EXELIXIS INC Form DEF 14A March 18, 2005

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "

Check the appropriate box:

" Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

EXELIXIS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

- x No fee required.
- " Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
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 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

EXELIXIS, INC.

170 Harbor Way

P.O. Box 511

South San Francisco, CA 94083-0511

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON APRIL 22, 2005

To the Stockholders of Exelixis, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Exelixis, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on Friday, April 22, 2005 at 8:00 a.m., local time, at the Company s offices located at 210 East Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, California 94080 for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect four Class III directors to hold office until the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.
- 2. To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005.
- 3. To approve an amendment to the Company s 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the plan by 1,850,000 shares, from 1,800,000 shares to 3,650,000 shares.
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 4, 2005 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at this Annual Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ CHRISTOPH A. PEREIRA

Christoph A. Pereira Secretary

South San Francisco, California

March 17, 2005

ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. A RETURN ENVELOPE (WHICH IS POSTAGE PREPAID IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES) IS ENCLOSED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EVEN IF YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR 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 FROM THE RECORD HOLDER A PROXY ISSUED IN YOUR NAME. YOU MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROXY OVER THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE. PLEASE REFER TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WITH YOUR PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTION FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

EXELIXIS, INC.

170 Harbor Way

P.O. Box 511

South San Francisco, CA 94083-0511

PROXY STATEMENT

FOR THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON APRIL 22, 2005

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

Why am I receiving these materials?

We sent you this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card because the Board of Directors of Exelixis, Inc. (sometimes referred to as the Company or Exelixis) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting, and Exelixis requests that you 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 simply complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy card.

The Company intends to mail this proxy statement and accompanying proxy card on or about March 25, 2005 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 March 4, 2005 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were approximately 76,150,092 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on March 4, 2005 your shares were registered directly in your name with Exelixis transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, Exelixis urges you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card.

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

If on March 4, 2005 your shares were held electronically in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are 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 or other agent on how to vote the shares in your account. 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 meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent.

What am I voting on?

There are three matters scheduled for a vote:

Election of four Class III directors to hold office until the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

Ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005; and

Approval of an amendment to the Company s 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the plan by 1,850,000 shares, from 1,800,000 shares to 3,650,000 shares.

How do I vote?

You may either vote For all the nominees to the Board of Directors or you may Withhold your vote for any nominee you specify. For any other matter to be voted on, you may vote For or Against or Abstain from voting. The procedures for voting are explained below:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by proxy using the enclosed proxy card. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, Exelixis urges you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person if you have already voted by proxy.

To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting. Exelixis will give you a ballot when you arrive.

To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, Exelixis will vote your shares as you direct.

To vote by telephone, dial toll-free 1-866-540-5760 from the United States using a touch-tone phone and follow the recorded instructions. Votes submitted by telephone must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 21, 2005. Submitting your proxy by telephone will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Annual Meeting.

To vote via the Internet, go to www.proxyvoting.com/exel to complete an electronic proxy card. Votes submitted via the Internet must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 21, 2005. Submitting your proxy via the Internet will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Annual Meeting.

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

Most beneficial owners whose stock is held in street name receive voting instruction forms from their banks, brokers or other agents, rather than the Company s proxy card. A number of brokers and banks are participating in a program provided through ADP Investor Communication Services that offers the means to grant proxies to vote shares by telephone and via the Internet. If your shares are held in an account with a broker or bank participating in the ADP Investor Communications Services program, you may grant a proxy to vote those shares telephonically by calling the telephone number shown on the instruction form received from your broker or bank, or via the Internet at ADP Investor Communication Services website at www.proxyvote.com. Votes submitted via the Internet or by telephone must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 21, 2005.

The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders identities, to allow stockholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that stockholders instructions have been recorded properly. Stockholders voting via the Internet should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies, that must be borne by the stockholder.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of March 4, 2005.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted For the election of each of the four nominees for director, For the ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as independent auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005 and For the increase in the number of shares authorized under the Company s 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. 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 or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

Exelixis will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies, including the preparation, assembly, printing and mailing of this proxy statement, the proxy card and any additional information furnished to stockholders. Copies of solicitation materials will be furnished to banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries and custodians holding in their names shares of the Company s common stock beneficially owned by others to forward to such beneficial owners. Exelixis may reimburse persons representing beneficial owners of the Company s common stock for their costs of forwarding solicitation materials to such beneficial owners. Original solicitation of proxies by mail may be supplemented by telephone, telegram or personal solicitation by directors, officers or other regular employees of the Company. No additional compensation will be paid to directors, officers or other regular employees.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

If you receive more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete, date, sign and return **each** proxy card 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 meeting. You may revoke your proxy in the following ways:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

Your proxy may be revoked by filing with the Secretary of the Company at the Company s principal executive office, 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511, either (1) a written notice of revocation or (2) a duly executed proxy card bearing a later date.

Your proxy may also be revoked by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

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

When are stockholder proposals due for next year s Annual Meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in next year s proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by November 17, 2005 to the Secretary of the Company at Exelixis, Inc., 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511. If you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year s proxy materials, you must submit your proposal in writing, in the manner set forth in the Company s Bylaws, to the Secretary of the Company at Exelixis, Inc., 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511 not earlier than the close of business on January 22, 2006, nor later than the close of business on February 21, 2006.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting, who will separately count For , Withhold and (with respect to proposals other than the election of directors) Against votes, abstentions and broker non-votes. A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that proposal and has not received instructions with respect to that proposal from the beneficial owner (despite voting on at least one other proposal for which it does have discretionary authority or for which it has received instructions). Abstentions will be counted towards the vote total for each proposal and will have the same effect as Against votes. Broker non-votes have no effect and will not be counted towards the vote total for any proposal.

How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

For the election of directors, the four Class III nominees receiving the most For votes (among votes properly cast in person or by proxy) will be elected. Only votes For or Withhold will affect the outcome.

To be approved, Proposal No. 2, the ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2005, must receive a For vote from the majority of shares present and entitled to vote either in person or by proxy. If you Abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

To be approved, Proposal No. 3, the approval of an amendment to the 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of authorized shares by 1,850,000 shares, must receive For votes constituting a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote either in person or by proxy. If you Abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if at least a majority of the outstanding shares are represented by votes at the meeting or by proxy. On the record date, there were approximately 76,150,092 shares outstanding and entitled to vote.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy vote or vote at the meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, either the chairman of the meeting or a majority of the votes present at the meeting may adjourn the meeting to another date.

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

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Final voting results will be published in the Company s quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter of 2005.

Proposal 1

Election of Class III Directors

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that the Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes, each class consisting, as nearly as possible, of one third of the total number of directors, with each class having a three-year term. Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy (including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors) shall serve for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred and until such director s successor is elected and qualified, or until such director s earlier death, resignation or removal.

Our Board of Directors is presently composed of ten members. The Board of Directors has determined that Drs. Cohen, Formela, Garber, Marchesi, McCormick, Papadopoulos, Poste, Willsey and Mr. Wyszomierski, which members constitute a majority of the Board of Directors, are independent (as independence is currently defined by the listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market). There are four directors in Class III, the class whose term of office expires in 2005. Each of the nominees for election to this class is currently a director of the Company. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each of the nominees would serve until the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is elected and qualified, or until such director s earlier death, resignation or removal.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the four nominees named below. In the event that any nominee should be unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, such shares will be voted for the election of such substitute nominee as the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors may propose. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and the Company has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

Set forth below is biographical information for each person nominated and each person whose term of office as a director will continue after the Annual Meeting.

Class III Nominees for Election for a Three-Year Term Expiring at the 2008 Annual Meeting

Stelios Papadopoulos, Ph.D., age 56, has been a director since December 1994 and the Chairman of the Board of Directors since January 1998. Dr. Papadopoulos has been an investment banker at SG Cowen Securities Corporation since February 2000. Prior to that, Dr. Papadopoulos was an investment banker at UBS PaineWebber from April 1987 to February 2000 and Chairman of PaineWebber Development Corp., a UBS PaineWebber subsidiary, from June 1998 to February 2000. Dr. Papadopoulos is a member of the Board of Directors of GenVec, Inc., a biotechnology company, Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company, Diacrin, Inc., a biotechnology company, and several private companies. Dr. Papadopoulos holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics and an M.B.A. in Finance, both from New York University.

George A. Scangos, Ph.D., age 56, has served as a director and as the Company s President and Chief Executive Officer since October 1996. From September 1993 to October 1996, Dr. Scangos served as President of Biotechnology at Bayer Corporation, a pharmaceutical company, and was responsible for research, business and process development, manufacturing, engineering and quality assurance. Dr. Scangos is a member of the Board of Directors of Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and a private company. Dr. Scangos was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Yale University and a faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Scangos currently holds an appointment as Adjunct Professor of Biology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Scangos holds a B.A. in Biology from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Massachusetts.

Frank McCormick, Ph.D., age 54, has been a director since July 2003. Dr. McCormick is Director of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Comprehensive Cancer Center and has been the David A. Wood

Professor of Tumor Biology and Cancer Research in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at UCSF since 1998. From 1992 to 1998, Dr. McCormick was the founder and Chief Scientific Officer at Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biotechnology company. From 1991 to 1992, he served as Vice President of Therapeutic Research at Chiron Corporation, a pharmaceutical company, and from 1981 to 1990 he served as Vice President of Discovery Research with Cetus Corporation, a biotechnology company. Dr. McCormick is on the editorial board of some of the most prestigious international cancer publications and serves as a board member or advisor to multiple cancer research organizations. Dr. McCormick was a Post-Doctoral Fellow with Dr. Allen Smith at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, England, and with Professor Seymour S. Cohen at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. McCormick holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Birmingham, England and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge, England.

Lance Willsey, M.D., age 43, has been a director since April 1997. Dr. Willsey has been a founding partner of DCF Capital, a hedge fund focused on investing in the life sciences, since July 1998. From July 1997 to July 1998, Dr. Willsey served on the Staff Department of Urologic Oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard University School of Medicine. From July 1996 to July 1997, Dr. Willsey served on the Staff Department of Urology at Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard University School of Medicine, where he was a urology resident from July 1992 to July 1996. Dr. Willsey is a member of the Board of Directors of Exact Sciences Corporation, a biotechnology company. Dr. Willsey holds a B.S. in Physiology from Michigan State University and an M.S. in Biology and an M.D., both from Wayne State University.

The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote in Favor of Each Named Nominee.

Class I Director Continuing in Office Until the 2006 Annual Meeting

Charles Cohen, Ph.D., age 54, has been a director since November 1995. Since May 2003, Dr. Cohen has been a partner at Advent International, a global venture capital firm. Currently, Dr. Cohen is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Cellzome AG, a post-genomics biotechnology company. From 2000 to 2002, Dr. Cohen was the Chief Executive Officer of Cellzome AG. Prior to that, Dr. Cohen co-founded Creative BioMolecules, Inc., a biotechnology company, in 1982 and was a director and its Chief Executive Officer from 1985 to 1995. Dr. Cohen serves on the board of directors of Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and several private companies. Dr. Cohen has been the Chief Executive Officer of several companies. Dr. Cohen received his Ph.D. from New York University of Medicine.

George Poste, D.V.M., Ph.D., age 60, has been a director since August 2004. Dr. Poste has been the director of the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University since May 2003. Dr. Poste also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Health Technology Networks, a consulting company that specializes in the application of genomic technologies and computing in healthcare. From 1992 to 1999, he was the Chief Science and Technology Officer and President, R&D of SmithKline Beecham Corporation, a pharmaceutical company. Dr. Poste serves on the Defense Science Board of the U.S. Department of Defense (and chairs the Task Force on Bioterrorism) and is a member of other organizations dedicated to advance the defense against bioweapons and biowarfare. Dr. Poste is also the Non-Executive Chairman of Orchid Biosciences, Inc., a biotechnology company, and a member of the Board of Directors of Monsanto Company, a provider of agricultural products and solutions. Dr. Poste is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Academy of Medical Sciences, Pembroke College Cambridge, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and various other prestigious organizations and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several universities. Dr. Poste holds a D.V.M. and a Ph.D. in Virology from the University of Bristol, England.

Jack L. Wyszomierski, age 49, has been a director since February 2004. Mr. Wyszomierski is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of VWR International, Inc., a supplier of laboratory supplies, equipment and supply chain solutions to the biotechnology and medical device industry. From 1982 to 2003, Mr. Wyszomierski held positions of increasing responsibility within the finance group at Schering-Plough Corporation, a health care company, culminating with his appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 1996. Prior to joining Schering-Plough, he was responsible for capitalization planning at Joy Manufacturing Company, a producer of mining equipment, and was a management consultant at Data Resources,

Inc. Mr. Wyszomierski holds a B.S. in Industrial Administration and a M.S. in Administration, Management Science and Economics from Carnegie Mellon University.

Class II Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2007 Annual Meeting

Jean-Francois Formela, M.D., age 48, has been a director since September 1995. Dr. Formela has been a principal of Atlas Venture, a venture capital firm, since 1993. From 1989 to 1993, Dr. Formela served at Schering-Plough Corporation, most recently as Senior Director, Medical Marketing and Scientific Affairs, where he had biotechnology licensing and marketing responsibilities. Dr. Formela serves on the Board of Directors of deCODE genetics, Inc., a biotechnology company, and several private companies. Dr. Formela holds an M.D. from Paris University School of Medicine and an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

Alan M. Garber, *M.D.*, *Ph.D.*, age 49, has been a director since January 2005. Dr. Garber has been the Henry J. Kaiser Jr. Professor and a Professor of Medicine at Stanford University since 1998. Dr. Garber is also a Professor (by courtesy) of Economics, Business, and Health Research and Policy at Stanford University. Dr. Garber is the Director of the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research at Stanford University School of Medicine, the Center for Health Policy at Stanford University, and the Health Care Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and a staff physician at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Dr. Garber consults for numerous prestigious organizations, is on the editorial board of acclaimed scientific journals and has received numerous awards and honors. Dr. Garber holds an A.B. in Economics *summa cum laude*, an A.M. in Economics, a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard College and an M.D. from Stanford University.

Vincent T. Marchesi, M.D., Ph.D., age 69, has been a director since May 2001. Since 1973, Dr. Marchesi has been a Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at Yale University and, since 1991, has been the Director of the Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine at Yale University. Dr. Marchesi is also Editor-in-Chief at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Journal. In 1982, Dr. Marchesi co-founded Molecular Diagnostics, Inc., a diagnostic development company. Dr. Marchesi was formerly Chair of Pathology at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Marchesi holds an M.D. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from Oxford University.

Board Committees and Meetings

During the year ended December 31, 2004, our Board of Directors held 11 meetings and acted by written consent one time. As required under applicable listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market, during the year ended December 31, 2004, the Company s independent directors met three times in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors were present. Our Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and Compensation Committee.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors oversees the Company s corporate accounting and financial reporting process, ensures the integrity of the Company s financial statements and has been designated as the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee within the meaning of Rule 205.2(k) of Title 17, Chapter II of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Audit Committee performs several functions, such as evaluating the performance of, and assessing the qualifications of, the independent auditors; determining on behalf of the Board of Directors whether to retain or terminate the existing independent auditors or to appoint and engage new independent auditors; reviewing and approving the engagement of the independent auditors to perform any proposed permissible services and appropriate compensation thereof; reviewing and approving all related party transactions; establishing procedures, as required under applicable law, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; reviewing the financial statements to be included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K; discussing with management and the independent auditors the results of the annual audit and the results of

the Company s quarterly financial statement reviews; and resolving any disagreements between the independent auditors and management. The Audit Committee also has the specific responsibilities and authority necessary to comply with the listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market applicable to audit committees.

The Audit Committee was established in January 2000 in connection with our initial public offering. During 2004, the Audit Committee was composed of three independent directors, Drs. Fisherman, Formela and Willsey, except that Mr. Wyszomierski replaced Dr. Formela in February 2004. Effective January 1, 2005, the membership of the Audit Committee was changed to consist of Drs. Cohen and Willsey and Mr. Wyszomierski (chairman). The Board of Directors has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined by the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act). The Board of Directors has also determined that Mr. Wyszomierski is an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee met four times and acted by written consent four times during the year ended December 31, 2004. See Report of the Audit Committee below. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter, which was filed as Appendix A to the Company s 2004 proxy statement.

The purpose of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to oversee all aspects of the Company s corporate governance functions on behalf of the Board of Directors; make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding corporate governance issues; identify, review and evaluate candidates to serve as directors of the Company; serve as a focal point for communication between such candidates, non-committee directors and the Company s management; recommend such candidates to the Board of Directors and make such other recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding affairs relating to the directors of the Company, including director compensation; and develop a set of corporate governance principles for the Company. During 2004, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee was composed of two independent directors, Drs. Marchesi and Cohen. Effective January 1, 2005, the Committee s membership was changed to consist of Drs. Garber and Marchesi. All members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined by the listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market). The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee was established in December 2003 and held three meetings in 2004. The Committee has adopted a written charter, which was filed as Appendix B to the Company s 2004 proxy statement. The charter is not posted on our website. Because Exelixis is an emerging biopharmaceutical company with rapidly evolving and expanding research and clinical programs, the Board of Directors does not believe that it is appropriate to adopt, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has not adopted, a formal policy with respect to a fixed set of minimum qualifications for its candidates for membership on the Board of Directors. Instead, in considering candidates for directorship, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will generally consider all relevant factors, including the candidate s applicable expertise and demonstrated excellence in his or her field, the usefulness of such expertise to the Company, the availability of the candidate to devote sufficient time and attention to the affairs of the Company, the existence of any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of the candidate s independent judgment, and the candidate s demonstrated character and judgment. Candidates for directorship will be reviewed in the context of the existing membership of the Board of Directors (including the qualities and skills of the existing directors), the operating requirements of the Company and the long-term interests of its stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee generally will evaluate and consider all candidates recommended by the directors, officers and security holders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee intends to consider security holder recommendations for directors using the same criteria as potential nominees recommended by the members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or others. The Company has engaged an executive search firm to assist the Committee in identifying and recruiting potential candidates for membership on the Board of Directors.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has not received any recommended nominations from any of the Company s stockholders in connection with the 2005 Annual Meeting. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to become nominees for election to the Board of Directors may do so by delivering a written recommendation to the

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee within the timeframe specified in the Bylaws of the Company that is applicable to matters to be brought before an Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Such communications should be sent to the following address: 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511, Attn: Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors. Submissions must include the full name of the proposed nominee, a description of the proposed nominee s business experience for at least the previous five years, complete biographical information, a description of the proposed nominee s qualifications as a director and a representation that the nominating stockholder is a beneficial or record owner of the Company s stock. Any such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director, if elected.

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors was established in January 2000 and oversees the Company s compensation policies, plans and programs, reviews and determines the compensation to be paid to the Company s officers and directors, and prepares and reviews the Compensation Committee s report included in the Company s annual proxy statement in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Compensation Committee reviews and recommends to the Board of Directors the compensation and benefits of all of our officers, establishes and reviews general policies relating to compensation and benefits of our employees, including executive officers, and performs such other functions regarding compensation as the Board of Directors may delegate. The Compensation Committee also administers the issuance of stock options and other awards under our stock plans. The Compensation Committee has adopted a written charter. The Compensation Committee is currently composed of three directors: Drs. Cohen, Marchesi and Formela. The Compensation Committee met five times and acted by written consent two times during the year ended December 31, 2004. All members of the Compensation Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined by the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market).

During the year ended December 31, 2004, all of our directors attended at least 75% of the total meetings of the Board of Directors and of the committees on which they served during the period for which they were a director or committee member, respectively, except Dr. McCormick who attended 73% of the meetings of the Board. Dr. McCormick was not a member of any of the Board s committees.

The Board of Directors does not have a formal policy with respect to the attendance of members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meetings of Stockholders of the Company. Dr. Scangos attended the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors believes that the Company has in place adequate current methods for receiving communications from its security holders. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has not established a formal process for security holders to send communications to the Board of Directors. However, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors will consider, from time to time, whether adoption of a formal process for stockholder communications with the Board of Directors has become necessary or appropriate. Security holders may send communications to the Board of Directors by mail at 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511, by facsimile at (650) 837-8300 or by e-mail at info@exelixis.com, each of the foregoing sent Attn: Board of Directors.

Report of the Audit Committee¹

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Exelixis serves as the representative of the Board of Directors for (a) general oversight of the financial reporting process of the Company, (b) monitoring the integrity of the Company s financial statements and systems of internal accounting and financial controls, (c) compliance with legal and regulatory requirements related to the preparation and external audit of the Company s financial statements, and (d) selection, evaluation and retention of the Company s independent auditors. Each of the members of the Audit Committee is independent as defined under the listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act.

The Audit Committee maintains a written charter that outlines its responsibilities. Exelixis management has primary responsibility for preparing the Company s consolidated financial statements, ensuring the integrity of such data and establishing the financial reporting process. Ernst & Young LLP, the Company s independent auditors, are responsible for performing an audit of the Company s consolidated financial statements, reviewing the Company s unaudited interim financial statements and expressing an opinion as to the conformity of such financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles in the Unites States. The Audit Committee s responsibility is to oversee and review this process. Based on this background, the Audit Committee reports as follows:

1. We have reviewed and discussed the Company s audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004 with management and the independent auditors. We have also discussed with management the process used to support the certifications of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer that are required in periodic reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

2. We have discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed under generally accepted auditing standards in the United States, including those matters set forth in Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, Communication with Audit Committees (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU Section 380).

3. We have received and reviewed the written disclosures and letter from the independent auditors required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, and have discussed with the independent auditors their independence from the Company. We have also considered whether the independent auditors provision of non-audit services to the Company is compatible with maintaining the auditors independence. We have concluded that the independent auditors are independent from the Company and its management.

4. Based on review and discussion of the matters set forth in paragraphs (1) through (3) above, we have recommended to the Board of Directors (and the Board of Directors has approved) that the audited consolidated financial statements referred to above be included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 for filing with the SEC.

We have also selected Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005 and have presented our selection to the Board of Directors to present to the stockholders for ratification.

The undersigned members of the Audit Committee have submitted this Audit Committee Report as of this 17th day of March 2005.

Lance Willsey

Jack Wyszomierski³

- ¹ The material in this report is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation by reference language contained in such filing.
- ² As a result of Dr. Fisherman s resignation from the Board of Directors, Dr. Cohen was elected to replace Dr. Fisherman as a member of the Audit Committee effective January 1, 2005.
- ³ As a result of Dr. Formela s resignation from the Audit Committee, Mr. Wyszomierski was elected to replace Dr. Formela effective February 24, 2004.

Proposal 2

Ratification of Selection of Independent Auditors

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has selected Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as the Company s independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005 and has further directed that management submit the selection of independent auditors for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Ernst & Young LLP has audited the Company s financial statements for each of the four years in the period ended December 31, 2004. 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 the Company s Bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent auditors. However, the Board of Directors 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 of the Board of Directors will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors in its discretion may direct the appointment of different independent auditors at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

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

Independent Auditors Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for the last two fiscal years for the services described below are as follows:

	Year Ended	Year Ended December 31,	
	2004	2003	
Audit fees	\$ 672,000	\$ 274,940	
Audit-related fees	43,000	4,000	
Tax fees		3,800	
All other fees	2,000		
		. <u></u>	
	\$ 717,000	\$ 282,740	

(1) Audit fees include fees for services necessary to perform the audit of our financial statements for fiscal years 2004 and 2003, statutory audits, attest services and consents and assistance with, and review of, documents filed with the SEC. The increase in audit fees from 2003 to 2004 is

primarily related to attestation services performed by Ernst & Young LLP in connection with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(2) Audit-related fees include audit-related consultation and consultation concerning financial accounting and reporting standards.

(3) Tax fees include fees for tax compliance, tax and planning and tax advice.

(4) All other fees include the aggregate of the fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for products and services provided by the principal accountant other than the products and services disclosed as Audit fees, Audit-related fees and Tax fees.

The Audit Committee did not pre-approve any fees associated with financial systems consulting and accordingly, no such fees were incurred by the Company.

Pre-Approval of Services

During 2004, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors approved the audit and non-audit services to be performed by our independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP. Non-audit services are defined as services other than those provided in connection with an audit or a review of the financial statements of the Company. The Audit Committee by policy pre-approves all audit and non-audit services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP. The Audit Committee has not adopted a formal written policy or procedures for the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services rendered by the Company s independent auditors. The committee generally pre-approves specified services in the defined categories of audit services, audit-related services, and tax services up to specified amounts. Pre-approval may also be given as part of the Audit Committee s approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent auditors or on an individual explicit case-by-case basis before the independent auditor is engaged to provide each service. The Audit Committee has approved all audit fees, audit-related fees, tax fees and other fees in 2004 and 2003. There are no *de minimis* exceptions for Exelixis.

The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote in Favor of Proposal 2.

Proposal 3

Approval of an Amendment to the Company s 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

to Increase the Authorized Number of Shares by 1,850,000 Shares

The Board of Directors has approved an amendment to the Company s 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the ESPP) to increase the number of shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the ESPP by 1,850,000 shares, from 1,800,000 shares to 3,650,000 shares (the ESPP Amendment), subject to stockholder approval. The ESPP Amendment is being proposed in order to avoid depletion of the shares reserved for issuance under the ESPP and to provide ample opportunity for future grants to eligible employees under the ESPP. No other amendments to the ESPP are proposed. As of March 4, 2005, 1,402,904 shares have been purchased under the ESPP and 397,096 shares remain available for purchases under the ESPP without taking into account the proposed ESPP Amendment. In 2004, 312,552 shares were purchased under the ESPP. As of December 31, 2004, the Company had 489 U.S. employees, including officers, that were eligible to participate in the ESPP.

The ESPP was adopted by the Board of Directors in January 2000 and was approved by the Company s stockholders in March 2000. The proposed ESPP Amendment is intended to ensure that the Company s compensation is competitive and that the Company is able to continue to provide sufficient equity incentives to attract and retain highly qualified and experienced employees and officers. The Board of Directors believes that approval of the ESPP Amendment is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders because the availability of an adequate reserve of shares under the ESPP is an important factor in attracting, motivating and retaining qualified officers and employees essential to the Company s success and in aligning their long-term interests with those of the stockholders. If approved, the ESPP Amendment would represent the first time the number of shares issuable under the ESPP has increased since it was first established in 2000.

The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote in Favor of Proposal 3.

2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The following is a summary of the ESPP and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the ESPP, as amended by the Board of Directors on January 28, 2005, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Administration. The Company s Board of Directors administers the ESPP unless it delegates administration to a committee. The Board has delegated the administration of the ESPP to the Company s Compensation Committee. Nevertheless, the Board has the final power to determine all questions of policy and expediency that may arise in the administration of the ESPP. The Board (or the Compensation Committee) has the authority to construe, interpret and amend the ESPP as well as to determine the terms of rights granted under the ESPP.

Share Reserve Proposed Amendment. The ESPP initially authorized the issuance of 300,000 shares of the Company s common stock pursuant to purchase rights granted to eligible employees. The number of shares of common stock initially reserved for issuance is automatically increased on the last day of each of the Company s fiscal years for ten years, starting in 2000, by a number of shares equal to the greater of:

0.75% of the Company s outstanding shares on a fully-diluted basis; or

that number of shares subject to stock awards granted under the ESPP during the prior 12-month period.

The automatic increase is subject to reduction by the Board of Directors. Under the original terms of the ESPP, the number of shares under the ESPP attributable to the automatic increases may not exceed in the aggregate 1,500,000 shares. Under the proposed ESPP Amendment, the number of shares under the ESPP attributable to the automatic increases may not exceed in the aggregate 3,350,000 shares.

Eligibility. The ESPP is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan within the meaning of Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). The ESPP provides a means by which eligible employees may purchase the Company s common stock through payroll deductions. Generally, all of the

Company s full-time employees may participate in offerings under the ESPP. However, no employee may participate in the ESPP if immediately after the Company grants the employee a purchase right, such employee would have voting power over 5% or more of the Company s outstanding capital stock. In addition, part-time or seasonal employees who are customarily employed for twenty hours or less per week or five months or less per calendar year are not eligible to participate in the ESPP.

Offerings. The ESPP is implemented through a series of offerings of purchase rights to eligible employees. The Board of Directors has the authority to set the terms of an offering. It may specify offerings of up to 27 months and may specify shorter purchase periods within each offering. Each offering may have one or more purchase dates on which shares of common stock will be purchased for employees participating in the offering. Currently under the ESPP, consecutive six-month offerings commence on each May 1 and November 1, with purchase dates on October 31 and April 30, respectively. An offering may be terminated under certain circumstances, including adverse changes in accounting rules. Common stock is purchased for accounts of participating employees at a price per share equal to the lower of:

85% of the fair market value of a share on the first day of the offering; or

85% of the fair market value of a share on the purchase date.

The fair market value is the closing sales price (rounded up where necessary to the nearest whole cent) for the Company s shares (or the closing bid, if no sales were reported) as quoted on the Nasdaq National Market on the last trading day prior to the relevant determination date, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal*.

The Board of Directors has determined that participating employees may authorize payroll deductions of up to 15% of their compensation for the purchase of stock under the ESPP. Employees may end their participation in an offering at any time up to ten days before a purchase date. Their participation ends automatically on termination of their employment.

Other Limitations. A participant s right to purchase the Company s stock under the ESPP, plus any other ESPPs that may be established by the Company or its affiliates, is limited. An employee may not accrue the right to purchase stock at a rate of more than \$25,000 of the fair market value of the Company s stock for each calendar year in which the purchase right is outstanding. We determine the fair market value of the Company s stock, for the purpose of this limitation, as of the first day of an offering.

Changes to Capital Structure. In the event that there is a specified type of change in the Company s capital structure, such as a stock split, appropriate adjustments will be made to (i) the number of shares reserved under the ESPP, and (ii) the number of shares and purchase limits of all outstanding purchase rights.

Corporate Transactions. In the event of certain significant corporate transactions, as described in the ESPP, the surviving or acquiring corporation will either assume or substitute outstanding purchase rights. If the surviving or acquiring corporation refuses to assume or substitute such purchase rights, then, as determined by the Board of Directors in its discretion, such rights may continue in full force and effect or the participants accumulated contributions may be used to purchase shares of the Company s common stock immediately prior to such corporate transaction, and such purchase rights will terminate immediately thereafter.

Duration, Amendment and Termination. The Board of Directors may suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time. Unless terminated earlier, the ESPP will terminate when all shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the ESPP, as increased and/or adjusted from time to time, have been issued. The Board of Directors may amend the ESPP at any time. However, except as to adjustments upon changes in securities or as

to minor amendments to benefit the administration of the ESPP, to take into account of legislation or to obtain or maintain favorable tax treatment, exchange control or regulatory treatment for participants, the Company or any of its affiliates, no amendment will be effective unless approved by the Company s stockholders to the extent such

stockholder approval is necessary for the ESPP to satisfy Section 423 of the Code, Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and any Nasdaq or other securities exchange listing requirements. Rights granted before amendment or termination of the ESPP will not be impaired by such amendment or termination, except (i) as expressly provided in the ESPP, (ii) with the consent of the participant or (iii) as necessary to comply with any laws or governmental regulations, including Section 423 of the Code.

Federal Income Tax Information. Rights granted under the ESPP are intended to qualify for favorable federal income tax treatment associated with rights granted under an employee stock purchase plan which qualifies under provisions of Section 423 of the Code.

A participant will be taxed on amounts withheld for the purchase of common stock as if such amounts were actually received. Otherwise, no income will be taxable to a participant until disposition of the acquired shares, and the method of taxation will depend upon the holding period of the acquired shares. If the stock is disposed of more than two years after the beginning of the offering period and more than one year after the stock is transferred to the participant, then the lesser of (i) the excess of the fair market value of the stock at the time of such disposition over the purchase price or (ii) 15% of the fair market value of the stock as of the beginning of the offering period will be treated as ordinary income. Any further gain or any loss will be taxed as a long-term capital gain or loss. At present, such capital gains generally are subject to lower tax rates than ordinary income.

If the stock is sold or disposed of before the expiration of either of the holding periods described above, then the excess of the fair market value of the stock on the purchase date over the purchase price will be treated as ordinary income at the time of such disposition. The balance of any gain will be treated as capital gain. Even if the stock is later disposed of for less than its fair market value on the purchase date, the same amount of ordinary income is attributed to the participant, and a capital loss is recognized equal to the difference between the sales price and the fair market value of the stock on such purchase date. Any capital gain or loss will be short-term or long-term, depending on how long the stock has been held.

There are no federal income tax consequences to the Company by reason of the grant or exercise of rights under the ESPP. The Company is entitled to a deduction to the extent amounts are taxed as ordinary income to a participant (subject to the requirement of reasonableness and the satisfaction of tax reporting obligations).

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The information contained under the caption Equity Compensation Plan Information in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, filed with SEC on March 15, 2005 is hereby incorporated by reference.

Security Ownership of

Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of the Company s common stock as of December 31, 2004 by: (i) each director and nominee for director; (ii) each of the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table; (iii) all executive officers and directors of the Company as a group; and (iv) all those known by the Company to be beneficial owners of more than five percent of its common stock. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each of the individuals named below is: c/o Exelixis, Inc., 170 Harbor Way, P.O. Box 511, South San Francisco, California 94083-0511.

	Beneficial Ownership(1)	
Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares	Percent of Total
George A. Scangos, Ph.D. (2)	2,890,500	3.9
Frank L. Karbe (3)	226,387	*
Jeffrey R. Latts, M.D. (4)	380,000	*
Michael M. Morrissey, Ph.D. (5)	347,500	*
Gregory Plowman, M.D., Ph.D. (6)	233,624	*
Stelios Papadopoulos, Ph.D. (7)	807,277	1.1
Charles Cohen, Ph.D. (8)	1,123,304	1.5
Jean-Francois Formela, M.D. (9)	931,019	1.2
Alan M. Garber, Ph.D. (10)	0	*
Vincent T. Marchesi, M.D., Ph.D. (11)		