accuray Incorporated (NASDAQ: ARAY). The board of directors does not believe that such simultaneous service impairs Mr. Winger's ability to effectively serve on our audit committee. The audit committee has adopted a written audit committee charter that is available on our corporate website at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com).

***ORGANIZATION AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE***

The organization and compensation committee of the board of directors administers the variable compensation programs and reviews management's recommendations for organization structure and development of the Company. Additionally, the organization and compensation committee reviews and in some cases approves the type and level of cash and equity-based compensation for officers, employees and consultants of the Company, and recommends certain compensation actions to the board of directors for review and approval. The organization and compensation committee:

reviews and approves the structure and guidelines for various incentive compensation and benefit plans;

grants equity awards under the various equity incentive compensation and benefit plans;

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approves the compensation for the executive officers of the Company, including the President and Chief Executive Officer, and those vice-president level employees that report directly to the President and Chief Executive Officer, including, but not limited to, annual salary, bonus, equity compensation and other benefits;

recommends the compensation levels for the members of the board of directors who are not employed by us or our subsidiaries ( non-employee directors ) for approval by the independent members of the board of directors;

reviews the operation of the Company s executive compensation programs to determine whether they remain supportive of the Company s business objectives and are competitive relative to comparable companies and establishes and periodically reviews policies for the administration of executive compensation programs;

reviews the Company s executive compensation arrangements to evaluate whether incentive and other forms of compensation do not encourage inappropriate or excessive risk taking and reviews and discusses, at least annually, the relationship between risk management policies and practices, corporate strategy and the Company s executive compensation arrangements;

reviews and discusses with management and the Company s risk management committee, as appropriate, the Company s major risks relating to the purview of the organization and compensation committee, the Company s policies for assessment and management of such risks, and the steps to be taken to control such risks;

oversees the preparation of the organization and compensation committee report to be included in the Company s annual proxy statement;

reviews management recommendations on organization structure and development, including succession planning; and

reviews performance of the executive officers and vice-president level employees that report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. The organization and compensation committee takes into account our President and Chief Executive Officer s recommendations regarding the compensatory arrangements for our executive officers, although our President and Chief Executive Officer does not participate in the deliberations or determinations of his own compensation. In particular, the organization and compensation committee considered our President and Chief Executive Officer s recommendations for 2015 regarding the increase in annual base compensation, award of annual performance-based bonus compensation and the equity granted to our executive officers excluding himself. While the organization and compensation committee considers and appreciates the input and expertise of management in making its decisions, it does ensure that an executive session where no management is present is included in the agenda for every committee meeting. The organization and compensation committee s charter gives the committee the sole authority to retain independent counsel, compensation and benefits consultants or other outside experts or advisors that it believes to be necessary or appropriate. During 2015, the organization and compensation committee retained Frederic W. Cook & Co. ( FW Cook ), a nationally recognized executive compensation consulting firm that performs compensation benchmarking, analysis and design services. FW Cook was engaged in 2015 to provide regulatory, legislative updates and market trend analysis, to provide analysis on our compensation programs, to provide recommendations and advice on the structure, elements and amounts of compensation provided to our non-employee directors, to review the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, and to provide executive compensation analysis as needed. FW Cook does not provide any other services to us other than the executive and director compensation services it performs at the request of the organization and compensation committee, and after consideration of such services and other factors prescribed by the SEC for purposes of assessing the independence of compensation consultants, we have determined that no conflicts of interest exist between the Company and FW Cook (or any individuals providing such services to the committee on FW Cook s behalf).

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The organization and compensation committee may delegate to its subcommittees such authority as it deems appropriate, except for the authority the committee is required to exercise by applicable law or regulation. The organization and compensation committee has delegated certain limited authority to grant stock option awards under our stock incentive plan to a committee comprised of management representatives, and with respect to certain limited authority to grant restricted stock unit awards, to a committee of the board of directors, with Mr. Robin serving as the sole member of that committee. These committees may not approve award grants to anyone serving as an executive officer or director of the Company. Other than the authority delegated to these committees, the organization and compensation committee has no current intention to delegate any of its authority to any other committee or subcommittee.

Four directors comprised the organization and compensation committee at the end of the 2015 fiscal year: Mr. Lingnau, who chaired the committee, and Messrs. Greer, Krivulka and Kuebler. The board of directors annually reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for organization and compensation committee members and has determined that all members of our organization and compensation committee are independent. The organization and compensation committee charter can be found on our corporate website at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com).

### *NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE*

The nominating and corporate governance committee:

establishes criteria for board membership, including standards for independence, and considers and assesses the independence of the directors;

evaluates board composition and performance;

identifies, reviews and recommends the board's selected candidates to serve as directors;

considers stockholder recommendations for director nominations and other proposals submitted by stockholders;

reviews the adequacy of, and compliance with, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics;

administers and oversees all aspects of our corporate governance functions on behalf of the board;

monitors regulatory and legislative developments in corporate governance, as well as trends in corporate governance practices, and makes recommendations to the board regarding the same;

reviews and discusses with management and the Company's risk management committee, as appropriate, the Company's major risks relating to the purview of the nominating and corporate government committee, the Company's policies for assessment and management of such risks, and the steps to be taken to control such risks;

establishes and oversees procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company with respect to legal and regulatory compliance (except for compliance relating to accounting, internal accounting controls, auditing matters and financial disclosure and reporting); and

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provides recommendations to the board of directors to establish such special committees as may be desirable or necessary from time to time in order to address ethical, legal, business or other matters that may arise.

The nominating and corporate governance committee believes that candidates for director should possess the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, be committed to represent our long-term interests and those of our stockholders, possess diverse experience at policy-making levels in business, science and technology, possess key personal characteristics such as strategic thinking, objectivity, independent judgment, intellect and the courage to speak out and actively participate in meetings, as well as have sufficient time to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a board member effectively.

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Three directors comprised the nominating and corporate governance committee at the end of the 2015 fiscal year: Mr. Whitfield, who chairs the committee, and Messrs. Kuebler and Winger. The board of directors annually reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for the nominating and corporate governance committee and has determined that all members of our nominating and corporate governance committee are independent. The nominating and corporate governance committee charter can be found on our corporate website at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com).

The current members of our board of directors represent a desirable mix of backgrounds, skills and experiences, and are all believed to share the key personal characteristics described above. Below are some of the specific experiences and skills of our directors.

### **Robert B. Chess**

Mr. Chess is our Chairman and former President and Chief Executive Officer and has a deep understanding of our business. Having founded and led private and public companies, Mr. Chess has strong experience leading growing companies in our industry. Due to his long association with the Company as a co-founder, director and senior executive leader at various times, he possesses significant knowledge and perspective on the history and development of the Company. Mr. Chess is a prominent participant in our industry, was a long-time member of the board of our industry association, and is on the board of trustees and faculty of leading academic institutions.

### **Roy A. Whitfield**

Mr. Whitfield has a strong strategy development and leadership background in the biotechnology and medical industries. He is a former strategy consultant from a major consulting firm, was the founder and chief executive officer of a public biotechnology company, and has held executive positions in various segments of the health care industry. He has extensive corporate governance experience through his service on other public company boards in the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries.

### **Joseph J. Krivulka**

Mr. Krivulka has a strong operational and leadership record in the pharmaceutical industry with strong expertise in product evaluation, development, and marketing. Mr. Krivulka has founded and served as chief executive officer of several successful pharmaceutical companies and is currently the Chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals.

### **Howard W. Robin**

Mr. Robin is our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Robin has over 25 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in a variety of roles of increasing responsibility and, prior to becoming our chief executive officer, was the chief executive officer and president and a director of Sirna Therapeutics, a development stage biotechnology company. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Robin's position as president and chief executive officer provides him with important insight into the Company's opportunities, risks, strengths and weaknesses, as well as its organizational and operational capabilities, which is valuable to the board of directors in making strategic decisions and performing its oversight responsibilities.

### **Dennis L. Winger**

Mr. Winger has a strong operational and finance background with over 20 years of experience as a financial and administrative senior executive in the life sciences and pharmaceutical industries. Most recently, he was Chief Financial Officer of Applera Corporation, a life sciences company, and prior to that was a senior financial and administrative executive at Chiron Corporation, a biotechnology company, for eight years. Mr. Winger has corporate governance and audit committee experience through service on other public company boards in the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries.



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### **R. Scott Greer**

Mr. Greer has a proven track record as an entrepreneur and senior executive with extensive experience in the biotechnology industry, most recently with Abgenix, Inc., until its acquisition by Amgen, Inc. in 2006. Mr. Greer has held senior executive and finance positions at other companies in our industry and currently serves as a director of several other companies in the biopharmaceutical and medical device industries. He possesses strong expertise in biotech industry strategy, business models, and finance and has served on compensation and audit committees.

### **Christopher A. Kuebler**

Mr. Kuebler is a former chief executive officer of Covance Inc., a drug development services company. Prior to that, he had diverse management experience in positions of increasing responsibility with Abbott Laboratories and other large health care companies. As a result of his experiences, Mr. Kuebler possesses valuable knowledge and insight regarding both the development and commercial aspects of the biopharmaceutical industry as well as leadership experience in running a significant public company.

### **Lutz Lingnau**

Mr. Lingnau has a strong management background in the pharmaceutical industry as a senior executive and member of the executive board of Schering AG Group. He has international sales and operations experience as former head of worldwide sales and marketing in the pharmaceutical division of Schering, and in operational roles in South America and the U.S., and also as a member of the supervisory board of a German specialty chemicals company.

Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the board, our operating requirements and the long-term interests of stockholders. In conducting this assessment, the committee considers diversity, age, skills and such other factors as it deems appropriate given our current needs and those of our board to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability. The nominating and corporate governance committee also periodically reviews the overall effectiveness of the board, including board attendance, level of participation, quality of performance, self-assessment reviews and any relationships or transactions that might impair director independence. In the case of new director candidates, the nominating and corporate governance committee also determines whether the nominee must be independent for NASDAQ purposes, which determination is based upon applicable NASDAQ listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of the board. The nominating and corporate governance committee meets to discuss and consider such candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to the board by majority vote. We have paid fees to third party search firms in the past to assist in our process of identifying or evaluating director candidates.

The nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors will consider for nomination any qualified director candidates recommended by our stockholders. Any stockholder who wishes to recommend a director candidate is directed to submit in writing the candidate's name, biographical information, relevant qualifications and other information required by our bylaws to our Secretary at our principal executive offices before the deadline set forth in our bylaws. All written submissions received from our stockholders will be reviewed by the nominating and corporate governance committee at the next appropriate meeting. The nominating and corporate governance committee will evaluate any suggested director candidates received from our stockholders in the same manner as recommendations received from management, committee members or members of our board.

**Table of Contents****STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The board of directors will consider any written or electronic communication from our stockholders to the board, a committee of the board or any individual director. Any stockholder who wishes to communicate to the board of directors, a committee of the board or any individual director should submit written or electronic communications to our Secretary at our principal executive offices, which shall include contact information for such stockholder. All communications from stockholders received will be forwarded by our Secretary to the board of directors, a committee of the board or an individual director, as appropriate, on a periodic basis, but in any event no later than the board of director's next scheduled meeting. The board of directors, a committee of the board, or individual directors, as appropriate, will consider and review carefully any communications from stockholders forwarded by our Secretary.

**CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

We have adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to all employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. The code of business conduct and ethics is available on our website at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com). Amendments to, and waivers from, the code of business conduct and ethics that apply to any director, executive officer or persons performing similar functions will be disclosed at the website address provided above and, to the extent required by applicable regulations, on a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC.

**ORGANIZATION AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

The organization and compensation committee consisted of four independent directors at the end of 2015: Messrs. Greer, Krivulka, Kuebler and Lingnau. No director who served on the organization and compensation committee in 2015 was, or has been, an officer or employee of us, nor has any director had any relationships requiring disclosure under the SEC rules regarding certain relationships and related-party transactions. None of our executive officers served on the board of directors or the organization and compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on our board of directors or organization and compensation committee.

**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE FISCAL 2015**

Each of our non-employee directors participates in our Amended and Restated Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the Director Plan). Only our non-employee directors are eligible to participate in the Director Plan. The following table shows compensation awarded or paid to our non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

Name(1)	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards \$(2)	Option Awards \$(3)	Total (\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
<b>Robert B. Chess</b>	107,000	191,850	77,036	375,886
<b>R. Scott Greer</b>	74,500	191,850	77,036	343,386
<b>Joseph J. Krivulka</b>	68,750	191,850	77,036	337,636
<b>Christopher A. Kuebler</b>	65,250	191,850	77,036	334,136
<b>Lutz Lingnau</b>	75,250	191,850	77,036	344,136
<b>Susan Wang</b>	80,250	191,850	77,036	349,136
<b>Roy A. Whitfield</b>	67,000	191,850	77,036	335,886
<b>Dennis L. Winger</b>	55,250	191,850	77,036	324,136

- (1) Mr. Robin, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is not included in this table as he was an employee of us in 2015 and received no additional compensation for his services in his capacity as a director. Please see the Summary Compensation Table Fiscal 2013-2015 for information regarding the compensation Mr. Robin received as our President and Chief Executive Officer.

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- (2) Amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock unit awards computed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, Compensation-Stock Compensation ( FASB ASC Topic 718 ), based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date and excluding the effects of estimated forfeitures. As of December 31, 2015, each of our non-employee directors had 15,000 outstanding restricted stock units.
- (3) Amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of option awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, which excludes the effects of estimated forfeitures. For a complete description of the assumptions made in determining the valuation, please refer to Note 11 (Stock-Based Compensation) to our audited financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. Each of our non-employee directors received 12,500 options for their annual stock option grant on September 15, 2015. As of December 31, 2015, each of our non-employee directors had the following number of outstanding stock options: Robert B. Chess: 227,500; R. Scott Greer: 197,500; Joseph J. Krivulka: 227,500; Christopher A. Kuebler: 212,500; Lutz Lingnau: 227,500; Susan Wang: 142,500; Roy A. Whitfield: 227,500; and Dennis L. Winger: 231,250.

Under the Director Plan, each non-employee director is eligible to receive an annual retainer of \$30,000 (increased to \$35,000 for 2016) for serving on the board of directors, an additional annual retainer of \$50,000 for serving as the chair or lead director of the board of directors, an additional annual retainer of \$20,000 for serving as chair of the audit committee, an additional annual retainer of \$15,000 for serving as chair of the organization and compensation committee, an additional annual retainer of \$10,000 for serving as chair of the nominating and corporate governance committee, and an additional annual retainer of \$5,000 for serving as chair of any other committee. In addition, each non-employee director is entitled to \$2,000 for each in-person or telephonic board meeting he or she attends and \$1,000 for each in-person board meeting he or she attends by telephone. Each non-employee director is also entitled to \$1,750 for each in-person or telephonic committee meeting he or she attends and \$875 for each in-person committee meeting he or she attends by telephone.

In September of each year, each non-employee director is eligible to receive an equity award consisting of either all stock options or restricted stock units or a combination thereof, as determined by the board of directors. These equity awards vest over a period of one year and include a number of shares as determined annually by the board of directors. The grant date fair value of the equity awards in 2015 was substantially the same as value of the equity awards made in 2014 and approximately 10% less than awarded in 2013. Upon initial appointment to the board of directors, each non-employee director is eligible to receive an equity award consisting of either all stock options or restricted stock units or a combination thereof. These initial equity awards vest over a period of three years from the date of appointment and will be at a level based on 150% of the most recent annual equity compensation grant to non-employee directors, as determined annually by the board of directors. The exercise price of stock options granted is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date. Following completion of a non-employee director's service on the board of directors, his or her stock options will remain exercisable for a period of eighteen months (or, if earlier, the end of the maximum term of the option). The term of stock options granted to non-employee directors is eight years. In the event of a change of control, the vesting of each option or restricted stock unit award held by each non-employee director will accelerate in full as of the closing of such transaction.

The Director Plan includes ownership guidelines for non-employee directors stating that each non-employee director should own shares of our common stock equal to at least three times the value of the annual board cash retainer. The minimum stock ownership level was to be achieved by each non-employee director within five years of the date of his or her first appointment to the board of directors. Each non-employee director currently meets the minimum stock ownership guidelines.

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS*****Introduction***

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis is designed to provide our stockholders with an understanding of our executive compensation philosophy and decision-making process. It discusses the principles underlying the structure of the compensation arrangements for our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, and our other three most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers on December 31, 2015, our NEOs. Unless noted otherwise, any reference within the Compensation Discussion and Analysis to decisions made by the board of directors refers to the decisions made by the independent members of the board of directors only. This Compensation Discussion and Analysis primarily focuses on the compensation of our NEOs for 2015 that are identified in the table below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Howard W. Robin	President and Chief Executive Officer
John Nicholson	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Ivan P. Gergel, M.D.	Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Maninder Hora, Ph.D.	Senior Vice President Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Operations
Gil M. Labrucherie	Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Our current compensation programs for the NEOs are determined and approved by the organization and compensation committee of our board of directors. As described in more detail above under the caption **Information About the Board of Directors-Information Regarding the Committees of the Board of Directors Organization and Compensation Committee**, the organization and compensation committee takes into account Mr. Robin's recommendations regarding the compensatory arrangements for our executive officers, although Mr. Robin does not participate in the deliberations or determinations of his own compensation. The other NEOs did not have any role in determining or recommending the form or amount of compensation paid to any of our executive officers.

**Company Performance Highlights**

In assessing the appropriate level of compensation for our executive officers, in particular the short-term incentive compensation to be awarded for a particular year, we take into account the overall performance of the Company against the specific annual corporate objectives established by the board of directors at the beginning of that year. The biotechnology industry is characterized by high stock price volatility and, as a result, our focus on pay for performance is based on an assessment of the level of the Company's achievement against annual business and operating objectives rather than the stock price at any given point in time. Some of the significant accomplishments achieved in 2015 are summarized below.

On February 25, 2015, we announced the enrollment of the first patient in SUMMIT-07, the first Phase 3 study of NKTR-181, an opioid analgesic molecule being developed by us.

On March 31, 2015, our collaboration partner, AstraZeneca, launched MOVANTIK in the U.S. as a once-daily oral medication for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation in adult patients with chronic, non-cancer pain. As a result, we received a \$100 million milestone payment from AstraZeneca in April 2015.

On June 2, 2015, we announced a collaboration agreement with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for a Phase 1/2 clinical study to evaluate NKTR-214, a CD122-biased immune-stimulatory cytokine.

On September 1, 2015, our collaboration partner, AstraZeneca, achieved the first commercial sale of MOVENTIG® (the marketed name of MOVANTIK in Europe), a once-daily oral medication for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation in adult patients with an inadequate response to laxatives. As a result, we received a \$40 million milestone payment from AstraZeneca in September 2015.



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On October 6, 2015, we completed a private placement of \$250 million of 7.75% senior secured notes due in 2020 with TPG Special Situations Partners.

On October 7, 2015, we announced the filing of an Investigational New Drug ( IND ) application with the United States Food and Drug Administration ( FDA ) for NKTR-214.

On November 30, 2015, our collaboration partner, Baxalta, launched ADYNOVATE , a twice-weekly longer-acting (PEGylated) form of a full-length recombinant factor VIII ( rFVIII ) for hemophilia A.

On December 8, 2015, we announced that dosing had commenced in the Phase 1/2 clinical study evaluating the efficacy and safety of NKTR-214 in the treatment of solid tumors.

In addition to considering the Company's accomplishments and progress each year, we also think it is important in making compensation decisions to take into account the long-term performance of the executive leadership team. We believe that the skills, creativity and dedication of the executive leadership team have led to numerous significant accomplishments, including the following:

Over the past nine years, our business has been transformed from a drug delivery service provider to a drug development company, which included a significant change in the mix of senior leadership and the skills and experience of personnel in key functional areas, a reprioritization of resource allocation, and building a more efficient and productive organization.

In August 2013, we negotiated an amendment to our worldwide naloxegol license agreement entered into in September 2009 with AstraZeneca to provide for a risk-benefit sharing arrangement that resulted in a commitment by AstraZeneca to submit a New Drug Application ( NDA ) with the FDA and a Market Authorisation Application ( MAA ) with the European Medicines Agency ( EMA ). We received from AstraZeneca a total payment of \$95 million in milestones in the fourth quarter of 2013 after these filings were accepted by these governmental health authorities and an additional \$35 million payment in September 2014 upon receipt of the FDA approval of MOVANTIK . In addition, under the license agreement, as amended, we are eligible to receive up to \$140 million in commercial launch milestones, all of which we received in 2015, and up to \$375 million in additional sales milestones.

In July 2012, we closed a \$125 million secured debt financing that was a very unique transaction (and on very attractive terms, in our view, at that stage of the company's development) for a development stage biotechnology company such as Nektar.

In February 2012, we successfully completed the sale of the Company's CIMZIA<sup>®</sup> and MIRCERA<sup>®</sup> royalty rights for \$124 million.

In September 2009, we entered into a license agreement with AstraZeneca for MOVANTIK (formerly known as naloxegol and NKTR-118) and naloxegol fixed-dose combination products (formerly known as NKTR-119). AstraZeneca paid us an up-front payment of \$125 million and assumed all future development costs for MOVANTIK and the naloxegol fixed-dose combination products under the license agreement.

We believe that the above accomplishments, together with accomplishments achieved by the Company since 2007, directly resulted in the Company (1) building and advancing a significant drug candidate pipeline; (2) building an organization and infrastructure designed to execute on our mission of being a leading drug development company; and (3) establishing collaboration and proprietary product opportunities that have significant future economic potential based on milestone payments, royalties and sales. We believe that the compensation programs and awards to our NEOs should be evaluated within the context of these significant accomplishments and performance over a sustained period.

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### ***Compensation Program Objectives and Philosophy***

In order to continue the execution and growth of our business as described above, we believe that it is vital that we continue to retain and attract highly experienced and skilled senior leadership by offering competitive base compensation and benefits, significant performance-based incentives, and the potential for long-term equity compensation. Our goal is to structure a meaningful portion of executive compensation such that it will only have value if the senior leadership is successful in building significant long-term value for Nektar's business.

Our current executive compensation programs are intended to achieve the following four fundamental goals and objectives: (1) to incent and reward sustained long-term performance by aligning significant elements of executive compensation with our stockholders' interests; (2) to attract and retain an experienced, highly qualified and motivated executive management team to lead our business; (3) to provide economic rewards for achieving high levels of our performance and individual contribution; and (4) to pay compensation that is competitive, taking into account the experience, skills and performance of the executives required to build and maintain the organization necessary to support our mission to be a leading drug development company.

When structuring our executive compensation programs to achieve our goals and objectives, we are guided by the following philosophies:

*Alignment with Stockholders' Interests.* Our compensation model should be designed to align the economic interests of our executives with those of our stockholders. In 2012, we established a performance-based equity award program for our executive officers. Under this program, 50% of the annual equity awards to our executive officers are performance-based equity awards that only have value if a performance condition is met. The performance condition is achieved only if, within five years from the grant date, the Company or one of its collaboration partners files a new drug application or biologics license application with the FDA (or the equivalent new drug registration in Europe with the EMA) for any Proprietary Company Program which is defined to include any drug candidate that is wholly-owned by the Company (e.g. NKTR-102, NKTR-181, NKTR-214) or where the Company is entitled to an average royalty interest equal to or greater than 7.5%.

*Pay for Performance.* The objective of our executive compensation program is to deliver compensation above industry median for exceptional performance and deliver compensation below the median in performance periods where the company does not perform well. In December 2014, a study performed by our independent compensation consultant showed that the value of total direct target compensation for our NEOs, including our CEO, was below the median for similarly situated executives of our peer group. This study was updated in November 2015 and showed that our CEO's total compensation was below the peer group median while the other NEOs were at or marginally above the median. As we use the term, total direct compensation includes base salary, annual bonus and the grant date fair value of equity awards. In addition, to the extent that a peer company's market capitalization is higher or lower than that of the Company, this difference was taken into account as one factor in evaluating the size of equity awards. Since 2012 we have tied 50% of each NEOs' annual equity award to the achievement of what we believe to be rigorous and objective performance milestone in addition to time-based vesting requirements.

*Total Rewards Program.* The total compensation program must balance pay for performance elements with selected static non-performance based elements in order to create a total rewards program that is competitive and will help us attract and retain highly qualified and motivated executives.

*Flexible Approach.* The level of compensation provided to executives must take into account each executive's role, experience, tenure, performance and expected contributions to our future success.

*Focus on Achievement of Fundamental Business Goals.* The compensation program should be structured so that executives are appropriately incentivized to achieve our short- and long-term goals that are viewed as fundamental to driving value in our business.

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We believe that each element of our executive compensation program helps us to achieve one or more of these compensation objectives. For example, we believe that performance-based short-term cash incentive opportunities in combination with performance-based equity incentive awards that are earned over time is the best way to align our executives' interests with those of our stockholders and pay for performance with our objective to measure performance based upon achieving business milestones that we believe will create long-term value. We also believe that the long-term vesting schedules applicable to equity awards also serve as a significant retention incentive as well as a focus on building long-term stockholder value. Providing base salaries and certain severance protections helps us ensure that we are providing a competitive compensation package that attracts and retains qualified, experienced and highly skilled executives. We designed our total compensation program to combine short- and long-term components, cash and equity, and fixed and contingent payments, in proportions that we believe are appropriate to achieve each of our fundamental compensation philosophies as described above. It was our intent to design the structure of our compensation program to provide appropriate incentives to reward our executives for achieving our long-term goals and objectives, some of the most important of which are building and advancing a robust drug candidate pipeline, entering into new collaboration partnerships and executing on our current collaborations, increasing the skill level and efficiency of our organization and improving our financial performance. We believe that our compensation program has helped us both recruit and retain superior executive talent to continue to build an organization capable of executing on our mission to become a leading drug development company.

### ***Timing of Annual Equity Incentive Grants.***

In 2014, the Company moved the timing of its annual equity grant from February to December. The effect of the one-time change in equity grant award timing is that two annual grants were awarded in calendar 2014. The purpose of the change was to align the year in which the equity compensation is attributed for SEC reporting purposes with the annual performance period that we used as a basis for our equity compensation decisions. The Company views the two annual grants in 2014 as discrete annual grants relating to two separate annual performance periods in 2013 and 2014, rather than as a combined basket of equity compensation for 2014. The 2014 transition year is expected to be a one-time event and 2015 annual equity awards were made in December 2015.

The table below graphically illustrates the timing impact for the 2014 transition year with respect to our CEO. The SEC disclosure rules require both equity grants occurring in 2014 to be disclosed as 2014 compensation, so there were two awards in 2014. However, the 2014 equity grants were made just over 10 months apart to transition to an annual December grant schedule, and this schedule was maintained in December 2015, consistent with the original intent of the transition.



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***Relationship between Company Performance and Executive Pay***

The biotechnology industry is generally thought to be characterized by a higher risk profile and by more potentially binary business outcomes than other more traditional industries which historically has led to high stock volatility for biotechnology companies. The Company ended 2015 with a closing stock price of \$16.85 which represented a five-year compound annual stockholder return of 5.6%, a two year compound annual stockholder return of 21.8%, and a one year annual stockholder return of 8.7%. Mr. Robin's total compensation, as reported below in the Summary Compensation Table, decreased by 45% in 2015 as compared with 2014. This is due, in part, to his 2014 total compensation including two annual equity grants as a result of the change in our compensation review cycle, as discussed above.

If only the December 2014 stock option grants are included, which is the Company's view of the proper way to compare annual compensation following the transition in 2014 from a February grant schedule to a December grant schedule, then the decrease in Mr. Robin's 2015 compensation would have been 17%. The graph below demonstrates that even with high levels of volatility in stock price, the total compensation for Mr. Robin is generally aligned with our stock price performance over the past five years. We believe this alignment is due in large part to our commitment to performance-based compensation and our consideration of capitalization adjusted peer company data rather than relying simply on grant date fair value to determine the size of annual equity grants.

Mr. Robin's total compensation for 2014 includes two annual stock option grants, one made in February 2014 for the 2013 performance period and one made in December 2014 for the 2014 performance period as a result of our on-time transition in 2014 to a calendar year compensation cycle.

In 2013, 2014 and 2015, equity awards made to Mr. Robin accounted for 58%, 75% and 65%, respectively, of his total direct compensation (for 2014, stock option awards would have accounted for 57% of his total direct compensation if we include only his February 2014 grant and 62% of his total direct compensation if we included only his December 2014 award). Our objective in providing a substantial portion of Mr. Robin's compensation in the form of equity awards is to ensure that substantial compensation value is made available to him that fluctuates based on the stock price performance.

In addition, one-half of Mr. Robin's equity compensation awarded in 2013, 2014, and 2015 included performance-based vesting conditions, and as a result these awards only have value if an NDA or MAA approval

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filing is made for a significant drug development program. This performance hurdle is in addition to a time-based vesting requirement that also applies to his equity awards. We believe these performance-based equity grants serve to further align Mr. Robin's interests with those of our stockholders and create appropriate additional incentives to achieve performance objectives that we consider critical to the long-term growth and value of the Company. For example, the two times the performance hurdle has been achieved were based on regulatory filings for MOVANTIK in September 2014 and ADYNOVATE in November 2015, both of which are important collaboration programs to support the long-term growth of our business.

### ***Executive Compensation Practices***

Below we provide a summary of our executive compensation practices, including both the practices that we follow and those that we do not follow, in each case based on whether we believe they serve the long-term interests of our stockholders.

#### **Core Compensation Principles and Practices**

- ⌋ *Pay for Performance.* A substantial majority of the compensation awarded to our NEOs is either tied to specific company-wide and individual performance objectives or has been made either in the form of stock option awards that will only have value if our stock price increases after the grant date or restricted stock units the value of which fluctuates with our stock price.
- ⌋ *Performance-Based Equity Grants.* In 2013, 2014 and 2015, we awarded 50% of each executive officer's equity compensation in the form of performance-based equity awards that only vest and become exercisable upon the achievement of the submission of NDAs in the U.S. or MAAs in Europe for significant programs in our pipeline in addition to satisfying time-based vesting requirements. We believe this program is important in that it even more tightly aligns the economic interests of our senior leadership team with those of our stockholders.
- ⌋ *Regular Peer Group Review.* The organization and compensation committee regularly reviews the Company's compensation peer group. This review occurred most recently in June 2015.
- ⌋ *Double Trigger.* Our change of control severance benefit plan (CIC Plan) provides our executive officers with acceleration of unvested equity awards held by them if they are terminated (without cause or constructively) in connection with a change of control transaction or within 12 months following a change of control transaction. Our award agreements and CIC Plan do not mandate accelerated vesting of equity awards based on a change of control alone.
- ⌋ *Modest Perquisites.* We provide only modest perquisites and nearly all of those perquisites are in the form of insurance benefits that we believe are in line with industry practice for executive compensation. We do not provide perquisites such as personal travel reimbursement, tax services or financial planning.
- ⌋ *Reasonable Post-Employment and Change of Control Severance Arrangements.* We believe that our severance arrangements with our executive officers are reasonable and in line with industry practice.
- ⌋ *Review Tally Sheets.* We review tally sheets for our NEOs prior to making annual executive compensation decisions.
- ⌋ *Compensation Claw-Back Policy.* We have implemented a claw-back policy which permits us to require reimbursement or cancellation of all or a portion of any performance-based cash awards or equity incentive payments to the extent based on financial results that are subsequently revised.

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- Ⓟ *Regular Review of Share Utilization for Equity Compensation.* We regularly evaluate and manage equity incentive plan share reserve pool utilization by reviewing overhang levels (the dilutive impact of equity compensation on stockholders) and annual run rates (the aggregate shares awarded as a percentage of total outstanding shares).

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- p
*Mitigate Undue Risk.* We have designed our executive compensation program to mitigate undue risk associated with compensation by implementing the following: multiple performance targets and caps on potential payments of short-term incentive compensation (i.e., annual bonuses), awarding a substantial portion of executive compensation in the form of long-term compensation (i.e., stock options and restricted stock units, with multi-year vesting requirements), and compensation claw-back provisions.
  
- p
*Utilize Independent Compensation Consulting Firm.* The organization and compensation committee regularly consults with an independent compensation consulting firm which provides no other services to the Company. For more information on our independent compensation consultant, please see [Organization and Compensation Committee](#) under [Information About Our Board of Directors](#) above.
  
- p
*Shareholder Outreach.* We regularly meet with our shareholders to obtain feedback and discuss items of concern to them, including executive compensation. We describe shareholder outreach efforts on executive compensation in more detail below in the section titled [Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Votes](#).
  
- x
*No Stock Option Repricing.* Our equity incentive plans prohibit us from repricing, exchanging or otherwise providing value for underwater stock options.
  
- x
*Elimination of Excise Tax Gross-Ups on Change of Control Payments.* On April 5, 2011, we amended our CIC Plan to eliminate any gross up payments for any excise taxes imposed on participants who became eligible to participate in the plan after January 1, 2010.
  
- x
*No Accelerated Vesting of Equity Awards on Termination.* Whether one of our NEOs is terminated by the Company without cause or resigns for a good reason, our severance arrangements do not provide for accelerated vesting of outstanding equity awards (other than a qualifying termination after a change of control as provided in the CIC Plan).
  
- x
*No Inclusion of the Value of Equity Awards in Severance Calculations.* Our post-termination and change of control severance arrangements do not include the value of equity awards in annual compensation for purposes of determining cash severance amounts.
  
- x
*No Fixed Employment Terms.* We do not have employment contracts with our executive officers that provide for a guaranteed term of employment.
  
- x
*No Funded Pension or Retirement Plans.* We do not provide any guaranteed or funded retirement plan benefits other than a matching contribution of up to \$3,000 for 401(k) plan participation that we make available to all employees.
  
- x
*No Hedging Transactions, Share Pledging, or Short Sales by Employees or Directors.* Our security trading policy prohibits any employee or director from engaging in hedging transactions, short sales or trading in any derivative security of the Company. This policy also prohibits pledging our shares on margin.

***Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Votes***

We provide our stockholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote on our executive compensation program (referred to as a say-on-pay vote ). At our annual meeting of stockholders held in June 2015, approximately 97% of the votes cast on the say-on-pay proposal were voted in favor of the proposal. In the past, we have solicited feedback on our executive compensation program from a substantial majority of our major stockholders. In these past discussions, management has reviewed peer group design, the performance-based equity standards, and our practice of taking into account capitalization adjusted peer company data.



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The stockholders have provided consistent feedback supporting our executive pay program and this support was affirmed in 2015 with 97% approval of the management say-on-pay proposal. After considering the 2015 say-on-pay vote, the organization and compensation committee reaffirmed the design and elements of our executive compensation program and did not make any significant changes to our executive compensation program in response to the 2015 say-on-pay vote. The board of directors and organization and compensation committee will continue to consider the outcome of our say-on-pay proposals and direct stockholder feedback when making future compensation decisions for the NEOs.

### ***Design and Elements of Our Compensation Program***

The material elements of our current executive compensation programs for NEOs consist primarily of the following:

1. *Base Salary.* Each NEO earned an annual base salary during 2015.
2. *Short-Term Incentive Compensation.* Each NEO was eligible to earn an incentive cash compensation payment for the 2015 performance period based on a combination of the Company's achievement of corporate performance objectives and individual performance.
3. *Long-Term Incentive Compensation.* Each NEO was awarded a mix of approximately 75% of equity award value in the form of restricted stock units (RSUs) and 25% of equity award value in the form of stock options, in each case with 50% of each equity award being subject to a rigorous and objective performance-based vesting condition as well as a time-based vesting requirement.

While we review peer group company data regarding the mix of current and long-term incentive compensation and between cash and non-cash compensation, we have not adopted any formal policies or guidelines for allocations among these various compensation elements. However, consistent with our pay for performance philosophy, we believe that a greater component of overall direct compensation for the NEOs relative to other employees should be performance-based; therefore, in 2015 approximately 60% to 80% of total direct compensation of the NEOs was tied to Company and individual performance objectives or linked to the value of our stock price.

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As illustrated in the accompanying charts, in 2015, approximately 56% of total direct compensation to Mr. Robin was performance-based and not guaranteed.

50% of the equity awards granted to Mr. Robin in 2015 were contingent upon achievement of a performance-based milestone.

### ***Use of Peer Company Data***

We regularly review the compensation practices of our peer group companies identified below in response to the fast moving nature of the biotechnology industry, including merger and acquisition activity, and changes in product pipeline and business stage. In determining the appropriate peer companies, we consider the following factors: business model; business stage and complexity; therapeutic area similarity; status of the drug candidate pipeline; manufacturing activity (if any); technology platform; product focus and company size based on the number of employees, revenue and market capitalization. As a result of the Company having a combination of multiple drug candidates in diverse therapeutic areas (and, in the case of Amikacin Inhale and Cipro DPI, drug candidates based on different technologies), a mix of wholly-owned and partnered drug candidates, a technology platform with the potential to enable multiple drug candidates in future years, and a significant legacy proprietary manufacturing operations, it is very challenging to identify truly comparable companies.

In September 2014, the organization and compensation committee reviewed our compensation peer group with the objective of further aligning the Company's market capitalization and business model with that of the

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peer group to be used for the 2015 annual compensation decisions. As a result of this review, the organization and compensation committee (i) removed Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., United Therapeutics Corp., Exelexis Inc., and Theravance and (ii) added Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Clovis Oncology, Inc., Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc., Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Medivation, Inc., Puma Biotechnology, Inc., Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Thereavance Biopharma, Inc. to the peer group. Viropharma and Auxilium Pharmaceuticals were also removed because they were acquired in 2014. In June 2015, the organization and compensation committee confirmed the peer companies to be used in December 2015, and removed Cubist Pharmaceuticals, NPS Pharmaceuticals and Questcor Pharmaceuticals because those companies were acquired. The peer group of companies considered when determining 2015 cash compensation decisions consisted of the following companies:

Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.	Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Alkermes, Inc.	Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Medivation, Inc.
Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Puma Biotechnology, Inc.
Clovis Oncology, Inc.	Seattle Genetics
Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.	Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
ImmunoGen, Inc.	Theravance Biopharma, Inc.
Incyte Corporation	

Given that certain of our peer group companies have larger market capitalizations than the Company, we also review equity and total direct compensation data for our executives against the compensation for similarly situated executives at peer companies with the comparative equity compensation data adjusted for differences in capitalization to help further inform our decision-making process. Although we reviewed and discussed the compensation data for the peer group companies to help inform executive compensation decisions, we do not set compensation at any specific level or percentile based solely on the peer group data. The peer group data and general industry compensation survey data is used only as one reference point taken into account in making compensation decisions. We do not use peer group or industry survey data as a standalone tool for setting compensation due to the unique aspects of our business and the need to attract and retain particular expert managers with unique experience, skills and other individual facts and circumstances. However, we generally believe that reviewing and analyzing this information is an important component of our executive compensation decision-making process. Nevertheless, the total 2015 compensation provided to our CEO was below the median of the peer group CEO data that we reviewed prior to granting his December 2015 equity award.

***Base Salary***

Base salary is the initial building block of compensation for the NEOs because it provides the executives with a specified minimum level of cash compensation, which we believe is important to attract and retain executives. We determine base salary by considering competitive pay practices, cost of labor and compensation trends, individual performance and promotions, level and scope of responsibility, experience and internal pay equity. However, we do not use a formula or assign a particular weight to any one factor. Rather, the determination of base salary levels is subjective, and we set base salaries that we believe are reasonably competitive. In December 2014, we reviewed the base salaries of the NEOs and increased them by 3.5% to 4.5% for 2015 and then we reviewed salaries again in December 2015 and increased them by 3% to 4% for 2016. The base salary earned by each NEO during 2015 is reported below in the Summary Compensation Table.

***Short-Term Incentive Compensation***

*Incentive Compensation Plan.* We believe that our short-term incentive compensation program ( Incentive Compensation Plan ) for the NEOs rewards the achievement of important short-term objectives that advance us





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toward our long-term strategic objectives. Our Incentive Compensation Plan applies to all employees and all executive officers other than Mr. Robin, who is subject to his own separate annual performance-based bonus compensation arrangement with a combination of corporate and personal objectives established and evaluated by the organization and compensation committee. However, Mr. Robin's bonus arrangement for 2015 was based on substantially the same corporate objectives that we established under the Incentive Compensation Plan. Consistent with our compensation philosophy of paying for performance and maintaining a flexible approach, we use the Incentive Compensation Plan to incent the NEOs to achieve important corporate goals while at the same time encouraging and rewarding excellent individual performance by recognizing and rewarding differences in performance between individual executives.

*Plan Design.* The board of directors establishes a small number of important annual corporate goals each year that include clinical development, research, manufacturing, organizational and financial goals which we believe are essential to building long-term stockholder value and are used to assess annual corporate performance. The relative weightings of these corporate goals are based upon our assessment of the importance of each goal in creating long-term value for the Company and our stockholders. If we achieve the target level of performance for all of the stated goals, the overall corporate performance rating should be approximately 100%. We endeavor to select corporate goals that, if met by management, represent significant levels of annual achievement, although we believe the long-term nature of our drug development business does not lend itself to over-weighting the importance of annual goals. Following the conclusion of the annual performance period, the level of achievement for each corporate goal is assessed by the board of directors. The board determines whether each corporate goal has been met, exceeded, or not satisfied. In addition, in assessing corporate performance, the determination of corporate performance may be adjusted upward or downward as deemed appropriate to factor in other significant corporate events, either negative or positive, that occurred during the performance period. After taking into account the level of attainment of each corporate goal and such other corporate performance factors as the board may determine appropriate in reviewing performance for a particular year, the board of directors assigns an overall corporate performance rating for the year, which may range from 0% to 200%. The organization and compensation committee then confirms the corporate performance rating for purposes of the Incentive Compensation Plan. The total available bonus pool under the Incentive Compensation Plan is determined by multiplying the corporate performance rating by the aggregate target bonus of all eligible participants which includes nearly all of the Company's full-time employees. The aggregate of all individual bonuses awarded under the plan cannot exceed the total available bonus pool so that the total cost of bonuses ultimately reflects our assessment of overall performance and is not inflated by the sum of individual performance ratings. Mr. Robin does not participate in the final selection of the corporate goals or determining the corporate performance rating.

After the corporate performance rating is determined, the individual performance of each NEO is reviewed by the organization and compensation committee in consultation with Mr. Robin (other than with respect to his own performance) in order to determine the appropriate individual performance percentage rating to be assigned to the executive for the performance period. Mr. Robin's individual performance is separately reviewed by the organization and compensation committee. Each NEO's actual annual bonus is based on a combination of the corporate performance rating and his or her individual performance. The Incentive Compensation Plan does not provide for a specific allocation or weighting of between corporate and individual performance. The actual annual bonus awarded for each NEO is determined by us in our sole discretion, and the maximum payout for each NEO, including Mr. Robin, could be up to 200% of his or her annual performance-based compensation target (or, by the same token, an individual executive's award could be reduced to 0% based on individual performance regardless of the corporate performance rating).

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*Target Annual Short-Term Incentive Compensation for 2015.* The NEOs were each assigned a target annual incentive for 2015 ranging from 50% to 75% of base salary, which remained unchanged from the levels (expressed as a percentage of base salary) established in 2014. The table below shows the target annual incentive assigned by us to each NEO for 2015 both as a dollar amount and as a percentage of base salary.

Name	Target	Target
	Annual	Incentive for
	Annual	2015
	Incentive for	(% of Base
	2015	Salary)
	(\$)	
Howard W. Robin	669,465	75%
John Nicholson	281,550	50%
Ivan Gergel, M.D.	310,500	50%
Maninder Hora, Ph.D.	215,300	50%
Gil M. Labrucherie	273,250	50%

*Company Performance Objectives.* The 2015 corporate objectives and relative weightings assigned to each objective were as follows:

1. A clinical development objective related to the Phase 3 BEACON (NKTR-102) etirinotecan pegol study and regulatory approvals (10%).
2. A clinical development objective related to the NKTR-181 Phase 3 clinical study (10%).
3. A clinical development objective related to NKTR-181 long-term safety study (5%).
4. A clinical development objective related to NKTR-171 (10%).
5. A clinical development objective related to NKTR-214 (15%).
6. A research objective related to advancing investigational new drug ( IND ) enabling work for certain pre-specified pain drug candidates (5%).
7. A research objective to advance multiple molecules into development candidate status (10%).
8. A manufacturing and supply objective related to BAY41-6551 (Amikacin Inhale formally known as NKTR-061) (5%).
9. A manufacturing objective related to CMC regulatory goals for NKTR-181 (5%).

10. A collaboration management and execution goal (5%).

11. A business development objective related to a proprietary drug development program (10%).

12. A financial objective for year-end cash position of \$219 million (not including financing proceeds) (10%).

These performance objectives served as the corporate performance objectives under the Company's Incentive Compensation Plan and were also used as one important data point for purposes of the organization and compensation committee determining Mr. Robin's 2015 cash bonus. The 2015 corporate objectives were weighted at 100% allocated as follows: 65% to research and development, 10% to manufacturing, 15% to corporate objectives and 10% to a financial objective. This weighting of objectives is a reflection of our long-term focus as a drug development company with the goal of building a broad, robust and diverse pipeline of proprietary drug candidates. We believe this mix of corporate goals was not only an appropriate measure of achievement in 2015, but also represents objectives important to building the long-term foundation of our business. A corporate performance rating in excess of 100% can only be achieved if the board of directors determines that the goal achievement for one or many of the goals substantially and qualitatively exceeded the target metrics, or the board uses its discretion to factor in other significantly positive corporate events that occurred during the performance period. The maximum potential corporate performance rating is 200%.

**Table of Contents***Actual Annual Incentives Earned for 2015.*

Management prepared a report on the status of achievement of the 2015 corporate objectives that was reviewed by the board of directors. The board of directors determined that six of the corporate goals identified above were met, two goals were partially met, one was exceeded, and three were not met resulting in a 72% aggregate quantitative achievement. The board of directors also recognized certain accomplishments directly related to the approval of ADYNOVATE, the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center collaboration for clinical development of NKTR-214, and the completed \$250 million principal debt financing at a favorable fixed rate. In recognition of these accomplishments, the board concluded a discretionary upward adjustment of 8% was warranted resulting in a corporate performance rating of 80% for 2015. The cost of the overall bonus pool was set so that it did not exceed 80% of the target bonus pool based on the employee population at the end of the third quarter.

The organization and compensation committee, in consultation with Mr. Robin, determined an individual performance rating for each of the NEOs excluding Mr. Robin, whose performance is determined independently by the organization and compensation committee without his participation. Consistent with standards used to determine annual incentive awards for all employees and our objective to tie pay to performance, the NEOs are eligible to earn annual bonus awards that exceed the corporate performance rating if their rating is exceptional and exceeds expectations. Employees with ratings of solid performer, needs improvement and does not meet expectations received awards below the corporate performance rating level, and in some cases they received bonuses significantly below that level or no bonus award at all.

We considered a number of performance factors in determining each executive's performance rating and associated annual incentive awards, including specific accomplishments of each NEO, the effectiveness of leadership within the NEO's functional area, the level of his contributions to the achievement of the corporate objectives, the achievement of certain outcomes that were not corporate objectives but nonetheless important projects at the Company, and the ability to effectively work with other members of the management team. Although the NEO bonus awards were higher than the 80% corporate performance rating, these bonus awards were substantially consistent with the bonus awards made to participants in the Incentive Compensation Plan who achieved a similar individual performance rating, and the aggregate cost of the Company's pool was limited to the 80% achievement level. The table below includes the actual 2015 bonuses, as a percentage of the target bonus, that we awarded the NEOs for 2015.

	Actual Bonus
	as a
	Percentage of
	Target Bonus for Entire 2015 Year
Name	(%)
Howard W. Robin	93.4%
John Nicholson	95.0%
Ivan P. Gergel, M.D.	90.0%
Maninder Hora, Ph.D.	95.0%
Gil M. Labrucherie	95.0%

The amounts of each NEO's bonuses for the 2015 fiscal year are reported in the Summary Compensation Table. The 2015 NEO bonuses were between 34% and 45% lower in 2015 as compared to 2014 (excluding Mr. Gergel who started in May 2014 where his 2014 bonus does not reflect a full year of employment and Mr. Hora who was not an NEO in 2014). The 2015 cash bonus paid to our CEO was 45% lower than in 2014.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation: Equity Awards**

*Overview.* In accordance with our objective of aligning executive compensation with our stockholders' interests, our current long-term incentive program for the NEOs generally consists of annual awards of equity



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compensation that are typically subject to a multi-year vesting schedule. We believe that equity compensation is a very effective tool to align the interests of our NEOs, who have significant responsibility for driving our success, with the interests of our stockholders. In 2015, we expanded our equity program to include restricted stock units in addition to stock options as a way to expand the life of our reserve share pool and reduce the incremental rate of shareholder dilution. The 2015 equity awards included a mix of approximately 75% of equity award value in the form of restricted stock units (RSUs) and 25% of equity award value in the form of stock options, in each case with 50% of each equity award being subject to a rigorous and objective performance-based vesting condition as well as a time-based vesting requirement.

*Performance-Based Equity Compensation Program.* In 2012, we established a performance-based equity program for our executive officers. Under this program, 50% of the annual merit equity awards granted to our executive officers each year have been made in the form of performance-based equity awards that vest based on time-based vesting schedules plus a separate independent performance condition that must also be achieved. The performance condition will be met only if, within five years from the grant date, the Company or one of its collaboration partners files an NDA or biologics license application with the FDA (or the equivalent new drug registration with the EMA) for any Proprietary Company Program which includes any drug candidate that is wholly-owned by the Company (e.g., NKTR-102, NKTR-181, or NKTR-214) or where the Company is entitled to an average royalty interest equal to or greater than 7.5% of net sales. In setting this performance hurdle, the organization and compensation committee believed it would be challenging to achieve and, if achieved, would help create long-term stockholder value. We believe that the advancement of the late stage drug candidate pipeline is a critical catalyst to stockholder value creation. As such, the performance condition for our 2015 performance-based stock option and restricted stock unit awards is also based on a future regulatory approval filing with the FDA or EMA for a Proprietary Company Program.

*Actual Long-Term Incentives Awarded.* The NEOs received an annual equity award in December 2015 in connection with our evaluation of the 2015 annual performance period. Our independent compensation consultant provided data that indicated that the grant date value of the equity awards granted to Mr. Robin in December 2015 were approximately 33% below the median for chief executive officers of our peer group. Further, when the value of the CEO's equity award was added to base salary and actual bonus, his total direct compensation was approximately 20% below the median of the peer group data we referenced in December 2015.

In determining the grant levels for these awards, we consider a number of factors including an assessment of individual performance, competitive market practices, the number of unvested stock options held by the executive and average exercise price (i.e. the retention value) of these options, the individual's overall contributions, and stockholder dilution. However, we do not use a formula or assign a particular weight to any one factor in determining equity award levels. Rather, the determination of equity grant levels is subjective, and the organization and compensation committee awards equity grants at levels it believes in its judgment are reasonably competitive and consistent with our philosophy that a substantial portion of our executives' compensation should be performance-based and help to further link the interests of our executives with those of our stockholders. These annual stock option awards vest monthly over a period of four years; and annual restricted stock unit awards vest quarterly over a period of three years and thus provide a retention incentive for the executive as well as an additional incentive to help create value for our stockholders.

The number of shares of common stock subject to stock option and restricted stock unit awards granted to each NEO during 2015 and the grant-date fair value of these equity awards is presented in the Grants of Plan Based Awards in 2015 table below. A description of the material terms of the 2015 equity awards is presented in the narrative section following that table.

***Severance and Change of Control Benefits***

If the employment of an NEO is terminated by us without cause or by the executive for a designated good reason outside of the context of a change of control transaction, the executive would be entitled to severance

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benefits under the executive's agreements with the Company. These severance benefits include a cash severance payment based on the executive's then current base salary and the amount of his or her target annual incentive bonus, payment of COBRA premiums for one year, and an additional 12 month period to exercise vested options (an 18 month period for Mr. Robin, and a 3 month period for Dr. Hora). In order to attract and retain these NEOs in a competitive environment for highly skilled senior executive talent in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry and to provide an incentive to obtain a broad release of claims in favor of the Company, we determined it was necessary to offer each of them severance benefits in the case of a termination without cause or constructive termination outside the context of a change of control transaction. Many of our peer companies provide severance benefits for similar types of terminations of employment, and we believe that it is important for us to offer these severance benefits in order to continue to provide a competitive total compensation program. These NEOs would also be entitled to certain termination benefits upon a termination of employment because of death or disability.

We also maintain a Change of Control Severance Benefit Plan (the "CIC Plan") that provides the NEOs with certain severance benefits if their employment is terminated in connection with a change of control. The CIC Plan was originally established in 2006, and no amendments have been made to the plan since that time that would increase the severance benefits available under the CIC Plan. Severance benefits under the CIC Plan are structured on a "double-trigger" basis, meaning that the executive must experience a termination without cause or resign for a specifically defined good reason in connection with the change of control in order for severance benefits to become payable under the CIC Plan. Like the severance benefits under the letter agreements, we believe that these change of control severance benefits are an important element of a competitive total compensation program. Additionally, we believe that providing change of control benefits should eliminate, or at least reduce, any reluctance of our NEOs and other key employees covered by the CIC Plan to diligently consider and pursue potential change of control opportunities that may be in the best interests of our stockholders. At the same time, by providing change of control benefits only upon the occurrence of an additional triggering event occurring in connection with the change of control transaction resulting in a job loss, we believe that this CIC Plan helps preserve the value of our key personnel for any potential acquiring company.

Under the CIC Plan, the executive would be entitled to accelerated equity award vesting upon a termination described above. The other severance benefits under the CIC Plan are generally similar to the severance benefits described above; however Mr. Robin's cash severance would cover the two-year period following termination and Company-paid COBRA coverage would be eighteen months. Outplacement services received within twelve months following separation, up to a maximum of \$5,000, are provided to all participants. In addition, each of the NEOs would be entitled to full equity vesting and, except for Drs. Gergel and Hora, a "gross up" payment for any excise taxes imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code once a 10% cutback threshold is exceeded. The excise tax gross-up was included in the CIC Plan as originally adopted in 2006 to make the participants whole for any adverse tax consequences to which they may become subject under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code and to avoid unintended differences in net severance based on individual factors like the date of hire and past option exercise decisions, which preserves the level of change of control severance protections that we have determined to be appropriate. At the time the CIC Plan was established, we believed this excise tax gross-up protection was a reasonable part of a competitive total compensation package and generally consistent with industry practice at the time. On April 5, 2011, the board of directors amended the CIC Plan to eliminate any "gross up" payments for any excise taxes imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code for participants who became eligible to participate in the CIC Plan on or after January 1, 2010. The board of directors decided to eliminate this tax gross-up provision under the plan for new participants based on its review of current industry practices.

The "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control" section below describes and quantifies the severance and other benefits potentially payable to the NEOs.



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***Other Benefits***

We believe that establishing competitive benefit packages for employees is an important factor in attracting and retaining highly-qualified personnel, including the NEOs. The NEOs are eligible to participate in all of our employee benefit plans, such as medical, dental, vision, group life, disability insurance, commuting benefits, employee stock purchase plan and the 401(k) plan, in each case generally on the same basis as other employees. We do not offer a tax-qualified defined-benefit pension plan or any non-qualified defined benefit retirement plans, nor do we provide material perquisites to our executives.

***Section 162(m) Policy***

Section 162(m) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code limits our deduction for federal income tax purposes to \$1 million of compensation paid to certain NEOs in a taxable year. Compensation above \$1 million may be deducted if it is performance-based compensation within the meaning of Section 162(m). While we consider the compensation limits of Section 162(m) when designing our executive compensation programs, we reserve discretion to grant compensation that may not be deductible under the Section 162(m) limits in situations where we have determined the compensation to be appropriate to satisfy our compensation and other objectives. We intend to continue to evaluate the effects of the compensation limits of Section 162(m) and to grant compensation awards in the future in a manner we believe is consistent with the interests of our Company and stockholders.

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**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The material in this report is being furnished and shall not be deemed filed with the SEC for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall the material in this section be deemed to be soliciting material or incorporated by reference in any registration statement or other document filed with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or the Exchange Act, except as otherwise expressly stated in such filing.*

The organization and compensation committee has reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and discussed it with management. Based on its review and discussions with management, the committee recommended to our board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 and in our 2015 proxy statement. This report is provided by the following independent directors, who currently comprise the committee:

Lutz Lingnau Chairman

R. Scott Greer

Joseph J. Krivulka

Christopher A. Kuebler

**Table of Contents****SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FISCAL 2013-2015**

The following table shows, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, compensation awarded to or earned by our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer and our other three most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers on December 31, 2015 (the "NEOs"). To the extent any NEOs were also named executive officers for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 or December 31, 2013, compensation information for our 2014 and 2013 fiscal years is also presented for such executives. As discussed above, in 2014 the Company moved the timing of its annual equity grant from February to December. The effect of this one-time change in grant timing is that two annual grants were awarded in fiscal 2014. The Company views the two annual grants in 2014 as discrete annual grants relating to two separate annual performance periods in 2013 and 2014, rather than as a combined basket of equity compensation for 2014.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards \$(1)(3) (e)	Option Awards \$(2)(3)(4) (f)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan	All Other Compensation	Total (\$) (j)
					Compensation (\$)(5) (g)	Compensation (\$) (i)	
<b>Howard W. Robin</b> President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	892,620	2,099,236	816,976	625,000	12,156(7)	4,445,988
	2014	860,004		6,022,755(6)	1,131,945	18,278	8,032,982(6)
	2013	831,247		2,067,165	656,200	15,040	3,569,652
<b>John Nicholson</b> Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2015	563,100	808,594	319,528	267,500	12,661(8)	1,971,383
	2014	542,458		2,342,183	408,000	12,854	3,305,495
	2013	524,264		849,834	276,000	12,112	1,662,210
<b>Ivan P. Gergel</b> Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer	2015	621,000	466,498	181,550	279,500	6,657(9)	1,555,205
	2014	372,728		3,610,890	227,500	2,133	4,213,251
<b>Maninder Hora</b> Senior Vice President Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Operations	2015	430,600	808,594	319,528	204,500	14,815(10)	1,778,037
<b>Gil M. Labrucherie</b> Senior Vice President and General Counsel	2015	546,500	808,594	319,528	259,600	9,562(11)	1,943,784
	2014	526,125		2,312,379	396,000	8,354	3,242,858
	2013	504,195		689,055	278,000	7,238	1,478,488

- (1) The grant date fair value of the restricted stock unit awards was based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 and excluding the effects of estimated forfeitures.
- (2) Amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock options granted in the applicable year computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, which excludes the effects of estimated forfeitures. For a complete description of the assumptions made in determining the valuation, please refer to (i) Note 11 (Stock-Based Compensation) to our audited financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 and (ii) similar footnotes to our audited financial statements in our annual reports on Form 10-K for prior years when the awards were granted.
- (3) As noted in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis above, 50% of the equity awards granted to the NEOs in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were performance-based and vest only to the extent a specified performance-based vesting condition is satisfied. If the performance-based vesting condition is satisfied, then the performance-based equity awards also remain subject to a time-based vesting requirement. The amounts reported in the Stock Awards and Option Awards column of the table for 2013, 2014 and 2015 above include the grant date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units and stock options, as applicable for the year, based on the probable outcome (determined as of the grant date in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles) of the performance-based conditions applicable to the awards. The probable grant date fair value for these awards was determined assuming that the underlying performance-based vesting condition would be achieved.

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- (4) Amounts reported for 2014 include stock option grants related to the 2013 performance year awarded in February 2014 for Messrs. Robin, Nicholson, Doberstein and Labrucherie; stock option grants related to the 2014 performance year were awarded in December 2014 for all NEOs; and a new-hire stock option grant was made in May 2014 to Dr. Gergel.
- (5) Amounts reported for 2013, 2014 and 2015 represent amounts earned under the Incentive Compensation Plan for that year or, for Mr. Robin, under his amended and restated offer letter effective as of December 1, 2008.
- (6) If only the value of the February 2014 stock option grant were included, Mr. Robin's total compensation would have been \$4,692,587, and if only the value of his December 2014 stock option grant were included, Mr. Robin's total compensation would have been \$5,350,622.
- (7) Includes (i) life insurance premiums of \$7,524 (ii) a \$3,000 contribution to the Company's 401(k) plan, and (iii) \$1,632 for parking.
- (8) Includes (i) life insurance premiums of \$6,336, (ii) a \$3,000 contribution to the Company's 401(k) plan, and (iii) a \$3,325 contribution to a Health Savings Account.
- (9) Includes (i) life insurance premiums of \$3,657 and (ii) a \$3,000 contribution to the Company's 401(k) plan.
- (10) Includes (i) life insurance premiums of \$10,494, (ii) a \$3,000 contribution to the Company's 401(k), (iii) a \$520 public transit match, (iv) \$500 for a 5-year service award and (v) \$301 for tax gross-ups related to service award and parking.
- (11) Includes (i) life insurance premiums of \$1,590, (ii) a \$3,000 contribution to the Company's 401(k), (iii) \$2,870 for parking, (iv) a \$180 public transit pass, (v) a \$1,000 10-year service award, and (vi) \$921 for tax gross-ups related to service award and parking.

**Description of Employment Agreements**

Each of the NEOs has entered into our standard form of employment agreement and an offer letter or letter agreement. The form of employment agreement provides for protective covenants with respect to confidential information, intellectual property and assignment of inventions and also sets forth other standard terms and conditions of employment. The offer letter agreements do not provide for any minimum or guaranteed term of employment. The letter agreements entered into by each of the NEOs establish the compensation arrangements following separation from us under certain circumstances. Please see "Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control" below for more information on these separation arrangements.

**Table of Contents****GRANTS OF PLAN BASED AWARDS IN 2015**

The following table shows, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, certain information regarding grants of plan-based awards to the NEOs.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)		Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units	All Other Option Awards: Number of Underlying Securities Options	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards (\$)(5)	Date of Option Awards (l)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target					
(a)	(b)	(\$)(c)	(\$)(d)	(\$)(e)	(#)(f)	(#)(g)	(#)(h)	(#)(i)	(#)(j)	(\$/sh)(k)	(\$)(l)
<b>Howard W. Robin</b>											
Annual Incentive Award	N/A	669,465	1,338,930								
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015						67,500				1,049,618
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015					67,500					1,049,618
Stock Options	12/5/2015							56,250	15.55		408,488
Stock Options	12/5/2015					56,250			15.55		408,488
<b>John Nicholson</b>											
Annual Incentive Award	N/A	281,550	563,100								
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015						26,000				404,297
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015					26,000					404,297
Stock Options	12/5/2015							22,000	15.55		159,764
Stock Options	12/5/2015					22,000			15.55		159,764
<b>Maninder Hora, Ph.D.</b>											
Annual Incentive Award	N/A	215,300	430,600								
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015						26,000				404,297
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015					26,000					404,297
Stock Options	12/5/2015							22,000	15.55		159,764
Stock Options	12/5/2015					22,000			15.55		159,764
<b>Ivan P. Gergel, M.D.</b>											
Annual Incentive Award	N/A	310,500	621,000								
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015						15,000				233,249
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015					15,000					233,249
Stock Options	12/5/2015							12,500	15.55		90,775
Stock Options	12/5/2015					12,500			15.55		90,775
<b>Gil M. Labrucherie</b>											
Annual Incentive Award	N/A	273,250	546,500								
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015						26,000				404,297
Restricted Stock Units	12/5/2015					26,000					404,297
Stock Options	12/5/2015							22,000	15.55		159,764
Stock Options	12/5/2015					22,000			15.55		159,764

- (1) Amounts reported represent the potential short-term incentive compensation amounts payable for our 2015 fiscal year under our Incentive Compensation Plan (or for Mr. Robin, the potential amounts payable under his offer letter). The amounts reported represent each NEO's target and maximum possible payments for 2015. Because actual payments to the NEOs could range from 0% to 200% of their target bonus, no threshold payment amount has been established for the NEOs. The actual short-term incentive bonus amount earned by each NEO for 2015 is reported in Column (g) (Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation) of the Summary Compensation Table above.
- (2) The restricted stock unit grants are subject to both a 3-year time-based vesting requirement (quarterly pro-rata vesting) and the achievement of specified performance criteria. The stock option grants are subject to both a 4-year time-based vesting requirement (monthly pro-rata vesting) and the achievement of specified performance criteria.
- (3) These grants are subject to a 3-year quarterly pro-rata vesting requirement.
- (4) These grants are subject to a 4-year monthly pro-rata vesting requirement.
- (5) Refer to Note 11 (Stock-Based Compensation) to our audited financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 for the relevant assumptions used to determine the grant date fair value of the stock options granted during 2015. The grant date fair value of the

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restricted stock units was based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. The amounts reflected in this column for restricted stock units and stock options granted during 2015 that are subject to performance-based vesting conditions represent the grant date fair value of these awards based on the probable outcome (determined as of the grant date in accordance with applicable accounting rules) of the performance-based conditions applicable to the awards.

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**Description of Plan-Based Awards**

*Stock Options.* Each stock option granted to the NEOs during 2015 may be exercised to purchase the designated number of shares of our common stock at an exercise price equal to the closing price of the underlying common stock on the grant date. Each NEO's stock option award granted in 2015 has a maximum term of eight years and is subject to a vesting schedule that requires the executive's continued service through the vesting date. For the stock option awards granted to NEOs in December 2015, 50% of the stock options granted will vest and become exercisable on a monthly pro-rata basis over a four-year period following the grant date, and 50% of the options granted will vest and become exercisable after achievement of specified performance criteria described further below as well as also being subject to vesting on a monthly pro-rata basis over a four-year period following the grant date.

*Restricted Stock Units.* Each NEO's restricted stock unit award granted in 2015 is subject to a vesting schedule that requires the executive's continued service through the vesting date. For the restricted stock unit awards granted to NEOs in December 2015, 50% of the restricted stock units granted will vest and become exercisable on a quarterly pro-rata basis over a three-year period following the grant date, and 50% of the restricted stock units granted will vest and become exercisable after achievement of specified performance criteria described further below as well as also being subject to vesting on a quarterly pro-rata basis over a three-year period following the grant date.

Under our performance-based equity award program for our executive officers, 50% of the equity granted to our executive officers in December 2015 were made in the form of performance-based awards that for stock options vest based on the standard four-year monthly time-based vesting plus a separate performance condition that must also be achieved before the executive officer is permitted to exercise the performance-based stock option; and restricted stock units vest based on a three-year quarterly time-based vesting plus a separate performance condition that must also be achieved before the restricted stock unit is released. The performance condition will be met only if within five years from the grant date, the Company or one of its collaboration partners files a new drug application or biologics license application with the FDA (or the equivalent new drug registration with the EMA) for any Proprietary Company Program which is defined to include any drug candidate that is wholly-owned by the Company (e.g. NKTR-102 or NKTR-181) or where the Company is entitled to an average royalty interest equal to or greater than 7.5% of net sales.

Any stock options or restricted stock units that are unvested upon an NEO's termination of continuous employment or services will be forfeited without any value, unless the termination of continuous service is a result of death, in which event, subject to any restrictions in the stock option or restricted stock unit agreement or equity incentive plan, the stock option would become fully vested and exercisable as of the date of death and the restricted stock unit would become fully vested and released as of the date of death. For Messrs. Robin, Nicholson and Drs. Gergel and Hora, in accordance with their letter agreements, if any stock options that are unvested upon a termination of continuous employment as a result of a disability, 50% of the unvested stock options would become fully vested and exercisable as of the date of termination. In accordance with the letter agreements for the NEOs described above, any stock options that are vested upon termination of continuous service by us without cause or by the executive for a good reason resignation (as defined in the CIC Plan) will generally remain outstanding and exercisable for 12 months following termination (18 months for Mr. Robin and three months for Dr. Hora). This exercise period is also 12 months if the termination of employment or continuous services is because of disability and is 18 months if the termination is a result of death. We also have the discretion to extend the applicable exercise period in connection with other terminations of employment. Any vested options that are not exercised within the applicable post-termination of employment exercise period will terminate.

Under the terms of the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, if there is a change of control of the Company, outstanding awards granted under the plan will generally become fully vested and, in the case of options, exercisable, unless the organization and compensation committee provides for the substitution, assumption,

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exchange or other continuation of the outstanding awards. Any options that become vested in connection with a change of control generally must be exercised prior to the change of control, or they will be cancelled in exchange for the right to receive a cash payment in connection with the change of control transaction. In addition, outstanding awards held by our NEOs may vest, upon certain terminations of the NEO's employment without cause or for a good reason resignation in connection with a change of control and in connection with terminations of employment resulting from disability or death. Please see the [Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control](#) section below for a description of the vesting that may occur in such circumstances.

Each NEO's stock option and restricted stock unit award was granted under, and is subject to the terms of, the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan. The plan is administered by the organization and compensation committee, and this committee has the ability to interpret and make all required determinations under the plan. This authority includes making required proportionate adjustments to outstanding equity awards to reflect certain corporate transactions and making provision to ensure that participants satisfy any required withholding taxes.

The NEOs are not entitled to any dividend equivalent rights on their stock option or restricted stock unit awards, and stock option and restricted stock unit awards are generally only transferable to a beneficiary of an NEO upon his death.

*Short-Term Incentive Compensation.* All of the NEOs were eligible to earn a short-term incentive compensation payment under the Incentive Compensation Plan or, for Mr. Robin, under an arrangement that mirrors the Incentive Compensation Plan. These opportunities are reflected in the [Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards](#) columns of the table above. Please see [Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Current Executive Compensation Program Elements - Short-Term Incentive Compensation](#) for a description of the material terms of the Incentive Compensation Plan and Mr. Robin's related short-term incentive compensation arrangement.



**Table of Contents****OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END FOR 2015**

The following table includes certain information with respect to the value of all unexercised options and outstanding equity awards previously awarded to the NEOs as of December 31, 2015.

Name	Grant Date	Option Awards					Stock Awards			
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)(1)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date (2)	Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(3)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares/Units etc. That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Payout value of Unearned Shares/Units etc. That Have Not Vested (\$)(3)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
Howard W. Robin	2/25/2008	133,333	0		6.46	2/24/2016				
	2/23/2009	525,000	0		4.65	2/22/2017				
	2/1/2010	500,000	0		11.34	1/31/2018				
	2/8/2011	300,000	0		10.69	2/7/2019				
	2/8/2012	191,666	8,334(4)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/8/2012	191,666	8,334(5)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/6/2013	159,375	65,625(4)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/6/2013	159,375	65,625(5)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/5/2014	103,125	121,875(4)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	2/5/2014	103,125	121,875(5)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	12/9/2014	56,250	168,750(4)		16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/9/2014	0		225,000(6)	16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/15/2015	0	56,250(4)		15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015	0		56,250(6)	15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015						67,500(7)	1,137,375		
12/15/2015								67,500(8)	1,137,375	
John Nicholson	2/23/2009	120,000	0		4.65	2/22/2017				
	6/10/2009	150,000	0		6.34	6/9/2017				
	11/18/2009	25,000	0		9.24	11/17/2017				
	2/1/2010	120,000	0		11.34	1/31/2018				
	2/8/2011	63,000	0		10.69	2/7/2019				
	2/8/2012	47,916	2,084(4)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/8/2012	47,916	2,084(5)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/6/2013	65,520	26,980(4)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/6/2013	65,520	26,980(5)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/5/2014	40,104	47,396(4)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	2/5/2014	40,104	47,396(5)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	12/9/2014	21,875	65,625(4)		16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/9/2014	0		87,500(6)	16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/15/2015	0	22,000(4)		15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015	0		22,000(6)	15.55	12/14/2023				
12/15/2015						26,000(7)	438,100			
12/15/2015								26,000(8)	438,100	
Dr. Ivan Gergel	5/19/2014	9,062	27,186(9)		11.035	5/18/2022				
	5/19/2014	208,646	305,106(9)		11.035	5/18/2022				
	12/9/2014	12,500	37,500(4)		16.305	12/8/2022				

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12/9/2014	0		50,000(6)	16.305	12/8/2022				
12/15/2015	0	12,500(4)		15.55	12/14/2023				
12/15/2015	0		12,500(6)	15.55	12/14/2023				
12/15/2015						15,000(7)	252,750		
12/15/2015								15,000(8)	252,750

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Name	Grant Date	Option Awards				Stock Awards				
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)(1)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date (2)	Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(3)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares/Units etc. That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Payout value of Unearned Shares/Units etc. That Have Not Vested (\$)(3)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
<b>Maninder Hora, Ph.D.</b>	8/2/2010	180,000	0		13.70	8/1/2018				
	2/8/2011	30,000	0		10.69	2/7/2019				
	2/8/2012	59,895	2,605(4)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/8/2012	59,895	2,605(5)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/6/2013	35,416	14,584(4)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/6/2013	35,416	14,584(5)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/5/2014	22,916	27,084(4)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	2/5/2014	22,916	27,084(5)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	12/9/2014	12,500	37,500(4)		16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/9/2014	0		50,000(6)	16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/15/2015	0	22,000(4)		15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015	0		22,000(6)	15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015						26,000(7)	438,100		
	12/15/2015								26,000(8)	438,100
<b>Gil M. Labrucherie</b>	2/25/2008	23,333	0		6.46	2/24/2016				
	6/10/2009	175,000	0		6.34	6/9/2017				
	11/18/2009	25,000	0		9.24	11/17/2017				
	2/1/2010	120,000	0		11.34	1/31/2018				
	2/8/2011	90,000	0		10.69	2/7/2019				
	2/8/2012	71,875	3,125(4)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/8/2012	71,875	3,125(5)		7.21	2/7/2020				
	2/6/2013	53,125	21,875(4)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/6/2013	53,125	21,875(5)		8.80	2/5/2021				
	2/5/2014	38,958	46,042(4)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	2/5/2014	38,958	46,042(5)		12.43	2/4/2022				
	12/9/2014	21,875	65,625(4)		16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/9/2014	0		87,500(6)	16.305	12/8/2022				
	12/15/2015	0	22,000(4)		15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015	0		22,000(6)	15.55	12/14/2023				
	12/15/2015						26,000(7)	438,100		
	12/15/2015								26,000(8)	438,100

- (1) The stock options are subject to achievement of specified performance criteria as of December 31, 2015.
- (2) For all NEOs, the expiration date shown is the normal expiration date occurring on the eighth anniversary of the grant date, which is the latest date that the stock options may be exercised. Stock options may terminate earlier in certain circumstances, such as in connection with a NEO's termination of employment or in connection with certain corporate transactions, including a change of control.
- (3) Restricted stock unit market value is calculated based on \$16.85 per share, the closing price of our common stock on December 1, 2015.
- (4) The stock options vest pro-rata on a monthly basis over a period of four years from the date of grant.
- (5) Specified performance criteria were met however stock options will continue to be subject to time-based vesting over a four year period from the date of grant.
- (6) The stock options vest only after achievement of specified performance criteria and pro-rata monthly vesting over a four year period from the date of grant.
- (7) The restricted stock units vest pro-rata on a quarterly basis over a three year period from the date of grant.
- (8)

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The restricted stock units vest only after achievement of specified performance criteria and pro-rata quarterly vesting over a three year period from the date of grant.

- (9) The stock options vest over a four year period, with the first 25% of the options vesting one year from the date of grant and the remaining portion of the stock options vesting pro-rata on a monthly basis over the following three years.

**Table of Contents****OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN 2015**

The following table includes certain information with respect to the exercise of stock options by the NEOs during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. None of our NEOs acquired any shares during 2015 upon the vesting of any stock awards held by the NEOs.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Howard W. Robin	616,667	3,834,502		
John Nicholson	385,000	1,042,940		
Ivan P. Gergel, M.D.				
Maninder Hora, Ph.D.				
Gil M. Labrucherie	246,667	1,462,085		

**POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE OF CONTROL**

The following section describes the benefits that may become payable to the NEOs in connection with their termination of employment with us or in connection with a change of control. Please see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Severance and Change of Control Benefits for a discussion of how the payments and benefits presented below were determined.

**Severance Benefits No Change of Control**

Each of the NEOs is a party to certain letter agreements and our standard form executive employment agreement, and these agreements include provisions for severance benefits upon certain terminations of employment that are not related to a change of control. Upon a termination of employment by us without cause or by the executive for a good reason resignation (as defined in the CIC Plan and described below), the executive would be entitled to the following severance benefits: (i) a cash severance payment equal to his or her total annual cash compensation target (including base salary and the target value of his or her annual incentive bonus, as such bonus target may be adjusted downward to take into account our performance through the fiscal quarter preceding termination), (ii) an extension of the exercise period for the vested and unexercised portion of all outstanding stock options held by him or her for up to 12 months (18 months for Mr. Robin and three months for Dr. Hora) following termination and (iii) payment of all applicable COBRA premiums for the executive for up to one year following the termination date. In order to receive the severance benefits described above, each executive must first execute an effective waiver and release of claims in favor of us. Each executive's cash severance payment would ordinarily be paid in a lump-sum within 60 days following the executive's separation from service, although payment will be delayed to the extent required to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

If a NEO's employment with us terminates due to death, the executive's outstanding unvested stock options will become fully vested and will be exercisable for up to 18 months following termination pursuant to the terms of the Company's equity incentive compensation plans and agreements. The NEO's restricted stock units will become fully vested and released. In addition, in the case of Messrs. Robin, Nicholson and Drs. Gergel and Hora, the executive's estate would be entitled to a pro-rata portion of the target annual incentive bonus for the year in which his death occurred.

If a NEO terminates employment with us as a result of disability, vested options will be exercisable for up to twelve months following termination pursuant to the terms of the Company's stock option agreement. Each NEO

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is entitled to have 100% of his stock options become fully vested upon disability for all outstanding stock options other than those under the 2012 Plan. For Messrs. Robin, Nicholson and Drs. Gergel and Hora, they are each also entitled to have 50% of outstanding unvested stock options become fully vested upon disability for stock options under the 2012 Plan in accordance with the terms and conditions of their letter agreements. The NEO's unvested restricted stock units are forfeited. In addition, pursuant to their offer letter agreements, Messrs. Robin, Nicholson and Drs. Gergel and Hora would each be entitled to receive a pro-rata portion of the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the year of termination in the event of a termination due to disability.

Pursuant to our standard form employment agreement, following a termination of employment, each NEO will be subject to an indefinite restriction on the disclosure of our confidential information and a one-year non-solicitation restriction covering our customers and employees.

The following table lists the estimated amounts that would become payable to each of the NEOs under the circumstances described above, assuming that the applicable triggering event occurred on December 31, 2015.

Executive & Triggering Event	Estimated Value of Cash Severance (\$)	Estimated Value of COBRA Benefits \$(1)	Estimated Value of Vesting Acceleration \$(2)	Estimated Value of Pro-Rata Bonus (\$)	Estimated Total (\$)
<b>Howard W. Robin</b>					
Without Cause or Good Reason	1,562,085	34,001	N/A	N/A	1,596,086
Disability	N/A	N/A	1,366,698	669,465	2,036,163
Death	N/A	N/A	4,847,466	669,465	5,516,931
<b>John Nicholson</b>					
Without Cause or Good Reason	844,650	21,264	N/A	N/A	865,914
Disability	N/A	N/A	714,445	281,550	995,995
Death	N/A	N/A	2,264,911	281,550	2,546,461
<b>Ivan Gergel, M.D.</b>					
Without Cause or Good Reason	931,500	38,709	N/A	N/A	970,209
Disability	N/A	N/A	1,089,374	310,500	1,399,874
Death	N/A	N/A	2,684,248	310,500	2,994,748
<b>Maninder Hora, Ph. D.</b>					
Without Cause or Good Reason	645,900	23,847	N/A	N/A	669,747
Disability	N/A	N/A	339,781	215,300	555,081
Death	N/A	N/A	1,505,537	215,300	1,720,837
<b>Gil M. Labrucherie</b>					
Without Cause or Good Reason	819,750	34,001	N/A	N/A	853,751
Disability	N/A	N/A	60,250	N/A	60,250
Death	N/A	N/A	1,836,302	N/A	1,836,302

(1) The value of COBRA benefits are based upon actual rates as of December 2015.

(2) For purposes of this table, we have assumed that (i) the price per share of our common stock is equal to the closing price per share on the last trading day of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (\$16.85), and (ii) the value of any stock options that may be accelerated is equal to the full spread value of such awards on that date. No value is attributed to any stock options with an exercise price greater than or equal to \$16.85.

**Severance Benefits Change of Control**

Each of the NEOs is covered under the CIC Plan. The CIC Plan provides for certain severance benefits to these executives and our other employees covered by the plan upon certain terminations of employment occurring in connection with a change of control of us.

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If a change of control of the Company occurs, each NEO will be entitled to severance benefits under the CIC Plan if the executive's employment is terminated by us or a successor company without cause or by the executive for a good reason resignation, in each case within a period generally beginning on the date the agreement providing for a change of control is executed and ending twelve months following the change of control. Severance benefits under the CIC Plan include: (i) a cash severance payment equal to 12 months of base salary (24 months for Mr. Robin) and the target value of the executive's annual incentive bonus; (ii) payment by us of the same portion of the executive's COBRA premiums as we pay for active employees' group health coverage for up to 12 months (18 months for Mr. Robin) following termination; (iii) provision of up to \$5,000 for outplacement services received within 12 months following termination, (iv) accelerated vesting of all outstanding stock options and other outstanding equity awards; and (v) other than in the case of Drs. Gergel and Hora, a gross up payment to compensate the executive for excise taxes (if any) on payments that are considered parachute payments under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code and therefore subject to an excise tax imposed under Section 4999 of the Code, but only to the extent the excise tax cannot be avoided by reducing the severance benefits by an amount not exceeding 10% such that the executive receives a greater-after tax amount as a result of the cut-back in benefits. In April 2011, the board of directors amended the CIC Plan so that this gross up benefit is not available for new hires following January 1, 2010 but is grandfathered for employees who joined the CIC Plan before that date so long as they are not promoted to a position such that he or she would be entitled to additional benefits under the plan. Accordingly, Drs. Gergel and Hora are not entitled to this gross up benefit as they joined the CIC Plan after January 1, 2010. In order to receive the severance benefits described above, each executive must first execute an effective waiver and release of claims in favor of us pursuant to a separation and release agreement. Each executive's cash severance payment will ordinarily be paid in a lump-sum within 60 days following the executive's separation from service, although payment will be delayed to the extent required to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

For the purposes of the CIC Plan, a good reason resignation means a resignation upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events: (i) assignment of any authority, duties or responsibilities that results in a material diminution in the executive's authority, duties or responsibilities as in effect immediately prior to the change of control, (ii) assignment to a work location more than 50 miles from the executive's immediately previous work location, unless such reassignment of work location decreases the executive's commuting distance from his or her residence to the executive's assigned work location, (iii) a material diminution in the executive's monthly base salary as in effect on the date of the change of control or as increased thereafter, (iv) notice to the executive by us or the successor company during the 12-month period following the change of control that the executive's employment will be terminated under circumstances that would trigger severance benefits under the CIC Plan but for the designation of a date for termination that is greater than 12 months following the change of control and (v) for Mr. Robin, if he does not serve in his same position in the successor company or is not appointed to the board of directors of the successor company. In order for a good reason resignation to occur, the executive must first give us timely written notice of the grounds for good reason resignation, and we must have failed to cure such condition after a period of 30 days.

Pursuant to the CIC Plan, the separation and release agreement that each of the NEOs will be required to execute to receive severance benefits under the plan will also require each executive to agree to continue to be subject to the restrictions on the disclosure of our confidential information in his or her employment agreement, to non-solicitation restrictions and to certain other restrictions.

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Had a change of control occurred during the 2015 fiscal year and had the employment of each of the NEOs terminated on December 31, 2015 under one of the qualifying circumstances described above, each executive would have been entitled to receive the estimated benefits set forth in the table below.

Name (1)	Estimated Value of	Estimated Value of	Estimated Value of	Estimated Value of	
	Cash	COBRA and Outplacement Benefits	Vesting Acceleration	Excise Tax	Estimated Total
	Severance (\$)	(\$)(1)	(\$)(2)	Gross-Up (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Howard W. Robin</b>	<b>3,124,170</b>	<b>73,002</b>	<b>4,847,466</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,044,638</b>
<b>John Nicholson</b>	<b>844,650</b>	<b>26,264</b>	<b>2,264,911</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,135,825</b>
<b>Ivan Gergel, M.D.</b>	<b>931,500</b>	<b>43,709</b>	<b>2,684,248</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>3,659,457</b>
<b>Maninder Hora, Ph.D.</b>	<b>645,900</b>	<b>28,847</b>	<b>1,505,537</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2,180,284</b>
<b>Gil M. Labrucherie</b>	<b>819,750</b>	<b>39,001</b>	<b>1,836,302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,695,053</b>

- (1) This amount includes estimated COBRA premiums based upon actual rates as of December 2015 and up to \$5,000 for outplacement services.
- (2) Pursuant to the terms of our equity compensation plans, these NEOs would also have been entitled to this same full equity acceleration (i) if a corporate transaction (as defined in the applicable plan) occurred and the surviving or acquiring corporation refused to assume outstanding equity awards or substitute similar replacement awards for outstanding equity awards or (ii) upon the acquisition by any person of beneficial ownership of 50% or more of the combined voting power of our shares in a transaction that is not a corporate transaction as defined in the applicable plan. See note (2) to the table above for the calculation of these amounts.



**Table of Contents****INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM****INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FEES AND SERVICES**

The following table represents aggregate fees billed to us for fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 by Ernst & Young LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm.

	Fiscal Year Ended	
	2015	2014
Audit Fees	\$ 1,074,344	\$ 1,208,426
Audit Related Fees		
Tax Fees	7,353	7,236
All Other Fees		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,081,697</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,662</b>

*Audit Fees.* This category consists of fees related to the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting, review of interim condensed consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and services that are normally provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in connection with statutory audit, registration statements and other regulatory filings.

*Tax Fees.* This category consists of fees related to services provided for international tax compliance and tax consultation services.

The audit committee approved all fees described above.

**PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The audit committee has adopted policies and procedures for the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services rendered by our independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP. The policy generally requires pre-approval for specified services in the defined categories of audit services, audit-related services and tax services up to specified amounts. Pre-approval may also be given as part of the audit committee's approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm or on an individual explicit case-by-case basis before the independent registered public accounting firm is engaged to provide each service. The pre-approval of services may be delegated to one or more of the audit committee's members, but the decision must be reported to the full audit committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Prior to Ernst & Young LLP rendering services other than audit services, the audit committee would review and approve such non-audit services only if such services were compatible with maintaining Ernst & Young LLP's status as our independent registered public accounting firm.

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*The material in this report is being furnished and shall not be deemed filed with the SEC for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall the material in this section be deemed to be soliciting material or incorporated by reference in any registration statement or other document filed with the SEC under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except as otherwise expressly stated in such filing.*

The audit committee is currently comprised of three non-employee directors, R. Scott Greer, the Chairman of the committee, Joseph J. Krivulka, and Dennis L. Winger. Susan Wang was the former chair of the committee. Our board of directors determined that Ms. Wang met, and Messrs. Greer, Krivulka, and Winger meet the

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independence requirements set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act and in the applicable NASDAQ rules. In addition, the board of directors determined that Ms. Wang qualified and Messrs. Greer and Winger qualify as audit committee financial experts as defined by SEC rules. The audit committee has the responsibility and authority described in the Nektar Therapeutics Audit Committee Charter, which has been approved by the board of directors. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.nektar.com](http://www.nektar.com).

The audit committee is responsible for assessing the information provided by management and our independent registered public accounting firm in accordance with its business judgment. Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our financial statements and for the appropriateness of the accounting principles and reporting policies that are used. Management is also responsible for testing the system of internal controls and reports to the audit committee on any deficiencies found. Our independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP, is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements and for reviewing the unaudited interim financial statements.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the audit committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements in the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 with both management and our independent registered public accounting firm. The audit committee's review included a discussion of the quality and integrity of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant estimates and judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The audit committee reviewed with our independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plan of the audit. In addition, it met with our independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of our independent registered public accounting firm's examination, the evaluation of our system of internal controls, the overall quality of our financial reporting and such other matters as are required to be discussed under generally accepted accounting standards in the United States. The audit committee has also received from, and discussed with, our independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications with Audit Committees* issued by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).

The audit committee has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP that firm's independence from management and our Company, including the matters in the written disclosures and the letter regarding independence from Ernst & Young LLP required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB. The audit committee has also considered the compatibility of audit related and tax services with the auditors' independence. Based on its evaluation, the audit committee has selected Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors, and the board of directors approved, the inclusion of the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting in the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC.

### ***Audit Committee***

R. Scott Greer

Joseph J. Krivulka

Dennis L. Winger

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**OTHER MATTERS**

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

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Our website address is <http://www.nektar.com>. The information in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not deemed to be incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports are available, free of charge, on or through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room can be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding our filings at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC is available without charge upon written request to: Secretary, Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Gil M. Labrucherie

Gil M. Labrucherie

*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and*

*Secretary*

May 13, 2016

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***NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS***

***ATTN: SECRETARY***

***455 MISSION BAY BOULEVARD SOUTH***

***SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94158***

**VOTE BY INTERNET - [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)**

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on June 22, 2016. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS**

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

**VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903**

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on June 22, 2016. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

**VOTE BY MAIL**

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

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

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

**THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.**

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR**

**the following:**

**1. Election of Directors**

<b>Nominees</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
1a. R. Scott Greer	..	..	..
1b. Christopher A. Kuebler	..	..	..
1c. Lutz Lingnau	..	..	..

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR proposals 2 and 3.**

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
--	------------	----------------	----------------

<b>2</b> To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.	..	..	..
--	----	----	----

<b>3</b> To approve a non-binding advisory resolution regarding our executive compensation (a say-on-pay vote).	..	..	..
---	----	----	----

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

For address change/comments, mark here.	..	..	..
---	----	----	----

(see reverse for instructions)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
--------------------------------	------------	-----------

Please indicate if you plan to attend this meeting	..	..
--	----	----

<b><u>Materials Election</u></b> - Check this box if you want to receive a complete set of future proxy materials by mail, at no extra cost. If you do not take action you may receive only a Notice to inform you of the	..
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Internet availability of proxy materials.

Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX]

Date

Signature  
(Joint  
Owners)

Date

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

The Proxy Statement and 10K Wrap are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

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

The Notice & Proxy Statement, and 10K Wrap are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

**NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS**

**PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON JUNE 23, 2016**

The undersigned hereby appoints Howard W. Robin and Gil M. Labrucherie, and each of them, as attorneys-in-fact and proxies of the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to vote all of the shares of stock of Nektar Therapeutics which the undersigned may be entitled to vote at the annual meeting of stockholders of Nektar Therapeutics to be held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. local time at Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, CA 94158 (and at any and all postponements, continuations and adjournments thereof), with all powers that the undersigned would possess if personally present, upon and in respect of the matters listed on the reverse side and in accordance with the instructions specified on the reverse side, with discretionary authority as to any and all matters that may properly come before the meeting. You hereby revoke all proxies previously given.

**Unless a contrary direction is indicated, this Proxy will be voted FOR all nominees listed in Proposal 1, and FOR Proposals 2 and 3, as more specifically indicated in the Proxy Statement, and at the discretion of the proxies with regard to any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any continuation, adjournment or postponement thereof.**

**If you vote by telephone or Internet, you do not need to mail back this Proxy.**

**Address change / comments:**

(If you noted any Address Changes and/or Comments above, please mark corresponding box on the reverse side.)

**Continued and to be signed on reverse side**