NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS Form DEF 14A April 29, 2011

# 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 b Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- b Definitive Proxy Statement
- o 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):

- b No fee required.
- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

0	$\mathbf{w}$	heck box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for hich the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the orm or Schedule and the date of its filing.
		Amount Previously Paid:
	(2)	Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
	(3)	Filing Party:
	(4)	Date Filed:

## NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South San Francisco, California 94158

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 14, 2011 AT 2:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

#### Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nektar Therapeutics, a Delaware corporation. The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 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 2014 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, 2011.
- 3. To approve a non-binding advisory resolution regarding our executive compensation (a say-on-pay vote).
- 4. To request in a non-binding advisory vote of stockholders the frequency with which the stockholders will be provided a say-on-pay vote. You will have the opportunity to request a say-on-pay vote every year, every two years, or every three years or to abstain.
- 5. To conduct any other business properly brought before the 2011 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 2011 Annual Meeting is April 27, 2011. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the 2011 Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Your vote is very important. Whether or not you attend the 2011 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

Gil M. Labrucherie Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

San Francisco, California May 5, 2011

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.

# CONTENTS

questions and answers about these proxy materials and voting procedures	1
proposal 1: election of directors	6
proposal 2: ratification of selection of independent registered public accounting firm	8
proposal 3: advisory vote on executive compensation	9
proposal 4: advisory vote on the frequency of say-on-pay vote	10
security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management	11
section 16(a) beneficial ownership reporting compliance	13
certain relationships and related party transactions	13
information about the board of directors	13
the board of directors	14
directors continuing in office until the 2012 annual meeting	14
directors continuing in office until the 2013 annual meeting	15
current directors nominated for reelection to serve until the 2014 annual meeting	16
meetings of the board of directors	16
corporate governance	16
board leadership structure	17
risk oversight	17
independence of the board of directors	18
information regarding the committees of the board of directors	19
stockholder communications with the board of directors	25
code of business conduct and ethics	25
organization and compensation committee interlocks and insider participation	25
director compensation table	25
information about the executive officers	27
compensation discussion and analysis	27
compensation committee report	37
summary compensation table	38
grants of plan based awards in 2010	39
outstanding equity awards at fiscal year-end for 2010	41
option exercises and stock vested in 2010	42
potential payments upon termination or change of control	42
information about our independent registered public accounting firm	46
independent registered public accounting firm fees and services	46
pre-approval policies and procedures	46
report of the audit committee of the board of directors	46
other matters	47
additional information	48

## NEKTAR THERAPEUTICS 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South San Francisco, California 94158

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 14, 2011 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 2011 annual meeting of stockholders (the Annual Meeting) to be held on June 14, 2011 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 5, 2011 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 27, 2011 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On this record date, there were 114,080,010 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

## Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If, on April 27, 2011, your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, BNY Mellon Shareowner Services, 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 27, 2011, 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.

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 four matters scheduled for a vote:

Proposal 1: To elect three directors with terms to expire at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

1

#### **Table of Contents**

*Proposal 2:* To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

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

*Proposal 4:* To request in a non-binding advisory vote of stockholders the frequency with which the stockholders will be provided a say-on-pay vote. You will have the opportunity to request a say-on-pay vote every year, every two years, or every three years or to abstain.

## 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 27, 2011. 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, 2010, on the Internet 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 vote For or Against each nominee to the board of directors or you may abstain from voting. For proposals 2 and 3, you may vote For or Against or abstain from voting. For proposal 4, you may vote for every year, every two years or every three years or abstain. The procedures for voting are:

## Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record as of April 27, 2011, 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 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 13, 2011 to be counted.

- 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 13, 2011 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.

2

#### **Table of Contents**

#### 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 27, 2011.

## What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid 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 27, 2011, there were 114,080,010 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. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. 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 the election of each nominee 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, 2011.
- 3. Proposal 3: For the approval of the resolution regarding executive compensation.
- 4. Proposal 4: For the request that we hold a say-on-pay vote every year.

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.

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, 3, and 4 are matters considered non-routine under the applicable rules. If you do not give your broker specific instructions, the broker may not vote your shares on Proposals 1, 3 and 4 and therefore there may be broker non-votes on Proposals 1, 3 and 4. Proposal 2 involves a matter we believe to be routine and thus if you do not give

3

#### **Table of Contents**

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 and abstentions, with respect to Proposals 1, 3 and 4, broker non-votes, with respect to Proposals 1, 2 and 3, Against votes, and with respect to Proposal 4, votes for each of every year, every two years and every three years and abstentions.

#### 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 votes cast at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote 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 and excluding abstentions 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, 2011, the proposal must receive a For vote from the majority of the shares present and properly cast either in person or by proxy.

For Proposal 3 approving the resolution regarding executive compensation, the proposal must receive a For vote from the majority of the shares present and properly cast either in person or by proxy.

For Proposal 4 requesting the frequency of our say-on-pay vote, the frequency receiving the most votes properly cast either in person or by proxy will be considered requested by stockholders.

## 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.

#### 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. 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).

4

#### **Table of Contents**

#### 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 2012 proxy statement. Any such proposal must be submitted in writing by December 31, 2011, to our Secretary, care of Nektar Therapeutics, 455 Mission Bay Boulevard South, San Francisco, California 94158. If we change the date of our 2012 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. 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 31, 2012 and no later than the close of business on April 30, 2012. If we change the date of our 2012 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. 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 30, 2012, we may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies held by the board of directors on such stockholder proposal. If we change the date of our 2012 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.

5

#### PROPOSAL 1

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our board of directors is presently comprised of nine (9) directors and is divided into three (3) classes. Each class consists of one third of the total number of directors, and each class has a three (3) year term. There are three (3) current directors in Class I, whose term of office expires in 2011: Joseph J. Krivulka, Howard W. Robin and Dennis L. Winger. Each of the current directors in Class I has been nominated for reelection at the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Krivulka and Robin were previously elected by the stockholders. Mr. Winger was appointed to a newly created vacancy by the board of directors on December 8, 2009. 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 and entitled to vote 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 and excluding abstentions with respect to that director s election. Shares represented by executed proxies 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. 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 earlier of the 2014 annual meeting, their successors are elected and qualified or their death, resignation or removal.

The following is a brief biography of each nominee.

#### Joseph J. Krivulka

Joseph J. Krivulka, age 59, has served as our director since March 2005. Mr. Krivulka is founder and President of Triax Pharmaceuticals, a dermatology products company, a position he has held since November 2004. Mr. Krivulka is also the founder and Chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, LLC, an emerging branded and contract manufacturing pharmaceutical company. 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 Laboratories Inc., and Corporate Vice President of Mylan Laboratories, a generic pharmaceutical products company. Mr. Krivulka is also a director of Aeolus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a drug development services company. He holds a B.S. from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

#### Howard W. Robin

*Howard W. Robin*, age 58, 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 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. Mr. Robin is also a director of Acologix, a private biopharmaceutical company. He received his B.S. in Accounting and Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1974.

6

#### **Table of Contents**

## Dennis L. Winger

Dennis L. Winger, age 64, 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 Cephalon, Inc. and Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, which are both pharmaceutical companies, and Accuray Incorporated, a radiosurgery company. Mr. Winger served on the board of directors of 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.

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

7

#### 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, 2011, 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 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, 2011. Abstentions will have the effect of a vote against the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 2.

8

#### 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 2010 compensation of the Named Executive Officers 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 Named Executive Officers by voting for or against the following resolution (a say-on-pay vote), as required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act. 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. Our board of directors will determine whether to provide for a say-on-pay vote next year or in future years after taking into account the results of the voting on Proposal 4 regarding the requested frequency for the say-on-pay vote.

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company s Named Executive Officers, 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 2011 Annual Meeting is hereby APPROVED.

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 FOR PROPOSAL 3.

9

#### **PROPOSAL 4**

## ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF SAY-ON-PAY VOTE

We are presenting this proposal, as required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act, which gives you as a stockholder the opportunity to inform us as to how often you would prefer us to include a say-on-pay proposal, similar to Proposal 3, in our proxy statement (a say-on-frequency vote). While this say-on-frequency vote is advisory in nature and therefore will not bind us to adopt any particular frequency, our board of directors intends to carefully consider the stockholder vote resulting from the proposal in determining how frequently we will hold say-on-pay votes.

Please note that as a stockholder you have the choice to vote for one of the following choices, as indicated on the proxy card: to hold the advisory vote on executive compensation every year, every second year or every third year or to abstain. You are not being asked to approve or disapprove the frequency recommended by our board of directors.

Proponents of an every third year say-on-pay vote frequency have cited the following advantages:

Triennial votes may foster pay practices with a longer term point of view and discourage decision-making based on short-term considerations.

Triennial votes may provide stockholders sufficient time to evaluate the effectiveness of short- and long-term compensation strategies as they relate to the pay-for-performance principle.

Less frequent say-on-pay votes may improve the ability of stockholders to exercise their voting rights in a more deliberate, thoughtful and informed way that is in the best interests of stockholders.

Proponents of an every year say-on-pay vote frequency have cited the following advantages:

Annual votes are the best vehicle for stockholders to provide regular feedback to the board of directors on the Company s compensation programs.

Annual votes afford the board of directors maximum opportunity to make regular adjustments to its compensation practices taking into account input from the stockholders.

Votes less frequent than annual may allow an unpopular pay practice to continue too long without timely feedback.

Proponents of an every second year say-on-pay vote frequency have suggested that a vote every second year most appropriately balances the strengths and weaknesses of the every year and every third year say-on-pay voting frequency.

The board of directors values constructive dialogue on executive compensation and other important governance topics with our stockholders. After careful consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the various potential say-on-pay vote frequency intervals, the board of directors believes an advisory vote every year will provide an effective way to obtain information on stockholder sentiment about our executive compensation program by allowing adequate time for us to respond to stockholders feedback and engage with stockholders to understand and respond to the vote results.

The choice of every year, every two years or every three years that receives the greatest number of votes from stockholders will be the frequency for the advisory vote on executive compensation that has been selected by stockholders. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote. As an advisory vote, the vote on this Proposal 4 is not binding on us. However, the board of directors values the opinions of our stockholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when setting the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE 1 YEAR ALTERNATIVE SET OUT IN THE PROXY CARD.

10

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

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of March 31, 2011, by: (i) each director and nominee for director; (ii) each of our Named Executive Officers; (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.

	Beneficial Ownership**	
Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares	Percent of Total
OppenheimerFunds, Inc. and related entities(1)	18,712,440	16.4%
HealthCor Management, L.P. and related entities(2)	9,165,000	8.0%
PRIMECAP Management Company(3)	6,128,100	5.4%
Blackrock, Inc. and certain subsidiaries(4)	5,759,101	5.1%
Robert B. Chess(5)	564,543	*
R. Scott Greer(6)	81,169	*
Joseph J. Krivulka(7)	150,961	*
Christopher A. Kuebler(8)	203,461	*
Lutz Lingnau(9)	117,411	*
Howard W. Robin(10)	1,923,638	1.7%
Susan Wang(11)	160,836	*
Roy A. Whitfield(12)	178,461	*
Dennis Winger(13)	44,086	*
Stephen K. Doberstein(14)	183,750	*
Rinko Ghosh(15)	286,851	*
Gil M. Labrucherie(16)	500,644	*
John Nicholson(17)	550,700	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (15 persons)	5,476,403	4.8%

<sup>\*</sup> 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 114,028,985 shares outstanding on March 31, 2011, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the SEC.
- (1) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 13) filed with the SEC on February 10, 2011 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 18,082,000 shares of our common stock. OppenheimerFunds, Inc. has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to 18,712,440 shares of our common stock, including the 18,082,000 shares of common stock beneficially owned by Oppenheimer Global Opportunities Fund. OppenheimerFunds, Inc.

disclaims beneficial ownership as an investment adviser pursuant to Rule 13d-4 of the Exchange Act.

(2) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 4) filed with the SEC on February 9, 2011 by HealthCor Management, L.P. and related entities. Collectively, HealthCor, L.P., HealthCor Offshore Master Fund, L.P. and HealthCor Hybrid Offshore Master Fund, L.P. (each a Fund and together, the Funds ) are the beneficial owners of a total of 9,165,000 shares of our common stock. By virtue of their position as feeder funds, HealthCor Offshore, Ltd. and HealthCor Hybrid Offshore, Ltd. may be deemed beneficial owners of the shares of our common stock owned by HealthCor Offshore Master Fund, L.P. and HealthCor Hybrid Offshore Master Fund, L.P., respectively. HealthCor Offshore GP, LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Offshore Master Fund, L.P. Accordingly, HealthCor Offshore GP, LLC may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of

11

#### **Table of Contents**

our common stock that are beneficially owned by HealthCor Offshore Master Fund, L.P. HealthCor Group, LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Offshore GP, LLC and, therefore, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by HealthCor Offshore Master Fund, L.P. HealthCor Hybrid Offshore GP, LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Hybrid Offshore Master Fund, L.P. Accordingly, HealthCor Hybrid Offshore GP, LLC may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by HealthCor Hybrid Offshore Master Fund, L.P. HealthCor Group, LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Hybrid Offshore GP, LLC and, therefore, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by HealthCor Hybrid Offshore Master Fund, L.P. By virtue of its position as the investment manager of the Funds, HealthCor Management, L.P. may be deemed a beneficial owner of all the shares of our common stock owned by the Funds. HealthCor Associates, LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Management, L.P. and thus may also be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by the Funds. HealthCor Group LLC is the general partner of HealthCor Capital, L.P., which is in turn the general partner of HealthCor, L.P. Accordingly, each of HealthCor Capital L.P. and HealthCor Group, LLC may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by HealthCor, L.P. As the Managers of HealthCor Associates, LLC, Arthur Cohen and Joseph Healey exercise both voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock reported in the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 4) filed by HealthCor Management, L.P. and related entities, and therefore each may be deemed a beneficial owner of such common stock. Each of the reporting persons disclaims any beneficial ownership of any such shares of our common stock in excess of their actual pecuniary interest therein.

- (3) Based solely on the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on April 7, 2011 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 4,862,600 shares of our common stock and sole dispositive power with respect to 6,128,100 shares of our common stock.
- (4) Based solely on the Schedule 13G/A (Amendment No. 1) filed with the SEC on February 7, 2011 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 and dispositive power with respect to 5,759,101 shares of our common stock.
- (5) Includes (i) 303,920 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011, and (ii) 4,914 shares issued pursuant to our 401(k) Retirement Plan.
- (6) Includes 37,386 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (7) Includes 130,961 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (8) Includes 183,461 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (9) Includes 100,961 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (10) Includes (i) 1,913,228 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011, and (ii) 410 shares owned by Mr. Robin s wife.
- (11) Includes 140,836 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (12) Includes 158,461 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (13) Includes 40,336 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.

- (14) Includes 183,750 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011.
- (15) Includes (i) 277,098 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011, (ii) 3,153 shares issued pursuant to the our 401(k) Retirement Plan, and (iii) 1,500 shares issued pursuant to our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (16) Includes (i) 497,587 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011, (ii) 997 shares issued pursuant to the our 401(k) Retirement Plan, and (iii) 250 shares issued pursuant to our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (17) Includes (i) 539,456 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2011 and (ii) 1,500 shares and 2,244 shares owned by two of Mr. Nicholson s sons.

12

## 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, 2010, all filing requirements applicable to our executive officers and directors under the Exchange Act were met in a timely manner.

#### 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, provided, however, that 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. During the 2010 fiscal year, there were no relationships or transactions between us and any related party for which disclosure is required under the rules of the SEC.

## 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.

13

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2012 Annual Meeting**

#### Robert B. Chess

Robert B. Chess, age 54, is the Chairman of our board of directors and has served as a director since May 1992. He is currently the Chairman of OPX Biotechnologies, a private company in the renewable fuels and chemicals field. 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 and as a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development where he is co-chairman of its Health Care task force. Mr. Chess also serves as a director of NanOasis, Inc., a private company focused on desalinization technology. 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 from the California Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Harvard.

## Susan Wang

Susan Wang, age 60, has served as our director since December 2003. Ms. Wang, who retired from Solectron Corporation in May 2002, served in various management positions there from 1984 to June 2002. Her final position at Solectron, an electronics manufacturing services and supply chain solutions company, was Executive Vice President for Corporate Development and Chief Financial Officer, a position she held from September 2001 to June 2002. Prior to joining Solectron, Ms. Wang held financial and managerial positions with Xerox Corporation and Westvaco Corporation. She began her career with Price Waterhouse & Co. in New York and is a certified public accountant. Ms. Wang is also a director of Altera Corporation, a programmable semiconductor company, Rae Systems Inc., a developer of sensory technology for hazardous materials, and Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd., a solar energy company. In addition, Ms. Wang served as a director of Calpine Corporation, an independent power generation company, from 2003 to 2009, and Avanex Corporation, a telecommunications component and sub-systems provider, from 2002 to 2009. Ms. Wang holds an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut and a B.S. in accounting from the University of Texas.

#### Roy A. Whitfield

Roy A. Whitfield, age 57, 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 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. 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 Incyte Corporation, a drug discovery and development company, Illumina, Inc., a developer, manufacturer and marketer of integrated systems for analysis of genetic variations and biological functions, and Station X, Inc., a private development stage 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.

14

## **Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2013 Annual Meeting**

#### R. Scott Greer

R. Scott Greer, age 52, 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 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 2001 to 2005, Mr. Greer 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. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors of StemCells, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on stem cell therapeutics, chairman of the board of directors of Acologix, Inc. and Ablexis LLC, LLC, both private development-stage biotechnology companies, and also serves as a director of BAROnova, Inc., a private clinical-stage medical device 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 57, has served as our director since December 2001. Mr. Kuebler also currently serves on the board of directors of Waters Corporation, an analytical technologies 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 68, 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. From 2005 to May 2010, Mr. Lingnau was a member of the Supervisory Board of LANXESS AG, a specialty chemicals company.

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.

15

#### **Current Directors Nominated For Reelection to Serve Until the 2014 Annual Meeting**

## Joseph J. Krivulka

Joseph J. Krivulka, age 59, has served as our director since March 2005. Mr. Krivulka is founder and President of Triax Pharmaceuticals, a dermatology products company, a position he has held since November 2004. Mr. Krivulka is also the founder and Chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, LLC, an emerging branded and contract manufacturing pharmaceutical company. 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 Laboratories Inc., and Corporate Vice President of Mylan Laboratories, a generic pharmaceutical products company. Mr. Krivulka is also a director of Aeolus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a drug development services company. He holds a B.S. from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

#### Howard W. Robin

Howard W. Robin, age 58, 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 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. Mr. Robin is also a director of Acologix, a private biopharmaceutical company. He received his B.S. in Accounting and Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1974.

## Dennis L. Winger

Dennis L. Winger, age 64, 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 Cephalon, Inc. and Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, which are both pharmaceutical companies, and Accuray Incorporated, a radiosurgery company. Mr. Winger recently served on the board of directors of 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.

#### **Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The board of directors met eleven (11) times during the 2010 fiscal year. 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 2010 fiscal year for which he or she was a director or committee member, as applicable, except that Roy A. Whitfield attended five of the seven meetings of the audit committee held during 2010. All of our directors then serving on our board attended our 2010 annual meeting.

## **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 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

16

## **Table of Contents**

Corporate Governance Policy Statement, as well as the charters for each committee of the board, may be viewed at 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 that 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 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 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.

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.

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

17

### **Table of Contents**

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 discussed below, this committee has recently considered whether the Company s compensation policies and practices create risks that could have a material adverse impact on the Company s business and has concluded that these policies and practices do not create such risks. The organization and compensation committee also regularly reviews and reports to the board of directors on contingency succession planning for the Chief Executive Officer and certain other select senior management positions.

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 2011 the Company has established a risk management committee composed of senior managers in charge of important functional areas that will regularly report to the board of directors or one of its designated committees.

### **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 2010 fiscal year, our independent directors met 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 such that no single independent director presides over more than one executive session per year.

18

#### **Table of Contents**

# **Information Regarding the Committees of the Board of Directors**

The board 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 for the 2010 fiscal year for each of the board committees:

			Nominating and
Name	Audit	Organization and Compensation	Corporate Governance
Robert B. Chess			X(1)(2)
R. Scott Greer		X(3)	
Joseph J. Krivulka	X	X	
Christopher A. Kuebler		X(1)	X
Lutz Lingnau		X	
Howard W. Robin			
Susan Wang	X(1)		X
Roy A. Whitfield	X		X
Dennis L. Winger	X(4)		
Total meetings in the 2010 fiscal year	7	5	2

- (1) Committee Chairperson.
- (2) Mr. Chess was appointed to the nominating and corporate governance committee, and was appointed as chair of the committee, on March 23, 2010.
- (3) Mr. Greer was appointed to the board of directors on February 1, 2010 and was appointed to the organization and compensation committee on March 23, 2010.
- (4) Mr. Winger was appointed to the audit committee on March 23, 2010.

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:

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;

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;

19

### **Table of Contents**

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 financial statements to be included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our annual report 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 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;

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;

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 financial statements, financial reporting process or accounting policies; 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 2010 fiscal year: Ms. Wang, who chairs the committee, and Messrs. Krivulka, Whitfield and Winger. 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. The board of directors has determined that Ms. Wang qualifies 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

20

### **Table of Contents**

education and experience as a chief financial officer of a public reporting company. In addition to our audit committee, Ms. Wang also serves on the audit committees of Altera Corporation, Rae Systems, Inc., and Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. The board of directors does not believe that such simultaneous service impairs Ms. Wang s ability to effectively serve on our audit committee and as the chairwoman of such committee. The audit committee has adopted a written audit committee charter that is available on our corporate website at <a href="https://www.nektar.com">www.nektar.com</a>.

### 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 and delegates certain administrative authority to an equity grant subcommittee comprised of management representatives;

recommends to the independent members of the board of directors the compensation for the President and Chief Executive Officer, including, but not limited to, annual salary, bonus, equity compensation and benefits;

approves the compensation for the executive officers of the Company (other than the Chief Executive Officer) and those vice-president level employees that report directly to the 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

21

### **Table of Contents**

recommendations for 2010 regarding the increase in annual base compensation, award of annual performance-based bonus compensation and the number of stock options granted to our executive officers (other than 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 on the agenda for every committee meeting. The organization and compensation committee is 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 2010, the organization and compensation committee retained Frederic W. Cook & Co. (FW Cook), a national executive compensation consulting firm that performs compensation benchmarking, analysis and design services. FW Cook was engaged by the organization and compensation committee in 2010 to provide certain aggregate equity compensation analysis related to run-rate, potential dilution, company-wide grant budgets and executive grants, to provide regulatory, legislative updates and market trend analysis, 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.

Four directors comprised the organization and compensation committee at the end of the 2010 fiscal year: Mr. Kuebler, who chairs the committee, and Messrs. Greer, Krivulka and Lingnau. 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 <a href="https://www.nektar.com">www.nektar.com</a>.

# Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The nominating and corporate governance committee:

evaluates board composition and performance;

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

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

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.

Four directors comprised the nominating and corporate governance committee at the end of the 2010 fiscal year: Mr. Chess, who chairs the committee, Ms. Wang and Messrs. Whitfield and Kuebler. The board of directors

22

### **Table of Contents**

annually reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for the nominating and corporate governance committee and has determined that all members of our organization and compensation committee are independent. The nominating and corporate governance committee charter can be found on our corporate website at <a href="https://www.nektar.com">www.nektar.com</a>.

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.

### Susan Wang

Ms. Wang has a strong financial and business background as a senior executive of Solectron Corporation, an electronics manufacturing services and supply chain solutions company. She is an audit committee financial expert as a result of her prior experience as chief financial officer of Solectron, has extensive experience on the audit committees of other U.S. public companies, and is a certified public accountant. Ms. Wang has extensive corporate governance experience through service on other public company boards.

### 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 pharmaceutical companies and is currently the president of Triax 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 8 years. Mr. Winger has corporate

23

### **Table of Contents**

governance and audit committee experience through service on other public company boards in the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries.

#### 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 and relevant qualifications to our Secretary at our principal executive offices. 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.

Four directors comprised the nominating and corporate governance committee at the end of the 2010 fiscal year: Mr. Chess, who chairs the committee, Mr. Kuebler, Ms. Wang and Mr. Whitfield. The board of directors annually reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for nominating and corporate

24

### **Table of Contents**

governance committee members and has determined that all members of our nominating and corporate governance committee are independent. Our nominating and corporate governance committee charter can be found on our corporate website at <a href="https://www.nektar.com">www.nektar.com</a>.

### 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 shall 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 <a href="https://www.nektar.com">www.nektar.com</a>. 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 2010: Messrs. Greer, Krivulka, Kuebler and Lingnau. No director who served on the organization and compensation committee in 2010 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 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**

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, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, compensation awarded or paid to our non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

Name(1)	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(2)	Option Awards (\$)(3)	Total (\$)
(a) Robert B. Chess	( <b>b</b> ) 91,000	(c)	( <b>d</b> ) 187,035	(h) 278,035
R. Scott Greer	48,875	122,738	400,609	572,222

**Joseph J. Krivulka** 65,000 0 187,035 252,035

**Christopher A. Kuebler** 70,500 &nbs