

Regulus Therapeutics Inc.  
Form 10-K  
February 19, 2015  
Table of Contents

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

**Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014**

**or**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number: 001-35670**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or Other Jurisdiction of**  
**Incorporation or Organization)**

**26-4738379**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

**3545 John Hopkins Ct., Suite 210, San Diego CA**  
**(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

**92121**  
**(Zip Code)**

**(858) 202-6300**

**(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)**

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

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</b>
<b>Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share</b>	<b>The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC</b>
<b>Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None</b>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Yes  No

As of June 30, 2014, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$290.9 million, based on the closing price of the registrant's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market on June 30, 2014 of \$8.04 per share.

The number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, as of February 6, 2015 was 50,516,741.

### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant on Schedule 14A in connection with the registrant's 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be filed subsequent to the date hereof, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K. Such proxy statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days following the end of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****FORM 10-K****For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2014****Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
Item 1	<u>Business</u> 2
Item 1A	<u>Risk Factors</u> 24
Item 1B	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u> 50
Item 2	<u>Properties</u> 50
Item 3	<u>Legal Proceedings</u> 50
Item 4	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> 50
<b>PART II</b>	
Item 5	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> 51
Item 6	<u>Selected Financial Data</u> 54
Item 7	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> 55
Item 7A	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> 67
Item 8	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> 68
Item 9	<u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> 95
Item 9A	<u>Controls and Procedures</u> 95
Item 9B	<u>Other Information</u> 96
<b>PART III</b>	
Item 10	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> 97
Item 11	<u>Executive Compensation</u> 97
Item 12	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u> 97
Item 13	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u> 97
Item 14	<u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u> 97
<b>PART IV</b>	
Item 15	<u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u> 98
	<b>Signatures</b> 99

The Regulus Therapeutics logo is a trademark of Regulus Therapeutics Inc. We use Regulus Therapeutics as a trademark in the United States and other countries. We have registered this trademark in the United States, the European Union and Switzerland. We use microMarkers as a servicemark in the United States and other countries. We have filed for registration of this servicemark in the United States. All other product and company names are trademarks of their respective companies.



**Table of Contents**

**PART I**

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, or this Annual Report, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth below under Part I, Item 1A, Risk Factors in this Annual Report. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. These statements, which represent our current expectations or beliefs concerning various future events, may contain words such as may, will, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, believe, estimate or other words indicating future results, though not all forward-looking statements necessarily contain these identifying words. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the following:

the initiation, cost, timing, progress and results of, and our expected ability to undertake certain activities and accomplish certain goals with respect to, our research and development activities, preclinical studies and clinical trials;

our ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of our product candidates, and any related restrictions, limitations, and/or warnings in the label of an approved product candidate;

our ability to obtain funding for our operations;

our plans to research, develop and commercialize our product candidates;

our strategic alliance partners election to pursue development and commercialization;

our ability to attract collaborators with development, regulatory and commercialization expertise;

our ability to obtain and maintain intellectual property protection for our product candidates;

the size and growth potential of the markets for our product candidates, and our ability to serve those markets;

our ability to successfully commercialize, and our expectations regarding future therapeutic and commercial potential with respect to, our product candidates;

the rate and degree of market acceptance of our product candidates;

our ability to develop sales and marketing capabilities, whether alone or with potential future collaborators;

regulatory developments in the United States and foreign countries;

the performance of our third-party suppliers and manufacturers;

the success of competing therapies that are or may become available;

the loss of key scientific or management personnel;

our ability to successfully secure and deploy capital;

our ability to satisfy our debt obligations;

our expectations regarding the time during which we will be an emerging growth company under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act;

our use of the proceeds from our prior public offerings;

the accuracy of our estimates regarding expenses, future revenues, capital requirements and need for additional financing; and

the risks and other forward-looking statements described under the caption "Risk Factors" under Part I, Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## Table of Contents

### **Item 1. Business.**

We are a biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing first-in-class drugs that target *microRNAs* to treat a broad range of diseases. We were formed in 2007 when Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. contributed significant intellectual property, know-how and financial and human capital to pursue the development of drugs targeting *microRNAs* pursuant to a license and collaboration agreement. We have established strategic alliances with AstraZeneca AB and Sanofi to discover, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics.

*microRNAs* are naturally occurring ribonucleic acid, or RNA, molecules that play a critical role in regulating key biological pathways. Scientific research has shown that the improper balance, or dysregulation, of *microRNAs* is directly linked to many diseases. To date, more than 500 *microRNAs* have been identified in humans, each of which is believed to interact with a specific set of genes that control key aspects of cell biology. Since most diseases are multi-factorial and involve multiple targets in a pathway, the ability to modulate gene networks by targeting a single *microRNA* provides a new therapeutic approach for treating complex diseases.

RNA plays an essential role in the process used by cells to encode and translate genetic information from DNA to proteins. RNA is comprised of subunits called nucleotides and is synthesized from a DNA template by a process known as transcription. Transcription generates different types of RNA, including messenger RNAs that carry the information for proteins in the sequence of their nucleotides. In contrast, *microRNAs* are small RNAs that do not code for proteins but rather are responsible for regulating gene expression by affecting the translation of target messenger RNAs. By interacting with many messenger RNAs, a single *microRNA* can regulate several genes that are instrumental for the normal function of a biological pathway.

We believe that *microRNA* therapeutics have the potential to become a new and major class of drugs with broad therapeutic application for the following reasons:

*microRNAs* until recently, have not been a focus of pharmaceutical research;

*microRNAs* play a critical role in regulating biological pathways by controlling the translation of many target genes;

*microRNA* therapeutics target entire disease pathways which may result in more effective treatment of complex multi-factorial diseases; and

*microRNA* therapeutics may be synergistic with other therapies because of their different mechanism of action. We believe we have assembled the leading position in the *microRNA* field, including expertise in *microRNA* biology and oligonucleotide chemistry, a broad intellectual property estate, relationships with key opinion leaders and disciplined drug discovery and development processes. We refer to these assets as our *microRNA* product platform. We are using our *microRNA* product platform to develop chemically modified, single-stranded oligonucleotides that we call anti-miRs to modulate *microRNAs* and return diseased cells to their healthy state. We believe *microRNAs* may be transformative in the field of drug discovery and that anti-miRs may become a new and major class of drugs with broad therapeutic application much like small molecules, biologics and monoclonal antibodies. In addition to our *microRNA* product platform, we have established Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup>, a division focused on



identifying *microRNAs* as biomarkers of human disease to support our therapeutic pipeline, collaborators and strategic partners. Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup> utilizes a clinically-validated, highly reproducible, proprietary technology platform to identify *microRNAs* as potential biomarkers for disease and we control key intellectual property and know-how related to the division. We believe that *microRNA* biomarkers may be used to select optimal patient segments in clinical trials and to monitor disease progression or relapse. We believe these *microRNA* biomarkers can be applied toward drugs that we develop and drugs developed by other companies with which we partner or collaborate, including small molecules and monoclonal antibodies. We have formed a research collaboration with Biogen Idec focused on the

---

**Table of Contents**

discovery of *microRNAs* as biomarkers for multiple sclerosis and have also entered into an arrangement with another leading, commercial-stage pharmaceutical company to explore *microRNAs* as biomarkers for specific patient populations. We also maintain several academic research collaborations focused on the identification of *microRNAs* as biomarkers in multiple disease areas.

**Clinical Map Initiative Goals**

To advance our *microRNA* therapeutics pipeline and biomarkers platform over the next several years, we have outlined specific goals under our Clinical Map Initiative strategy. Under this initiative, we are developing RG-101, our wholly-owned GalNAc-conjugated anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-122 for the treatment of HCV and RG-012, an anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-21 for the treatment of Alport syndrome, a life-threatening kidney disease driven by genetic mutations with no approved therapy. We are also advancing several programs toward clinical development in oncology, fibrosis and metabolic diseases, both independently and with our strategic alliance partners AstraZeneca and Sanofi. We completed our goals set under this initiative for 2014 and ended 2014 with \$159.7 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

In 2015, our goals under the Clinical Map Initiative are focused on advancing our clinical-stage programs, RG-101 and RG-012, and we expect to expand our clinical pipeline with the nomination of at least one additional candidate for clinical development.

*Clinical Map of RG-101:* Achieved Human Proof-of-Concept with RG-101 in HCV. Treatment with a single subcutaneous dose of either 2 mg/kg or 4 mg/kg of RG-101, a GalNAc-conjugated anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-122 ( miR-122 ), as monotherapy resulted in significant and sustained viral load reductions in all treated HCV patients, including difficult to treat genotypes, various liver fibrosis status and those who have experienced viral relapse after a prior IFN-containing regimen. At day 29, mean viral load reductions of 4.8 log<sub>10</sub> and 4.1 log<sub>10</sub> were demonstrated in the 4 mg/kg and 2 mg/kg dose cohorts, respectively. At day 57, 15 out of 28 patients treated with one single administration of either 2 mg/kg or 4 mg/kg of RG-101 had HCV RNA levels below the limit of quantification and 12 out of these 15 treated patients had HCV RNA levels that cannot be detected. To date, RG-101 has a favorable safety profile with no serious adverse events or discontinuations reported in the treated HCV patients. Under the Clinical Map Initiative , Regulus expects to initiate Phase II studies investigating RG-101 in combination with oral direct-acting antiviral agents and further as a single agent (single or multiple doses of RG-101) in the second quarter of 2015.

*Clinical Map of RG-012:* We plan to enroll up to 120 Alport syndrome patients in our global ATHENA natural history of disease study, which is designed to characterize the natural decline of renal function (as measured by established renal markers) in Alport syndrome patients over time. We believe the data from ATHENA will provide the clinical basis for the design of a Phase II proof-of-concept study to monitor the therapeutic effect of RG-012 on the decline in renal function in patients with Alport syndrome. In addition, we plan to initiate a Phase I study in the first half of 2015 to evaluate the safety and tolerability of RG-012 in healthy volunteers and to initiate a Phase II proof-of-concept study thereafter.

*Expand *microRNA* therapeutics portfolio:* We continue to pursue several undisclosed *microRNA* targets, mainly for oncology and orphan disease indications. In addition to our internal research efforts, we aim to advance certain programs with our strategic alliance partners, *microRNA*-103/107 for the treatment of metabolic diseases

## Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

and *microRNA*-19 for oncology indications with AstraZeneca, *microRNA*-221 and miR-21 for hepatocellular carcinoma and miR-21 for renal fibrosis (RG-012) with Sanofi. In 2015, we expect to nominate at least one additional *microRNA* candidate for clinical development, either independently or with a partner.

Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup>: To support the Clinical Map of RG-101, we plan to profile serum samples from the healthy volunteers and HCV patients in our ongoing clinical study of RG-101 to identify potential *microRNA* signatures, which may aid in accurately predicting a patient's response to RG-101 therapy. To support the Clinical Map of RG-012, we believe that we have identified a *microRNA*

## **Table of Contents**

signature in urine that may discriminate mutant mice from wild type mice early in disease progression in a kidney fibrosis model. These findings suggest that profiling *microRNAs* in urine may be a useful biomarker approach. As part of our ongoing ATHENA study, we plan to profile urine and blood samples from the Alport syndrome patients to potentially identify a clinically useful *microRNA* signature. We also aim to utilize our robust technology platform to profile and analyze *microRNAs* in different bodily fluids including plasma, serum, whole blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid. As part of our ongoing collaboration with Biogen Idec, we will profile whole blood samples of patients treated with a Biogen Idec MS therapy to identify potential *microRNA* signatures.

### **OUR *microRNA* PRODUCT PLATFORM**

We are the leading company in the field of *microRNA* therapeutics and are uniquely positioned to leverage oligonucleotide technologies that have been proven in clinical trials by us and our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis. Central to achieving our goals is the know-how that we have accumulated in oligonucleotide design and how the specific chemistries behave in the clinical setting.

We view the following as providing a competitive advantage for our *microRNA* product platform:

a mature platform selectively producing multiple development candidates advancing to the clinic;

scientific advisors who are pioneers in the *microRNA* field;

exclusive access to proven RNA therapeutic technologies through our founding companies, such as GalNac conjugation and the corresponding manufacturing rights licensed to us from Alnylam, which we are utilizing to enhance delivery of RG-101, our wholly-owned GalNac-conjugated anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-122, to hepatocytes to more effectively treat HCV.

a leading *microRNA* intellectual property estate with access to approximately 850 patents and patent applications relating to RNA technologies, including patent and patent applications relating to chemical modification of oligonucleotides that are useful for *microRNA* therapeutics, and over 200 patents and patent applications covering compositions and therapeutic uses related to *microRNA* and *microRNA* drug products;

development expertise and financial resources provided by our strategic alliances; and

Numerous academic collaborations that help us identify new *microRNA* targets and support our early stage discovery efforts.

The disciplined approach we take for the discovery and development of *microRNA* therapeutics is as important as the assets assembled to execute our plans and is based on the following four steps:

*Step 1 Evaluation of *microRNA* therapeutic opportunities*

The initiation of our *microRNA* discovery and development efforts is based on rigorous scientific and business criteria, including:

existence of significant scientific evidence to support the role of a specific *microRNA* in a disease;

availability of predictive preclinical disease models to test our *microRNA* development candidates;

ability to effectively deliver anti-miRs to the diseased cells or tissues; and

existence of a reasonable unmet medical need and commercial opportunity.

*Step 2 Identification of microRNA targets*

We identify *microRNA* targets through bioinformatic analysis of public and proprietary *microRNA* expression profiling data sets from samples of diseased human tissues. The analysis of such data sets can

## **Table of Contents**

immediately highlight a potential role for specific *microRNAs* in the disease being studied. Further investigation of animal models that are predictive of human diseases in which those same *microRNAs* are also dysregulated provides additional data to support a new program. We have applied this strategy successfully in our existing programs and we believe that this approach will continue to help us identify clinically relevant *microRNA* targets.

### *Step 3 Validation of microRNA targets*

Our validation strategy is based on two distinct steps. First, using genetic tools, we determine whether up-regulation, or overproduction, of the *microRNA* in healthy animals can create the specific disease state and inhibition of the *microRNA* can lead to a therapeutic benefit. Second, using animal models predictive of human diseases, we determine whether pharmacological modulation of the up-regulated *microRNA* target with our anti-miRs can also lead to a therapeutic benefit. This validation process enables us to prioritize *microRNA* targets that appear to be key drivers of disease and not simply correlating markers.

### *Step 4 Optimization of microRNA development candidates*

We have developed a proprietary process that allows us to rapidly generate an optimized development candidate. Unlike traditional drug classes, such as small molecules, in which thousands of compounds must be screened to identify prospective leads, the fact that anti-miRs are mirror images of their target *microRNAs* allows for a more efficient rational design process. The optimization process incorporates our extensive knowledge base around oligonucleotide chemistry and anti-miR design to efficiently synthesize a starting pool of rationally designed anti-miRs to be evaluated in a series of proven assays and models. We also enhance our anti-miRs for distribution to the tissues where the specific *microRNA* target is causing disease.

## **Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup>**

In January 2014, we established Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup>, a division focused on identifying *microRNAs* as biomarkers of human disease, which is designed to support our therapeutic pipeline, collaborators and strategic partners. Through our *microRNA* target identification and validation efforts we have developed proprietary technologies for *microRNA* profiling and analysis of human clinical samples such as tissue. More recently, *microRNAs* have been detected in bodily fluids such as blood, and emerging data generated by us and others have demonstrated that *microRNA* signatures in blood can mimic the expression profile observed in disease tissues.

The identification of dysregulated *microRNAs* from various human tissues and blood helps us identify and validate potential *microRNA* targets for therapeutic development. Equally important, such *microRNAs* may become biomarkers that can be used to select optimal patient segments for our clinical trials and the clinical trials of our strategic alliance partners and collaborators. We have formed a research collaboration with Biogen Idec focused on the discovery of *microRNAs* as biomarkers for multiple sclerosis and have also entered into an arrangement with another leading, commercial-stage pharmaceutical company to explore *microRNAs* as biomarkers for specific patient populations. We also maintain several academic research collaborations focused on the identification of *microRNAs* as biomarkers in multiple disease areas.

## **OUR INITIAL DEVELOPMENT CANDIDATES**

We are developing single-stranded oligonucleotides, which are chemically synthesized chains of nucleotides that are mirror images of specific target *microRNAs*. We incorporate proprietary chemical modifications to enhance drug properties such as potency, stability and tissue distribution. We refer to these chemically modified oligonucleotides as anti-miRs. Each anti-miR is designed to bind with and inhibit a specific *microRNA* target that is up-regulated in a cell

and that is involved in the disease state. In binding to the *microRNA*, anti-miRs correct the dysregulation and return diseased cells to their healthy state. We have demonstrated the therapeutic

## **Table of Contents**

benefit of inhibiting *microRNA*-122 in humans with RG-101 in HCV patients. In addition to these human proof-of-concept results, we have demonstrated therapeutic benefits of our anti-miRs in over 20 different preclinical models of human diseases.

We have identified and validated several *microRNA* targets across a number of disease categories and are working independently and with our strategic alliance partners to optimize anti-miR development candidates. We intend to pursue a balanced approach between product candidates that we develop ourselves and those that we develop with partners. We intend to focus our own resources on proprietary product opportunities in therapeutic areas where development and commercialization activities are appropriate for our size and financial resources, which we anticipate will include oncology indications and orphan diseases. In therapeutic areas where costs are more significant, development timelines are longer or markets are too large for our capabilities, we may seek to secure partners with requisite expertise and resources.

\* Sanofi will have the exclusive option, exercisable after proof-of-concept, to take over further development and commercialization of these programs. At this stage, Regulus will have the option to co-promote any *microRNA* therapeutic product in the United States.

## **OUR STRATEGY**

We are the leading biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of first-in-class drugs based on our proprietary *microRNA* product platform. The key elements of our strategy are to (i) build a meaningful clinical portfolio by advancing our current clinical programs and rapidly advancing our preclinical programs into clinical development; (ii) focus our resources on developing drugs for oncology indications or orphan diseases where the development and commercialization activities are appropriate for our size and financial resources; (iii) selectively form strategic alliances to augment our expertise and accelerate development and commercialization; (iv) develop *microRNA* biomarkers to support our therapeutic product candidates; and (v) maintain our scientific and intellectual leadership in the *microRNA* field.

Our strategy has been validated to date by the following strategic alliances and collaborations with large pharmaceutical companies:

In April 2008, we formed a strategic alliance with GSK to discover and develop *microRNA* therapeutics for immuno-inflammatory diseases. In February 2010, we and GSK expanded the alliance to include potential



---

**Table of Contents**

*microRNA* therapeutics for the treatment of HCV. In June 2013, we amended our agreement with GSK and agreed that RG-101 was fully-owned by us and that miR-122 would remain a collaboration target under the agreement. Effective January 15, 2015, this strategic alliance was terminated.

In June 2010, we formed a strategic alliance with Sanofi to discover and develop *microRNA* therapeutics for fibrotic diseases. In July 2012, we expanded the alliance to include potential *microRNA* therapeutics in oncology. The original research term for this strategic alliance expired in June 2013, upon which we and Sanofi entered into an option agreement pursuant to which we granted Sanofi an exclusive right to negotiate the co-development and commercialization of certain of our unencumbered *microRNA* programs, for which Sanofi paid us an upfront option fee of \$2.5 million. In addition, Sanofi granted us an exclusive option to negotiate the co-development and commercialization of miR-21. In February 2014, we and Sanofi extended our strategic alliance and Sanofi concurrently made a \$10.0 million investment in our common stock at a purchase price of \$7.67 per share, representing the average of the daily volume weighted average price per share of our common stock during the 30 trading days ending on the date immediately preceding the date of investment. Under the terms of our extended alliance, Sanofi will have opt-in rights to our miR-21 pre-clinical fibrosis program targeting miR-21 for the treatment of Alport Syndrome, our preclinical program targeting miR-21 for oncology indications, and our preclinical programs targeting miR-221/222 for oncology indications, each of which is to be led by us. If Sanofi chooses to exercise its option on any of these programs, Sanofi will reimburse us for a significant portion of our preclinical and clinical development costs and will also pay us an option exercise fee for any such program, provided that \$1.25 million of the \$2.5 million upfront option fee paid to us by Sanofi in connection with the June 2013 option agreement will be creditable against such option exercise fee. In addition, we will be eligible to receive clinical and regulatory milestone payments under these programs and potentially commercial milestone payments. We also continue to be eligible to receive royalties on *microRNA* therapeutic products commercialized by Sanofi or will have the right to co-promote these products. For additional information, see Notes 5 and 15 to our financial statements under Item 8 of Part II of this Annual Report.

In August 2012, we formed a strategic alliance with AstraZeneca to discover and develop *microRNA* therapeutics for cardiovascular diseases, metabolic diseases and oncology. Pursuant to this alliance, we continue to work towards the identification of development candidates on our programs partnered with AstraZeneca, such as our program targeting *microRNA* 103/107, or miR-103/107 for the treatment of metabolic diseases and *microRNA*-19, or miR-19 in oncology, a target selected by AstraZeneca in November 2012. In addition, AstraZeneca has a contractual right to select a third *microRNA* target.

In August 2012, we entered into a collaboration agreement with Biogen Idec to evaluate the potential use of *microRNA* signatures as a biomarker for human patients with MS. In August 2014, we and Biogen Idec entered into a new collaboration and license agreement to collaborate on *microRNA* biomarkers for MS and simultaneously terminated the August 2012 collaboration and license agreement.

Under these strategic alliances, we are eligible to receive approximately \$900.0 million in aggregate milestone payments upon successful commercialization of *microRNA* therapeutics for the programs contemplated by our agreements. These payments include up to \$107.8 million upon achievement of preclinical and investigational new drug, or IND, milestones, up to \$138.0 million upon achievement of clinical development milestones, up to \$180.0 million upon achievement of regulatory milestones and up to \$490.0 million upon achievement of commercialization milestones.

**Our Intellectual Property and Technology Licenses**

**Intellectual property**

We strive to protect and enhance the proprietary technologies that we believe are important to our business, including seeking and maintaining patents intended to cover our products and compositions, their methods of use and any other inventions that are important to the development of our business. We also rely on trade secrets to protect aspects of our business that are not amenable to, or that we do not consider appropriate for, patent

## Table of Contents

protection. Our objective is to continue to expand our intellectual property estate through our multiple layer approach in order to protect our *microRNA* therapeutics and to maintain our leading position in the *microRNA* therapeutics field.

We believe that we have a leading intellectual property position and substantial know-how relating to the development and commercialization of *microRNA* therapeutics, composed of:

over 200 patents and patent applications that we own or have in-licensed from academic institutions and third parties including our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, related to *microRNA* and *microRNA* drug products; and

approximately 850 patents or patent applications exclusively licensed from our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, related to RNA technologies, including patent and patent applications relating to chemical modification of oligonucleotides that are useful for *microRNA* therapeutics.

Our objective is to continue to expand our intellectual property estate through our multiple layer approach in order to protect our *microRNA* therapeutics and to maintain our leading position in the *microRNA* therapeutics field.

We have exclusively licensed patent rights from Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg and Bayerische Patent Allianz GmbH, which we collectively refer to herein as the University of Würzburg, which rights encompass the use of anti-miR therapeutics targeting miR-21 for the treatment of fibrosis, including kidney, liver, lung and cardiac fibrosis. In collaboration with us, investigators at the University of Würzburg demonstrated that targeting miR-21 in a disease model resulted in beneficial phenotypic effects, including the inhibition of the development of fibrosis. The Würzburg-licensed patent portfolio includes more than 20 U.S. and foreign patents and patent applications. Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, patents within this portfolio that have issued or may yet issue would have a statutory expiration date in 2029.

We have an exclusive license from Stanford University, or Stanford, to patent rights concerning the use of anti-miR therapeutics targeting miR-122 for the treatment of HCV infection. This patent portfolio is based upon research conducted by Peter Sarnow, Ph.D. and colleagues at Stanford, demonstrating that miR-122 is required for HCV replication in mammalian cells. The Stanford-licensed portfolio includes more than 12 U.S and foreign patents and patent applications. Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, patents within this portfolio that have issued or may yet issue would have a statutory expiration date in 2025.

Our portfolio of exclusively and jointly owned patent and patent applications is currently composed of over 130 U.S. and foreign patents and patent applications with claims to compositions-of-matter or methods related to our *microRNA* drug products and *microRNA* product platform. We jointly own approximately ten of the patents and pending applications including patents claiming methods for treating liver cancer, including hepatocellular carcinoma, or HCC, using anti-miRs targeting miR-21 and a patent claiming methods for treating liver cancer, including HCC, using miR-34a mimic. Based on the patents and patents that may issue from pending applications within our portfolio, patent protection for our *microRNA* drug products and their methods of use is currently expected to expire between 2024 and 2034.

Our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, each own or otherwise have rights to numerous patents and patent applications concerning oligonucleotide technologies and a substantial number of these patents and applications have been exclusively licensed to us for use in the *microRNA* field. The technologies covered in these patents and

applications include various chemical modifications that are applicable to *microRNA* therapeutics. Due to patent expiration and strategic patent portfolio decisions, the total number licensed to Regulus will fluctuate from year to year. Among the licensed patents or patent applications, those covering key chemical modifications for use in *microRNA* drug products are currently expected to expire in 2023, 2027 and 2029.

## **Table of Contents**

We have a co-exclusive license to the patent portfolio owned by Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, or MPG, which has been granted to us by Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH, or MI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MPG acting as MPG's technology transfer agency. MPG and MI are collectively referred to herein as Max-Planck. This patent portfolio is based on the pioneering *microRNA* research conducted by Thomas Tuschl, Ph.D. and colleagues at the Max-Planck Institute of Biophysical Chemistry, which led to the discovery of over 100 human *microRNA* sequences, including *microRNAs* that are the focus of several of our programs. The patent rights encompass the *microRNA* gene sequences as well as the antisense sequences that are complementary to the *microRNAs* and thus cover both *microRNA* mimic and anti-miR products. Our license is co-exclusive with our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, for the exploitation of the Max-Planck patent rights for therapeutic uses. In addition, we also have a co-exclusive license to develop and commercialize diagnostics based upon the Max-Planck patent rights contained in these applications. The Max-Planck licensed patent portfolio, referred to herein as the Tuschl 3 patents, includes at least 25 U.S. and foreign patents and patent applications. Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, patents within this portfolio that have issued or may yet issue would have a statutory expiration date in 2022.

The term of individual patents depends upon the legal term of the patents in the countries in which they are obtained. In most countries in which we file, the patent term is 20 years from the date of filing the non-provisional application. In the United States, a patent's term may be lengthened by patent term adjustment, which compensates a patentee for administrative delays by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or U.S. PTO, in granting a patent, or may be shortened if a patent is terminally disclaimed over an earlier-filed patent.

The term of a patent that covers an FDA-approved drug may also be eligible for patent term extension, which permits patent term restoration of a U.S. patent as compensation for the patent term lost during the FDA regulatory review process. The Hatch-Waxman Act permits a patent term extension of up to five years beyond the expiration of the patent. The length of the patent term extension is related to the length of time the drug is under regulatory review. A patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the date of product approval and only one patent applicable to an approved drug may be extended. Similar provisions are available in Europe and other foreign jurisdictions to extend the term of a patent that covers an approved drug. When possible, depending upon the length of clinical trials and other factors involved in the filing of a new drug application, or NDA, we expect to apply for patent term extensions for patents covering our *microRNA* product candidates and their methods of use.

We may rely, in some circumstances, on trade secrets to protect our technology. However, trade secrets can be difficult to protect. We seek to protect our proprietary technology and processes, in part, by entering into confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants, scientific advisors and contractors. We also seek to preserve the integrity and confidentiality of our data and trade secrets by maintaining physical security of our premises and physical and electronic security of our information technology systems.

## **Our Technology Licenses**

### ***Max-Planck***

#### *Therapeutic license*

Prior to 2011, our access to the Tuschl 3 patents was derived from agreements between Max-Planck and our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, for exclusive use in *microRNA* therapeutics. In April 2011, we entered into a direct, co-exclusive license with Max-Planck. The license provides to us, Alnylam and Isis, co-exclusively, access to the Tuschl 3 patents for therapeutic use. Max-Planck retains the right to practice the intellectual property licensed under

the agreement for non-commercial purposes.

Under the terms of the license, we are permitted to sublicense our rights outright or as part of an alliance. The license requires that we use commercially reasonable diligence in developing and commercializing a product. In order to secure the license, we made an upfront payment of \$400,000 to Max-Planck. We will be

## **Table of Contents**

required to make payments based upon the initiation of clinical trials and/or product approval milestones totaling up to \$1.6 million for each licensed product reaching such clinical stage. We made a \$50,000 payment in 2014 related to the initiation of the Phase I clinical trial for RG-101. In addition to milestone payments, we will be required to pay royalties of a percentage of cumulative annual net sales of a licensed product commercialized by us or one of our strategic alliance partners. The percentage is in the low single digits, with the exact percentage depending upon whether the licensed product incorporates intellectual property covered by a Tuschl 3 patent that is still a pending application or, alternatively, an issued patent, and also upon the volume of annual sales. The royalties payable to Max-Planck are subject to reduction for any third party payments required to be made, with a minimum floor in the low single digits.

Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, the longest lived patent rights licensed to us under the agreement have a statutory expiration date of September 2022.

### *Diagnostic license*

In addition, in June 2009, we entered into a co-exclusive license with Max-Planck for use of the Tuschl 3 patents for diagnostic purposes. Under the terms of the license, we made an aggregate initial payment to Max-Planck of 175,000 in three installments, with 75,000 paid in June 2009 and 50,000 paid in each of June 2010 and June 2011. In addition, we made annual maintenance payments of 20,000 in 2012, 30,000 in 2013 and 30,000 in 2014 and will make annual maintenance payments in this amount thereafter during the term of the agreement. In addition to maintenance payments, we will be required to pay royalties of a percentage of net sales of licensed products. The percentage is in the mid-single digits in the event we market the product and low end of the 10 to 20% range in the event we sell the product through a distributor. The royalties payable to Max-Planck are reduced by the royalties payable to third parties but only if aggregate royalties payable to Max-Planck and third parties exceed a percentage in the mid-10 to 20% range.

We are required to use commercially reasonable efforts to develop and commercialize products under the agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, Max-Planck is permitted to provide up to three additional co-exclusive licenses to its diagnostic patent rights. Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, the longest lived patent rights licensed to us under the agreement are currently expected to expire in September 2022.

Max-Planck retains the right to practice the intellectual property licensed under the agreement for non-commercial purposes.

### *University of Würzburg*

In May 2010, we exclusively licensed patent rights from the University of Würzburg which encompass the use of anti-miR therapeutics targeting miR-21 for the treatment of fibrosis, including kidney, liver, lung and cardiac fibrosis.

The University of Würzburg has reserved the right to use the licensed intellectual property for academic and non-commercial purposes. We have the right to grant sublicenses to third parties under the agreement provided such sublicense is for the purpose of developing or commercializing a product. We must obtain the University of Würzburg's written consent to any such sublicense, which may not be unreasonably withheld. We must use commercially reasonable diligence in our efforts to develop, manufacture and commercialize a licensed product. We have assumed certain development milestone obligations and must report on our progress in achieving these milestones on an annual basis.

As a license issuance fee, we paid the University of Würzburg 300,000. In addition, upon commercialization of a product, we will pay to the University of Würzburg a percentage of net sales as a royalty. This royalty is in the low single digits and is reduced upon expiration of all patent claims covering the product.



## **Table of Contents**

We also paid the University of Würzburg a partnership bonus of 200,000 upon entering into our strategic alliance agreement with Sanofi. Under the agreement, beginning January 1, 2020 and ending on the date we receive NDA approval for a licensed product, we will accrue a minimum royalty obligation of 150,000 per year, which will become payable upon approval of an NDA for a licensed product. After approval of an NDA for a licensed product, we will be required to pay the University of Würzburg an annual minimum royalty, which increases in the five years following approval up to a maximum of 3.0 million per year. The minimum royalties are creditable against actual royalties due and payable for the same calendar year.

In addition, we will be required to pay the University of Würzburg milestone payments of up to an aggregate of 1.75 million, based upon achievement of specified clinical and regulatory events. In 2014, we paid the University of Würzburg 100,000 related to RG-012. In the event we initiate a Phase II clinical trial for another indication with the same licensed product, we will be required to pay 50% of the milestone payments applicable to such milestone events. These milestone events are also tied to the due dates set forth in the commercialization plan but may be extended by delays caused by scientific challenges, regulatory requirements or other circumstances outside of our control. We must request an extension in writing explaining the cause for the delay and proposing new due dates. The University of Würzburg may accept the revised dates or reject them, in which case an arbitrator will set the revised dates.

Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, the last to expire patent licensed to us under the agreement is currently expected to expire in February 2029.

### ***Stanford University***

In August 2005, Alnylam and Isis entered into a co-exclusive license agreement with Stanford, relating to its patent applications claiming the use of miR-122 to reduce the replication of HCV. Upon our formation, we received access to the Stanford technology as an affiliate of Alnylam and Isis. In July 2009, Isis assigned its rights and obligations under the license agreement to us. In December 2014, Alnylam assigned its rights and obligations under the license agreement to us.

Under the license agreement, we are permitted to research, develop, manufacture and commercialize therapeutics for the treatment and prevention of HCV and related conditions. Diagnostics and reagents are specifically excluded from the license. In addition, the license provides a non-exclusive right to research, develop, manufacture and commercialize therapeutics for all conditions or diseases other than HCV. Stanford retained the right, on behalf of itself and all other non-profit academic institutions, to practice the licensed patents for non-profit purposes.

We are permitted to sublicense our rights under the agreement in connection with a bona fide partnership seeking to research and/or develop products under a jointly prepared research plan and which also includes a license to our intellectual property or in association with providing services to a sublicensee. In the event we receive an upfront payment in connection with a sublicense, we are obligated to pay to Stanford a one-time fixed payment amount, which amount will vary depending upon the size of upfront payment we receive. We must also make an annual license maintenance payment during the term of the agreement. The maintenance payments are creditable against royalty payments made in the same year. We will be required to pay milestones for an exclusively licensed product which will be payable upon achievement of specified regulatory and clinical milestones in an aggregate amount of up to \$400,000. Milestones for a non-exclusively licensed product will be payable upon achievement of the same milestones in an aggregate amount of up to \$300,000 for the first such product and up to \$200,000 for the second such product. Upon commercialization of a product, we will be required to pay to Stanford a percentage of net sales as a royalty. This percentage is in the low single digits. The payment will be reduced by other payments we are required to make to third parties until a minimum royalty has been reached.

The agreement requires that we use commercially reasonable efforts to develop, manufacture and commercialize a licensed product and we have agreed to meet certain development and commercialization milestones.

## **Table of Contents**

Based on a typical patent term ending 20 years from the date of filing of the application, the last to expire patent licensed to us under the agreement is currently expected to expire in May 2025.

## **Manufacturing**

We contract with third parties to manufacture our compounds and intend to do so in the future. We do not own or operate and we do not expect to own or operate, facilities for product manufacturing, storage and distribution, or testing. We have personnel with extensive technical, manufacturing, analytical and quality experience and strong project management discipline to oversee contract manufacturing and testing activities, and to compile manufacturing and quality information for our regulatory submissions.

Manufacturing is subject to extensive regulations that impose various procedural and documentation requirements, which govern record keeping, manufacturing processes and controls, personnel, quality control and quality assurance, among others. Our systems and contractors are required to be in compliance with these regulations, and this is assessed regularly through monitoring of performance and a formal audit program.

## **Research and Development Expenses**

In 2014, 2013 and 2012, research and development expenses were \$41.0 million, \$29.9 million and \$20.3 million, respectively.

## **Competition**

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are characterized by intense and rapidly changing competition to develop new technologies and proprietary products. While we believe that our intellectual property estate and scientific expertise in the *micro*RNA field provide us with competitive advantages, we face potential competition from many different sources, including larger and better-funded pharmaceutical companies. Not only must we compete with other companies that are focused on *micro*RNA therapeutics but any products that we may commercialize will have to compete with existing and new therapies that may become available in the future. In addition, we expect that for each disease category for which we determine to develop and apply our *micro*RNA therapeutics there are other biotechnology companies that will compete against us by applying marketed products and development programs using technology other than *micro*RNA therapeutics. The key competitive factors that will affect the success of any of our development candidates, if commercialized, are likely to be their efficacy relative to such competing technologies, safety, convenience, price and the availability of reimbursement from government and other third-party payors. Our commercial opportunity could be reduced or eliminated if our competitors have products which are better in one or more of these categories.

## **Our Leadership**

Our executive team has significant experience leading the discovery and development of innovative therapeutics, including significant operational and financial experience with emerging biotechnology companies, which we believe is the ideal combination of talent to execute our strategy. In addition, our experienced board of directors provides significant support and guidance in all aspects of our business.

Our executive officers are:

## Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D., our President and Chief Executive Officer, is an entrepreneur who has been involved in founding several companies, including Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (acquired by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. in 2011), which he started as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Neil W. Gibson, Ph.D., our Chief Scientific Officer, is experienced in the discovery and development of novel therapeutics who previously served as Chief Scientific Officer of the Oncology Research Unit at Pfizer Inc. and as Chief Scientific Officer of OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He was involved in the discovery and development of several commercial cancer drugs including Xalkori<sup>®</sup> (crizotinib), Nexavar<sup>®</sup> (sorafenib) and Tarceva<sup>®</sup> (erlotinib).

## **Table of Contents**

Paul Grint, M.D., our Chief Medical Officer, has more than two decades of experience in biologics and small molecule pharmaceutical development, including successful development of numerous commercial products in oncology, infectious disease and immunology. He previously served as President at Cerexa, Inc and Senior Vice President at Forest Research Institute, and prior to this had held senior clinical development roles at Kalypsys, Inc., Pfizer La Jolla, IDEC Pharmaceuticals and Schering-Plough Corporation.

David Szekeres, our Chief Business Officer and General Counsel, is an experienced executive with over a decade of experience in the global life sciences industry and who previously served in leadership roles at several companies, including Life Technologies Corporation, Invitrogen Corporation, Latham & Watkins LLP and Robertson Stephens.

Our executive officers are supported by the following key personnel:

Mary Glanville, our Senior Vice President of Human Capital, is an accomplished human resources executive in the life sciences industry who previously served in management roles at Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (acquired by F. Hoffman-La Roche Inc. in 2011), Inflazyme Inc. and Inex Pharmaceuticals Corp.

Victor Knopov, Ph.D., our Vice President, Pharmaceutical Development, is a leader in oligonucleotide drug delivery and pharmaceutical development who has held positions at Nitto Denko Technical Corporation, Bio-Medics, Inc., EnGene, Inc., Marina Biotech, Inc. and Inex Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Dr. Knopov has extensive knowledge of Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control, or CMC, development for various technology platforms including commercial production of enzymes, anticancer liposomal products as well as advanced delivery systems for antisense, plasmids and siRNA based on lipids, polymer nanoparticles and conjugated systems.

Daniel R. Chevallard, CPA, our Vice President, Finance and Accounting, is a corporate finance leader with public accounting expertise who previously held senior roles in corporate finance, accounting and financial reporting as Controller and Senior Director, Finance at Prometheus Laboratories Inc. and who was a senior financial auditor at Ernst & Young LLP.

## **Government Regulation and Product Approval**

Government authorities in the United States, at the federal, state and local level, and other countries extensively regulate, among other things, the research, development, testing, manufacture, quality control, approval, labeling, packaging, storage, record-keeping, promotion, advertising, distribution, post-approval monitoring and reporting, marketing and export and import of products such as those we are developing. Any product candidate that we develop must be approved by the FDA before it may be legally marketed in the United States and by the appropriate foreign regulatory agency before it may be legally marketed in foreign countries.

### *U.S. drug development process*

In the United States, the FDA regulates drugs under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or FDCA, and implementing regulations. Drugs are also subject to other federal, state and local statutes and regulations. The process of obtaining regulatory approvals and the subsequent compliance with appropriate federal, state, local and foreign statutes and regulations require the expenditure of substantial time and financial resources. Failure to comply with the

applicable U.S. requirements at any time during the product development process, approval process or after approval, may subject an applicant to administrative or judicial civil or criminal sanctions. FDA sanctions could include refusal to approve pending applications, withdrawal of an approval, clinical hold, warning letters, product recalls, product seizures, total or partial suspension of production or distribution, injunctions, fines, refusals of government contracts, debarment, restitution, disgorgement or civil or criminal penalties. Any agency or judicial enforcement action could have a material adverse effect on us. The process required by the FDA before a drug may be marketed in the United States generally involves the following:

completion of nonclinical laboratory tests, animal studies and formulation studies according to good laboratory practices, or GLP, or other applicable regulations;

**Table of Contents**

submission to the FDA of an application for an IND, which must become effective before human clinical trials may begin;

performance of adequate and well-controlled human clinical trials according to the FDA's regulations commonly referred to as current good clinical practices, or GCPs, to establish the safety and efficacy of the proposed drug for its intended use;

submission to the FDA of an NDA for a new drug;

satisfactory completion of an FDA inspection of the manufacturing facility or facilities where the drug is produced to assess compliance with the FDA's current good manufacturing practice standards, or cGMP, to assure that the facilities, methods and controls are adequate to preserve the drug's identity, strength, quality and purity;

potential FDA audit of the nonclinical and clinical trial sites that generated the data in support of the NDA; and

FDA review and approval of the NDA.

The lengthy process of seeking required approvals and the continuing need for compliance with applicable statutes and regulations require the expenditure of substantial resources and approvals are inherently uncertain.

Before testing any compounds with potential therapeutic value in humans, the drug candidate enters the preclinical testing stage. Preclinical tests, also referred to as nonclinical studies, include laboratory evaluations of product chemistry, toxicity and formulation, as well as animal studies to assess the potential safety and activity of the drug candidate. The conduct of the preclinical tests must comply with federal regulations and requirements including GLP. The sponsor must submit the results of the preclinical tests, together with manufacturing information, analytical data, any available clinical data or literature and a proposed clinical protocol, to the FDA as part of the IND. The IND automatically becomes effective 30 days after receipt by the FDA, unless the FDA imposes a clinical hold within that 30-day time period. In such a case, the IND sponsor and the FDA must resolve any outstanding concerns before the clinical trial can begin. The FDA may also impose clinical holds on a drug candidate at any time before or during clinical trials due to safety concerns or non-compliance. Accordingly, we cannot be sure that submission of an IND will result in the FDA allowing clinical trials to begin, or that, once begun, issues will not arise that suspend or terminate such trial.

Clinical trials involve the administration of the drug candidate to healthy volunteers or patients under the supervision of qualified investigators, generally physicians not employed by or under the trial sponsor's control. Clinical trials are conducted under protocols detailing, among other things, the objectives of the clinical trial, dosing procedures, subject selection and exclusion criteria, and the parameters to be used to monitor subject safety. Each protocol must be submitted to the FDA as part of the IND. Clinical trials must be conducted in accordance with the FDA's regulations comprising the good clinical practices requirements. Further, each clinical trial must be reviewed and approved by an independent institutional review board, or IRB, at or servicing each institution at which the clinical trial will be conducted. An IRB is charged with protecting the welfare and rights of trial participants and considers such items as whether the risks to individuals participating in the clinical trials are minimized and are reasonable in relation to

anticipated benefits. The IRB also approves the form and content of the informed consent that must be signed by each clinical trial subject or his or her legal representative and must monitor the clinical trial until completed.

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

Phase 1. The drug is initially introduced into healthy human subjects and tested for safety, dosage tolerance, absorption, metabolism, distribution and excretion. In the case of some products for severe or life-threatening diseases, especially when the product may be too inherently toxic to ethically administer to healthy volunteers, the initial human testing is often conducted in patients.



## **Table of Contents**

Phase 2. The drug is evaluated in a limited patient population to identify possible adverse effects and safety risks, to preliminarily evaluate the efficacy of the product for specific targeted diseases and to determine dosage tolerance, optimal dosage and dosing schedule.

Phase 3. Clinical trials are undertaken to further evaluate dosage, clinical efficacy and safety in an expanded patient population at geographically dispersed clinical trial sites. These clinical trials are intended to establish the overall risk/benefit ratio of the product and provide an adequate basis for product labeling. Generally, two adequate and well-controlled Phase 3 clinical trials are required by the FDA for approval of an NDA.

Post-approval clinical trials, sometimes referred to as Phase 4 clinical trials, may be conducted after initial marketing approval. These clinical trials are used to gain additional experience from the treatment of patients in the intended therapeutic indication.

Annual progress reports detailing the results of the clinical trials must be submitted to the FDA and written IND safety reports must be promptly submitted to the FDA and the investigators for serious and unexpected adverse events or any finding from tests in laboratory animals that suggests a significant risk for human subjects. Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 clinical trials may not be completed successfully within any specified period, if at all. The FDA or the sponsor or its data safety monitoring board may suspend a clinical trial at any time on various grounds, including a finding that the research subjects or patients are being exposed to an unacceptable health risk. Similarly, an IRB can suspend or terminate approval of a clinical trial at its institution if the clinical trial is not being conducted in accordance with the IRB's requirements or if the drug has been associated with unexpected serious harm to patients.

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

### *U.S. review and approval processes*

The results of product development, nonclinical studies and clinical trials, along with descriptions of the manufacturing process, analytical tests conducted on the chemistry of the drug, proposed labeling and other relevant information are submitted to the FDA as part of an NDA requesting approval to market the product. The submission of an NDA is subject to the payment of substantial user fees; a waiver of such fees may be obtained under certain limited circumstances.

In addition, under the Pediatric Research Equity Act, or PREA, an NDA or supplement to an NDA must contain data to assess the safety and effectiveness of the drug for the claimed indications in all relevant pediatric subpopulations and to support dosing and administration for each pediatric subpopulation for which the product is safe and effective. The FDA may grant deferrals for submission of data or full or partial waivers. Unless otherwise required by regulation, PREA does not apply to any drug for an indication for which orphan designation has been granted.

The FDA reviews all NDAs submitted to determine if they are substantially complete before it accepts them for filing. Once the submission is accepted for filing, the FDA begins an in-depth review of the NDA. Under the goals and policies agreed to by the FDA under the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, or PDUFA, the FDA has 10 months from

filing in which to complete its initial review of a standard NDA and respond to the applicant, and six months from filing for a priority NDA. The FDA does not always meet its PDUFA goal dates. The review

## **Table of Contents**

process and the PDUFA goal date may be extended by three months if the FDA requests or the NDA sponsor otherwise provides additional information or clarification regarding information already provided in the submission within the last three months before the PDUFA goal date.

After the NDA submission is accepted for filing, the FDA reviews the NDA to determine, among other things, whether the proposed product is safe and effective for its intended use, and whether the product is being manufactured in accordance with cGMP to assure and preserve the product's identity, strength, quality and purity. The FDA may refer applications for novel drug or biological products or drug or biological products which present difficult questions of safety or efficacy to an advisory committee, typically a panel that includes clinicians and other experts, for review, evaluation and a recommendation as to whether the application should be approved and under what conditions. The FDA is not bound by the recommendations of an advisory committee, but it considers such recommendations carefully when making decisions. During the drug approval process, the FDA also will determine whether a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, or REMS, is necessary to assure the safe use of the drug. If the FDA concludes a REMS is needed, the sponsor of the NDA must submit a proposed REMS; the FDA will not approve the NDA without a REMS, if required.

Before approving an NDA, the FDA will inspect the facilities at which the product is manufactured. The FDA will not approve the product unless it determines that the manufacturing processes and facilities are in compliance with cGMP requirements and adequate to assure consistent production of the product within required specifications. Additionally, before approving an NDA, the FDA will typically inspect one or more clinical sites to assure that the clinical trials were conducted in compliance with IND study requirements. If the FDA determines that the application, manufacturing process or manufacturing facilities are not acceptable it will outline the deficiencies in the submission and often will request additional testing or information.

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

If a product receives regulatory approval, the approval may be significantly limited to specific diseases and dosages or the indications for use may otherwise be limited, which could restrict the commercial value of the product. Further, the FDA may require that certain contraindications, warnings or precautions be included in the product labeling. In addition, the FDA may require post marketing clinical trials, sometimes referred to as Phase 4 clinical trials, which are designed to further assess a drug safety and effectiveness and may require testing and surveillance programs to monitor the safety of approved products that have been commercialized.

### *Orphan drug designation*

Under the Orphan Drug Act, the FDA may grant orphan designation to a drug or biological product intended to treat a rare disease or condition, which is generally a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States, or more than 200,000 individuals in the United States and for which there is no reasonable expectation

that the cost of developing and making a drug or biological product available in the United States for this type of disease or condition will be recovered from sales of the product. Orphan product designation must be requested before submitting an NDA. For example, our RG-012 drug candidate to treat Alport syndrome has received orphan designation. After the FDA grants orphan product designation, the identity

## **Table of Contents**

of the therapeutic agent and its potential orphan use are disclosed publicly by the FDA. Orphan product designation does not convey any advantage in or shorten the duration of the regulatory review and approval process.

If a product that has orphan designation subsequently receives the first FDA approval for the disease or condition for which it has such designation, the product is entitled to orphan product exclusivity, which means that the FDA may not approve any other applications to market the same drug or biological product for the same indication for seven years, except in limited circumstances, such as a showing of clinical superiority to the product with orphan exclusivity. Competitors, however, may receive approval of different products for the indication for which the orphan product has exclusivity or obtain approval for the same product but for a different indication for which the orphan product has exclusivity. Orphan product exclusivity also could block the approval of one of our products for seven years if a competitor obtains approval of the same drug or biological product as defined by the FDA or if our drug candidate is determined to be contained within the competitor's product for the same indication or disease. If a drug or biological product designated as an orphan product receives marketing approval for an indication broader than what is designated, it may not be entitled to orphan product exclusivity. Orphan drug status has similar but not identical benefits in the European Union.

### *Expedited development and review programs*

The FDA has a Fast Track program that is intended to expedite or facilitate the process for reviewing new drugs and biological products that meet certain criteria. Specifically, new drugs and biological products are eligible for Fast Track designation if they are intended to treat a serious or life-threatening condition and demonstrate the potential to address unmet medical needs for the condition. Fast Track designation applies to the combination of the product and the specific indication for which it is being studied. Unique to a Fast Track product, the FDA may consider for review sections of the NDA on a rolling basis before the complete application is submitted, if the sponsor provides a schedule for the submission of the sections of the NDA, the FDA agrees to accept sections of the NDA and determines that the schedule is acceptable, and the sponsor pays any required user fees upon submission of the first section of the NDA.

Any product submitted to the FDA for marketing, including a Fast Track program, may also be eligible for other types of FDA programs intended to expedite development and review, such as priority review and accelerated approval. Any product is eligible for priority review if it has the potential to provide safe and effective therapy where no satisfactory alternative therapy exists or a significant improvement in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of a disease compared to marketed products. The FDA will attempt to direct additional resources to the evaluation of an application for a new drug or biological product designated for priority review in an effort to facilitate the review. Additionally, a product may be eligible for accelerated approval. Drug or biological products studied for their safety and effectiveness in treating serious or life-threatening illnesses and that provide meaningful therapeutic benefit over existing treatments may receive accelerated approval, which means that they may be approved on the basis of adequate and well-controlled clinical trials establishing that the product has an effect on a surrogate endpoint that is reasonably likely to predict a clinical benefit, or on the basis of an effect on a clinical endpoint other than survival or irreversible morbidity. As a condition of approval, the FDA may require that a sponsor of a drug or biological product receiving accelerated approval perform adequate and well-controlled post-marketing clinical trials. In addition, the FDA currently requires as a condition for accelerated approval pre-approval of promotional materials, which could adversely impact the timing of the commercial launch of the product. Fast Track designation, priority review and accelerated approval do not change the standards for approval but may expedite the development or approval process.

### *Post-approval requirements*

Any drug products for which we or our strategic alliance partners receive FDA approvals are subject to continuing regulation by the FDA, including, among other things, record-keeping requirements, reporting of adverse experiences

with the product, providing the FDA with updated safety and efficacy information, product

## **Table of Contents**

sampling and distribution requirements, complying with certain electronic records and signature requirements and complying with FDA promotion and advertising requirements, which include, among others, standards for direct-to-consumer advertising, promoting drugs for uses or in patient populations that are not described in the drug's approved labeling (known as off-label use), industry-sponsored scientific and educational activities, and promotional activities involving the internet. Failure to comply with FDA requirements can have negative consequences, including adverse publicity, enforcement letters from the FDA, mandated corrective advertising or communications with doctors, and civil or criminal penalties. Although physicians may prescribe legally available drugs for off-label uses, manufacturers may not market or promote such off-label uses.

We rely, and expect to continue to rely, on third parties for the production of clinical and commercial quantities of any products that we may commercialize. Our strategic alliance partners may also utilize third parties for some or all of a product we are developing with such strategic alliance partner. Manufacturers of our products are required to comply with applicable FDA manufacturing requirements contained in the FDA's cGMP regulations. cGMP regulations require among other things, quality control and quality assurance as well as the corresponding maintenance of records and documentation. Drug manufacturers and other entities involved in the manufacture and distribution of approved drugs are required to register their establishments with the FDA and certain state agencies, and are subject to periodic unannounced inspections by the FDA and certain state agencies for compliance with cGMP and other laws. Accordingly, manufacturers must continue to expend time, money, and effort in the area of production and quality control to maintain cGMP compliance. Discovery of problems with a product after approval may result in restrictions on a product, manufacturer, or holder of an approved NDA, including withdrawal of the product from the market. In addition, changes to the manufacturing process generally require prior FDA approval before being implemented and other types of changes to the approved product, such as adding new indications and additional labeling claims, are also subject to further FDA review and approval.

The FDA also may require post-marketing testing, known as Phase 4 testing, risk minimization action plans and surveillance to monitor the effects of an approved product or place conditions on an approval that could restrict the distribution or use of the product.

### *U.S. patent term restoration and marketing exclusivity*

Depending upon the timing, duration and specifics of the FDA approval of the use of our drug candidates, some of our United States patents may be eligible for limited patent term extension under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, commonly referred to as the Hatch-Waxman Amendments. The Hatch-Waxman Amendments permit a patent restoration term of up to five years as compensation for patent term lost during product development and the FDA regulatory review process. However, patent term restoration cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the product's approval date. The patent term restoration period is generally one-half the time between the effective date of an IND and the submission date of an NDA plus the time between the submission date of an NDA and the approval of that application. Only one patent applicable to an approved drug is eligible for the extension and the application for the extension must be submitted prior to the expiration of the patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office, in consultation with the FDA, reviews and approves the application for any patent term extension or restoration. In the future, we may intend to apply for restoration of patent term for one of our currently owned or licensed patents to add patent life beyond its current expiration date, depending on the expected length of the clinical trials and other factors involved in the filing of the relevant NDA.

Market exclusivity provisions under the FDCA can also delay the submission or the approval of certain applications of other companies seeking to reference another company's NDA. The FDCA provides a five-year period of non-patent marketing exclusivity within the United States to the first applicant to obtain approval of an NDA for a new chemical

entity. A drug is a new chemical entity if the FDA has not previously approved any other new drug containing the same active moiety, which is the molecule or ion responsible for the action of the drug substance. During the exclusivity period, the FDA may not accept for review an abbreviated new drug



---

**Table of Contents**

application, or ANDA, or a 505(b)(2) NDA submitted by another company for another version of such drug where the applicant does not own or have a legal right of reference to all the data required for approval. However, an application may be submitted after four years if it contains a certification of patent invalidity or non-infringement to one of the patents listed with the FDA by the innovator NDA holder. The FDCA also provides three years of marketing exclusivity for an NDA, or supplement to an existing NDA if new clinical investigations, other than bioavailability studies, that were conducted or sponsored by the applicant are deemed by the FDA to be essential to the approval of the application, for example new indications, dosages or strengths of an existing drug. This three-year exclusivity covers only the conditions associated with the new clinical investigations and does not prohibit the FDA from approving ANDAs for drugs containing the original active agent. Five-year and three-year exclusivity will not delay the submission or approval of a full NDA. However, an applicant submitting a full NDA would be required to conduct or obtain a right of reference to all of the preclinical studies and adequate and well-controlled clinical trials necessary to demonstrate safety and effectiveness. Pediatric exclusivity is another type of regulatory market exclusivity in the United States. Pediatric exclusivity, if granted, adds six months to existing exclusivity periods and patent terms. This six-month exclusivity, which runs from the end of other exclusivity protection or patent term, may be granted based on the voluntary completion of a pediatric trial in accordance with an FDA-issued Written Request for such a trial.

*U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act*

The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or FCPA, prohibits certain individuals and entities, including us, from promising, paying, offering to pay, or authorizing the payment of anything of value to any foreign government official, directly or indirectly, to obtain or retain business or an improper advantage. The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, have increased their enforcement efforts with respect to the FCPA. Violations of the FCPA may result in large civil and criminal penalties and could result in an adverse effect on a company's reputation, operations, and financial condition. A company may also face collateral consequences such as debarment and the loss of export privileges.

*Federal and state fraud and abuse laws*

In addition to FDA restrictions on marketing of pharmaceutical products, several other types of state and federal laws have been applied to restrict certain business practices in the biopharmaceutical industry in recent years. These laws include anti-kickback statutes and false claims statutes.

The federal Anti-Kickback Statute prohibits, among other things, knowingly and willfully offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving remuneration to induce or in return for purchasing, leasing, ordering, or arranging for the purchase, lease, or order of any healthcare item or service reimbursable under Medicare, Medicaid, or other federally financed healthcare programs. The term remuneration has been broadly interpreted to include anything of value, including for example, gifts, discounts, the furnishing of supplies or equipment, credit arrangements, payments of cash, waivers of payment, ownership interests and providing anything at less than its fair market value. The Anti-Kickback Statute has been interpreted to apply to arrangements between pharmaceutical manufacturers on one hand and prescribers, purchasers, and formulary managers on the other. Although there are a number of statutory exemptions and regulatory safe harbors protecting certain common activities from prosecution, the exemptions and safe harbors are drawn narrowly, and our practices may not in all cases meet all of the criteria for statutory exemptions or safe harbor protection. Practices that involve remuneration that may be alleged to be intended to induce prescribing, purchases, or recommendations may be subject to scrutiny if they do not qualify for an exemption or safe harbor. Several courts have interpreted the statute's intent requirement to mean that if any one purpose of an arrangement involving remuneration is to induce referrals of federal healthcare covered business, the statute has been violated. The reach of the Anti-Kickback Statute was also broadened by the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act, or collectively the PPACA, which, among other

things, amends the intent requirement of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute. Pursuant to the statutory amendment, a person or entity no longer needs to have actual knowledge of this statute or specific intent to violate it in order

---

**Table of Contents**

to have committed a violation. In addition, the PPACA provides that the government may assert that a claim including items or services resulting from a violation of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute constitutes a false or fraudulent claim for purposes of the civil False Claims Act (discussed below) or the civil monetary penalties statute, which imposes penalties against any person who is determined to have presented or caused to be presented a claim to a federal health program that the person knows or should know is for an item or service that was not provided as claimed or is false or fraudulent.

The federal False Claims Act prohibits any person from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, a false claim for payment to the federal government. Recently, several pharmaceutical and other healthcare companies have been prosecuted under these laws for allegedly providing free product to customers with the expectation that the customers would bill federal programs for the product. Other companies have been prosecuted for causing false claims to be submitted because of the companies' marketing of the product for unapproved, and thus non-reimbursable, uses. Many states also have statutes or regulations similar to the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and False Claims Act, which state laws apply to items and services reimbursed under Medicaid and other state programs, or, in several states, apply regardless of the payer. Also, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, created new federal criminal statutes that prohibit knowingly and willfully executing a scheme to defraud any healthcare benefit program, including private third-party payers and knowingly and willfully falsifying, concealing or covering up a material fact or making any materially false, fictitious or fraudulent statement in connection with the delivery of or payment for healthcare benefits, items or services.

Because of the breadth of these laws and the narrowness of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute's safe harbors, it is possible that some of our business activities could be subject to challenge under one or more of such laws. Such a challenge could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. If we obtain FDA approval for any of our product candidates and begin commercializing those products in the United States, our operations may be directly, or indirectly through our customers, distributors, or other business partners, subject to various federal and state fraud and abuse laws, including, without limitation, anti-kickback statutes and false claims statutes. These laws may impact, among other things, our proposed sales, marketing and education programs.

In addition, we may be subject to data privacy and security regulation by both the federal government and the states in which we conduct our business. HIPAA, as amended by the Health Information Technology and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH, and its implementing regulations, imposes certain requirements relating to the privacy, security and transmission of individually identifiable health information. Among other things, HITECH makes HIPAA's privacy and security standards directly applicable to business associates, independent contractors or agents of covered entities that receive or obtain protected health information in connection with providing a service on behalf of a covered entity. HITECH also increased the civil and criminal penalties that may be imposed against covered entities, business associates and possibly other persons, and gave state attorneys general new authority to file civil actions for damages or injunctions in federal courts to enforce the federal HIPAA laws and seek attorney's fees and costs associated with pursuing federal civil actions. In addition, state laws govern the privacy and security of health information in certain circumstances, many of which differ from each other in significant ways and may not have the same effect, thus complicating compliance efforts.

If our operations are found to be in violation of any of the federal and state laws described above or any other governmental regulations that apply to us, we may be subject to penalties, including criminal and significant civil monetary penalties, damages, fines, imprisonment, exclusion of products from reimbursement under government programs, and the curtailment or restructuring of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our results of operations. To the extent that any of our product candidates are ultimately sold in a foreign country, we may be subject to similar foreign laws and regulations, which may include, for instance, applicable post-marketing requirements, including safety surveillance, anti-fraud and abuse laws, and implementation

of corporate compliance programs and reporting of payments or transfers of value to healthcare professionals.

**Table of Contents**

In the United States and foreign jurisdictions, there have been a number of legislative and regulatory changes to the healthcare system that could affect our future results of operations. In particular, there have been and continue to be a number of initiatives at the United States federal and state levels that seek to reduce healthcare costs. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, or the MMA, imposed new requirements for the distribution and pricing of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. Under Part D, Medicare beneficiaries may enroll in prescription drug plans offered by private entities which will provide coverage of outpatient prescription drugs. Part D plans include both stand-alone prescription drug benefit plans and prescription drug coverage as a supplement to Medicare Advantage plans. Unlike Medicare Part A and B, Part D coverage is not standardized. Part D prescription drug plan sponsors are not required to pay for all covered Part D drugs, and each drug plan can develop its own drug formulary that identifies which drugs it will cover and at what tier or level. However, Part D prescription drug formularies must include drugs within each therapeutic category and class of covered Part D drugs, though not necessarily all the drugs in each category or class. Any formulary used by a Part D prescription drug plan must be developed and reviewed by a pharmacy and therapeutic committee. Government payment for some of the costs of prescription drugs may increase demand for our products for which we receive marketing approval. However, any negotiated prices for our products covered by a Part D prescription drug plan will likely be lower than the prices we might otherwise obtain. Moreover, while the MMA applies only to drug benefits for Medicare beneficiaries, private payors often follow Medicare coverage policy and payment limitations in setting their own payment rates. Any reduction in payment that results from Medicare Part D may result in a similar reduction in payments from non-governmental payors.

The PPACA includes measures to significantly change the way healthcare is financed by both governmental and private insurers. Among the provisions of the PPACA of greatest importance to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry are the following:

an annual, nondeductible fee on any entity that manufactures or imports certain branded prescription drugs and biologic agents, apportioned among these entities according to their market share in certain government healthcare programs, that began in 2011;

an increase in the rebates a manufacturer must pay under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program to 23.1% and 13% of the average manufacturer price for branded and generic drugs, respectively;

a new Medicare Part D coverage gap discount program, in which manufacturers must agree to offer 50% point-of-sale discounts to negotiated prices of applicable brand drugs to eligible beneficiaries during their coverage gap period, as a condition for the manufacturer's outpatient drugs to be covered under Medicare Part D;

extension of manufacturers' Medicaid rebate liability to covered drugs dispensed to individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations;

expansion of eligibility criteria for Medicaid programs by, among other things, allowing states to offer Medicaid coverage to additional individuals and by adding new mandatory eligibility categories for certain individuals with income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level, thereby potentially increasing

manufacturers Medicaid rebate liability;

expansion of the entities eligible for discounts under the Public Health Service pharmaceutical pricing program;

new requirements to report certain financial arrangements with physicians and teaching hospitals, as defined in the PPACA and its implementing regulations, including reporting any transfer of value made or distributed to teaching hospitals, prescribers and other healthcare providers and reporting any ownership and investment interests held by physicians and their immediate family members and applicable group purchasing organizations during the preceding calendar year, with data collection and reporting to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS by the 90th day of each calendar year;

**Table of Contents**

a requirement to annually report drug samples that manufacturers and distributors provide to physicians;

expansion of health care fraud and abuse laws, including the False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute, new government investigative powers, and enhanced penalties for noncompliance;

a licensure framework for follow-on biologic products;

a new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in, and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research;

creation of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which has authority to recommend certain changes to the Medicare program that could result in reduced payments for prescription drugs and those recommendations could have the effect of law even if Congress does not act on the recommendations; and

establishment of a Center for Medicare Innovation at CMS to test innovative payment and service delivery models to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending, potentially including prescription drug spending.

Many of the details regarding the implementation of the PPACA are yet to be determined, and at this time, it remains unclear the full effect that the PPACA would have on our business. On June 28, 2012, the US Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the PPACA, excepting certain provisions that would have required each state to expand its Medicaid programs or risk losing all of the state's Medicaid funding. At this time, it remains unclear whether there will be any further changes made to the PPACA, whether in part or in its entirety. Some states have indicated that they intend to not implement certain sections of the PPACA, and some members of the US Congress are still working to repeal the PPACA. We cannot predict whether these challenges will continue or other proposals will be made or adopted, or what impact these efforts may have on us.

*Europe / rest of world government regulation*

In addition to regulations in the United States, we and our strategic alliance partners are subject to a variety of regulations in other jurisdictions governing, among other things, clinical trials and any commercial sales and distribution of our products.

Whether or not we or our collaborators obtain FDA approval for a product, we must obtain the requisite approvals from regulatory authorities in foreign countries prior to the commencement of clinical trials or marketing of the product in those countries. Certain countries outside of the United States have a similar process that requires the submission of a clinical trial application much like the IND prior to the commencement of human clinical trials. In the European Union, for example, a clinical trial application, or CTA, must be submitted to each country's national health authority and an independent ethics committee, much like the FDA and IRB, respectively. Once the CTA is approved in accordance with a country's requirements, clinical trial development may proceed.

The requirements and process governing the conduct of clinical trials, product licensing, pricing and reimbursement vary from country to country. In all cases, the clinical trials are conducted in accordance with GCP and the applicable regulatory requirements and the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki.

To obtain regulatory approval of an investigational drug or biological product under European Union regulatory systems, we or our strategic alliance partners must submit a marketing authorization application. The application used to file the NDA or BLA in the United States is similar to that required in the European Union, with the exception of, among other things, country-specific document requirements.

For other countries outside of the European Union, such as countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America or Asia, the requirements governing the conduct of clinical trials, product licensing, pricing and reimbursement vary



## **Table of Contents**

from country to country. In all cases, again, the clinical trials are conducted in accordance with GCP and the applicable regulatory requirements and the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki.

If we or our strategic alliance partners fail to comply with applicable foreign regulatory requirements, we may be subject to, among other things, fines, suspension or withdrawal of regulatory approvals, product recalls, seizure of products, operating restrictions and criminal prosecution.

## **Employees**

As of December 31, 2014, we had 85 employees, of which 81 were full-time employees. Of these full-time employees, 65 employees are engaged in research and development activities and 16 employees are engaged in finance, legal, human resources, facilities and general management. We have no collective bargaining agreements with our employees and we have not experienced any work stoppages.

## **Corporate Information**

We were originally formed as a limited liability company under the name Regulus Therapeutics LLC in the State of Delaware in September 2007. In January 2009, we converted Regulus Therapeutics LLC to a Delaware corporation and changed our name to Regulus Therapeutics Inc. Our principal executive offices are located at 3545 John Hopkins Court, Suite 210, San Diego, California 92121, and our telephone number is (858) 202-6300.

Our corporate website address is [www.regulusrx.com](http://www.regulusrx.com). Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to reports filed pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, are available free of charge on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains our public filings with the SEC and other information regarding the Company, at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). These reports and other information concerning the Company may also be accessed at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The contents of these websites are not incorporated into this Annual Report. Further, our references to the URLs for these websites are intended to be inactive textual reference only.

The Regulus Therapeutics logo is a trademark of Regulus Therapeutics Inc. We use Regulus Therapeutics as a trademark in the United States and other countries. We have registered this trademark in the United States, the European Union and Switzerland. We use *microMarkers* as a servicemark in the United States and other countries. We have filed for registration of this servicemark in the United States. This Annual Report contains references to our trademarks and to trademarks belonging to other entities. Solely for convenience, trademarks and trade names referred to in this Annual Report, including logos, artwork and other visual displays, may appear without the ® or symbols, but such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that we will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our rights or the rights of the applicable licensor to these trademarks and trade names. We do not intend our use or display of other companies' trade names or trademarks to imply a relationship with, or endorsement or sponsorship of us by, any other companies.

We are an emerging growth company, as defined in the JOBS Act. We will remain an emerging growth company until the earlier of (1) the last day of the fiscal year (a) following the fifth anniversary of our initial public offering in October 2012, (b) in which we have total annual gross revenue of at least \$1.0 billion, or (c) in which we are deemed to be a large accelerated filer, and (2) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt during the prior three-year period. References herein to emerging growth company shall have the meaning associated

with it in the JOBS Act.

---

**Table of Contents****Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

*Except for the historical information contained herein or incorporated by reference, this Annual Report and the information incorporated by reference contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements include projections about our accounting and finances, plans and objectives for the future, future operating and economic performance and other statements regarding future performance. These statements are not guarantees of future performance or events. Our actual results may differ materially from those discussed here. Factors that could cause or contribute to differences in our actual results include those discussed in the following section, as well as those discussed in Part II, Item 7 entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and elsewhere throughout this Annual Report and in any other documents incorporated by reference into this Annual Report. You should consider carefully the following risk factors, together with all of the other information included or incorporated in this Annual Report. Each of these risk factors, either alone or taken together, could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our common stock. There may be additional risks that we do not presently know of or that we currently believe are immaterial which could also impair our business and financial position.*

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION AND NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CAPITAL**

**We have a limited operating history, have incurred significant losses since our inception and anticipate that we will continue to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future.**

We are a biopharmaceutical company, formed in 2007, with a limited operating history. Since inception, our operations have been primarily limited to organizing and staffing our company, acquiring and in-licensing intellectual property rights, developing our *microRNA* product platform, undertaking basic research around *microRNA* targets and conducting preclinical and clinical studies for our initial programs. We have initiated clinical development of RG-101 and RG-012 however, we have not yet obtained regulatory approval for any product candidates. Consequently, any predictions about our future success or viability, or any evaluation of our business and prospects, may not be accurate.

We have incurred losses in each year since our incorporation in January 2009. Our net losses were \$56.7 million, \$18.7 million and \$17.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, we had an accumulated deficit of \$135.8 million.

We have devoted most of our financial resources to research and development, including our preclinical and clinical development activities. To date, we have financed our operations primarily through the sale of equity securities and convertible debt and from revenue received from our strategic alliance partners. We have strategic alliances with Sanofi relating to the development of our miR-21 programs for HCC and kidney fibrosis and our miR-221/222 program for oncology indications and with AstraZeneca to develop metabolic and oncology programs. Under our agreement with Sanofi, Sanofi has an option to obtain exclusive worldwide licenses for the development, manufacture and commercialization of potential product candidates selected from our programs. If Sanofi exercises its option to obtain a license to develop, manufacture and commercialize such product candidates, it will assume responsibility for funding and conducting further clinical development and commercialization activities for such product candidates. However, if Sanofi does not exercise its option within the timeframes that we expect, or at all, we will be responsible for funding further development of the applicable product candidates and may not have the resources to do so unless we are able to enter into another strategic alliance for these product candidates. The size of our future net losses will depend, in part, on the rate of future expenditures and our ability to obtain funding through equity or debt financings, strategic alliances or grants. We have initiated clinical development of RG-101 and RG-012 however, it will be several years, if ever, before we have a product candidate ready for commercialization. Even if we or our strategic

alliance partners successfully obtain regulatory approval to market a product candidate, our revenues will also depend upon the size of any markets in which our product candidates have received market approval, and our ability to achieve sufficient market acceptance and adequate market share for our products.

## **Table of Contents**

We expect to continue to incur significant expenses and increasing operating losses for the foreseeable future. The net losses we incur may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter. We anticipate that our expenses will increase substantially if and as we: continue our research and preclinical and clinical development of our product candidates, both independently and under our strategic alliance agreements; seek to identify additional *microRNA* targets and product candidates; acquire or in-license other products and technologies; continue with clinical development of our product candidates; seek marketing approvals for our product candidates that successfully complete clinical trials; ultimately establish a sales, marketing and distribution infrastructure to commercialize any products for which we may obtain marketing approval; maintain, expand and protect our intellectual property portfolio; hire additional clinical, quality control and other scientific personnel; and create additional infrastructure to support our operations as a public company and our product development and planned future commercialization efforts.

### **We have never generated any revenue from product sales and may never be profitable.**

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

identifying and validating new *microRNAs* as therapeutic targets;

completing our research and preclinical development of product candidates;

initiating and completing clinical trials for product candidates;

seeking and obtaining marketing approvals for product candidates that successfully complete clinical trials;

establishing and maintaining supply and manufacturing relationships with third parties;

launching and commercializing product candidates for which we obtain marketing approval, with an alliance partner or, if launched independently, successfully establishing a sales force, marketing and distribution infrastructure;

maintaining, protecting and expanding our intellectual property portfolio; and

attracting, hiring and retaining qualified personnel.

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

regulatory agencies to perform studies and trials in addition to those that we currently anticipate.

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

**We may need to raise additional capital, which may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all.**

Developing pharmaceutical products, including conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials, is expensive. We expect our research and development expenses to substantially increase in connection with our ongoing activities, particularly as we advance our product candidates towards or through clinical programs. We will need to raise additional capital to support our operations and such funding may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all.

## Table of Contents

As we move our lead compounds through toxicology and other preclinical studies, also referred to as nonclinical studies, required to file an IND, and as we conduct clinical development of RG-101, RG-012 and any other future product candidates, we may have adverse results requiring mitigation strategies that may cause us to consume additional capital. Additionally, our strategic alliance partners may not elect to pursue the development and commercialization of any of our *microRNA* product candidates that are subject to their respective strategic alliance agreements with us. Any of these events may increase our development costs more than we expect. We may need to raise additional capital or otherwise obtain funding through additional strategic alliances if we choose to initiate clinical trials for new product candidates other than programs currently partnered. In any event, we will require additional capital to obtain regulatory approval for, and to commercialize, future product candidates.

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

significantly delay, scale back or discontinue the development or commercialization of any future product candidates;

seek strategic alliances for research and development programs at an earlier stage than otherwise would be desirable or on terms that are less favorable than might otherwise be available; or

relinquish or license on unfavorable terms, our rights to technologies or any future product candidates that we otherwise would seek to develop or commercialize ourselves.

If we are required to conduct additional fundraising activities and we are unable to raise additional capital in sufficient amounts or on terms acceptable to us, we will be prevented from pursuing development and commercialization efforts, which will have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and prospects.

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

We expect that significant additional capital will be needed in the future to continue our planned operations. To the extent we raise additional capital by issuing equity securities, our stockholders may experience substantial dilution. We may sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in one or more transactions at prices and in a manner we determine from time to time. If we sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in more than one transaction, investors may be materially diluted by subsequent sales. These sales may also result in material dilution to our existing stockholders, and new investors could gain rights superior to our existing stockholders. Pursuant to our 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, or the 2012 Plan, our management is authorized to grant stock options and other equity-based awards to our employees, directors and consultants. The number of shares available for future grant under the 2012 Plan will automatically increase each year by up to 4% of all shares of our capital stock outstanding as of December 31 of the prior calendar year, subject to the ability of our board of directors to take action to reduce the size of the increase in any given year. Any such increase, of the maximum amount or a lesser amount, will cause our stockholders to experience additional dilution, which could cause our stock price to fall.

Currently, we plan to register the increased number of shares available for issuance under the 2012 Plan each year.



**Table of Contents**

**RISKS RELATED TO THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCT CANDIDATES**

**The approach we are taking to discover and develop drugs is novel and may never lead to marketable products.**

We have concentrated our therapeutic product research and development efforts on *microRNA* technology, and our future success depends on the successful development of this technology and products based on our *microRNA* product platform. Neither we nor any other company has received regulatory approval to market therapeutics targeting *microRNAs*. The scientific discoveries that form the basis for our efforts to discover and develop product candidates are relatively new. The scientific evidence to support the feasibility of developing product candidates based on these discoveries is both preliminary and limited. If we do not successfully develop and commercialize product candidates based upon our technological approach, we may not become profitable and the value of our common stock may decline.

Further, our focus solely on *microRNA* technology for developing drugs as opposed to multiple, more proven technologies for drug development increases the risks associated with the ownership of our common stock. If we are not successful in developing any product candidates using *microRNA* technology, we may be required to change the scope and direction of our product development activities. In that case, we may not be able to identify and implement successfully an alternative product development strategy.

**We may not be successful in our efforts to identify or discover potential product candidates.**

The success of our business depends primarily upon our ability to identify, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics. Our research programs may initially show promise in identifying potential product candidates, yet fail to yield product candidates for clinical development for a number of reasons, including:

our research methodology or that of our strategic alliance partners may be unsuccessful in identifying potential product candidates;

potential product candidates may be shown to have harmful side effects or may have other characteristics that may make the products unmarketable or unlikely to receive marketing approval; or

our strategic alliance partners may change their development profiles for potential product candidates or abandon a therapeutic area.

If any of these events occur, we may be forced to abandon our development efforts for a program or programs, which would have a material adverse effect on our business and could potentially cause us to cease operations. Research programs to identify new product candidates require substantial technical, financial and human resources. We may focus our efforts and resources on potential programs or product candidates that ultimately prove to be unsuccessful.

**Preclinical testing and clinical trials of our product candidates may not be successful. If we are unable to successfully complete preclinical testing and clinical trials of our product candidates or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed.**

We have invested a significant portion of our efforts and financial resources in the identification and development of product candidates that target *microRNAs*. Our ability to generate product revenues, which we do not expect will

occur for many years, if ever, will depend heavily on the successful development and eventual commercialization of our product candidates.

The success of our product candidates will depend on several factors, including the following:

successful completion of preclinical studies and clinical trials;

receipt of marketing approvals from applicable regulatory authorities;

**Table of Contents**

obtaining and maintaining patent and trade secret protection for future product candidates;

establishing and maintaining manufacturing relationships with third parties or establishing our own manufacturing capability; and

successfully commercializing our products, if and when approved, whether alone or in collaboration with others.

If we do not achieve one or more of these factors in a timely manner or at all, we could experience significant delays or an inability to successfully complete the development of, or commercialize, our product candidates, which would materially harm our business.

**If clinical trials of our product candidates fail to demonstrate safety and efficacy to the satisfaction of regulatory authorities or do not otherwise produce positive results, we may incur additional costs or experience delays in completing, or ultimately be unable to complete, the development and commercialization of our product candidates.**

Before obtaining marketing approval from regulatory authorities for the sale of product candidates, we or our strategic alliance partners must conduct extensive clinical trials to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the product candidates in humans. Clinical testing is expensive, difficult to design and implement, can take many years to complete and is uncertain as to outcome. A failure of one or more clinical trials can occur at any stage of testing. The outcome of preclinical studies and early clinical trials may not be predictive of the success of later clinical trials, and interim results of a clinical trial do not necessarily predict final results. Moreover, preclinical and clinical data are often susceptible to varying interpretations and analyses, and many companies that have believed their product candidates performed satisfactorily in preclinical studies and clinical trials have nonetheless failed to obtain marketing approval for their products.

Events which may result in a delay or unsuccessful completion of clinical development include:

delays in reaching an agreement with the FDA or other regulatory authorities on final trial design;

imposition of a clinical hold following an inspection of our clinical trial operations or trial sites by the FDA or other regulatory authorities;

delays in reaching agreement on acceptable terms with prospective clinical research organizations, or CROs, and clinical trial sites;

our inability to adhere to clinical trial requirements directly or with third parties such as CROs;

delays in obtaining required institutional review board approval at each clinical trial site;

delays in recruiting suitable patients to participate in a trial;

delays in the testing, validation, manufacturing and delivery of the product candidates to the clinical sites;

delays in having patients complete participation in a trial or return for post-treatment follow-up;

delays caused by patients dropping out of a trial due to product side effects or disease progression;

clinical sites dropping out of a trial to the detriment of enrollment;

time required to add new clinical sites; or

delays by our contract manufacturers to produce and deliver sufficient supply of clinical trial materials.

If we or our strategic alliance partners are required to conduct additional clinical trials or other testing of any product candidates beyond those that are currently contemplated, are unable to successfully complete clinical trials of any such product candidates or other testing, or if the results of these trials or tests are not positive or are only modestly positive or if there are safety concerns, we or our strategic alliance partners may:

be delayed in obtaining marketing approval for our future product candidates;

**Table of Contents**

not obtain marketing approval at all;

obtain approval for indications or patient populations that are not as broad as intended or desired;

obtain approval with labeling that includes significant use or distribution restrictions or safety warnings;

be subject to additional post-marketing testing requirements; or

have the product removed from the market after obtaining marketing approval.

Our product development costs will also increase if we experience delays in testing or marketing approvals. We do not know whether any clinical trials will begin as planned, will need to be restructured or will be completed on schedule, or at all. Significant clinical trial delays also could shorten any periods during which we may have the exclusive right to commercialize our product candidates or allow our competitors to bring products to market before we do, which would impair our ability to successfully commercialize our product candidates and may harm our business and results of operations. Any inability to successfully complete preclinical and clinical development, whether independently or with our strategic alliance partners, could result in additional costs to us or impair our ability to generate revenues from product sales, regulatory and commercialization milestones and royalties.

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

Adverse events, or AEs, caused by our product candidates could cause us, other reviewing entities, clinical trial sites or regulatory authorities to interrupt, delay or halt clinical trials and could result in the denial of regulatory approval. Certain oligonucleotide therapeutics have shown injection site reactions and pro-inflammatory effects and may also lead to impairment of kidney or liver function. There is a risk that our future product candidates may induce similar adverse events.

If AEs are observed in any clinical trials of our product candidates, including those that our strategic partners may develop under our alliance agreements, our or our partners' ability to obtain regulatory approval for product candidates may be negatively impacted.

Further, if any of our future products, if and when approved for commercial sale, cause serious or unexpected side effects, a number of potentially significant negative consequences could result, including:

regulatory authorities may withdraw their approval of the product or impose restrictions on its distribution in the form of a modified risk evaluation and mitigation strategy;

regulatory authorities may require the addition of labeling statements, such as warnings or contraindications;

we may be required to change the way the product is administered or conduct additional clinical trials;

we could be sued and held liable for harm caused to patients; or

our reputation may suffer.

Any of these events could prevent us or our partners from achieving or maintaining market acceptance of the affected product and could substantially increase the costs of commercializing our future products and impair our ability to generate revenues from the commercialization of these products either by us or by our strategic alliance partners.

**Table of Contents**

**Even if we complete the necessary preclinical studies and clinical trials, we cannot predict whether or when we will obtain regulatory approval to commercialize a product candidate and we cannot, therefore, predict the timing of any revenue from a future product.**

Neither we nor our strategic alliance partners can commercialize a product until the appropriate regulatory authorities, such as the FDA, have reviewed and approved the product candidate. The regulatory agencies may not complete their review processes in a timely manner, or we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval. Additional delays may result if an FDA Advisory Committee recommends restrictions on approval or recommends non-approval. In addition, we or our strategic alliance partners may experience delays or rejections based upon additional government regulation from future legislation or administrative action, or changes in regulatory agency policy during the period of product development, clinical trials and the review process.

**Even if we obtain regulatory approval for a product candidate, we will still face extensive regulatory requirements and our products may face future development and regulatory difficulties.**

Even if we obtain regulatory approval in the United States, the FDA may still impose significant restrictions on the indicated uses or marketing of our product candidates, or impose ongoing requirements for potentially costly post-approval studies or post-market surveillance. The holder of an approved NDA is obligated to monitor and report AEs and any failure of a product to meet the specifications in the NDA. The holder of an approved NDA must also submit new or supplemental applications and obtain FDA approval for certain changes to the approved product, product labeling or manufacturing process. Advertising and promotional materials must comply with FDA rules and are subject to FDA review, in addition to other potentially applicable federal and state laws.

In addition, drug product manufacturers and their facilities are subject to payment of user fees and continual review and periodic inspections by the FDA and other regulatory authorities for compliance with current good manufacturing practices, or cGMP, and adherence to commitments made in the NDA. If we or a regulatory agency discovers previously unknown problems with a product such as AEs of unanticipated severity or frequency, or problems with the facility where the product is manufactured, a regulatory agency may impose restrictions relative to that product or the manufacturing facility, including requiring recall or withdrawal of the product from the market or suspension of manufacturing.

If we or our partners fail to comply with applicable regulatory requirements following approval of any of our product candidates, a regulatory agency may:

issue a warning letter asserting that we are in violation of the law;

seek an injunction or impose civil or criminal penalties or monetary fines;

suspend or withdraw regulatory approval;

suspend any ongoing clinical trials;

refuse to approve a pending NDA or supplements to an NDA submitted by us;

seize product; or

refuse to allow us to enter into supply contracts, including government contracts.

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

**We may not be successful in obtaining or maintaining necessary rights to *micro*RNA targets, drug compounds and processes for our development pipeline through acquisitions and in-licenses.**

Presently we have rights to the intellectual property, through licenses from third parties and under patents that we own, to modulate only a subset of the known *micro*RNA targets. Because our programs may involve a



## Table of Contents

range of *micro*RNA targets, including targets that require the use of proprietary rights held by third parties, the growth of our business will likely depend in part on our ability to acquire, in-license or use these proprietary rights. In addition, our product candidates may require specific formulations to work effectively and efficiently and these rights may be held by others. We may be unable to acquire or in-license any compositions, methods of use, processes or other third-party intellectual property rights from third parties that we identify. The licensing and acquisition of third-party intellectual property rights is a competitive area, and a number of more established companies are also pursuing strategies to license or acquire third-party intellectual property rights that we may consider attractive. These established companies may have a competitive advantage over us due to their size, cash resources and greater clinical development and commercialization capabilities.

For example, we may collaborate with U.S. and foreign academic institutions to accelerate our preclinical research or development under written agreements with these institutions. Typically, these institutions provide us with an option to negotiate a license to any of the institution's rights in technology resulting from the collaboration. Regardless of such right of first negotiation for intellectual property, we may be unable to negotiate a license within the specified time frame or under terms that are acceptable to us. If we are unable to do so, the institution may offer the intellectual property rights to other parties, potentially blocking our ability to pursue our program.

In addition, companies that perceive us to be a competitor may be unwilling to assign or license rights to us. We also may be unable to license or acquire third-party intellectual property rights on terms that would allow us to make an appropriate return on our investment. If we are unable to successfully obtain rights to required third-party intellectual property rights, our business, financial condition and prospects for growth could suffer.

**We may use our financial and human resources to pursue a particular research program or product candidate and fail to capitalize on programs or product candidates that may be more profitable or for which there is a greater likelihood of success.**

Because we have limited financial and human resources, we intend to leverage our existing strategic alliance agreements and enter into new strategic alliance agreements for the development and commercialization of our programs and potential product candidates in indications with potentially large commercial markets such as HCC, fibrosis and HCV, while focusing our internal development resources and any internal sales and marketing organization that we may establish on research programs and product candidates for selected markets, such as orphan diseases. As a result, we may forego or delay pursuit of opportunities with other programs or product candidates or for other indications that later prove to have greater commercial potential. Our resource allocation decisions may cause us to fail to capitalize on viable commercial products or profitable market opportunities. Our spending on research and development programs and product candidates for specific indications may not yield any commercially viable products. If we do not accurately evaluate the commercial potential or target market for a particular product candidate, we may relinquish valuable rights to that product candidate through strategic alliance, licensing or other royalty arrangements in cases in which it would have been more advantageous for us to retain sole development and commercialization rights to such product candidate, or we may allocate internal resources to a product candidate in a therapeutic area in which it would have been more advantageous to enter into a partnering arrangement.

**If we fail to comply with environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, we could become subject to fines or penalties or incur costs that could have a material adverse effect on the success of our business.**

We are subject to numerous environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, including those governing laboratory procedures and the handling, use, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. Our operations involve the use of hazardous and flammable materials, including chemicals and biological materials. Our operations also produce hazardous waste products. We generally contract with third parties for the disposal of these

materials and wastes. We cannot eliminate the risk of contamination or injury

## Table of Contents

from these materials. In the event of contamination or injury resulting from our use of hazardous materials, we could be held liable for any resulting damages, and any liability could exceed our resources. We also could incur significant costs associated with civil or criminal fines and penalties.

Although we maintain workers' compensation insurance to cover us for costs and expenses we may incur due to injuries to our employees resulting from the use of hazardous materials or other work-related injuries, this insurance may not provide adequate coverage against potential liabilities. In addition, we may incur substantial costs in order to comply with current or future environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. These current or future laws and regulations may impair our research, development or production efforts. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations also may result in substantial fines, penalties or other sanctions.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR RELIANCE ON THIRD PARTIES**

**We will depend upon our strategic alliances for the development and eventual commercialization of certain *microRNA* product candidates. If these strategic alliances are unsuccessful or are terminated, we may be unable to commercialize certain product candidates and we may be unable to generate revenues from our development programs.**

We are likely to depend upon third party alliance partners for financial and scientific resources for the clinical development and commercialization of certain of our *microRNA* product candidates. These strategic alliances will likely provide us with limited control over the course of development of a *microRNA* product candidate, especially once a candidate has reached the stage of clinical development. For example, in our alliance with Sanofi, Sanofi has the option to obtain an exclusive worldwide license to develop, manufacture and commercialize product candidates upon the achievement of relevant endpoints in clinical trials. However, Sanofi is not under any obligation to exercise these options to progress any of our *microRNA* development candidates. While each of AstraZeneca and Sanofi have development obligations with respect to programs that they may elect to pursue under their respective agreements, our ability to ultimately recognize revenue from these relationships will depend upon the ability and willingness of our alliance partners to successfully meet their respective responsibilities under our agreements with them. Our ability to recognize revenues from successful strategic alliances may be impaired by several factors including:

an alliance partner may shift its priorities and resources away from our programs due to a change in business strategies, or a merger, acquisition, sale or downsizing of its company or business unit;

an alliance partner may cease development in therapeutic areas which are the subject of our strategic alliances;

an alliance partner may change the success criteria for a particular program or potential product candidate thereby delaying or ceasing development of such program or candidate;

a significant delay in initiation of certain development activities by an alliance partner will also delay payment of milestones tied to such activities, thereby impacting our ability to fund our own activities;

an alliance partner could develop a product that competes, either directly or indirectly, with an alliance product;

an alliance partner with commercialization obligations may not commit sufficient financial or human resources to the marketing, distribution or sale of a product;

an alliance partner with manufacturing responsibilities may encounter regulatory, resource or quality issues and be unable to meet demand requirements;

an alliance partner may exercise its rights under the agreement to terminate a strategic alliance;

a dispute may arise between us and an alliance partner concerning the research, development or commercialization of a program or product candidate resulting in a delay in milestones, royalty payments or termination of a program and possibly resulting in costly litigation or arbitration which may divert management attention and resources; and

---

**Table of Contents**

an alliance partner may use our proprietary information or intellectual property in such a way as to invite litigation from a third party or fail to maintain or prosecute intellectual property rights such that our rights in such property are jeopardized.

Specifically, with respect to termination rights, Sanofi may terminate the entire alliance or its current alliance target program for any or no reason upon 30 days' written notice to us. The agreement with Sanofi may also be terminated by either party for material breach by the other party, including a failure to comply with such party's diligence obligations that remains uncured after 120 days. The agreement with AstraZeneca may be terminated by either party in the event of the other party's material breach which remains uncured after 40 business days following notice thereof (or 30 business days in the case of nonpayment). In addition, AstraZeneca may terminate the agreement in its entirety for any reason upon 60 business days' written notice to us. Depending on the timing of any such termination, we may not be entitled to receive the option exercise fees or milestone payments, as these payments terminate with termination of the respective program or agreement.

If any of our alliance partners do not elect to pursue the development and commercialization of our *microRNA* development candidates or if they terminate the strategic alliance, then, depending on the event:

in the case of Sanofi, under certain circumstances, we may owe Sanofi royalties with respect to product candidates covered by our agreement with Sanofi that we elect to continue to commercialize, depending upon the stage of development at which such product commercialization rights reverted back to us, or additional payments if we license such product candidates to third parties;

the development of our product candidates subject to the AstraZeneca agreement or the Sanofi agreement, as applicable, may be terminated or significantly delayed;

our cash expenditures could increase significantly if it is necessary for us to hire additional employees and allocate scarce resources to the development and commercialization of product candidates that were previously funded, or expected to be funded, by AstraZeneca or Sanofi, as applicable;

we would bear all of the risks and costs related to the further development and commercialization of product candidates that were previously the subject of the AstraZeneca agreement or the Sanofi agreement, as applicable, including the reimbursement of third parties; and

in order to fund further development and commercialization, we may need to seek out and establish alternative strategic alliances with third-party partners; this may not be possible, or we may not be able to do so on terms which are acceptable to us, in which case it may be necessary for us to limit the size or scope of one or more of our programs or increase our expenditures and seek additional funding by other means.

Any of these events would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

**We rely on third parties to conduct some aspects of our compound formulation, research and preclinical testing, and those third parties may not perform satisfactorily, including failing to meet deadlines for the completion of such formulation, research or testing.**

We do not expect to independently conduct all aspects of our drug discovery activities, compound formulation research or preclinical testing of product candidates. We currently rely and expect to continue to rely on third parties to conduct some aspects of our preclinical testing and formulation development.

Any of these third parties may terminate their engagements with us at any time. If we need to enter into alternative arrangements, it would delay our product development activities. Our reliance on these third parties for research and development activities will reduce our control over these activities but will not relieve us of our responsibilities. For example, for product candidates that we develop and commercialize on our own, we will remain responsible for ensuring that each of our IND-enabling studies and clinical trials are conducted in accordance with the study plan and protocols for the trial.

**Table of Contents**

If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties, meet expected deadlines or conduct our studies in accordance with regulatory requirements or our stated study plans and protocols, we will not be able to complete, or may be delayed in completing, the necessary preclinical studies to enable us or our strategic alliance partners to select viable product candidates for IND submissions and will not be able to, or may be delayed in our efforts to, successfully develop and commercialize such product candidates.

**We rely on third-party manufacturers to produce our preclinical and clinical product candidates, and we intend to rely on third parties to produce future clinical supplies of product candidates that we advance into clinical trials and commercial supplies of any approved product candidates.**

Reliance on third-party manufacturers entails risks to which we would not be subject if we manufactured the product candidates ourselves, including:

the inability to meet any product specifications and quality requirements consistently;

a delay or inability to procure or expand sufficient manufacturing capacity;

manufacturing and product quality issues related to scale-up of manufacturing;

costs and validation of new equipment and facilities required for scale-up;

a failure to comply with cGMP and similar foreign standards;

the inability to negotiate manufacturing or supply agreements with third parties under commercially reasonable terms;

termination or nonrenewal of manufacturing agreements with third parties in a manner or at a time that is costly or damaging to us;

the reliance on a limited number of sources, and in some cases, single sources for raw materials, such that if we are unable to secure a sufficient supply of these product components, we will be unable to manufacture and sell future product candidates in a timely fashion, in sufficient quantities or under acceptable terms;

the lack of qualified backup suppliers for any raw materials that are currently purchased from a single source supplier;

operations of our third-party manufacturers or suppliers could be disrupted by conditions unrelated to our business or operations, including the bankruptcy of the manufacturer or supplier;

carrier disruptions or increased costs that are beyond our control; and

the failure to deliver products under specified storage conditions and in a timely manner.

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

**We rely on limited sources of supply for the drug substance of product candidates and any disruption in the chain of supply may cause a delay in developing and commercializing these product candidates.**

We have established manufacturing relationships with a limited number of suppliers to manufacture raw materials and the drug substance of any product candidate for which we are responsible for preclinical or clinical development. Each supplier may require licenses to manufacture such components if such processes are not owned by the supplier or in the public domain. As part of any marketing approval, a manufacturer and its processes are required to be qualified by the FDA prior to commercialization. If supply from the approved vendor is interrupted, there could be a significant disruption in commercial supply. An alternative vendor would need to be qualified through an NDA supplement which could result in further delay. The FDA or other



## **Table of Contents**

regulatory agencies outside of the United States may also require additional studies if a new supplier is relied upon for commercial production. Switching vendors may involve substantial costs and is likely to result in a delay in our desired clinical and commercial timelines.

In addition, if our alliance partners elect to pursue the development and commercialization of certain programs, we will lose control over the manufacturing of the product candidate subject to the agreement. For example, if Sanofi elects to develop and commercialize a product candidate targeting miR-21 or miR-221/222 for oncology indications or RG-012 for kidney fibrosis under its strategic alliance with us, Sanofi will be responsible for the manufacture of the product candidates for further clinical trials. Sanofi will be free to use a manufacturer of its own choosing or manufacture the product candidates in its own manufacturing facilities. In such a case, we will have no control over Sanofi's processes or supply chains to ensure the timely manufacture and supply of the product candidates. In addition, we will not be able to ensure that the product candidates will be manufactured under the correct conditions to permit the product candidates to be used in such clinical trials. AstraZeneca will have similar obligations to manufacture product candidates which it takes into clinical trials under its strategic alliance with us and we will face similar risks as to those product candidates.

These factors could cause the delay of clinical trials, regulatory submissions, required approvals or commercialization of our product candidates, cause us to incur higher costs and prevent us from commercializing our products successfully. Furthermore, if our suppliers fail to deliver the required commercial quantities of active pharmaceutical ingredients on a timely basis and at commercially reasonable prices, and we are unable to secure one or more replacement suppliers capable of production at a substantially equivalent cost, our clinical trials may be delayed or we could lose potential revenue.

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

As we scale-up manufacturing of product candidates and conduct required stability testing, product, packaging, equipment and process-related issues may require refinement or resolution in order to proceed with any clinical trials and obtain regulatory approval for commercial marketing. We may identify significant impurities, which could result in increased scrutiny by the regulatory agencies, delays in clinical programs and regulatory approval, increases in our operating expenses, or failure to obtain or maintain approval for product candidates or any approved products.

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

We or our strategic alliance partners rely on CROs and clinical trial sites to ensure the proper and timely conduct of our clinical trials. While we will have agreements governing their activities, we and our strategic alliance partners have limited influence over their actual performance. We control only certain aspects of our CROs' activities. Nevertheless, we or our strategic alliance partners are responsible for ensuring that each of our clinical trials are conducted in accordance with the applicable protocol, legal, regulatory and scientific standards and our reliance on the CROs does not relieve us of our regulatory responsibilities.

We, our alliance partners and our CROs are required to comply with the FDA's or other regulatory agency's current good clinical practices, or cGCPs, for conducting, recording and reporting the results of IND-enabling studies and clinical trials to assure that data and reported results are credible and accurate and that the rights, integrity and confidentiality of clinical trial participants are protected. The FDA and other non-U.S. regulatory agencies enforce these cGCPs through periodic inspections of trial sponsors, principal investigators and clinical trial sites. If we or our CROs fail to comply with applicable cGCPs, the clinical data generated in our clinical trials may be deemed unreliable

and the FDA may require us to perform additional clinical trials before approving any marketing applications. Upon inspection, the FDA may determine that our clinical trials did not comply with cGCPs. In addition, our clinical trials will require a sufficiently large number of test subjects to

## **Table of Contents**

evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a potential drug product. Accordingly, if our CROs fail to comply with these regulations or fail to recruit a sufficient number of patients, we may be required to repeat such clinical trials, which would delay the regulatory approval process.

Our CROs will not be our employees, and we will not be able to control whether or not they devote sufficient time and resources to our clinical and nonclinical programs. These CROs may also have relationships with other commercial entities, including our competitors, for whom they may also be conducting clinical trials, or other drug development activities which could harm our competitive position. If our CROs do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or obligations, fail to meet expected deadlines, or if the quality or accuracy of the clinical data they obtain is compromised due to the failure to adhere to our clinical protocols or regulatory requirements, or for any other reasons, our clinical trials may be extended, delayed or terminated, and we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for, or successfully commercialize our product candidates. As a result, our financial results and the commercial prospects for such products and any product candidates that we develop would be harmed, our costs could increase, and our ability to generate revenues could be delayed.

We also rely on other third parties to store and distribute drug products for any clinical trials that we may conduct. Any performance failure on the part of our distributors could delay clinical development or marketing approval of our product candidates or commercialization of our products, if approved, producing additional losses and depriving us of potential product revenue.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

### **If we are unable to obtain or protect intellectual property rights related to our future products and product candidates, we may not be able to compete effectively in our markets.**

We rely upon a combination of patents, trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements to protect the intellectual property related to our future products and product candidates. The strength of patents in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical field involves complex legal and scientific questions and can be uncertain. The patent applications that we own or in-license may fail to result in patents with claims that cover the products in the United States or in other countries. There is no assurance that all of the potentially relevant prior art relating to our patents and patent applications has been found; such prior art can invalidate a patent or prevent a patent from issuing based on a pending patent application. Even if patents do successfully issue, third parties may challenge their validity, enforceability or scope, which may result in such patents being narrowed or invalidated. Furthermore, even if they are unchallenged, our patents and patent applications may not adequately protect our intellectual property or prevent others from designing around our claims.

If the patent applications we hold or have in-licensed with respect to our programs or product candidates fail to issue or if their breadth or strength of protection is threatened, it could dissuade companies from collaborating with us to develop product candidates, and threaten our ability to commercialize, future products. We cannot offer any assurances about which, if any, patents will issue or whether any issued patents will be found invalid and unenforceable or will be threatened by third parties. A patent may be challenged through one or more of several administrative proceedings including post-grant challenges, re-examination or opposition before the U.S. PTO or foreign patent offices. For example, Santaris Pharma A/S (acquired by Hoffman-La Roche Ltd, or Roche), has initiated re-examination of, or oppositions to, patents owned by Stanford University and licensed to us, in each case relating to miR-122, and has initiated oppositions to a patent owned by us relating to miR-122 and to a patent owned by Isis relating to chemical modification of oligonucleotides. While not every challenge necessarily results in a commercially relevant impact on an individual patent, any successful challenge of these patents or any other patents owned by or licensed to us could deprive us of rights necessary for the successful commercialization of any product

candidates that we or our strategic alliance partners may develop.

Since patent applications in the United States and most other countries are confidential for a period of time after filing, and some remain so until issued, we cannot be certain that we were the first to file any patent application related to a product candidate. Furthermore, in certain situations, if we and one or more third parties

## **Table of Contents**

have filed patent applications in the United States and claiming the same subject matter, an administrative proceeding, known as an interference, can be initiated to determine which applicant is entitled to the patent on that subject matter. Such an interference proceeding provoked by third parties or brought by us may be necessary to determine the priority of inventions with respect to our patents or patent applications, or those of our alliance partners or licensors. An unfavorable outcome could require us to cease using the related technology or to attempt to license rights to it from the prevailing party. Our business could be harmed if the prevailing party does not offer us a license on commercially reasonable terms. Our defense of a patent or patent application in such a proceeding may not be successful and, even if successful, may result in substantial costs and distract our management and other employees.

In addition, patents have a limited lifespan. In the United States, the natural expiration of a patent is generally 20 years after it is filed. Various extensions may be available however the life of a patent, and the protection it affords, is limited. Once the patent life has expired for a product, we may be open to competition from generic medications. Further, if we encounter delays in regulatory approvals, the period of time during which we could market a product candidate under patent protection could be reduced.

In addition to the protection afforded by patents, we rely on trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements to protect proprietary know-how that is not patentable, processes for which patents are difficult to enforce and any other elements of our drug discovery and development processes that involve proprietary know-how, information or technology that is not covered by patents. Although each of our employees agrees to assign their inventions to us through an employee inventions agreement, and all of our employees, consultants, advisors and any third parties who have access to our proprietary know-how, information or technology to enter into confidentiality agreements, we cannot provide any assurances that all such agreements have been duly executed or that our trade secrets and other confidential proprietary information will not be disclosed or that competitors will not otherwise gain access to our trade secrets or independently develop substantially equivalent information and techniques. In addition, others may independently discover our trade secrets and proprietary information. For example, the FDA, as part of its Transparency Initiative, is currently considering whether to make additional information publicly available on a routine basis, including information that we may consider to be trade secrets or other proprietary information, and it is not clear at the present time how the FDA's disclosure policies may change in the future, if at all.

Further, the laws of some foreign countries do not protect proprietary rights to the same extent or in the same manner as the laws of the United States. As a result, we may encounter significant problems in protecting and defending our intellectual property both in the United States and abroad. If we are unable to prevent material disclosure of the non-patented intellectual property related to our technologies to third parties, and there is no guarantee that we will have any such enforceable trade secret protection, we may not be able to establish or maintain a competitive advantage in our market, which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

### **Third-party claims of intellectual property infringement may prevent or delay our development and commercialization efforts.**

Our commercial success depends in part on our avoiding infringement of the patents and proprietary rights of third parties. There is a substantial amount of litigation, both within and outside the United States, involving patent and other intellectual property rights in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, including patent infringement lawsuits. Numerous U.S. and foreign issued patents and pending patent applications, which are owned by third parties, exist in the fields in which we and our strategic alliance partners are pursuing development candidates. For example, we are aware that Santaris Pharma A/S (acquired by Roche) has patents and patent applications in the *microRNA* therapeutics space, including patents and patent applications related to targeting *microRNAs*, such as miR-122, for the treatment of disease. As the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries expand and more patents are issued, the risk

increases that our product candidates may be subject to claims of infringement of the patent rights of third parties.

---

**Table of Contents**

Third parties may assert that we are employing their proprietary technology without authorization. There may be third-party patents or patent applications with claims to materials, formulations, methods of manufacture or methods for treatment related to the use or manufacture of our product candidates. Because patent applications can take many years to issue, there may be currently pending patent applications which may later result in patents that our product candidates may infringe. In addition, third parties may obtain patents in the future and claim that use of our technologies infringes upon these patents. If any third-party patents were held by a court of competent jurisdiction to cover the manufacturing process of any of our product candidates, any molecules formed during the manufacturing process or any final product itself, the holders of any such patents may be able to block our ability to commercialize such product candidate unless we obtained a license under the applicable patents, or until such patents expire. Similarly, if any third-party patents were held by a court of competent jurisdiction to cover aspects of our formulations, processes for manufacture or methods of use, including combination therapy, the holders of any such patents may be able to block our ability to develop and commercialize the applicable product candidate unless we obtained a license or until such patent expires. In either case, such a license may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

Parties making claims against us may obtain injunctive or other equitable relief, which could effectively block our ability to further develop and commercialize one or more of our product candidates. Defense of these claims, regardless of their merit, would involve substantial litigation expense and would be a substantial diversion of employee resources from our business. In the event of a successful claim of infringement against us, we may have to pay substantial damages, including treble damages and attorneys' fees for willful infringement, pay royalties, redesign our infringing products or obtain one or more licenses from third parties, which may be impossible or require substantial time and monetary expenditure.

**If we fail to comply with our obligations in the agreements under which we license intellectual property rights from third parties or otherwise experience disruptions to our business relationships with our licensors, we could lose license rights that are important to our business.**

We are a party to a number of intellectual property license agreements that are important to our business and expect to enter into additional license agreements in the future. Our existing license agreements impose, and we expect that future license agreements will impose, various diligence, milestone payment, royalty and other obligations on us. For example, under our exclusive license agreement for Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH's proprietary technology and know-how covering *micro*RNA sequences, we are required to use commercially reasonable diligence to develop and commercialize a product and to satisfy specified payment obligations. If we fail to comply with our obligations under our agreement with Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH or our other license agreements, or we are subject to a bankruptcy, the licensor may have the right to terminate the license, in which event we, or our strategic alliance partners, would not be able to market products covered by the license. In addition, our exclusive license agreements with our founding companies, Alnylam and Isis, provide us with rights to nucleotide technologies in the field of *micro*RNA therapeutics based on oligonucleotides that modulate up-regulated *micro*RNAs. Some of these technologies, such as intellectual property relating to the chemical modification of oligonucleotides, are relevant to our product candidate development programs. If our license agreements with Alnylam or Isis are terminated, or our business relationships with either of these companies or our other licensors are disrupted by events that may include the acquisition of either company, our access to critical intellectual property rights will be materially and adversely affected.

We may need to obtain licenses from third parties to advance our research or allow commercialization of our product candidates, and we have done so from time to time. We may fail to obtain any of these licenses at a reasonable cost or on reasonable terms, if at all. In that event, we would be unable to further develop and commercialize one or more of our product candidates, which could harm our business significantly. We cannot provide any assurances that third-party patents do not exist which might be enforced against our future products, resulting in either an injunction

prohibiting our sales, or, with respect to our sales, an obligation on our part to pay royalties and/or other forms of compensation to third parties.



## **Table of Contents**

### **We may be involved in lawsuits to protect or enforce our patents or the patents of our licensors, which could be expensive, time consuming and unsuccessful.**

Competitors may infringe our patents or the patents of our licensors. To counter infringement or unauthorized use, we may be required to file infringement claims, which can be expensive and time-consuming. In addition, in an infringement proceeding, a court may decide that a patent of ours or our licensors is not valid or is unenforceable, or may refuse to stop the other party from using the technology at issue on the grounds that our patents do not cover the technology in question. An adverse result in any litigation or defense proceedings could put one or more of our patents at risk of being invalidated or interpreted narrowly and could put our patent applications at risk of not issuing.

Our defense in a litigation may fail and, even if successful, may result in substantial costs and distract our management and other employees. We may not be able to prevent, alone or with our licensors, misappropriation of our intellectual property rights, particularly in countries where the laws may not protect those rights as fully as in the United States.

Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during this type of litigation. There could also be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions or other interim proceedings or developments. If securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock.

### **We may be subject to claims that our employees, consultants or independent contractors have wrongfully used or disclosed confidential information of third parties.**

We employ individuals who were previously employed at other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies. We may be subject to claims that we or our employees, consultants or independent contractors have inadvertently or otherwise used or disclosed confidential information of our employees' former employers or other third parties. We may also be subject to claims that former employers or other third parties have an ownership interest in our patents. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these claims. There is no guarantee of success in defending these claims, and if we are successful, litigation could result in substantial cost and be a distraction to our management and other employees.

## **RISKS RELATED TO COMMERCIALIZATION OF PRODUCT CANDIDATES**

### **The commercial success of our programs that are part of our strategic alliance agreements with Sanofi and AstraZeneca will depend in large part on the development and marketing efforts of our alliance partners. If our alliance partners are unable or unwilling to perform in accordance with the terms of our agreements, our potential to generate future revenue from these programs would be significantly reduced and our business would be materially and adversely harmed.**

If Sanofi or AstraZeneca elects to pursue the development and commercialization of any of the *microRNA* product candidates that are subject to their respective strategic alliance agreements with us, we will have limited influence and/or control over their approaches to development and commercialization. If Sanofi AstraZeneca or any potential future strategic alliance partners do not perform in the manner that we expect or fail to fulfill their responsibilities in a timely manner, or at all, the clinical development, regulatory approval and commercialization efforts related to product candidates we have licensed to such strategic alliance partners could be delayed or terminated. If we terminate any of our strategic alliances or any program thereunder due to a material breach by Sanofi or AstraZeneca, we have the right to assume the responsibility at our own expense for the development of the applicable *microRNA* product candidates. Assuming sole responsibility for further development will increase our expenditures, and may mean we

will need to limit the size and scope of one or more of our programs, seek additional funding and/or choose to stop work altogether on one or more of the affected product candidates. This

## Table of Contents

could result in a limited potential to generate future revenue from such *microRNA* product candidates and our business could be materially and adversely affected. Further, under certain circumstances, we may owe Sanofi or AstraZeneca, as applicable, royalties on any product candidate that we may successfully commercialize.

### **We face significant competition from other biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and our operating results will suffer if we fail to compete effectively.**

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are intensely competitive. We have competitors both in the United States and internationally, including major multinational pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies and universities and other research institutions. Our competitors may have substantially greater financial, technical and other resources, such as larger research and development staff and experienced marketing and manufacturing organizations. Additional mergers and acquisitions in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries may result in even more resources being concentrated in our competitors. Competition may increase further as a result of advances in the commercial applicability of technologies and greater availability of capital for investment in these industries. Our competitors may succeed in developing, acquiring or licensing on an exclusive basis, drug products that are more effective or less costly than any product candidate that we may develop.

Most of our programs are targeted toward indications for which there are approved products on the market or product candidates in clinical development. We will face competition from other drugs currently approved or that will be approved in the future for the same therapeutic indications. Our ability to compete successfully will depend largely on our ability to leverage our experience in drug discovery and development to:

discover and develop therapeutics that are superior to other products in the market;

attract qualified scientific, product development and commercial personnel;

obtain patent and/or other proprietary protection for our *microRNA* product platform and future product candidates;

obtain required regulatory approvals; and

successfully collaborate with pharmaceutical companies in the discovery, development and commercialization of new therapeutics.

The availability of our competitors' products could limit the demand, and the price we are able to charge, for any products that we may develop and commercialize. We will not achieve our business plan if the acceptance of any of these products is inhibited by price competition or the reluctance of physicians to switch from existing drug products to our products, or if physicians switch to other new drug products or choose to reserve our future products for use in limited circumstances. The inability to compete with existing or subsequently introduced drug products would have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and prospects.

Established pharmaceutical companies may invest heavily to accelerate discovery and development of novel compounds or to in-license novel compounds that could make our product candidates less competitive. In addition,

any new product that competes with an approved product must demonstrate compelling advantages in efficacy, convenience, tolerability and safety in order to overcome price competition and to be commercially successful. Accordingly, our competitors may succeed in obtaining patent protection, receiving FDA approval or discovering, developing and commercializing product candidates before we do, which would have a material adverse impact on our business.

**The commercial success of our product candidates will depend upon the acceptance of these product candidates by the medical community, including physicians, patients and healthcare payors.**

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

demonstration of clinical safety and efficacy compared to other products;

**Table of Contents**

the relative convenience, ease of administration and acceptance by physicians, patients and healthcare payors;

the prevalence and severity of any AEs;

limitations or warnings contained in the FDA-approved label for such products;

availability of alternative treatments;

pricing and cost-effectiveness;

the effectiveness of our or any collaborators' sales and marketing strategies;

our ability to obtain hospital formulary approval;

our ability to obtain and maintain sufficient third party coverage or reimbursement; and

the willingness of patients to pay out-of-pocket in the absence of third party coverage.

Unless other formulations are developed in the future, we expect our compounds to be formulated in an injectable form. Injectable medications may be disfavored by patients or their physicians in the event drugs which are easy to administer, such as oral medications, are available. If a product is approved, but does not achieve an adequate level of acceptance by physicians, patients and healthcare payors, we may not generate sufficient revenues from such product and we may not become or remain profitable.

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

We currently do not have an organization for the sales, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products and the cost of establishing and maintaining such an organization may exceed the cost-effectiveness of doing so. In order to market any products that may be approved, we must build our sales, marketing, managerial and other non-technical capabilities or make arrangements with third parties to perform these services. For example, we have co-promotion rights with Sanofi with respect to our miR-21 and miR-221/222 programs, but would need to build our sales, marketing, managerial and other non-technical capabilities in order to effectively carry out co-promotion activities with respect to any approved products that are developed through these programs. With respect to certain of our current programs that are the subject of existing strategic alliances, such as the metabolic and oncology programs with AstraZeneca, we intend to rely completely on our alliance partner for sales and marketing. In addition, we intend to enter into strategic alliances with third parties to commercialize other product candidates, including in markets outside of the United States or for other large markets that are beyond our resources. Although we intend to establish a sales organization if we are able to obtain approval to market any product candidates for niche markets in the United States, we will also consider the option to enter into strategic alliances for future product candidates in the United States if

commercialization requirements exceed our available resources. This will reduce the revenue generated from the sales of these products.

Our current and future strategic alliance partners, if any, may not dedicate sufficient resources to the commercialization of our product candidates or may otherwise fail in their commercialization due to factors beyond our control. If we are unable to establish effective alliances to enable the sale of our product candidates to healthcare professionals and in geographical regions, including the United States, that will not be covered by our own marketing and sales force, or if our potential future strategic alliance partners do not successfully commercialize the product candidates, our ability to generate revenues from product sales will be adversely affected.

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

**Table of Contents**

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

Under our strategic alliance agreements with Sanofi and AstraZeneca, they will be responsible for the commercialization of future product candidates, if any, from their respective programs, as applicable. If any other product candidates that we may develop are approved for commercialization, we may also enter into agreements with third parties to market them on a worldwide basis or in more limited geographical regions. We expect that we will be subject to additional risks related to entering into international business relationships, including:

different regulatory requirements for drug approvals in foreign countries;

reduced protection for intellectual property rights;

unexpected changes in tariffs, trade barriers and regulatory requirements;

economic weakness, including inflation, or political instability in particular foreign economies and markets;

compliance with tax, employment, immigration and labor laws for employees living or traveling abroad;

foreign taxes, including withholding of payroll taxes;

foreign currency fluctuations, which could result in increased operating expenses and reduced revenues, and other obligations incident to doing business in another country;

workforce uncertainty in countries where labor unrest is more common than in the United States;

production shortages resulting from any events affecting raw material supply or manufacturing capabilities abroad; and

business interruptions resulting from geopolitical actions, including war and terrorism, or natural disasters including earthquakes, typhoons, floods and fires.

**Coverage and adequate reimbursement may not be available for our product candidates, which could make it difficult for us to sell products profitably.**

Market acceptance and sales of any product candidates that we develop will depend on coverage and reimbursement policies and may be affected by future healthcare reform measures. Government authorities and third party payors, such as private health insurers, hospitals and health maintenance organizations, decide which drugs they will pay for

and establish reimbursement levels. We cannot be sure that coverage and adequate reimbursement will be available for any future product candidates. Also, inadequate reimbursement amounts may reduce the demand for, or the price of, our future products. If reimbursement is not available, or is available only at limited levels, we may not be able to successfully commercialize product candidates that we develop.

In addition, we cannot be certain if and when we will obtain formulary approval to allow us to sell any products that we may develop and commercialize into our target markets. Obtaining formulary approval from hospitals and from payers can be an expensive and time consuming process. Failure to obtain timely formulary approval will limit our commercial success.

There have been a number of legislative and regulatory proposals to change the healthcare system in the United States and in some foreign jurisdictions that could affect our ability to sell products profitably. These legislative and/or regulatory changes may negatively impact the reimbursement for drug products, following approval. The availability of numerous generic treatments may also substantially reduce the likelihood of reimbursement for our future products. The potential application of user fees to generic drug products may expedite the approval of additional generic drug treatments. We expect to experience pricing pressures in connection with the sale of any products that we develop, due to the trend toward managed healthcare, the



## **Table of Contents**

increasing influence of health maintenance organizations and additional legislative changes. If we fail to successfully secure and maintain reimbursement coverage for our future products or are significantly delayed in doing so, we will have difficulty achieving market acceptance of our future products and our business will be harmed.

In addition, in some non-U.S. jurisdictions, the proposed pricing for a drug must be approved before it may be lawfully marketed. The requirements governing drug pricing vary widely from country to country. For example, the EU provides options for its member states to restrict the range of medicinal products for which their national health insurance systems provide reimbursement and to control the prices of medicinal products for human use. A member state may approve a specific price for the medicinal product or it may instead adopt a system of direct or indirect controls on the profitability of the company placing the medicinal product on the market. There can be no assurance that any country that has price controls or reimbursement limitations for pharmaceutical products will allow favorable reimbursement and pricing arrangements for any of our products. Historically, products launched in the EU do not follow price structures of the U.S. and generally tend to be priced significantly lower.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND INDUSTRY**

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

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

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

As of December 31, 2014, we had 81 full-time employees. As our company matures, we expect to expand our employee base to increase our managerial, scientific and operational, commercial, financial and other resources and to hire more consultants and contractors. Future growth would impose significant additional responsibilities on our management, including the need to identify, recruit, maintain, motivate and integrate additional employees, consultants and contractors. Also, our management may need to divert a disproportionate amount of its attention away from our day-to-day activities and devote a substantial amount of time to managing these growth activities. We may not be able to effectively manage the expansion of our operations, which may result in weaknesses in our infrastructure, give rise to operational mistakes, loss of business opportunities, loss of employees and reduced productivity among remaining employees. Our expected growth could require significant capital expenditures and may divert financial resources from other projects, such as the development of additional product candidates. If our management is unable to effectively manage our growth, our expenses may increase more than expected, our ability to generate and/or grow revenues could be reduced, and we may not be able to implement our business strategy. Our future financial performance and our ability to commercialize product candidates and compete effectively will depend, in part, on our ability to effectively manage any future growth.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Our employees may engage in misconduct or other improper activities, including noncompliance with regulatory standards and requirements and insider trading.**

We are exposed to the risk of employee fraud or other misconduct. Misconduct by employees could include intentional failures to comply with the regulations of the FDA and non-U.S. regulators, provide accurate information to the FDA and non-U.S. regulators, comply with healthcare fraud and abuse laws and regulations in the United States and abroad, report financial information or data accurately or disclose unauthorized activities to us. In particular, sales, marketing and business arrangements in the healthcare industry are subject to extensive laws and regulations intended to prevent fraud, misconduct, kickbacks, self-dealing and other abusive practices. These laws and regulations may restrict or prohibit a wide range of pricing, discounting, marketing and promotion, sales commission, customer incentive programs and other business arrangements. Employee misconduct could also involve the improper use of information obtained in the course of clinical trials, which could result in regulatory sanctions and cause serious harm to our reputation. We have adopted a code of conduct, but it is not always possible to identify and deter employee misconduct, and the precautions we take to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in controlling unknown or unmanaged risks or losses or in protecting us from governmental investigations or other actions or lawsuits stemming from a failure to comply with these laws or regulations. If any such actions are instituted against us, and we are not successful in defending ourselves or asserting our rights, those actions could have a significant impact on our business, including the imposition of significant fines or other sanctions.

**Any future relationships with customers and third party payors may be subject, directly or indirectly, to federal and state healthcare fraud and abuse laws, false claims laws and health information privacy and security laws. If we are unable to comply, or have not fully complied, with such laws, we could face criminal sanctions, civil penalties, contractual damages, reputational harm and diminished profits and future earnings.**

If we obtain FDA approval for any of our product candidates and begin commercializing those products in the United States, our operations may be directly, or indirectly through our customers, subject to various federal and state fraud and abuse laws, including, without limitation, the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and the federal False Claims Act. These laws may impact, among other things, our proposed sales, marketing and education programs. In addition, we may be subject to patient privacy regulation by the federal government and by the U.S. states and foreign jurisdictions in which we conduct our business. The laws that may affect our ability to operate include:

the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, which prohibits, among other things, persons from knowingly and willfully soliciting, receiving, offering or paying remuneration, directly or indirectly, to induce, or in return for, either the referral of an individual, or the purchase or recommendation of an item or service for which payment may be made under a federal healthcare program, such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs;

federal civil and criminal false claims laws and civil monetary penalty laws, which prohibit, among other things, individuals or entities from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, claims for payment from Medicare, Medicaid, or other third party payers that are false or fraudulent;

the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, which created new federal criminal statutes that prohibit executing a scheme to defraud any healthcare benefit program and making false statements relating to healthcare matters;

HIPAA, as amended by the Health Information Technology and Clinical Health Act of 2009, or HITECH, and its implementing regulations, which imposes certain requirements relating to the privacy, security and transmission of individually identifiable health information; and

state and foreign law equivalents of each of the above federal laws, such as anti-kickback and false claims laws which may apply to items or services reimbursed by any third party payer, including

**Table of Contents**

commercial insurers, and state and foreign laws governing the privacy and security of health information in certain circumstances, many of which differ from each other in significant ways and may not have the same effect, thus complicating compliance efforts.

If our operations are found to be in violation of any of the laws described above or any other governmental regulations that apply to us, we may be subject to penalties, including, without limitation, civil and criminal penalties, damages, fines, possible exclusion from Medicare, Medicaid and other government healthcare programs, and curtailment or restructuring of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our results of operations.

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

The use of our product candidates in clinical trials and the sale of any products for which we obtain marketing approval exposes us to the risk of product liability claims. Product liability claims might be brought against us by consumers, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies or others selling or otherwise coming into contact with our products. Certain oligonucleotide therapeutics have shown injection site reactions and pro-inflammatory effects and may also lead to impairment of kidney or liver function. There is a risk that our current and future product candidates may induce similar adverse events. If we cannot successfully defend against product liability claims, we could incur substantial liability and costs. In addition, regardless of merit or eventual outcome, product liability claims may result in:

impairment of our business reputation;

withdrawal of clinical trial participants;

costs due to related litigation;

distraction of management's attention from our primary business;

substantial monetary awards to patients or other claimants;

the inability to commercialize our product candidates; and

decreased demand for our product candidates, if approved for commercial sale.

We maintain product liability insurance relating to the use of our therapeutics in clinical trials. However, such insurance coverage may not be sufficient to reimburse us for any expenses or losses we may suffer. Moreover, insurance coverage is becoming increasingly expensive and in the future we may not be able to maintain insurance coverage at a reasonable cost or in sufficient amounts to protect us against losses due to liability. If and when we obtain marketing approval for product candidates, we intend to expand our insurance coverage to include the sale of commercial products; however, we may be unable to obtain product liability insurance on commercially reasonable

terms or in adequate amounts. On occasion, large judgments have been awarded in class action lawsuits based on drugs that had unanticipated adverse effects. A successful product liability claim or series of claims brought against us could cause our stock price to decline and, if judgments exceed our insurance coverage, could adversely affect our results of operations and business.

**Cyber security risks and the failure to maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our computer hardware, software, and Internet applications and related tools and functions could result in damage to our reputation and/or subject us to costs, fines or lawsuits.**

Our business requires manipulating, analyzing and storing large amounts of data. In addition, we rely on a global enterprise software system to operate and manage our business. We also maintain personally identifiable information about our employees. Our business therefore depends on the continuous, effective, reliable, and secure operation of our computer hardware, software, networks, Internet servers, and related infrastructure. To

## **Table of Contents**

the extent that our hardware or software malfunctions or access to our data by internal research personnel is interrupted, our business could suffer. The integrity and protection of our employee and company data is critical to our business and employees have a high expectation that we will adequately protect their personal information. The regulatory environment governing information, security and privacy laws is increasingly demanding and continues to evolve. Maintaining compliance with applicable security and privacy regulations may increase our operating costs. Although our computer and communications hardware is protected through physical and software safeguards, it is still vulnerable to fire, storm, flood, power loss, earthquakes, telecommunications failures, physical or software break-ins, software viruses, and similar events. These events could lead to the unauthorized access, disclosure and use of non-public information. The techniques used by criminal elements to attack computer systems are sophisticated, change frequently and may originate from less regulated and remote areas of the world. As a result, we may not be able to address these techniques proactively or implement adequate preventative measures. If our computer systems are compromised, we could be subject to fines, damages, litigation and enforcement actions, and we could lose trade secrets, the occurrence of which could harm our business. In addition, any sustained disruption in internet access provided by other companies could harm our business.

### **Business interruptions could delay us in the process of developing our future products.**

Our headquarters are located in San Diego County. We are vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes and wild fires, as well as other events that could disrupt our operations. We do not carry insurance for earthquakes or other natural disasters and we may not carry sufficient business interruption insurance to compensate us for losses that may occur. Any losses or damages we incur could have a material adverse effect on our business operations.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR COMMON STOCK**

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

Since shares of our common stock were sold in our initial public offering in October 2012 at a price of \$4.00 per share, our closing stock price as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market has ranged from \$4.15 to \$22.08, through February 6, 2015. The trading price of our common stock is likely to continue to be volatile.

Our stock price could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a variety of factors, including the following:

adverse results or delays in preclinical testing or clinical trials;

inability to obtain additional funding;

any delay in filing an IND or NDA for any of our product candidates and any adverse development or perceived adverse development with respect to the FDA's review of that IND or NDA;

failure to maintain our existing strategic alliances or enter into new alliances;

failure of our strategic alliance partners to elect to develop and commercialize product candidates under our alliance agreements or the termination of any programs under our alliance agreements;

failure by us or our licensors and strategic alliance partners to prosecute, maintain or enforce our intellectual property rights;

failure to successfully develop and commercialize our product candidates;

changes in laws or regulations applicable to our preclinical and clinical development activities, product candidates or future products;

inability to obtain adequate product supply for our product candidates or the inability to do so at acceptable prices;



**Table of Contents**

adverse regulatory decisions;

introduction of new products, services or technologies by our competitors;

failure to meet or exceed financial projections we may provide to the public;

failure to meet or exceed the estimates and projections of the investment community;

the perception of the pharmaceutical industry by the public, legislatures, regulators and the investment community;

announcements of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments by us, our strategic alliance partners or our competitors;

disputes or other developments relating to proprietary rights, including patents, litigation matters and our ability to obtain patent protection for our technologies;

additions or departures of key scientific or management personnel;

significant lawsuits, including patent or stockholder litigation;

changes in the market valuations of similar companies;

sales of our common stock by us or our stockholders in the future; and

trading volume of our common stock.

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

**Our principal stockholders and management own a majority of our stock and will be able to exert significant control over matters subject to stockholder approval.**

As of February 6, 2014, our executive officers, directors, 5% stockholders and their affiliates beneficially owned a majority of our outstanding voting stock. Therefore, these stockholders will have the ability to influence us through this ownership position. These stockholders may be able to determine all matters requiring stockholder approval. For

example, these stockholders, acting together, may be able to control elections of directors, amendments of our organizational documents, or approval of any merger, sale of assets, or other major corporate transaction. This may prevent or discourage unsolicited acquisition proposals or offers for our common stock that you may believe are in your best interest as one of our stockholders.

**We are an emerging growth company, and we cannot be certain if the reduced reporting requirements applicable to emerging growth companies will make our common stock less attractive to investors.**

We are currently an emerging growth company, as defined in the JOBS Act. As an emerging growth company, we may take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies, including not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We could be an emerging growth company through December 31, 2017, although we may lose that status sooner. We cannot predict if investors will find our common stock less attractive because we may rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and our stock price may be more volatile.

## **Table of Contents**

Under the JOBS Act, emerging growth companies can also delay adopting new or revised accounting standards until such time as those standards apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected not to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, will be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies.

Based upon our recent stock price, the market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates has exceeded \$700 million. If the market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of June 30, 2015 we will lose our status as an emerging growth company as of December 31, 2015.

### **The requirements of being a public company may strain our resources and divert management's attention.**

As a public company, we have incurred, and will continue to incur, significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. In addition, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, as well as rules subsequently implemented by the SEC and The NASDAQ Global Market have imposed various requirements on public companies. In July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act, was enacted. There are significant corporate governance and executive compensation related provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act that require the SEC to adopt additional rules and regulations in these areas such as say on pay and proxy access. As an emerging growth company we are permitted to implement many of these requirements over a longer period and up to five years from the pricing of our initial public offering. We have taken advantage of this new legislation but cannot guarantee that we will not be required to implement these requirements sooner than budgeted or planned and thereby incur unexpected expenses. Stockholder activism, the current political environment and the current high level of government intervention and regulatory reform may lead to substantial new regulations and disclosure obligations, which may lead to additional compliance costs and impact the manner in which we operate our business in ways we cannot currently anticipate. Our management and other personnel will need to devote a substantial amount of time to these compliance initiatives. Moreover, these rules and regulations will increase our legal and financial compliance costs and will make some activities more time-consuming and costly. For example, we expect these rules and regulations to make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance and we may be required to incur substantial costs to maintain our current levels of such coverage.

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

If our existing stockholders sell, or indicate an intention to sell, substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, the trading price of our common stock could decline. In addition, shares of common stock that are either subject to outstanding options or reserved for future issuance under our employee benefit plans are or may become eligible for sale in the public market to the extent permitted by the provisions of various vesting schedules and Rule 144 and Rule 701 under the Securities Act. If these additional shares of common stock are sold, or if it is perceived that they will be sold, in the public market, the trading price of our common stock could decline.

Certain holders of our securities are entitled to rights with respect to the registration of their shares under the Securities Act. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in the shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act, except for shares held by our affiliates as defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Pursuant to our registration statement on Form S-3 which became effective in April 2014, up to 7,320,589 shares held by certain of our stockholders remain available for resale thereunder. In addition, we may file additional registration statements in the future to provide for the further sale of shares of common stock by our stockholders. Any further sales of securities by these stockholders could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our common stock.



## **Table of Contents**

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

We expect that significant additional capital will be needed in the future to continue our planned operations. To the extent we raise additional capital by issuing equity securities, our stockholders may experience substantial dilution. We may sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in one or more transactions at prices and in a manner we determine from time to time. Pursuant to our registration statement on Form S-3 that became effective on April 16, 2014, we may sell up to \$18.2 million of common stock or warrants by us from time to time in one or more public offerings. If we sell common stock, convertible securities or other equity securities in more than one transaction, investors may be materially diluted by subsequent sales. These sales may also result in material dilution to our existing stockholders, and new investors could gain rights superior to our existing stockholders. In addition, we may file additional registration statements in the future to provide for the further sale of shares of common stock by us or by selling stockholders.

Pursuant to our 2012 Plan, our management is authorized to grant stock options and other equity-based awards to our employees, directors and consultants. The number of shares available for future grant under the 2012 Plan will automatically increase each year by up to 4% of all shares of our capital stock outstanding as of December 31 of the prior calendar year, subject to the ability of our board of directors to take action to reduce the size of the increase in any given year. Currently, we plan to register the increased number of shares available for issuance under the 2012 Plan each year.

### **We could be subject to securities class action litigation.**

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

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

Under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if a corporation undergoes an ownership change, generally defined as a greater than 50% change (by value) in its equity ownership over a three year period, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs, and other pre-change tax attributes (such as research tax credits) to offset its post-change income may be limited. We triggered an ownership change limitation at the completion of our initial public offering in October 2012. We may also experience ownership changes in the future as a result of subsequent shifts in our stock ownership. As a result, if we earn net taxable income, our ability to use our pre-change net operating loss carryforwards to offset U.S. federal taxable income may be subject to limitations, which could potentially result in increased future tax liability to us. In addition, at the state level, there may be periods during which the use of NOLs is suspended or otherwise limited, which could accelerate or permanently increase state taxes owed.

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

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



**Table of Contents**

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

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

authorizing the issuance of blank check preferred stock, the terms of which may be established and shares of which may be issued without stockholder approval;

limiting the removal of directors by the stockholders;

prohibiting stockholder action by written consent, thereby requiring all stockholder actions to be taken at a meeting of our stockholders;

eliminating the ability of stockholders to call a special meeting of stockholders; and

establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at stockholder meetings.

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

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.**

Not applicable.

**Item 2. Properties.**

Our administrative offices and research laboratory is located in La Jolla, California. As of December 31, 2014, we had a lease for approximately 29,000 square feet for office and laboratory space. Our lease currently expires in June 2017, subject to our option to renew for up to two additional three-year terms. We believe that our facility is sufficient to meet our needs and that suitable additional space will be available as and when needed.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings.**

None.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.**

Not applicable.



**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities****Market Information**

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol RGLS. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices per share of our common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market for the periods indicated.

	<b>Price Range</b>	
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b><u>Year Ended December 31, 2013:</u></b>		
First Quarter	\$ 7.89	\$ 4.67
Second Quarter	\$ 10.94	\$ 6.44
Third Quarter	\$ 12.89	\$ 7.90
Fourth Quarter	\$ 9.82	\$ 5.83
<b><u>Year Ended December 31, 2014:</u></b>		
First Quarter	\$ 11.88	\$ 6.76
Second Quarter	\$ 9.24	\$ 5.40
Third Quarter	\$ 8.32	\$ 6.13
Fourth Quarter	\$ 25.60	\$ 6.23

**Holders of Record**

As of February 6, 2015, there were approximately 15 holders of record of our common stock.

**Dividend Policy**

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings to support our operations and finance the growth and development of our business. We do not intend to pay cash dividends on our common stock for the foreseeable future. Any future determination related to our dividend policy will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon, among other factors, our results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements, contractual restrictions, business prospects and other factors our board of directors may deem relevant.

**Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

Information about our equity compensation plans is incorporated herein by reference to Item 12 of Part III of this Annual Report.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Performance Graph**

The following graph shows a comparison from October 4, 2012 (the date our common stock commenced trading on The NASDAQ Global Market) through December 31, 2014 of the cumulative total return for our common stock, the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (NBI) and the NASDAQ Composite Index (CCMP). The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on October 4, 2012. The comparisons in the graph are not intended to forecast or be indicative of possible future performance of our common stock.

### **Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

On January 29, 2015, we agreed to convert the outstanding principal balance under the Convertible Promissory Note issued by us to Glaxo Group Limited on October 10, 2012, or the Post-IPO GSK Note, into 1,356,738 shares of our common stock, reflecting a conversion price of \$4.00 per share. No underwriters were involved in the original issuance of the Post-IPO GSK Note or the conversion thereof into shares of our common stock. We relied on exemption from registration under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, for both the original issuance of the Post-IPO GSK Note and the subsequent conversion thereof into shares of our common stock.

### **Use of Proceeds**

On October 4, 2012, we commenced our initial public offering pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-183384) that was declared effective by the SEC on October 4, 2012 and that registered an aggregate of 12,937,500 shares of our common stock for sale to the public at a price of \$4.00 per share and an aggregate offering price of \$51.8 million. On October 10, 2012 and October 23, 2012, we sold 11,250,000 shares and 1,480,982 shares of our common stock, respectively, to the public at a price of \$4.00 per share for an aggregate gross offering price of \$50.9 million. Lazard Capital Markets, Cowen and Company and BMO Capital Markets acted as joint book-running managers for the offering, and Needham & Company and Wedbush PacGrow Life Sciences served as co-managers for the offering.

The underwriting discounts and commissions in connection with the offering totaled approximately \$3.4 million. We incurred additional costs of approximately \$2.6 million in offering expenses, which when added to the underwriting discounts and commissions paid by us, amounts to total fees and costs of approximately \$6.0 million. Thus, the net offering proceeds to us, after deducting underwriting discounts, commissions and

**Table of Contents**

offering costs, were approximately \$44.9 million. No offering costs were paid directly or indirectly to any of our directors or officers (or their associates) or persons owning ten percent or more of any class of our equity securities or to any other affiliates.

As of December 31, 2014, we have used all of the net proceeds from our initial public offering for preclinical and clinical development of our initial *microRNA* development candidates, for the identification and validation of additional *microRNA* targets, and for capital expenditures, working capital and other general corporate purposes, including costs and expenses associated with being a public company.

**Table of Contents****Item 6. Selected Financial Data.**

*The selected financial data set forth below is derived from our audited financial statements and may not be indicative of future operating results. The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto and Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included elsewhere in this Annual Report. The selected financial data in this section are not intended to replace our financial statements and the related notes. Our historical results are not necessarily indicative of our future results. Amounts are in thousands, except share and per share data.*

<b>Statement of operations data</b>	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Revenue under strategic alliances	\$ 7,669	\$ 19,569	\$ 12,700
Loss from operations	(44,910)	(17,802)	(12,574)
Net loss	\$ (56,680)	\$ (18,668)	\$ (17,408)
Net loss per share, basic and diluted	\$ (1.29)	(0.49)	(2.12)

<b>Balance sheet data</b>	<b>As of December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 159,743	\$ 114,005	\$ 98,100
Working capital	129,759	106,812	86,161
Total assets	171,480	123,065	103,518
Convertible note payable, at fair value	23,397	11,279	10,134
Accumulated deficit	(135,767)	(79,087)	(60,419)
Total stockholders' equity	132,014	93,457	62,093

## **Table of Contents**

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

*You should read the following discussion and analysis together with Item 6. Selected Financial Data and our financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report. The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth under the caption Item 1A. Risk Factors.*

#### **Overview**

We are a biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing first-in-class drugs that target *microRNAs* to treat a broad range of diseases. We were formed in 2007 when Alnylam and Isis contributed significant intellectual property, know-how and financial and human capital to pursue the development of drugs targeting *microRNAs* pursuant to a license and collaboration agreement. We have established strategic alliances with AstraZeneca and Sanofi to discover, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics. Under these strategic alliances, we are eligible to receive approximately \$900.0 million in aggregate milestone payments upon successful commercialization of *microRNA* therapeutics for the programs contemplated by our agreements. These payments include up to \$107.8 million upon achievement of preclinical and IND milestones, up to \$138.0 million upon achievement of clinical development milestones, up to \$180.0 million upon achievement of regulatory milestones and up to \$490.0 million upon achievement of commercialization milestones.

*microRNAs* are naturally occurring ribonucleic acid, or RNA, molecules that play a critical role in regulating key biological pathways. Scientific research has shown that the improper balance, or dysregulation, of *microRNAs* is directly linked to many diseases. To date, more than 500 *microRNAs* have been identified in humans, each of which is believed to interact with a specific set of genes that control key aspects of cell biology. Since most diseases are multi-factorial and involve multiple targets in a pathway, the ability to modulate gene networks by targeting a single *microRNA* provides a new therapeutic approach for treating complex diseases.

RNA plays an essential role in the process used by cells to encode and translate genetic information from DNA to proteins. RNA is comprised of subunits called nucleotides and is synthesized from a DNA template by a process known as transcription. Transcription generates different types of RNA, including messenger RNAs that carry the information for proteins in the sequence of their nucleotides. In contrast, *microRNAs* are small RNAs that do not code for proteins but rather are responsible for regulating gene expression by affecting the translation of target messenger RNAs. By interacting with many messenger RNAs, a single *microRNA* can regulate several genes that are instrumental for the normal function of a biological pathway.

We believe that *microRNA* therapeutics have the potential to become a new and major class of drugs with broad therapeutic application for the following reasons:

*microRNAs* until recently, have not been a focus of pharmaceutical research;

*microRNAs* play a critical role in regulating biological pathways by controlling the translation of many target genes;

*microRNA* therapeutics target entire disease pathways which may result in more effective treatment of complex multi-factorial diseases; and

*microRNA* therapeutics may be synergistic with other therapies because of their different mechanism of action. We believe we have assembled the leading position in the *microRNA* field, including expertise in *microRNA* biology and oligonucleotide chemistry, a broad intellectual property estate, relationships with key opinion leaders and disciplined drug discovery and development processes. We refer to these assets as our *microRNA* product platform. We are using our *microRNA* product platform to develop chemically modified, single-stranded oligonucleotides that we call anti-miRs to modulate *microRNAs* and return diseased cells to their

---

## **Table of Contents**

healthy state. We believe *microRNAs* may be transformative in the field of drug discovery and that anti-miRs may become a new and major class of drugs with broad therapeutic application much like small molecules, biologics and monoclonal antibodies. In addition to our *microRNA* product platform, we have established Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup>, a division focused on identifying *microRNAs* as biomarkers of human disease to support our therapeutic pipeline, collaborators and strategic partners. Regulus *microMarkers*<sup>SM</sup> utilizes a clinically-validated, highly reproducible, proprietary technology platform to identify *microRNAs* as potential biomarkers for disease and we control key intellectual property and know-how related to the division. We believe that *microRNA* biomarkers may be used to select optimal patient segments in clinical trials and to monitor disease progression or relapse. We believe these *microRNA* biomarkers can be applied toward drugs that we develop and drugs developed by other companies with which we partner or collaborate, including small molecules and monoclonal antibodies. We have formed a research collaboration with Biogen Idec focused on the discovery of *microRNAs* as biomarkers for MS and have also entered into an arrangement with another leading, commercial-stage pharmaceutical company to explore *microRNAs* as biomarkers for specific patient populations. We also maintain several academic research collaborations focused on the identification of *microRNAs* as biomarkers in multiple disease areas.

### **Clinical Map Initiative Goals**

To advance our *microRNA* therapeutics pipeline and biomarkers platform over the next several years, we have outlined specific goals under our Clinical Map Initiative strategy. Under this initiative, we are developing RG-101, our wholly-owned GalNAc-conjugated anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-122 for the treatment of HCV and RG-012, an anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-21 for the treatment of Alport syndrome, a life-threatening kidney disease driven by genetic mutations with no approved therapy. We are also advancing several programs toward clinical development in oncology, fibrosis and metabolic diseases, both independently and with our strategic alliance partners AstraZeneca and Sanofi. We completed our goals set under this initiative for 2014 and ended 2014 with \$159.7 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

In 2015, our goals under the Clinical Map Initiative are focused on advancing our clinical-stage programs, RG-101 and RG-012, and we expect to expand our clinical pipeline with the nomination of at least one additional candidate for clinical development.

*Clinical Map of RG-101:* Achieved Human Proof-of-Concept with RG-101 in HCV. Treatment with a single subcutaneous dose of either 2 mg/kg or 4 mg/kg of RG-101, a GalNAc-conjugated anti-miR targeting *microRNA*-122 ( miR-122 ), as monotherapy resulted in significant and sustained viral load reductions in all treated HCV patients, including difficult to treat genotypes, various liver fibrosis status and those who have experienced viral relapse after a prior IFN-containing regimen. At day 29, mean viral load reductions of 4.8 log<sub>10</sub> and 4.1 log<sub>10</sub> were demonstrated in the 4 mg/kg and 2 mg/kg dose cohorts, respectively. At day 57, 15 out of 28 patients treated with one single administration of either 2 mg/kg or 4 mg/kg of RG-101 had HCV RNA levels below the limit of quantification and 12 out of these 15 treated patients had HCV RNA levels that cannot be detected. To date, RG-101 has a favorable safety profile with no serious adverse events or discontinuations reported in the treated HCV patients. Under the Clinical Map Initiative, Regulus expects to initiate Phase II studies investigating RG-101 in combination with oral direct-acting antiviral agents and further as a single agent (single or multiple doses of RG-101) in the second quarter of 2015.

*Clinical Map of RG-012:* We plan to enroll up to 120 Alport syndrome patients in our global ATHENA natural history of disease study, which is designed to characterize the natural decline of renal function (as

measured by established renal markers) in Alport syndrome patients over time. We believe the data from ATHENA will provide the clinical basis for the design of a Phase II proof-of-concept study to monitor the therapeutic effect of RG-012 on the decline in renal function in patients with Alport syndrome. In addition, we plan to initiate a Phase I study in the first half of 2015 to evaluate the safety and tolerability of RG-012 in healthy volunteers and to initiate a Phase II proof-of-concept study thereafter.



---

## **Table of Contents**

*Expand microRNA therapeutics portfolio:* We continue to pursue several undisclosed *microRNA* targets, mainly for oncology and orphan disease indications. In addition to our internal research efforts, we aim to advance certain programs with our strategic alliance partners, *microRNA*-103/107 for the treatment of metabolic diseases and *microRNA*-19 for oncology indications with AstraZeneca, *microRNA*-221 and miR-21 for hepatocellular carcinoma and miR-21 for renal fibrosis (RG-012) with Sanofi. In 2015, we expect to nominate at least one additional *microRNA* candidate for clinical development, either independently or with a partner.

*Regulus microMarkers<sup>SM</sup>:* To support the Clinical Map of RG-101, we plan to profile serum samples from the healthy volunteers and HCV patients in our ongoing clinical study of RG-101 to identify potential *microRNA* signatures, which may aid in accurately predicting a patient's response to RG-101 therapy. To support the Clinical Map for RG-012, we believe that we have identified a *microRNA* signature in urine that may discriminate mutant mice from wild type mice early in disease progression in a kidney fibrosis model. These findings suggest that profiling *microRNAs* in urine may be a useful biomarker approach. As part of the ongoing ATHENA study, we plan to profile urine and blood samples from the Alport syndrome patients to potentially identify a clinically useful *microRNA* signature. We also aim to utilize our robust technology platform to profile and analyze *microRNAs* in different bodily fluids including plasma, serum, whole blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid. As part of our ongoing collaboration with Biogen Idec, we will profile whole blood samples of patients treated with a Biogen Idec MS therapy to identify potential *microRNA* signatures.

## **Financial Operations Overview**

### **Revenues**

Our revenues generally consist of upfront payments for licenses or options to obtain licenses in the future and milestone payments under strategic alliance agreements.

In the future, we may generate revenue from a combination of license fees and other upfront payments, research and development payments, milestone payments, product sales and royalties in connection with strategic alliances. We expect that any revenue we generate will fluctuate from quarter-to-quarter as a result of the timing of our achievement of preclinical, clinical, regulatory and commercialization milestones, if at all.

### **Research and development expenses**

Research and development expenses consist of costs associated with our research activities, including our drug discovery efforts, the preclinical and clinical development of our therapeutic programs, and our *microMarkers<sup>SM</sup>* division. Our research and development expenses include:

employee-related expenses, including salaries, benefits, travel and stock-based compensation expense;

external research and development expenses incurred under arrangements with third parties, such as CROs, contract manufacturing organizations, or CMOs and consultants;

license fees; and

facilities, depreciation and other allocated expenses, which include direct and allocated expenses for rent and maintenance of facilities, depreciation of leasehold improvements and equipment, and laboratory and other supplies.

We expense research and development costs as incurred. We account for nonrefundable advance payments for goods and services that will be used in future research and development activities as expenses when the service has been performed or when the goods have been received.

To date, we have conducted research on many different *microRNAs* with the goal of understanding how they function and identifying those that might be targets for therapeutic modulation. At any given time we are working on multiple targets, primarily within our therapeutic areas of focus. Our organization is structured to

## **Table of Contents**

allow the rapid deployment and shifting of resources to focus on the best targets based on our ongoing research. As a result, in the early phase of our development, our research and development costs are not tied to any specific target. However, we are currently spending the vast majority of our research and development resources on our lead development programs.

Since our incorporation in January 2009, we have grown from 15 research and development personnel to 65 and have spent a total of approximately \$137.9 million in research and development expenses through December 31, 2014.

We expect our research and development expenses to increase for the foreseeable future as we continue to advance our preclinical and clinical development activities. The process of conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials necessary to obtain regulatory approval is costly and time consuming. We or our strategic alliance partners may never succeed in achieving marketing approval for any of our product candidates. The probability of success for each product candidate may be affected by numerous factors, including preclinical data, clinical data, competition, manufacturing capability and commercial viability. Under our strategic alliance with Sanofi, we are responsible for the development of product candidates up through proof-of-concept, after which time Sanofi would be responsible for the costs of clinical development and commercialization and all related costs. Under our strategic alliance agreement with AstraZeneca, we are responsible for certain research and development activities with respect to each alliance target under a mutually agreed upon research and development plan until the earlier to occur of IND approval in a major market or the end of the research term under the agreement. We also have several independent programs for which we are responsible for all of the research and development costs, unless and until we partner any of these programs in the future.

Some of our product development programs are at an early stage, and successful development of product candidates from these programs is highly uncertain and may not result in approved products. Completion dates and completion costs can vary significantly for each product candidate and are difficult to predict. We make determinations as to which programs to pursue and how much funding to direct to each program on an ongoing basis in response to our ability to maintain or enter into new strategic alliances with respect to each program or product candidate, the scientific and clinical success of each product candidate, as well as ongoing assessments as to each product candidate's commercial potential. We will need to raise additional capital and may seek additional strategic alliances in the future in order to advance our various programs.

### **General and administrative expenses**

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and related benefits, including stock-based compensation, related to our executive, finance, legal, business development and support functions. Other general and administrative expenses include allocated facility-related costs not otherwise included in research and development expenses, travel expenses and professional fees for auditing, tax and legal services. We expect that general and administrative expenses will increase in the future as we expand our operating activities and incur additional costs associated with being a publicly-traded company. These increases will likely include legal fees, accounting fees, directors' and officers' liability insurance premiums and fees associated with investor relations.

### **Other income (expense), net**

Other income (expense) consists primarily of interest income and expense, and periodic changes in debt valuation each reporting period. We earn interest income from interest-bearing accounts and money market funds for cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities, such as interest-bearing bonds, for our short-term investments.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The preparation of our financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the revenues and expenses incurred during the reported periods. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various

## **Table of Contents**

other factors that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

While our significant accounting policies are described in the notes to our financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report, we believe that the following critical accounting policies relating to revenue recognition and stock-based compensation are most important to understanding and evaluating our reported financial results.

### **Revenue recognition**

Our revenues generally consist of upfront payments for licenses or options to obtain licenses in the future, research and development funding and milestone payments under strategic alliance agreements. We recognize revenues when all four of the following criteria are met: (1) persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists; (2) delivery of the products and/or services has occurred; (3) the selling price is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured.

Multiple element arrangements, such as our strategic alliance agreements with Sanofi and AstraZeneca, are analyzed to determine whether the deliverables within the agreement can be separated or whether they must be accounted for as a single unit of accounting. Deliverables under the agreement will be accounted for as separate units of accounting provided that (i) a delivered item has value to the customer on a stand-alone basis; and (ii) if the agreement includes a general right of return relative to the delivered item, delivery or performance of the undelivered item is considered probable and substantially in the control of the vendor. The allocation of consideration amongst the deliverables under the agreement is derived using a best estimate of selling price if vendor specific objective evidence and third-party evidence of fair value is not available. If the delivered element does not have stand-alone value or if the fair value of any of the undelivered elements cannot be determined, the arrangement is then accounted for as a single unit of accounting, and we recognize the consideration received under the arrangement as revenue on a straight-line basis over our estimated period of performance, which for us is often the expected term of the research and development plan.

### *Milestones*

We apply the milestone method of accounting to recognize revenue from milestone payments when earned, as evidenced by written acknowledgement from the collaborator or other persuasive evidence that the milestone has been achieved and the payment is non-refundable, provided that the milestone event is substantive. A milestone event is defined as an event (i) that can only be achieved based in whole or in part on either our performance or on the occurrence of a specific outcome resulting from our performance; (ii) for which there is substantive uncertainty at the inception of the arrangement that the event will be achieved; and (iii) that would result in additional payments being due to us. Events for which the occurrence is either contingent solely upon the passage of time or the result of a counterparty's performance are not considered to be milestone events. A milestone event is substantive if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the consideration is commensurate with either our performance to achieve the milestone, or the enhancement of the value to the delivered item(s) as a result of a specific outcome resulting from our performance to achieve the milestone; (ii) the consideration relates solely to past performance; and (iii) the consideration is reasonable relative to all the deliverables and payment terms (including other potential milestone consideration) within the arrangement.

We assess whether a milestone is substantive at the inception of each arrangement. If a milestone is deemed non-substantive, we will account for that milestone payment in accordance with the multiple element arrangements guidance and recognize revenue consistent with the related units of accounting for the arrangement over the related

performance period.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Deferred Revenue*

Amounts received prior to satisfying the above revenue recognition criteria are recorded as deferred revenue in the accompanying balance sheets. Amounts not expected to be recognized within the next 12 months are classified as non-current deferred revenue.

### *Fair Value Option*

Accounting standards for fair value measurements establishes a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of financial instruments measured at fair value. The classification of assets and liabilities within the hierarchy is based on whether the inputs to the measurement valuation methodology are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market-derived or market-based information obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our estimates about market data. The following three-level fair value hierarchy is based on the transparency of the inputs used to measure the fair value of the financial instruments:

Level 1 includes financial instruments for which quoted market prices for identical instruments are available in active markets.

Level 2 includes financial instruments for which there are inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 includes financial instruments for which fair value is derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs are unobservable in determining fair values of the instruments.

Applicable accounting policies permit entities to choose, at specified election dates, to measure specified items at fair value if the decision about the election is: 1) applied instrument by instrument, 2) irrevocable, and 3) applied to an entire instrument. In July 2012, we amended and restated the 2010 GSK note, which resulted in a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes. Concurrently with the debt extinguishment, we elected the fair value option for the 2010 GSK note. We performed valuations at the extinguishment date and subsequently on a quarterly basis with changes in fair value recorded in non-operating earnings. This instrument has been classified in Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy.

We used an income approach in the form of a convertible bond valuation model to value the convertible note payable. The convertible bond model considered the debt and option characteristics of the note. The key inputs to the model are volatility, risk-free rate and credit spread. The volatility inputs are based on historical and implied volatility of peer companies with a look-back period commensurate with our expected time to maturity. Peer companies were materially consistent with those used to determine volatility for stock-based compensation. Beginning in 2014, our historical volatility was included with the peer companies for purposes of estimating volatility. As of December 31, 2014, the volatility input included 60% weighting of our historical volatility and 40% weighting of historical and implied volatility of peer companies. The risk-free rate inputs were based on the yield of US Treasury Strips as of each date. The credit spread inputs were based on a creditworthiness analysis of the Company and market rates for comparable straight debt instruments.

Our significant accounting policies and estimates are more fully described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

For a discussion of recently issued accounting pronouncements, refer to the section titled **Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements** within **The Business, Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** of our Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****Results of Operations****Comparison of the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**

The following table summarizes the results of our operations for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>		<b>Change 2014 vs. 2013</b>
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>
Revenue under strategic alliances	\$ 7,669	\$ 19,569	\$ (11,900)
Research and development expenses	41,046	29,942	11,104
General and administrative expenses	11,533	7,429	4,104
Loss from changes in valuation of convertible note payable .	(12,118)	(1,145)	(10,973)
<i>Revenue under strategic alliances</i>			

The following table summarizes our total revenues for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Years ended</b>	
	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Sanofi	\$ 979	\$ 15,336
AstraZeneca	1,859	1,859
GSK	3,509	1,778
Biogen Idec	1,122	596
Other	200	

Total net revenues from strategic alliances	\$ 7,669	\$ 19,569
---	----------	-----------

Revenue under strategic alliances was \$7.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$19.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. Our revenues are generated from ongoing strategic alliance and collaborations, and generally consist of upfront payments for licenses or options to obtain licenses in the future and milestone payments.

Revenue recognized from our strategic alliance with Sanofi decreased to \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$15.3 million in 2013. In February 2014, we and Sanofi entered into a second amended and restated collaboration and license agreement to renew our strategic alliance to discover, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics to focus on specific orphan disease and oncology targets. Revenue recognized under the second amended and restated collaboration and license agreement was \$0.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. In June 2013, the research term expired under the Sanofi alliance, at which time we entered into an option agreement. In July 2013, we received an upfront payment of \$2.5 million, of which \$1.25 million is creditable against future amounts payable by Sanofi to us and therefore will be deferred until its application to a creditable transaction. The non-creditable portion of this payment, \$1.25 million was recognized as revenue over the option period from the effective date of the option agreement in June 2013 through the expiration of the option period, resulting in \$0.1 million and \$1.2 million in revenue recognized for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. In conjunction with the expiration of the original research term in June 2013 and subsequent option agreement, we

re-evaluated our estimated period of performance and recognized the remaining \$10.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the initial upfront payment of \$25.0 million ratably from June 2013 through the expiration of the option period in January 2014, resulting in \$0.8 million and \$14.1 million in revenue recognized for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Revenue recognized from our product development and commercialization agreement with GSK increased to \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$1.8 million in 2013. In October 2014, we received written notice from GSK of its election to terminate the product development and commercialization agreement. Concurrent with the notice of termination, we recognized the remaining \$3.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the 2008 upfront payment, as our estimated period of performance was complete. In June 2013, the agreement with GSK was amended to state that RG-101, and other formulations thereof, would be

**Table of Contents**

developed by us independently of our alliance with GSK for the treatment of chronic HCV infection. As a result, we recognized the remaining \$1.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the 2010 upfront payment, as our estimated period of performance was complete.

Revenue recognized from our collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec increased to \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$0.6 million in 2013. In August 2014, we entered into a new collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec in which we received an upfront payment of \$2.0 million which we are recognizing on a straight-line basis over the estimated period of performance and resulted in \$0.8 million in revenue recognized in the year ended December 31, 2014. Revenue totaling \$0.3 million and \$0.6 million was recognized from the preceding collaboration and license agreement for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Revenue from our other strategic alliances was materially consistent for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

*Research and development expenses*

Research and development expenses increased to \$41.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$29.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The change was primarily driven by Phase I clinical study costs for RG-101 and an increase in IND-enabling activities for RG-012 of \$7.4 million and an increase in salaries and related benefits, including stock based compensation, of \$3.1 million. Employees engaged in research and development activities increased to 65 as of December 31, 2014, compared to 59 as of December 31, 2013. We expect our research and development expenses to continue to increase to the extent we commence clinical studies and initiate additional IND-enabling activities.

*General and administrative expenses*

General and administrative expenses increased to \$11.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$7.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily driven by an increase in salaries and related benefits, including stock based compensation, of \$2.8 million, in addition to external service costs and other general operating expenses of \$1.3 million associated with the growth of the business and other costs associated with general business activities.

*Loss from change in value of convertible note payable*

We recorded a loss from changes in value of convertible note payable of \$12.1 million and \$1.1 million in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Changes in value were primarily driven by fluctuations in our stock price.

**Comparison of the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012**

The following table summarizes the results of our operations for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>		<b>Change 2013 vs. 2012</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>
Revenue under strategic alliances and grants	\$ 19,569	\$ 12,700	\$ 6,869
Research and development expenses	29,942	20,342	9,600

Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

General and administrative expenses	7,429	4,932	2,497
Loss on extinguishment of debt		(1,738)	1,738
Loss from changes in valuation of convertible note payable .	(1,145)	(2,969)	1,824

**Table of Contents***Revenue under strategic alliances and grants*

The following table summarizes our total revenues for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Years ended</b>	
	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Sanofi	\$ 15,336	\$ 10,030
GSK	1,778	1,996
AstraZeneca	1,859	559
Biogen Idec	596	115
<b>Total net revenues</b>	<b>\$ 19,569</b>	<b>\$ 12,700</b>

Revenue under strategic alliances was \$19.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$12.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. Our revenue during these periods consisted primarily of amortization of upfront payments received from the Sanofi, GSK and AstraZeneca strategic alliances, which we amortize over our estimated period of performance.

In June 2013, the research term expired under the Sanofi alliance, at which time we entered into an option agreement pursuant to which Sanofi was granted an exclusive right to negotiate the co-development and commercialization of certain of our unencumbered *micro*RNA programs, and we were granted the exclusive right to negotiate with Sanofi for co-development and commercialization of certain miR-21 anti-miRs in oncology and Alport Syndrome. In July 2013, we received an upfront payment of \$2.5 million, of which \$1.25 million is creditable against future amounts payable by Sanofi to us under our second amended and restated collaboration and license agreement with Sanofi. The non-creditable portion of this payment, \$1.25 million, is being recognized as revenue over the option period from the effective date of the option agreement in June 2013 through the expiration of the option period. Revenue associated with the creditable portion of this option payment will be deferred until its application to a creditable transaction. In addition, we agreed to continue specified research on the miR-21 programs during the option period. As a result of the expiration of the original research term and subsequent option agreement, we re-evaluated our estimated period of performance and recognized the remaining deferred revenue of \$10.1 million associated with the initial upfront payment of \$25.0 million ratably from June 2013 through the expiration of the option period. As a result of the change in our estimated period of performance in June 2013 and recognition of the non-creditable portion of the option payment, revenue associated with the Sanofi alliance increased to \$15.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to \$10.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012.

In June 2013, the product development and commercialization agreement with GSK was amended to state that RG-101, and other formulations thereof, will be developed by us independently of our alliance with GSK for the treatment of chronic HCV infection. As a result, we recognized the remaining unamortized deferred revenue of \$1.1 million associated with the upfront payment from the February 2010 amendment that expanded our agreement with GSK to include potential *micro*RNA therapeutics for the treatment of HCV, due to the completion of our remaining performance obligations. As such, revenue of \$1.8 million was recognized for the year ended December 31, 2013.

In June 2012, we amended our product development and commercialization agreement with GSK to extend the target selection period for the fourth collaboration target under the agreement. As a result of the extension of the target selection period, we extended our estimated period of performance for the then remaining deferred revenue to approximately eight years, which represented our new estimated performance period under the amended agreement.

As such, revenue of \$2.0 was recognized for the year ended December 31, 2012.

In August 2012, we entered into a strategic alliance and concurrent Common Stock Purchase Agreement, or CSPA, with AstraZeneca. The strategic alliance included an upfront payment of \$3.0 million and is being amortized over an estimated performance period of 48 months, which resulted in approximately \$0.8 million and \$0.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. In October 2012, pursuant to the

---

**Table of Contents**

CSPA, we sold AstraZeneca 6,250,000 shares of our common stock at a price per share of \$4.00. Accounting guidance for multiple element arrangements contains a presumption that separate contracts negotiated and/or entered into at or near the same time with the same entity were negotiated as a package and should be evaluated as a single agreement. We valued the discount applied to the shares of common stock due to the one-year restriction. Based upon restricted stock studies of similar duration and a Black-Scholes valuation to measure the lack of marketability discount, \$4.3 million was attributed to the collaboration and license agreement, which is being amortized over the estimated period of performance of the collaboration. As such, revenue of \$1.1 million and \$0.3 million was recognized for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

In August 2012, we entered into a collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec, which included an upfront payment of \$0.8 million. We are recognizing revenue related to the upfront payment over our estimated period of performance, which is approximately two years. As such, revenue associated with the upfront payment of \$0.3 million and \$0.1 million was recognized for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Additionally, research milestone payments totaling \$0.3 million were received for the year ended December 31, 2013.

*Research and development expenses*

Research and development expenses increased to \$29.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$20.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was primarily driven by IND-enabling activities for RG-101 and other programs of \$5.9 million, and an increase in salaries and related benefits, including stock based compensation, of \$3.3 million. Employees engaged in research and development activities increased to 59 as of December 31, 2013, compared to 52 as of December 31, 2012. We expect our research and development expenses to continue to increase to the extent we commence clinical studies and initiate additional IND-enabling activities.

*General and administrative expenses*

General and administrative expenses increased to \$7.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$4.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was primarily driven by an increase in salaries and related benefits, including stock based compensation, of \$0.9 million, in addition to external service costs and other general operating expenses of \$0.9 million associated with the growth of the business and other costs associated with being a public reporting company.

*Loss on extinguishment of debt*

In July 2012, we amended and restated our \$5.0 million convertible promissory note originally issued in February 2010 to GSK, or the 2010 GSK note, which resulted in a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes. We valued the 2010 GSK note at the extinguishment date and recorded a \$1.7 million loss on extinguishment of debt (the difference between the original \$5.0 million carrying value and the fair value) in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss for the year ended December 31, 2012.

*Loss from change in value of convertible note payable*

The amended and restated 2010 GSK Note provided for a rollover into a new promissory note, or the Post-IPO GSK Note, effective as of the closing date of a qualifying initial public offering. The Post-IPO GSK Note would be equivalent to the aggregate amount of principal and accrued but unpaid interest as of the initial public offering date. In October 2012, upon our initial public offering, the 2010 GSK Note was simultaneously cancelled and obligations thereto were terminated. Subsequent to the debt extinguishment previously described, changes in the fair value of the 2010 GSK Note (through October 2012) and the Post-IPO GSK Note (subsequent to the initial public offering) have

been recorded on a periodic basis with changes in fair value recorded in non-operating earnings. We recorded a loss from changes in value of convertible notes payable of \$1.1 million and \$3.0 million in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Changes in value were primarily driven by fluctuations in our stock price.



**Table of Contents****Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Since our inception through December 31, 2014, we have received \$70.0 million principally from upfront payments, research funding and preclinical milestones from our strategic alliances, collaborations, government grants and loans, and \$257.1 million from the sale of our equity and convertible debt securities, including \$70.0 million in net proceeds from our initial public offering and concurrent private placement of our common stock in October 2012, \$45.8 million in net proceeds from our public offering in July 2013 and \$76.3 million in net proceeds from our public offering in November 2014.

As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$159.7 million in cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments. The following table shows a summary of our cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<i>Net cash provided by (used in):</i>			
Operating activities	\$ (39,510)	\$ (28,330)	\$ (8,721)
Investing activities	(29,207)	(40,889)	(30,384)
Financing activities	88,237	46,474	70,482

*Operating activities*

Net cash used in operating activities have increased to \$39.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$28.3 million and \$8.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Increases in cash used in operating activities has been attributable in part to an increase in net loss to \$56.7 million in 2014, compared to \$18.7 million and \$17.4 million in 2013 and 2012, respectively. Adjustments for non-cash charges, including stock-based compensation and changes in value of the Post-IPO GSK Note have also increased to \$22.3 million, compared to \$7.4 million and \$7.7 million in 2013 and 2012, respectively. Changes in working capital, including deferred revenue, resulted in net cash used in operating activities of \$5.1 million and \$17.0 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively, compared to net cash provided by operating activities of \$1.0 million in 2012. These changes primarily relate to the timing of upfront payments and milestones, compared to the period of revenue recognition.

*Investing activities*

Net cash used in investing activities for the periods presented primarily related to the purchase, sale or maturity of investments used to fund the day-to-day needs of our business. Cash used in investment activities were primarily the result of net investments in short-term securities of \$28.0 million, \$40.1 million and \$29.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Investments in property, equipment and intangible assets were \$1.2 million, \$0.8 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

*Financing activities*

Net cash provided by financing activities was approximately \$88.2 million, \$46.5 million and \$70.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. In 2014, financing activities included a public offering that resulted in net proceeds of approximately \$76.3 million and net proceeds from the issuance of additional common stock of \$12.1 million. In 2013, financing activities included a public offering that resulted in net proceeds of approximately \$45.8 million. In 2012, financing activities included our initial public offering and concurrent private

placement of common stock, which resulted in net proceeds of approximately \$65.8, in addition to proceeds of \$5.0 million from the issuance of a promissory note to Biogen Idec in conjunction with our license and collaboration agreement in August 2012.

**Table of Contents**

**Future Capital Requirements**

As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$159.7 million in cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments. We expect our research and development expenses to substantially increase in connection with our ongoing activities, particularly as we advance our product candidates in or towards clinical programs.

Our future capital requirements are difficult to forecast and will depend on many factors, including:

the achievement of milestones under our strategic alliance agreements with Sanofi and AstraZeneca;

the terms and timing of any other strategic alliance, licensing and other arrangements that we may establish;

the initiation, progress, timing and completion of preclinical studies and clinical trials for our product candidates;

the number and characteristics of product candidates that we pursue;

the progress, costs and results of our clinical trials;

the outcome, timing and cost of regulatory approvals;

delays that may be caused by changing regulatory requirements;

the cost and timing of hiring new employees to support our continued growth;

the costs involved in filing and prosecuting patent applications and enforcing and defending patent claims;

the costs and timing of procuring clinical and commercial supplies of our product candidates;

the costs and timing of establishing sales, marketing and distribution capabilities; and

the extent to which we acquire or invest in businesses, products or technologies.

**Contractual Obligations and Commitments**

The following is a summary of our long-term contractual obligations as of December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Payments due by period				
		2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	
	Total	<1 year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	>5 Years
Operating lease obligation relating to facility(1)	\$ 3,256	\$ 1,251	\$ 2,005	\$	\$
Principal under convertible note payable, excluding accrued interest(2)	5,427	5,427			
Annual maintenance fees for license agreements	1,035	102	203	203	527
Total	\$ 9,718	\$ 6,780	\$ 2,208	\$ 203	\$ 527

- (1) We lease approximately 29,000 square feet for office and laboratory space in La Jolla, California under an operating lease that expires in June 2017. Obligations under all lease agreements are included in the above table.
- (2) In October 2012, in conjunction with our initial public offering we issued GSK a convertible promissory note, or the Post- IPO GSK Note, in the principal amount of \$5.4 million. The Post-IPO GSK Note had a maturity date of October 9, 2015. In January 2015, the principal amount of the Post-IPO GSK Note was converted into 1,356,738 shares of our common stock, reflecting a conversion price of \$4.00 per share.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements (as defined by applicable SEC regulations) that are reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

**Table of Contents**

**JOBS Act**

In April 2012, the JOBS Act was enacted. Section 107 of the JOBS Act provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. Thus, an emerging growth company can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected not to avail ourselves of this extended transition period and, as a result, we will adopt new or revised accounting standards on the relevant dates on which adoption of such standards is required for other companies.

**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Some of the securities that we invest in have market risk in that a change in prevailing interest rates may cause the principal amount of the marketable securities to fluctuate. Financial instruments that potentially subject us to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. We invest our excess cash primarily in commercial paper and debt instruments of financial institutions, corporations, U.S. government-sponsored agencies and the U.S. Treasury. The primary objectives of our investment activities are to ensure liquidity and to preserve principal while at the same time maximizing the income we receive from our marketable securities without significantly increasing risk. Additionally, we established guidelines regarding approved investments and maturities of investments, which are designed to maintain safety and liquidity.

Because of the short-term maturities of our cash equivalents and marketable securities, we do not believe that an increase in market rates would have any significant impact on the realized value of our marketable securities. If a 10% change in interest rates were to have occurred on December 31, 2014, this change would not have had a material effect on the fair value of our investment portfolio as of that date.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**  
**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Regulus Therapeutics Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Regulus Therapeutics Inc. as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of operations, statements of comprehensive loss, convertible preferred stock and stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Regulus Therapeutics Inc. at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Diego, California

February 18, 2015

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except share and per share data)**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 37,327	\$ 17,807
Short-term investments	122,416	96,198
Contracts and other receivables	274	79
Prepaid and other current assets	4,934	3,098
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>164,951</b>	<b>117,182</b>
Property and equipment, net	3,568	3,768
Intangible assets, net	1,150	1,128
Other assets	1,811	987
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 171,480</b>	<b>\$ 123,065</b>
<b>Liabilities and stockholders equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,188	\$ 1,172
Accrued liabilities	4,402	3,013
Accrued compensation	2,108	1,297
Current portion of deferred revenue	3,097	4,888
Convertible note payable, at fair value	23,397	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>35,192</b>	<b>10,370</b>
Convertible note payable, at fair value		11,279
Deferred revenue, less current portion	3,252	6,500
Other long-term liabilities	1,022	1,459
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>39,466</b>	<b>29,608</b>
Stockholders equity:		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 200,000,000 shares authorized at December 31, 2014 and 2013, 48,944,530 and 41,787,326 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively	49	42
Additional paid-in capital	267,929	172,518
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(197)	(16)
Accumulated deficit	(135,767)	(79,087)
<b>Total stockholders equity</b>	<b>132,014</b>	<b>93,457</b>

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 171,480	\$ 123,065
--	------------	------------

See accompanying notes to these financial statements.



**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS****(in thousands, except share and per share data)**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Revenue under strategic alliances and collaborations	\$ 7,669	\$ 19,569	\$ 12,700
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>19,569</b>	<b>12,700</b>
<b>Operating expenses:</b>			
Research and development	41,046	29,942	20,342
General and administrative	11,533	7,429	4,932
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>52,579</b>	<b>37,371</b>	<b>25,274</b>
Loss from operations	(44,910)	(17,802)	(12,574)
<b>Other income (expense):</b>			
Interest and other income	388	292	110
Interest expense	(39)	(36)	(247)
Loss on extinguishment of debt			(1,738)
Loss from change in value of convertible note payable	(12,118)	(1,145)	(2,969)
Loss before income taxes	(56,679)	(18,691)	(17,418)
Income tax (benefit) expense	1	(23)	(10)
Net loss	\$ (56,680)	\$ (18,668)	\$ (17,408)
<b>Other comprehensive loss:</b>			
Unrealized gain (loss) on short-term investments, net	(181)	36	15
<b>Comprehensive loss</b>	<b>\$ (56,861)</b>	<b>\$ (18,632)</b>	<b>\$ (17,393)</b>
Net loss per share, basic and diluted	\$ (1.29)	\$ (0.49)	\$ (2.12)
Shares used to compute basic and diluted net loss per share	44,090,165	38,479,447	8,212,538

See accompanying notes to these financial statements.

Table of Contents

## Regulus Therapeutics Inc.

## STATEMENTS OF CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY (DEFICIT)

(in thousands, except share data)

	Series A convertible preferred stock		Series B convertible preferred stock		Common stock		Accumulated other comprehensive income			Total stockholders equity (deficit)
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Additional paid-in capital	(loss)	Accumulated deficit	
Balance at December 31, 2011	24,900,000	\$ 32,691	2,499,999	\$ 10,000	153,184	\$	\$ 1,584	\$ (67)	\$ (43,011)	\$ (41,494)
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options					294,374		138			138
Stock-based compensation expense							1,550			1,550
Impact of initial public offering on stockholders equity (deficit):										
Effect of 2-for-1 split on shares of preferred stock	(12,450,000)		(1,250,000)							
Conversion of shares of preferred stock to common stock	(12,450,000)	(32,691)	(1,249,999)	(10,000)	13,699,999	14	42,677			42,691
Initial public offering of common stock, net of \$5,886 of offering costs					12,730,982	13	45,025			45,038
Issuance of common stock in private placement					6,250,000	6	20,744			20,750

concurrently with initial public offering, net								
Conversion of notes payable to common stock			2,703,269	3	10,810			10,813
Unrealized gain on short-term investments, net of tax							15	15
Net loss							(17,408)	(17,408)
<b>Balance at December 31, 2012</b>	\$	\$	35,831,808	\$ 36	\$ 122,528	\$ (52)	\$ (60,419)	\$ 62,093
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options			732,483	1	593			594
Stock-based compensation expense							3,422	3,422
Issuance of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan			48,035		201			201
Issuance of common stock, net of \$434 of offering costs			5,175,000	5	45,774			45,779
Unrealized gain on short-term investments							36	36
Net loss							(18,668)	(18,668)
<b>Balance at December 31, 2013</b>	\$	\$	41,787,326	\$ 42	\$ 172,518	\$ (16)	\$ (79,087)	\$ 93,457
Issuance of common stock upon exercise of options			1,006,515	1	2,232			2,233
Stock-based compensation expense							7,039	7,039

issuance of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan		38,085		283		283
issuance of common stock in private placement		1,303,780	1	9,568		9,569
issuance of common stock, net of \$347 of offering costs		4,808,824	5	76,289		76,294
Unrealized loss on short-term investments					(181)	(181)
Net loss					(56,680)	(56,680)
<b>Balance at December 31, 2014</b>	\$	\$ 48,944,530	\$ 49	\$ 267,929	\$ (197)	\$ (135,767) \$ 132,014

See accompanying notes to these financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(in thousands)**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Net loss	\$ (56,680)	\$ (18,668)	\$ (17,408)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization expense	1,490	1,360	1,017
Loss from change in value of convertible note payable	12,118	1,145	2,969
Loss on extinguishment of debt			1,738
Amortization of premium on investments, net	1,597	1,439	394
Stock-based compensation	7,039	3,422	1,550
Loss on disposal of long-term assets	18		36
Change in operating assets and liabilities:			
Contracts and other receivables	(196)	(79)	
Prepaid and other assets	(1,882)	(2,283)	(308)
Accounts payable	940	860	(189)
Accrued compensation	811	(51)	677
Accrued liabilities	556	1,355	(20)
Deferred revenue	(5,039)	(16,819)	486
Deferred rent and other liabilities	(282)	(11)	337
Net cash used in operating activities	(39,510)	(28,330)	(8,721)
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchases of short-term investments	(113,417)	(72,005)	(62,041)
Maturities and sales of short-term investments	85,421	31,951	33,083
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,146)	(800)	(1,151)
Acquisition of intangibles	(65)	(35)	(275)
Net cash used in investing activities	(29,207)	(40,889)	(30,384)
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from issuance of convertible notes payable and other long-term obligations			5,000
Proceeds from issuance of common stock, net	86,146	45,980	65,788
Principal payments on other long-term obligations	(142)	(100)	(445)
Proceeds from exercise of common stock options	2,233	594	139
Net cash provided by financing activities	88,237	46,474	70,482
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	19,520	(22,745)	31,377

Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	17,807	40,552	9,175
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 37,327	\$ 17,807	\$ 40,552
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information</b>			
Interest paid	\$ 39	\$ 37	\$ 8
Income taxes paid	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 208
<b>Supplemental disclosures of non-cash investing and financing activities</b>			
Conversion of notes payable to common stock	\$	\$	\$ 10,813
Allowance for tenant improvements	\$	\$ 653	\$
Amounts accrued for property and equipment	\$ 76	\$	\$
Amounts accrued for patent expenditures	\$ 42	\$ 11	\$

See accompanying notes to these financial statements.

---

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements****1. The Business, Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Regulus Therapeutics Inc. was originally formed as a Delaware limited liability company under the name Regulus Therapeutics LLC on September 6, 2007, when Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ( Alnylam ) and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ( Isis ) contributed significant intellectual property, know-how and financial and human capital to pursue the development of drugs targeting *microRNAs* pursuant to a license and collaboration agreement. Regulus Therapeutics Inc. was converted to a Delaware corporation on January 2, 2009. As used in this report, unless the context suggests otherwise, the Company, our, us and we means Regulus Therapeutics Inc.

We are a biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing first-in-class drugs that target *microRNAs* to treat a broad range of diseases. *microRNAs* are recently discovered, naturally occurring ribonucleic acid, or RNA, molecules that play a critical role in regulating key biological pathways. Scientific research has shown that the improper balance, or dysregulation, of *microRNAs* is directly linked to many diseases. We believe we have assembled the leading position in the *microRNA* field, including expertise in *microRNA* biology and oligonucleotide chemistry, a broad intellectual property estate, key opinion leaders and disciplined drug discovery and development processes. We refer to these assets as our *microRNA* product platform. We are using our *microRNA* product platform to develop chemically modified, single-stranded oligonucleotides that we call anti-miRs to modulate *microRNAs* and return diseased cells to their healthy state. We believe *microRNAs* may be transformative in the field of drug discovery and that anti-miRs may become a new and major class of drugs with broad therapeutic application much like small molecules, biologics and monoclonal antibodies.

***Use of Estimates***

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of our financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities in our financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on our knowledge of current events and actions we may undertake in the future, actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates and assumptions.

***Revenue Recognition***

Our revenues generally consist of upfront payments for licenses or options to obtain licenses in the future and milestone payments under strategic alliance agreements. We recognize revenues when all four of the following criteria are met: (1) persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists; (2) delivery of the products and/or services has occurred; (3) the selling price is fixed or determinable; and (4) collectability is reasonably assured.

Multiple element arrangements, such as our strategic alliance agreements with Sanofi and AstraZeneca AB ( AstraZeneca ) and our collaboration agreement with Biogen Idec MA Inc. ( Biogen Idec ), are analyzed to determine whether the deliverables within the agreement can be separated or whether they must be accounted for as a single unit of accounting. Deliverables under the agreement will be accounted for as separate units of accounting provided that (i) a delivered item has value to the customer on a stand-alone basis; and (ii) if the agreement includes a general right of return relative to the delivered item, delivery or performance of the undelivered item is considered probable and substantially in the control of the vendor. The allocation of consideration amongst the deliverables under the agreement is derived using a best estimate of selling price if vendor specific objective evidence and third-party

evidence of fair value is not available. If the delivered element does not have stand-alone value, the arrangement is then accounted for as a single unit of accounting, and we



**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

recognize the consideration received under the arrangement as revenue on a straight-line basis over our estimated period of performance, which for us is often the expected term of the research and development plan.

*Milestones*

We apply the milestone method of accounting to recognize revenue from milestone payments when earned, as evidenced by written acknowledgement from the collaborator or other persuasive evidence that the milestone has been achieved and the payment is non-refundable, provided that the milestone event is substantive. A milestone event is defined as an event (i) that can only be achieved based in whole or in part on either our performance or on the occurrence of a specific outcome resulting from our performance; (ii) for which there is substantive uncertainty at the inception of the arrangement that the event will be achieved; and (iii) that would result in additional payments being due to us. Events for which the occurrence is either contingent solely upon the passage of time or the result of a counterparty's performance are not considered to be milestone events. A milestone event is substantive if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the consideration is commensurate with either our performance to achieve the milestone, or the enhancement of the value to the delivered item(s) as a result of a specific outcome resulting from our performance to achieve the milestone; (ii) the consideration relates solely to past performance; and (iii) the consideration is reasonable relative to all the deliverables and payment terms (including other potential milestone consideration) within the arrangement.

We assess whether a milestone is substantive at the inception of each arrangement. If a milestone is deemed non-substantive, we will account for that milestone payment in accordance with the multiple element arrangements guidance and recognize revenue consistent with the related units of accounting for the arrangement over the related performance period.

*Deferred Revenue*

Amounts received prior to satisfying the above revenue recognition criteria are recorded as deferred revenue in the accompanying balance sheets. Amounts not expected to be recognized within the next 12 months are classified as non-current deferred revenue.

*Stock-Based Compensation*

We account for stock-based compensation expense related to stock options granted to employees and members of our board of directors by estimating the fair value of each stock option on the date of grant using the black-scholes model. We recognize stock-based compensation expense using the accelerated multiple-option approach. Under the accelerated multiple-option approach (also known as the graded-vesting method), we recognize compensation expense over the requisite service period for each separately vesting tranche of the award as though the award was in substance multiple awards, resulting in accelerated expense recognition over the vesting period. For performance-based awards granted to employees (i) the fair value of the award is determined on the grant date, (ii) we assess the probability of the individual milestones under the award being achieved and (iii) the fair value of the shares subject to the milestone is expensed over the implicit service period commencing once management believes the performance criteria is probable of being met.

We account for stock options granted to non-employees, which primarily consist of members of our scientific advisory board, using the fair value approach. Stock options granted to non-employees are subject to periodic revaluation over their vesting terms.

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

***Research and Development***

Research and development costs are expensed as incurred and include compensation and related benefits, non-cash stock-based compensation, license fees, laboratory supplies and associated overhead and facilities costs. In certain circumstances, we make non-refundable advance payments to purchase goods and services for future use in research and development activities pursuant to contractual arrangements. In those instances, we capitalize these amounts and record expense in the period that we receive the goods or when services are performed.

***Income Taxes***

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. This approach requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of the differences between the tax basis of assets or liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements using the enacted tax rates and laws that are anticipated to be in effect when the differences are expected to reverse. We provide a valuation allowance against net deferred tax assets if it is more likely than not that these items will either expire before the Company is able to realize their benefit or if future deductibility is uncertain.

In accordance with the accounting standards for uncertain tax positions, the Company evaluates the recognition threshold and measurement attribute criteria for the financial statement recognition and measurement of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. For those benefits to be recognized, a tax position must be more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities.

***Fair Value Option***

Applicable accounting policies permit entities to choose, at specified election dates, to measure specified items at fair value if the decision about the election is: 1) applied instrument by instrument, 2) irrevocable, and 3) applied to an entire instrument.

In July 2012, we amended and restated our \$5.0 million convertible promissory note originally issued in February 2010 to GSK ( 2010 GSK note ), which was accounted for as a debt extinguishment of the original note. We elected to measure the amended note under the fair value option. The difference between the carrying value of the original note and the fair value of the amended note was recorded as a loss on extinguishment of debt to non-operating earnings. Thereafter, any change to the fair value of the amended note is recorded as gain (loss) from valuation of convertible note payable in non-operating earnings.

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

We classify time deposits and other investments that are highly liquid and have maturities of 90 days or less at the date of purchase as cash equivalents. The carrying amounts approximate fair value due to the short maturities of these instruments.

***Short-Term Investments***

We carry short-term investments classified as available-for-sale at fair value as determined by prices for identical or similar securities at the balance sheet date. Our short-term investments consist of both Level 1 and Level 2 financial instruments in the fair value hierarchy. We record unrealized gains and losses as a component of other comprehensive loss within the statements of operations and comprehensive loss and as a separate component of stockholders' equity (deficit). We determine the realized gains or losses of available-for-sale securities using the specific identification method and include net realized gains and losses in interest income.

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

At each balance sheet date, we assess available-for-sale securities in an unrealized loss position to determine whether the unrealized loss is other-than-temporary. We consider factors including: the significance of the decline in value compared to the cost basis, underlying factors contributing to a decline in the prices of securities in a single asset class, the length of time the market value of the security has been less than its cost basis, the security's relative performance versus its peers, sector or asset class, expected market volatility and the market and economy in general. When we determine that a decline in the fair value below its cost basis is other-than-temporary, we recognize an impairment loss in the year in which the other-than-temporary decline occurred. We determined that there were no other-than-temporary declines in the value of short-term investments as of December 31, 2014 or 2013.

***Concentrations of Credit Risk***

Financial instruments that potentially subject us to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash equivalents and short-term investments. We maintain deposits in federally insured financial institutions in excess of federally insured limits. We have not experienced any losses in such accounts and believe we are not exposed to significant risk. We maintain our cash equivalents and short-term investments with three financial institutions. We invest our excess cash primarily in commercial paper and debt instruments of financial institutions and corporations. Additionally, we adhere to established guidelines regarding approved investments and maturities of investments, which are designed to maintain safety and liquidity.

***Property and Equipment***

We carry our property and equipment at cost, which consists of lab equipment, computer equipment and software, furniture and fixtures and leasehold improvements. Property and equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives (generally three to five years). Leasehold improvements are amortized over the lesser of their useful life or the remaining lease term, including any renewal periods that are deemed to be reasonably assured. Repair and maintenance costs that do not improve service potential or extend economic life are expensed as incurred.

***Intangibles***

We capitalize costs which consist principally of outside legal costs and filing fees related to obtaining patents. We review our capitalized patent costs periodically to determine that they include costs for patent applications that have future value and an alternative future use. We evaluate costs related to patents that we are not actively pursuing and write off these costs. We amortize patent costs over their patent lives, beginning with the date the patents are issued. The weighted average remaining life of the issued patents was approximately 11 years at December 31, 2014.

We obtain licenses from third parties and capitalize the costs related to exclusive licenses that have alternative future use within multiple potential programs. We amortize capitalized licenses over their estimated useful life or term of the agreement, which for current licenses is 10 years.

***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

We regularly review the carrying amount of our property, equipment and intangible assets to determine whether indicators of impairment may exist which warrant adjustments to carrying values or estimated useful lives. If indications of impairment exist, projected future undiscounted cash flows associated with the asset are compared to the carrying amount to determine whether the asset's value is recoverable. If the carrying value of the asset exceeds such projected undiscounted cash flows, the asset will be written down to its estimated fair value. No impairment charges were recorded during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 or 2012.

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

***Clinical Trial and Pre-Clinical Study Accruals***

We make estimates of our accrued expenses as of each balance sheet date in our financial statements based on the facts and circumstances known to us at that time. Our accrued expenses for clinical trials are based on estimates of the fees associated with services provided by clinical trial investigational sites, clinical research organizations ( CROs ) and other clinical trial-related vendors. Payments under some of the contracts we have with such parties depend on factors such as successful enrollment of patients, site initiation and the completion of clinical trial milestones. In accruing service fees, we estimate the time period over which services will be performed and the level of effort to be expended in each period. If possible, we obtain information regarding unbilled services directly from these service providers. However, we may be required to estimate these services based on other information available to us. If we underestimate or overestimate the activity or fees associated with a study or service at a given point in time, adjustments to research and development expenses may be necessary in future periods. Historically, our estimated accrued liabilities have approximated actual expense incurred. Subsequent changes in estimates may result in a material change in our accruals.

***Segment Reporting***

Operating segments are identified as components of an enterprise about which separate discrete financial information is available for evaluation by the chief operating decision-maker in making decisions regarding resource allocation and assessing performance. To date, we have viewed our operations and managed our business as one segment operating primarily in the United States.

***Comprehensive Loss***

Comprehensive loss is defined as the change in equity during a period from transactions and other events and/or circumstances from non-owner sources. Our only component of other comprehensive loss is unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities. Comprehensive gains (losses) have been reflected in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss and as a separate component of the statements of convertible preferred stock and stockholders equity (deficit) for all periods presented.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In July 2013, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2013-11, *Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists* ( ASU 2013-11 ). This update provides explicit guidance on the financial statement presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists. This guidance is effective prospectively for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013, with an option for early adoption. We adopted this guidance in 2014 and it did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or related financial statement disclosures.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ( ASU 2014-19 ). Adoption of ASU No. 2014-09 requires that an entity recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers

in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This update is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods therein and requires expanded disclosures. We are currently evaluating the impact of adoption on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-15, *Presentation of Financial Statements Going Concern*, which requires management to assess an entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and to provide related



**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

footnote disclosure in certain circumstances. This standard is effective for annual reporting periods ending after December 15, 2016 and interim periods thereafter. Early application is permitted. The adoption of this guidance will have no impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**2. Net Loss Per Share**

Basic net loss per share is calculated by dividing the net loss by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period, without consideration for common stock equivalents. Diluted net loss per share is calculated by dividing the net loss by the weighted-average number of common share equivalents outstanding for the period determined using the treasury-stock method. Dilutive common stock equivalents are comprised of convertible preferred stock and options outstanding under our stock option plan. For all periods presented, there is no difference in the number of shares used to calculate basic and diluted shares outstanding due to our net loss position.

Potentially dilutive securities not included in the calculation of diluted net loss per share because to do so would be anti-dilutive are as follows (in common equivalent shares):

	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Common stock options	2,566,423	3,639,270	1,883,311
Convertible note payable	1,461,474	1,411,659	1,366,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,027,897</b>	<b>5,050,929</b>	<b>3,250,098</b>

**3. Investments**

We invest our excess cash in commercial paper and debt instruments of financial institutions and corporations. As of December 31, 2014, our short-term investments had a weighted average maturity of less than two years.

The following tables summarize our short-term investments (in thousands):

<b>As of December 31, 2014</b>	<b>Maturity (in years)</b>	<b>Amortized cost</b>	<b>Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>Estimated fair value</b>
Corporate debt securities	2 or less	\$ 105,085	\$ 2	\$ (167)	\$ 104,920
Certificates of deposit	2 or less	14,600			14,600
Commercial paper	1 or less	2,895	1		2,896
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 122,580</b>	<b>\$ 3</b>	<b>\$ (167)</b>	<b>\$ 122,416</b>

<b>As of December 31, 2013</b>	<b>Maturity (in years)</b>	<b>Amortized cost</b>	<b>Unrealized</b>		<b>Estimated fair value</b>
			<b>Gains</b>	<b>Losses</b>	
Corporate debt securities	2 or less	\$ 71,402	\$ 39	\$ (25)	\$ 71,416
Certificates of deposit	2 or less	11,710			11,710
Commercial paper	1 or less	6,069	2		6,071
Debt securities of U.S. government-sponsored agencies	1 or less	7,000	1		7,001
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 96,181</b>	<b>\$ 42</b>	<b>\$ (25)</b>	<b>\$ 96,198</b>

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**4. Fair Value Measurements**

We have certain financial assets and liabilities recorded at fair value which have been classified as Level 1, 2 or 3 within the fair value hierarchy as described in the accounting standards for fair value measurements.

Accounting standards define fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants as of the measurement date. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal market that are (i) independent, (ii) knowledgeable, (iii) able to transact, and (iv) willing to transact. The accounting standard provides an established hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in valuing the asset or liability and are developed based on market data obtained from independent sources. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect our assumptions about the factors that market participants would use in valuing the asset or liability. The accounting standard prioritizes the inputs used in measuring the fair value into the following hierarchy:

Level 1 includes financial instruments for which quoted market prices for identical instruments are available in active markets.

Level 2 includes financial instruments for which there are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the instrument such as quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets with insufficient volume or infrequent transactions (less active markets) or model-driven valuations in which significant inputs are observable or can be derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data.

Level 3 includes financial instruments for which fair value is derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs are unobservable, including management's own assumptions.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The following table presents our fair value hierarchy for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2014 and 2013 (in thousands):

	Fair value as of December 31, 2014			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 37,072	\$ 37,072	\$	\$
Corporate debt securities	104,920		104,920	
Certificates of deposit	14,600		14,600	
Commercial paper	2,896		2,896	
	\$ 159,488	\$ 37,072	\$ 122,416	\$
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Convertible note payable	\$ 23,397	\$	\$	\$ 23,397

	Fair value as of December 31, 2013			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 17,170	\$ 17,170	\$	\$
Corporate debt securities	71,416		71,416	
Certificates of deposit	11,710		11,710	
Debt securities of U.S. government-sponsored agencies	7,001		7,001	
Commercial paper	6,071		6,071	
	\$ 113,368	\$ 17,170	\$ 96,198	\$
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Convertible note payable	\$ 11,279	\$	\$	\$ 11,279

We obtain pricing information from quoted market prices or quotes from brokers/dealers. We generally determine the fair value of our investment securities using standard observable inputs, including reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, bids and/or offers. Refer to Note 3 for information regarding our investments.

The following table presents a reconciliation of the liability measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) from December 31, 2013 to December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	<b>Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</b>	
Balance at December 31, 2013	\$	11,279
Change in estimated fair value of convertible note payable		12,118
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$	23,397

We used an income approach in the form of a convertible bond valuation model to value the convertible note payable. The convertible bond model considered the debt and option characteristics of the note. The key inputs to the model as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 was volatility (110% and 66%, respectively), risk-free rate (0.10% and 0.325%, respectively), and credit spread (9.7% and 7.4%, respectively). The volatility inputs were based on historical and implied volatility of peer companies with a look-back period commensurate with

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

our expected time to maturity. Peer companies were materially consistent with those used to determine volatility for stock-based compensation. Beginning in 2014, our historical volatility was included with the peer companies for purposes of estimating volatility. As of December 31, 2014, the volatility input included 60% weighting of our historical volatility and 40% weighting of historical and implied volatility of peer companies. The risk-free rate inputs were based on the yield of US Treasury Strips as of each date for durations commensurate with our expected time to maturity. The credit spread inputs were based on a creditworthiness analysis of the Company and market rates for comparable straight debt instruments. We recorded a loss from the change in fair value of the convertible note payable of \$12.1 million, \$1.1 million and \$3.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively on our statements of operations and comprehensive loss. A 10% increase or decrease in volatility would result in less than 1% increase or decrease in our estimated fair value of the convertible note payable.

**5. Strategic Alliances and Collaborations**

The following table summarizes the amounts included in our revenues which resulted from our strategic alliances and collaboration (in thousands):

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Sanofi	\$ 979	\$ 15,336	\$ 10,030
GSK	3,509	1,778	1,996
AstraZeneca	1,859	1,859	559
Biogen Idec	1,122	596	115
Other	200		
Total	\$ 7,669	\$ 19,596	\$ 12,700

**Sanofi**

In July 2012, we amended and restated our collaboration and license agreement with Sanofi to expand the potential therapeutic applications of the *micro*RNA alliance targets to be developed under such agreement. We determined that the elements within the strategic alliance agreement with Sanofi should be treated as a single unit of accounting because the delivered elements did not have stand-alone value to Sanofi. The following elements were delivered as part of the strategic alliance with Sanofi: (1) a license for up to four *micro*RNA targets; and (2) a research license under our technology alliance.

In June 2013, the original research term expired, upon which we and Sanofi entered into an option agreement pursuant to which Sanofi was granted an exclusive right to negotiate the co-development and commercialization of certain of our unencumbered *micro*RNA programs and we were granted the exclusive right to negotiate with Sanofi for co-development and commercialization of certain miR-21 anti-miRs in oncology and Alport Syndrome. In July 2013, we received an upfront payment of \$2.5 million, of which \$1.25 million is creditable against future amounts payable

by Sanofi to us under any future co-development and commercialization agreement we enter pursuant to the option agreement. Revenue associated with the creditable portion of this option payment remained deferred as of December 31, 2014, and will remain deferred until its application to a creditable transaction. The non-creditable portion of this payment, \$1.25 million, was recognized as revenue over the option period from the effective date of the option agreement in June 2013 through the expiration of the option period in January 2014.

In conjunction with the option agreement, we agreed to continue specified research on the miR-21 programs during the option period. We re-evaluated our estimated period of performance from the original research term

---

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

through the term of the option agreement and amortized the remaining deferred revenue of \$10.1 million associated with the initial \$25.0 million upfront payment from June 2013 through the expiration of the option period in January 2014.

In February 2014, we and Sanofi entered into a second amended and restated collaboration and license agreement (the 2014 Sanofi Amendment ) to renew our strategic alliance to discover, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics to focus on specific orphan disease and oncology targets. Under the terms of our renewed alliance, Sanofi will have opt-in rights to our preclinical fibrosis program targeting miR-21 for the treatment of Alport Syndrome, our preclinical program targeting miR-21 for oncology indications, and our preclinical program targeting miR-221/222 for hepatocellular carcinoma ( HCC ). We are responsible for developing each of these programs to proof-of-concept, at which time Sanofi has an exclusive option on each program. If Sanofi chooses to exercise its option on any of these programs, Sanofi will reimburse us for a significant portion of our preclinical and clinical development costs and will also pay us an option exercise fee for any such program, provided that \$1.25 million of the \$2.5 million upfront option fee paid to us by Sanofi in connection with the June 2013 option agreement will be creditable against such option exercise fee. In addition, we will be eligible to receive clinical and regulatory milestone payments and potentially commercial milestone payments for these programs. We also continue to be eligible to receive royalties on *microRNA* therapeutic products commercialized by Sanofi and will have the right to co-promote these products.

In connection with the 2014 Sanofi Amendment, we entered into a Common Stock Purchase Agreement (the Purchase Agreement ), pursuant to which we sold 1,303,780 shares of our common stock to Aventisub LLC (formerly Avantis Holdings, Inc.) ( Aventis ), an entity affiliated with Sanofi, in a private placement at a price per share of \$7.67 for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.0 million. Under the terms of the Purchase Agreement, Aventis may not sell, transfer, make any short sale of, or grant any option for the sale of any common stock for a 12-month period following its effective date. Accounting standards for multiple element arrangements contains a presumption that separate contracts negotiated and/or entered into at or near the same time with the same entity were negotiated as a package and should be evaluated as a single agreement. Based upon restricted stock studies of similar duration and a Black-Scholes valuation to measure the discount for lack of marketability, approximately \$0.4 million of the proceeds from the Purchase Agreement was attributed to the 2014 Sanofi Amendment, and represents consideration for the value of the program targeting miR-221/222 for HCC. As this element does not have stand-alone value, we are recognizing the \$0.4 million into revenue ratably over the estimated period of performance of the miR-221/222 program. As of December 31, 2014, deferred revenue associated with the Purchase Agreement and the 2014 Sanofi Amendment was \$0.4 million, which we are expecting to recognize over the remaining estimated period of performance of approximately five years.

We are eligible to receive milestone payments of up to \$101.8 million for proof-of-concept option exercise fees (net of \$1.25 million creditable, as noted above), \$15.0 million for clinical milestones and up to \$300.0 million for regulatory and commercial milestones. In addition, we are entitled to receive royalties based on a percentage of net sales of any products from the miR-21 and miR-221/222 programs which, in the case of sales in the United States, will be in the middle of the 10 to 20% range, and, in the case of sales outside of the United States, will range from the low end to the middle of the 10 to 20% range, depending upon the volume of sales. If we exercise our option to co-promote a product, we will continue to be eligible to receive royalties on net sales of each product in the United States at the same rate, unless we elect to share a portion of Sanofi's profits from sales of such product in the United States in lieu



of royalties.

We have evaluated the contingent event-based payments under the 2014 Sanofi Amendment and determined that the milestone payments meet the definition of substantive milestones. Accordingly, revenue for these achievements will be recognized in their entirety in the period when the milestone is achieved and collectability is reasonably assured. Other contingent event-based payments under the 2014 Sanofi Amendment for which

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

payment is contingent upon the results of Sanofi's performance will not be accounted for using the milestone method. Such payments will be recognized as revenue over the remaining estimated period of performance, if any, and when collectability is reasonably assured.

**AstraZeneca**

In August 2012, we entered into a collaboration and license agreement with AstraZeneca. Under the terms of the agreement, we have agreed to collaborate with AstraZeneca to identify, research and develop compounds targeting three *microRNA* alliance targets primarily in the fields of cardiovascular diseases, metabolic diseases and oncology. Pursuant to the agreement, we granted AstraZeneca an exclusive, worldwide license to thereafter develop, manufacture and commercialize lead compounds designated by AstraZeneca in the course of the collaboration activities against the alliance targets for all human therapeutic uses. Under the terms of the agreement we are required to use commercially reasonable efforts to perform all research, development and manufacturing activities described in the research plan, at our cost, until the acceptance of an investigational new drug application ( IND ) or the end of the research term, which extends until the fourth anniversary of the date of the agreement, and may be extended only by mutual written agreement of us and AstraZeneca. Following the earlier to occur of the acceptance of an IND in a major market or the end of the research term, AstraZeneca will assume all costs, responsibilities and obligations for further development, manufacture and commercialization of alliance product candidates.

Under the terms of the agreement, we received an upfront payment of \$3.0 million in October 2012. We determined the elements within the strategic alliance agreement should be treated as a single unit of accounting because the delivered element, the license, does not have stand-alone value. As a result, we are recognizing revenue related to the upfront payment on a straight-line basis over our estimated period of performance, which is four years based on the expected term of the research and development plan. If all three targets are successfully developed and commercialized through pre-agreed sales targets, we could receive milestone payments up to \$498.0 million, including preclinical milestones of up to \$5.0 million upon lead compound identification, up to \$123.0 million for clinical milestones, and up to \$370.0 million for commercialization milestones. In addition, we are entitled to receive royalties based on a percentage of net sales which will range from the mid-single digits to the low end of 10 to 20%, depending upon the product and the volume of sales, which royalties may be reduced in certain, limited circumstances.

We have evaluated the contingent event-based payments under our strategic alliance agreement with AstraZeneca and determined that the preclinical payments meet the definition of substantive milestones. Accordingly, revenue for these achievements will be recognized in its entirety in the period when the milestone is achieved and collectability is reasonably assured. Other contingent event-based payments under the strategic alliance agreement for which payment is contingent upon the results of AstraZeneca's performance will not be accounted for using the milestone method. Such payments will be recognized as revenue over the remaining estimated period of performance, if any, and when collectability is reasonably assured.

Concurrently with the collaboration and license agreement, we entered into a Common Stock Purchase Agreement ( CSPA ) with AstraZeneca, pursuant to which we agreed to sell to AstraZeneca an aggregate of \$25.0 million of our common stock in a private placement concurrently with our initial public offering, at a price per share equal to the

initial public offering price. In October 2012, in accordance with the CSPA, we sold AstraZeneca 6,250,000 shares of our common stock at a price per share of \$4.00. Further, the CSPA stipulated that AstraZeneca could not sell, transfer, make any short sale of, or grant any option for the sale of any common stock for a 365-day period following the effective date of our initial public offering. Accounting standards for multiple element arrangements contains a presumption that separate contracts negotiated and/or entered into at or near the same time with the same entity were negotiated as a package and should be evaluated as a single

---

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

agreement. We valued the discount applied to the shares of common stock due to the one-year restriction. Based upon restricted stock studies of similar duration and a Black-Scholes valuation to measure the lack of marketability discount, \$4.3 million was attributed to the collaboration and license agreement. We continue to recognize the \$4.3 million into revenue ratably over the estimated period of performance of the collaboration. As of December 31, 2014, deferred revenue associated with the collaboration and license agreement and CSPA was \$3.0 million, which we are expecting to recognize over the remaining contractual term and corresponding estimated period of performance of approximately 1.5 years.

**GSK**

In April 2008, we entered into a strategic alliance with GSK to discover, develop and commercialize novel *microRNA*-targeted therapeutics to treat inflammatory diseases (the immuno-inflammatory alliance). In February 2010, we and GSK expanded the strategic alliance to include hepatitis C virus infection (HCV) to discover, develop and commercialize *microRNA* therapeutics targeting miR-122 for the treatment of HCV (the HCV alliance). In June 2012, we amended our immuno-inflammatory alliance to extend the target selection period for the fourth collaboration target. We determined that the elements within the immuno-inflammatory alliance should be treated as a single unit of accounting because the delivered elements, the opt-in licenses for *microRNA* product candidates, did not have stand-alone value to GSK. As a result of the extension of the target selection period, we extended the amortization period for the remaining deferred revenue to approximately eight years, which represented our new estimated period of performance.

In June 2013, the HCV alliance was amended to state that RG-101, and other formulations thereof, will be developed by us independently of our alliance for the treatment of chronic HCV infection. This amendment removed any further milestone or royalty obligations owed by GSK to us as it relates only to RG-101. Concurrent with the amendment, we recorded the remaining \$1.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the upfront payment from the HCV alliance, as our estimated period of performance was complete.

In October 2014, we received written notice from GSK of its election to terminate the product development and commercialization agreement. The effective date of the termination was January 15, 2015 in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Concurrent with the notice of termination, we recorded the remaining \$3.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the upfront payment, as our estimated period of performance was complete.

**Biogen Idec**

In August 2012, we entered into a collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec pursuant to which we and Biogen Idec agreed to collaborate on *microRNA* biomarkers for multiple sclerosis (MS). Under the terms of the agreement, in August 2012 we received an upfront payment of \$0.8 million. We were also eligible to receive research milestone payments up to an aggregate of \$1.3 million. We considered the elements within the collaboration and license agreement as a single unit of accounting because the delivered element, the license, did not have stand-alone value. As a result, we recognized revenue relating to the upfront payment of \$0.8 million on a straight-line basis over our estimated period of performance, which was approximately two years based on the expected term of the research and development plan.

In June 2013, we amended the collaboration and license agreement to provide for revised terms with respect to the initial phase of the research plan and related milestone payment provisions. The Biogen Idec amendment did not modify the maximum dollar amount we were originally eligible to receive in connection with the Biogen Idec agreement, or our estimated period of performance. In October 2013 and November 2013, we received research milestone payments totaling \$0.3 million under the August 2012 collaboration and license agreement.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

In August 2014, we entered into a new collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec to collaborate on *microRNA* biomarkers for MS and simultaneously executed an agreement terminating the August 2012 collaboration and license agreement. As a result of the termination agreement, we recognized \$0.1 million in deferred revenue associated with the upfront payment, as our estimated period of performance was complete. Pursuant to the terms of the August 2014 collaboration and license agreement, we received an upfront payment of \$2.0 million in August 2014. We are also eligible to receive research-based milestone payments up to an aggregate of \$0.7 million. We determined that the elements within the August 2014 collaboration and license agreement should be treated as a single unit of accounting because the delivered element, the license, does not have stand-alone value to Biogen Idec. As a result, we are recognizing revenue relating to the upfront payment of \$2.0 million on a straight-line basis over the estimated period of performance, which is approximately one year based on the expected term of the research and development plan.

We have evaluated the contingent event-based payments under our collaboration and license agreement with Biogen Idec and determined that the research payments meet the definition of substantive milestones. Accordingly, revenue for these achievements will be recognized in their entirety in the period when the milestone is achieved and collectability is reasonably assured. As of December 31, 2014, deferred revenue associated with the collaboration and license agreement was \$1.2 million which we are expecting to recognize over the remaining contractual term and corresponding estimated period of performance of approximately seven months.

**6. Property and Equipment, net**

The following table summarizes our major classes of property and equipment (in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Laboratory equipment	\$ 6,394	\$ 5,342
Computer equipment and software	266	114
Furniture and fixtures	119	119
Leasehold improvements	1,899	1,805
Construction in progress	43	119
	8,721	7,499
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(5,153)	(3,731)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 3,568	\$ 3,768

Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment of \$1.4 million, \$1.3 million and \$0.9 million was recorded for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

**7. Intangible Assets, net**

The following table summarizes our major classes of intangible assets (in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Patents	\$ 1,067	\$ 960
Licenses	379	404
	1,446	1,364
Accumulated amortization	(296)	(236)
Intangibles, net	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,128

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

Intangible asset amortization of \$0.1 million was recorded for each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Amortization of these intangible assets over the next five years is expected to be approximately \$0.1 million per year.

**8. Commitments and Contingencies****Operating Lease**

We lease office and laboratory space located in] La Jolla, California (the Facility ) for our corporate headquarters and research facility under an operating lease agreement (the Lease ). The Lease commenced in July 2010 and provides office and laboratory space, expiring in June 2017. In November 2012, we amended the Lease to expand our laboratory and office space Lease payments for this additional space began October 2013. We also have two options to extend the lease for successive three-year periods.

In connection with the inception of the Lease, we were provided tenant incentives of \$0.1 million which was used to construct a leasehold improvement. In addition, we were provided and fully utilized a tenant improvement allowance of approximately \$0.6 million, which was used to fund additional leasehold improvements. In January 2011, the Lease was amended to memorialize the payback of the allowance into our base rent. In conjunction with the amendment of the Lease in November 2012, we were provided an additional tenant improvement allowance of approximately \$0.7 million, which was utilized in 2013 to fund leasehold improvements in the newly occupied space. We are obligated to repay our landlord the tenant improvement allowance, plus interest at a fixed rate of 8%, on a monthly basis over the remaining term of the Lease. The future minimum payment summary below includes our amended base rents over the remaining period of the lease agreement.

Cumulative rent to be paid over the lease term is being amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the Lease. Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was approximately \$0.7 million, \$0.7million and \$0.6 million, respectively. We account for the difference between the minimum lease payments and the straight-line amount as deferred rent. Deferred rent included in other long-term liabilities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was approximately \$0.7 million and \$0.9 million, respectively. The tenant incentive obligation balance at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was approximately \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. We also pay property taxes, maintenance and insurance, which are expensed as incurred.

As of December 31, 2014, future annual minimum lease payments for our operating leases are as follows (in thousands):

2015	1,251
2016	1,324
2017	681
Thereafter	



**License Agreements**

We have license agreements with third parties that require us to make annual license maintenance payments and future payments upon the success of licensed products that include milestones and/or royalties. Minimum future payments over the next five years are not material.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**9. Convertible Note Payable**

As part of our strategic alliance with GSK established in April 2008, we issued a three-year convertible note in exchange for \$5.0 million ( 2008 GSK Note ). In February 2010 and in connection with the subsequent expansion of that strategic alliance, we issued a convertible promissory note in exchange for \$5.0 million ( 2010 GSK Note ).

*2012 Amendment of the 2008 GSK Note*

In July 2012, we amended and restated the 2008 GSK Note. We accounted for the amended and restated note as a debt modification. The amended and restated note provided that the principal amount plus interest under the note will, upon completion of our initial public offering in which we receive a minimum level of proceeds from new investors or that results in certain of our current stockholders together owning less than 50% of our voting securities, automatically convert into shares of our common stock at the initial public offering price. The \$5.0 million note plus accrued interest converted into 1,447,037 shares of our common stock upon the closing of our initial public offering in October 2012 at a conversion price of \$4.00 per share.

*2012 Amendment of the 2010 GSK Note*

In July 2012, we amended and restated the 2010 GSK Note, which resulted in a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes. Concurrently with the debt extinguishment, we elected the fair value option for the 2010 GSK Note. The amended and restated 2010 GSK Note provided for a rollover into a new promissory note, effective as of the closing date of a qualifying initial public offering (the Post-IPO GSK Note ). In October 2012, upon our initial public offering, the Post-IPO GSK Note was established in the principal amount of \$5.4 million, which was equivalent to the original principal amount of \$5.0 million plus accrued but unpaid interest of approximately \$0.4 million. The 2010 GSK Note was simultaneously cancelled and obligations thereto were terminated. We valued the 2010 GSK Note at July 2012, September 2012 and at the extinguishment date. We recorded a \$1.7 million loss on extinguishment of debt (the difference between the original \$5.0 million carrying value and the then fair value) in July 2012. In subsequent periods, changes in fair value have been recorded on a quarterly basis in non-operating earnings (see Note 4).

The Post-IPO GSK Note has a maturity date of three years from the anniversary date of the agreement, or October 2015. At GSK's option, the Post-IPO GSK Note shall be convertible into shares of common stock of Regulus at any time prior to the maturity date with a conversion equal to the quotient of all outstanding principal and interest divided by the initial public offering price of \$4.00 per share. We recorded a loss from change in value of the Post-IPO GSK Note of \$12.1 million, \$1.1 million and \$3.0 million on the statements of operations and comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the fair value of the Post-IPO GSK Note was \$23.4 million and \$11.3 million, respectively, and is classified as Convertible note payable, at fair value on the balance sheet. See Note 15.

*Note payable to Biogen Idec*

In August 2012, we entered into a note purchase agreement with Biogen Idec, pursuant to which we issued Biogen Idec a convertible promissory note in the principal amount of \$5.0 million. The \$5.0 million note plus accrued interest

converted into 1,256,232 shares of our common stock upon the closing of our initial public offering in October 2012 at a conversion price of \$4.00 per share.

**Table of Contents**

**Regulus Therapeutics Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**10. Convertible Preferred Stock, Common Stock and Stockholders Deficit**

**Reverse stock split**

On September 7, 2012, our board of directors approved a one-for-two reverse stock split of our common stock. The accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements give retroactive effect to the reverse split of our common stock for all periods presented.

**Convertible Preferred Stock**

As of December 31, 2012, all Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock had converted to common stock in conjunction with the initial public offering. Following our initial public offering, we filed an amended and restated certificate of incorporation to authorize 10,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock. No shares of Preferred Stock were outstanding as of December 31, 2014.

**Public Offerings**

In October 2012, we completed our initial public offering whereby we issued and sold 11,250,000 shares of common stock at a public offering price of \$4.00 per share, resulting in net proceeds to the Company of \$39.5 million. Concurrently with the completion of our initial public offering, we sold 6,250,000 shares of common stock in a private placement to AstraZeneca at the initial public offering price of \$4.00 per share, resulting in net proceeds to the Company of \$25.0 million. The 2008 GSK Note and the Biogen Idec 2012 Note automatically converted upon the closing of our initial public offering into an aggregate of 2,703,269 shares of our common stock. Upon the closing of the initial public offering, all shares of the Company's then-outstanding convertible preferred stock automatically converted into an aggregate of 13,699,999 shares of common stock. Underwriters for our initial public offering exercised an over-allotment option to purchase 1,480,982 additional shares of our common stock at \$4.00 per share, resulting in net proceeds of \$5.5 million. Inclusive of the initial public offering, underwriters' exercise of their over-allotment option and concurrent private placement, we raised a total of \$70.0 million in net proceeds after deducting underwriter discounts, commissions and other offering expenses.

In July 2013, we completed a public offering whereby we sold 5,175,000 shares of common stock at \$9.50 per share and received net proceeds of \$45.8 million, after deducting underwriting discounts, commissions and other offering expenses.

In November 2014, we completed a public offering of 6,088,235 shares of common stock at an offering price of \$17.00 per share. This offering included the sale of 4,808,824 shares of common stock by us and 1,279,411 shares of common stock held by Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ( Isis ), including the full exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional shares. We received net proceeds of \$76.3 million after deducting underwriting discounts, commissions and other offering expenses. We did not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock by Isis.

**Common Stock**

Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

As of December 31, 2014, there were 48,944,530 shares of common stock outstanding. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote. The holders of the common stock are also entitled to receive dividends whenever funds are legally available and when declared by our Board of Directors.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements****Shares Reserved for Future Issuance**

The following shares of common stock are reserved for future issuance at December 31, 2014:

Common stock options outstanding	6,643,220
Common stock options available for future grant	330,499
Employee Stock Purchase Plan	840,071
Convertible note payable (Post-IPO GSK Note)	1,461,474
<b>Total common shares reserved for future issuance</b>	<b>9,275,264</b>

The following table summarizes our stock option activity under the 2012 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2014 (in thousands, except per share and contractual term data):

	<b>Number of options</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price</b>	<b>Weighted average remaining contractual term (in years)</b>	<b>Aggregate intrinsic value</b>
Options outstanding at December 31, 2013	5,598	\$ 3.69		
Granted	2,317	\$ 12.62		
Exercised	(1,006)	\$ 2.22		
Canceled/forfeited/expired	(266)	\$ 5.55		
<b>Options outstanding at December 31, 2014</b>	<b>6,643</b>	<b>\$ 6.95</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>\$ 62,535</b>
Vested or expected to vest at December 31, 2014	6,196	\$ 6.70	7.8	\$ 59,726
<b>Exercisable at December 31, 2014</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>\$ 2.48</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>\$ 31,966</b>

The weighted average grant date fair value per share of employee stock options granted during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$8.37, \$4.14 and \$2.97, respectively.

The total intrinsic value of stock options exercised was \$12.1 million, \$5.7 million and \$0.8 million during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Cash received from the exercise of stock options was approximately \$2.2 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012,

respectively.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The following table summarizes the weighted average assumptions used to estimate the fair value of stock options and performance stock awards granted to employees under our 2012 Equity Incentive Plan and the shares purchasable under our 2012 Employee Stock Purchase Plan during the periods presented:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Stock Options:</b>			
Risk-free interest rate	1.8%	1.9%	0.9%
Expected dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Expected volatility	74.3%	72.4%	73.4%
Expected term (years)	6.1	6.1	6.1
<b>Performance Stock Options:</b>			
Risk-free interest rate	2.11%		
Expected dividend yield	0.0%		
Expected volatility	69.6%		
Expected term (years)	6.3		
<b>Employee stock purchase plan shares:</b>			
Risk-free interest rate	0.1%	0.1%	
Expected dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	
Expected volatility	69.8%	58.8%	
Expected term (years)	0.5	0.5	

*Risk-free interest rate* The risk-free interest rate assumption is based on observed interest rates appropriate for the expected term of the stock option grants.

*Expected dividend yield* The expected dividend yield assumption is based on the fact that we have never paid cash dividends and have no present intention to pay cash dividends.

*Expected volatility* The expected volatility assumption is based on volatilities of a peer group of similar companies whose share prices are publicly available. The peer group was developed based on companies in the biotechnology industry.

*Expected term* The expected term represents the period of time that options are expected to be outstanding. Because we do not have historic exercise behavior, we determine the expected life assumption using the simplified method, which is an average of the contractual term of the option and its ordinary vesting period.

*Forfeitures* We reduce stock-based compensation expense for estimated forfeitures. Forfeitures are estimated at the time of grant based upon historical information and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. Our estimated forfeiture rates ranged from 5% to 8% for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.



Stock-based compensation is reflected in the statement of operations and comprehensive loss as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Research and development	\$ 3,939	\$ 2,246	\$ 912
General and administrative	3,100	1,176	638
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,039</b>	<b>\$ 3,422</b>	<b>\$ 1,550</b>

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The total compensation cost related to non-vested awards not yet recognized was \$17.4 million as of December 31, 2014. The weighted-average period over which this expense is expected to be recognized is approximately 1.9 years.

**Employee Stock Purchase Plan**

In October 2012, we adopted the 2012 Employee Stock Purchase Plan ( 2012 Purchase Plan ), which enables participants to contribute up to 15% of such participant's eligible compensation during a defined six-month period to purchase our common stock. The purchase price of common stock under the 2012 Purchase Plan will be the lesser of: (i) 85% of the fair market value of our common stock at the inception of the enrollment period or (ii) 85% of the fair market value of our common stock at the applicable purchase date. We issued 38,085 shares of common stock under the 2012 Purchase Plan for the year ended December 31, 2014. As of December 31, 2014 86,120 shares of our common stock were issued and 840,071 of our common stock were reserved for future issuance and have been authorized for purchase under the 2012 Purchase Plan.

**11. Defined Contribution Plan**

In 2009, we established an employee 401(k) salary deferral plan ( 401(k) Plan ) covering all eligible employees. Active employees who are at least 18 years old and are not otherwise disqualified under the terms of the 401(k) Plan are eligible to participate. Employees may contribute up to 50% of their compensation per year (subject to a maximum limit prescribed by federal tax law). Under the 401(k) Plan, we may elect to match a discretionary percentage of employee contributions. We have elected to match 25% of employees' contributions up to 6% of the employees' eligible salary. We made \$0.1 million in matching contributions for each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

**12. Income Taxes**

The following table summarizes the components of our income tax (benefit) expense (in thousands):

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Current:</b>			
Federal	\$	\$	\$
State	1	1	1
	1	1	1
<b>Deferred:</b>			
Federal		(20)	(9)
State		(4)	(2)

		(24)	(11)
Income tax (benefit) expense	\$ 1	\$ (23)	\$ (10)

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The following is a reconciliation of the expected statutory federal income tax provision to our actual income tax provision (in thousands):

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Expected income tax benefit at federal statutory tax rate	\$ (19,271)	\$ (6,355)	\$ (5,923)
State income taxes, net of federal benefit	(2,348)	(1,090)	(1,016)
Tax credits	(3,307)	(2,406)	(423)
Change in fair value of convertible note payable	4,120	456	1,183
Loss on debt extinguishment			692
Change in valuation allowance	20,047	9,026	5,386
Prior year true-up	(92)	(235)	(368)
Stock compensation	902	667	463
Other	(51)	(86)	(4)
Income tax (benefit) expense	\$ 1	\$ (23)	\$ (10)

The following table summarizes the significant components of our deferred tax assets and liabilities (in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryovers	\$ 34,954	\$ 17,460
Research and development and other tax credits	8,732	4,727
Deferred revenue	1,919	3,999
Intangibles and property and equipment basis difference	2,029	1,796
Other	2,461	1,297
Total deferred tax assets	50,095	29,279
Total deferred tax liabilities	(1,670)	(973)
Net deferred tax asset	48,425	28,306
Valuation allowance	(48,425)	(28,306)
Net deferred tax asset	\$	\$

For all periods presented, we have determined that it is more likely than not that our deferred tax asset will not be realized. Accordingly, we have recorded a valuation allowance to fully offset the net deferred tax asset of

\$48.4 million.

As of December 31, 2014, we had federal and California tax net operating loss carryforwards of \$95.4 million and \$104.6 million, respectively, which both begin to expire in 2031. At December 31, 2014, approximately \$9.0 million of the net operating loss carryforwards relate to stock option exercises, which will result in an increase to additional paid-in capital and a decrease in income taxes payable at the time when the tax loss carryforwards are utilized. As of December 31, 2014, we also had federal and California research and development tax credit carryforwards of \$7.1 million and \$4.4 million, respectively. The federal research and development tax credit carryforwards will begin to expire in 2029. The California research and development tax credit carryforwards are available indefinitely. As of December 31, 2014, we also had \$0.2 million of Federal Alternative Minimum Tax Credit carryforwards that are available indefinitely.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The future utilization of our research and development credit carryforwards and net operating loss carryforwards to offset future taxable income may be subject to an annual limitation as a result of ownership changes that have occurred previously or may occur in the future. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 (the Act) limits a company's ability to utilize certain tax credit carryforwards and net operating loss carryforwards in the event of a cumulative change in ownerships in excess of 50% as defined in the Act.

The following table summarizes the changes in the amount of our unrecognized tax benefits (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Beginning balance of unrecognized tax benefits	\$ 1,092	\$ 569	\$ 406
Increase (decrease) for prior year tax positions	(73)	137	50
Increase for current year tax positions	834	386	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,853</b>	<b>\$ 1,092</b>	<b>\$ 569</b>

Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2014, is \$1.5 million that, if recognized, would not impact our income tax benefit or effective tax rate as long as our deferred tax asset remains subject to a full valuation allowance. We do not expect any significant increases or decreases to our unrecognized tax benefits within the next 12 months.

We are subject to taxation in the United States and California. Our tax years for 2009 and forward are subject to examination by the U.S. tax authorities and our tax years for 2009 and forward are subject to examination by the California tax authorities due to carryforward of unutilized net operating losses and research and development credits.

It is our practice to recognize interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, we have not recognized any interest or penalties related to income taxes.

**13. Related-Party Transactions**

We have entered into several agreements with related parties in the ordinary course of business to license intellectual property and to procure administrative and research and development support services.

In August 2013, we entered into an amendment to the Amended and Restated License and Collaboration Agreement with Isis and Alnylam dated January 1, 2009, as amended in June 2010 and October 2011 (as amended, the Amendment). Under the terms of the Amendment, the parties agreed to our use of certain Alnylam-controlled intellectual property concerning the use and manufacture of GalNAc conjugates (GalNAc Process Technology) on a non-exclusive basis. We will generally not be permitted to sublicense or otherwise transfer the GalNAc Process Technology and other Alnylam licensed intellectual property rights relating to GalNAc conjugate technology without

the prior written consent of Alynham, subject to certain limited exceptions for sublicenses to third party collaboration partners. There were no financial terms related to this Amendment.

**Table of Contents****Regulus Therapeutics Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements**

The following table summarizes the amounts included in our operating expenses as a result of costs incurred from services provided under the Services Agreement (in thousands):

	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Services performed or out-of-pocket expenses paid to Alnylam	\$	\$ 550	\$ 2

In September 2014, we entered into an agreement with Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH ( Sanofi Deutschland ), a contract manufacturing subsidiary of Sanofi, for the manufacture of certain drug substance requirements and other services to support our preclinical and clinical activities associated with the RG-012 program. We have not purchased any materials as of December 31, 2014.

**14. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)**

The following financial information reflects all normal recurring adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair statement of the results of the interim periods. Summarized quarterly data for 2014 and 2013 are as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	<b>For the quarters ending</b>			
	<b>March 31</b>	<b>June 30</b>	<b>September 30</b>	<b>December 31</b>
<b>2014:</b>				
Revenues	\$ 1,631	\$ 736	\$ 1,083	\$ 4,219
Operating expenses	12,336	13,749	12,742	13,752
Net loss	(12,741)	(11,973)	(9,798)	(22,168)
Basic net loss per share(1)	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.28)	\$ (0.23)	\$ (0.47)
Diluted net loss per share(1)(2)	\$ (0.30)	\$ (0.29)	\$ (0.26)	\$ (0.47)
<b>2013:</b>				
Revenues	\$ 3,238	\$ 4,759	\$ 6,118	\$ 5,454
Operating expenses	8,788	9,445	9,023	10,116
Net loss	(7,229)	(7,348)	(2,164)	(1,927)
Basic and diluted net loss per share(1)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.05)
Diluted net loss per share(1)(2)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (0.07)	\$ (0.11)

(1) Net loss per share is computed independently for each of the quarters presented. Therefore, the sum of the quarterly per-share calculations will not necessarily equal the annual per share calculation.

(2)



Applicable accounting standards provides that a contract (such as the Post-IPO GSK Note) that is reported as an asset or liability for accounting purposes may require an adjustment to the numerator of the diluted earnings per share calculation for any changes in income or loss that would result if the contract had been reported as an equity instrument during the period. For these periods, adjustments were made to the numerator of the diluted earnings per share calculation to adjust net loss to remove the gain from the change in value of the convertible note payable. Adjustments to the denominator were made to add the number of shares to be issued upon conversion of the convertible note payable.

#### **15. Subsequent Events**

In January 2015, the Company and GSK agreed to convert the Post-IPO GSK Note in an amount equivalent to its principal amount of \$5.4 million into 1,356,738 shares of our common stock, at a conversion price of \$4.00 per share.

## **Table of Contents**

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

None

### **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our periodic and current reports that we file with the SEC is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In reaching a reasonable level of assurance, management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. In addition, the design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

As of December 31, 2014, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act. Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of December 31, 2014.

#### **Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As of December 31, 2014, our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting using the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013 Framework). Based on this assessment, our management concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria.

#### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in management's evaluation pursuant to Rules 13a-15(d) or 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act during the quarter ended December 31, 2014 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.



**Table of Contents**

**Item 9B. Other Information**

On February 13, 2015, our Board of Directors appointed David L. Szekeres, our Chief Business Officer and General Counsel, as our principal financial and accounting officer, replacing Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D., in such capacities. Mr. Szekeres will retain his current title of Chief Business Officer and General Counsel. Mr. Szekeres, age 41, has served as our Chief Business Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since February 2014. From 2008 to February 2014, Mr. Szekeres served as the Deputy General Counsel, Chief M&A Counsel and Assistant Secretary at Life Technologies Corporation (acquired by Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. in February 2014), a publicly-held life sciences company, where he led numerous corporate transactions and was responsible for a myriad of legal functions during a time of significant growth for Life Technologies in the areas of corporate transactions, corporate governance, and SEC reporting and compliance. From 2001 to 2008, Mr. Szekeres held positions of increasing responsibility at a number of law firms, including Latham & Watkins LLP, O Melveny & Myers LLP and Dechert LLP. From 2000 to 2001, Mr. Szekeres was a senior associate in the investment banking group at Robertson Stephens. Mr. Szekeres has served as a member of the board of directors of Annai Systems Inc., a privately-held genomics data company, since January 2014 and the San Diego chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, an association for in-house counsel, since February 2010. Mr. Szekeres holds a B.A. from the University of California at Irvine and a J.D. from Duke University.

**Table of Contents**

**PART III**

**Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

The information required by this item and not set forth below will be set forth in the section headed Election of Directors and Executive Officers in our Proxy Statement for our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or Proxy Statement, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, and is incorporated herein by reference.

We have adopted a code of ethics for directors, officers (including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer) and employees, known as the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at <http://www.regulusrx.com> under the Corporate Governance section of our Investor Relations page. We will promptly disclose on our website (i) the nature of any amendment to the policy that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions and (ii) the nature of any waiver, including an implicit waiver, from a provision of the policy that is granted to one of these specified individuals that is required to be disclosed pursuant to SEC rules and regulations, the name of such person who is granted the waiver and the date of the waiver.

**Item 11. Executive Compensation**

The information required by this item will be set forth in the section headed Executed Compensation in our Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

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

The information required by this item will be set forth under the heading Equity Compensation Plan Information in our Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information required by Item 201(d) of Regulation S-K will be set forth in the section headed Executive Compensation in our Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

The information required by this item will be set forth in the section headed Transactions With Related Persons in our Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

The information required by this item will be set forth in the section headed Ratification of Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm in our Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.



**Table of Contents**

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

1. *Financial Statements.* We have filed the following documents as part of this Annual Report:

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	68
<u>Balance Sheets</u>	69
<u>Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss</u>	70
<u>Statements of Convertible Preferred Stock and Stockholders' Equity (Deficit)</u>	71
<u>Statements of Cash Flows</u>	72
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	73

2. *Financial Statement Schedules.* None.

3. *Exhibits.* For a list of exhibits filed with this Annual Report on Form 10-K, refer to the exhibit index beginning on page 101

**Table of Contents****SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Annual Report on Form 10-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Regulus Therapeutics Inc.

Date: February 18, 2015

By: /s/ Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos  
Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D.

President & Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. and David L. Szekeres as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, and each of them, with full power of substitution, for him or her in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact, and either of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Annual Report on Form 10-K has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos	Director, President & Chief Executive Officer	
Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D.	(Principal Executive Officer)	February 18, 2015
/s/ David L. Szekeres	Chief Business Officer and General Counsel	
David L. Szekeres	(Principal Financial Officer)	February 18, 2015
/s/ Stelios Papadopoulos		
Stelios Papadopoulos, Ph.D.	Chairman of the Board of Directors	February 18, 2015
/s/ David Baltimore		
David Baltimore, Ph.D.	Director	February 18, 2015



Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

/s/ Bruce L.A. Carter

Bruce L.A. Carter, Ph.D.                      Director    February 18, 2015

/s/ Mark G. Foletta

Mark G. Foletta                                  Director    February 18, 2015

/s/ B. Lynne Parshall

B. Lynne Parshall                                Director    February 18, 2015

**Table of Contents**

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ William H. Rastetter William H. Rastetter, Ph.D.	Director	February 18, 2015
/s/ Douglas E. Williams Douglas E. Williams, Ph.D.	Director	February 18, 2015

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on October 11, 2012).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on December 5, 2014).
4.1	Reference is made to Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2.
4.2	Form of Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.1*	Form of Indemnity Agreement between the Registrant and its directors and officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.2*	Regulus Therapeutics Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended, and Form of Stock Option Grant Notice, Option Agreement and Form of Notice of Exercise (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.3*	2012 Equity Incentive Plan and Form of Stock Option Agreement and Form of Stock Option Grant Notice thereunder (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.4*	Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2014).
10.5*	2012 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended, originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.6*	Amended and Restated Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D., dated September 19, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on September 19, 2014).
10.7*	Amended and Restated Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Neil W. Gibson, Ph.D., dated September 19, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on September 19, 2014).
10.8*	Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Paul C. Grint, M.D., dated June 16, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2014, filed with the SEC on August 7, 2014).
10.9*	Amended and Restated Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Paul C. Grint, M.D., dated September 19, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on September 19, 2014).

Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

- 10.10\* Employment Agreement between the Registrant and David Szekeres, dated February 4, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2014).
- 10.11\* Amended and Restated Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and David L. Szekeres, dated September 19, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on September 19, 2014).

**Table of Contents****Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.12*	Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. Yearly Discretionary Base Salary Increase, effective January 1, 2015.
10.13*	Neil W. Gibson, Ph.D. Yearly Discretionary Merit Bonus Percentage Increase, effective January 1, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2014).
10.14*	Neil W. Gibson, Ph.D. Yearly Discretionary Base Salary Increase, effective January 1, 2015.
10.15*	Paul Grint, M.D., Yearly Discretionary Base Salary Increase, effective January 1, 2015.
10.16*	David L. Szekeres, Yearly Discretionary Base Salary Increase, effective January 1, 2015.
10.17	Lease between the Registrant and BMR-John Hopkins Court LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, dated March 19, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.18	First Amendment to Lease between the Registrant and BMR-John Hopkins Court LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, dated April 26, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.19	Second Amendment to Lease between the Registrant and BMR-John Hopkins Court LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, dated January 26, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.20	Third Amendment to Lease between the Registrant and BMR-3545-3575 John Hopkins LP, a Delaware limited partnership (formerly known as BMR-John Hopkins Court LLC), dated February 27, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.21	Fourth Amendment to Lease between the Registrant and BMR-3545-3575 John Hopkins LP, a Delaware limited partnership (formerly known as BMR-John Hopkins Court LLC), dated November 19, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 19, 2013).
10.22	Founding Investor Rights Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated January 1, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.23	Amendment Number One to the Founding Investor Rights Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated June 7, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.24	Amendment Number Two to the Founding Investor Rights Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated October 27, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No.

333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).

10.25

Amended and Restated License and Collaboration Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated January 1, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).

**Table of Contents****Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.26	Amendment Number One to the Amended and Restated License and Collaboration Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated June 10, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.27	Amendment Number Two to the Amended and Restated License and Collaboration Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated October 25, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.28	Co-Exclusive License Agreement among the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated August 31, 2005 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.29	Assignment Agreement between the Registrant and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated July 13, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.30	License Agreement between the Registrant and Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH, dated June 5, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.31	Amended and Restated License Agreement among Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH, the Registrant, Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated April 18, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.32	Exclusive Patent License Agreement between the Registrant and Bayerische Patent Allianz GmbH, dated May 18, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.33	Non-Exclusive Technology Alliance and Option Agreement between the Registrant and Sanofi, dated June 21, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.34	Amendment Number Three to the Founding Investor Rights Agreement among the Registrant, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated July 24, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.35	Collaboration and License Agreement between the Registrant and AstraZeneca AB, dated August 14, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).
10.36	Common Stock Purchase Agreement between the Registrant and AstraZeneca AB, dated August 14, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-183384), originally filed with the SEC on August 17, 2012).

Edgar Filing: Regulus Therapeutics Inc. - Form 10-K

- 10.37 Investor Rights Agreement, dated October 10, 2012, between AstraZeneca AB and the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on October 11, 2012).
- 10.38 Amendment No. 1 (to Collaboration and License Agreement) between the Registrant and AstraZeneca AB, dated April 30, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.49 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-189607), originally filed with the SEC on June 26, 2013).



**Table of Contents****Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.39	Amendment Number Three to the Amended and Restated License and Collaboration Agreement among the Company, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated August 2, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on August 7, 2013).
10.40	Second Amended and Restated Collaboration and License Agreement dated February 5, 2014 between the Registrant and Sanofi (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.54 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2014).
10.41	Common Stock Purchase Agreement dated February 5, 2014 between the Registrant and Aventis Holdings Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 5, 2014).
10.42	Registration Rights Agreement dated February 5, 2014 between the Registrant and Aventis Holdings Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 5, 2014).
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24.1	Power of Attorney. Reference is made to the signature page hereto.
31.1	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
31.2	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
32.1**	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

We have received confidential treatment for certain portions of this agreement, which have been omitted and filed separately with the SEC pursuant to Rule 406 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or Rule 24b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

\* Indicates management contract or compensatory plan.

\*\* This certification is being furnished solely to accompany this annual report pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, and is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Registrant, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.