Cyclacel Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Form 10-K
April 01, 2013
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

OR

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

Commission file number 00-50626

CYCLACEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	**91-1707622** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
200 Connell Drive **Suite 1500** **Berkeley Heights, New Jersey** (Address of principal executive offices)	**07922** (Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: **(908) 517-7330**

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, $0.001 par value	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Preferred Stock, $0.001 par value	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None.**

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

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

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 x No o

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 o No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S- K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendments to this Form 10-K o.

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 the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer o	Accelerated filer o
Non-accelerated filer o [Do not check if a smaller reporting company]	Smaller reporting company x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No x

The aggregate market value of the registrant s voting and non-voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant (without admitting that any person whose shares are not included in such calculation is an affiliate), as of June 30, 2012 (based upon the closing sale price of $3.22 of such shares on The NASDAQ Global Market on June 30, 2012) was $27,140,565.

As of March 29, 2013, there were 10,831,779 shares of the registrant s common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents (or parts thereof) are incorporated by reference into the following parts of the Form 10-K: Certain information required in Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated from the Registrant s Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on or about May 22, 2013.

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PART I

Item 1. Business

The following Business Section contains forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain risks, uncertainties and other factors including the risk factors set forth in Part I, Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. In this report, Cyclacel, the Company, we, us, and our refer to Cyclacel Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

General

Cyclacel are cell cycle pioneers with a vision to improve patients healthcare with orally available innovative medicines. Our goal is to develop and commercialize small-molecule drugs that target the various phases of cell cycle control for the treatment of cancer and other serious diseases, particularly those of high unmet medical need.

Our strategy is to build a diversified biopharmaceutical business focused in hematology and oncology based on a development pipeline of novel drug candidates. As a development stage enterprise, substantially all efforts of the Company to date have been devoted to performing research and development, conducting clinical trials, developing and acquiring intellectual property, raising capital and recruiting and training personnel.

Recent Developments

On August 10, 2012, we entered into an agreement with Sinclair Pharmaceuticals Limited (Sinclair) to terminate, effective September 30, 2012, the distribution agreements relating to the promotion and sale of Xclair®, Numoisyn® Lozenges and Numoisyn® Liquid (the ALIGN products).

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Drug Candidates

The cell cycle, the process by which cells progress and divide, lies at the heart of cancer. In normal cells, the cell cycle is controlled by a complex series of signaling pathways by which a cell grows, replicates its DNA and divides. This process also includes mechanisms to ensure errors are corrected, and if not, the cells commit suicide or apoptosis. In cancer, as a result of genetic mutations, this regulatory process malfunctions, resulting in uncontrolled cell proliferation.

We have generated several families of anticancer drugs that act on the cell cycle including sapacitabine and seliciclib. We believe that these drug candidates are differentiated in that they are orally-available and interact with unique target profiles and mechanisms and have the potential to treat multiple cancer indications.

Our lead candidate, sapacitabine, is an orally-available prodrug of CNDAC, which is a novel nucleoside analog, or a compound with a structure similar to a nucleoside. A prodrug is a compound that has a therapeutic effect after it is metabolized within the body. CNDAC has a significantly longer residence time in the blood when it is produced in the body through metabolism of sapacitabine than when it is given directly. Sapacitabine acts through a novel mechanism whereby it interferes with DNA synthesis and repair by causing single-strand DNA breaks (SSBs) which can induce arrest of the cell division cycle at the G2/M checkpoint. During subsequent rounds of replication SSBs are converted to double-strand DNA breaks which may be repaired by the homologous recombination (HRR) pathway, or, if unrepaired, result in cell death. A number of nucleoside drugs, such as gemcitabine, or Gemzar®, from Eli Lilly, and cytarabine, also known as Ara-C, a generic drug, are in wide use as conventional chemotherapies. Both sapacitabine and its major metabolite, CNDAC, have demonstrated potent anti-tumor activity in both blood and solid tumors in preclinical studies. In a liver metastatic mouse model, sapacitabine was shown to be superior to gemcitabine and fluorouracil, or 5-FU, two widely used nucleoside analogs, in delaying the onset and growth of liver metastasis. We hold the worldwide rights to commercialize sapacitabine, except for Japan, for which Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd., or Daiichi Sankyo, has a right of first negotiation.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, and the European Medicines Agency, or EMA, have designated sapacitabine as an orphan drug for the treatment of both Acute Myeloid Leukemia, or AML, and Myelodysplastic Syndromes, or MDS.

We are currently evaluating sapacitabine in a Phase 3 study being conducted under a Special Protocol Assessment, or SPA, with the FDA for the front-line treatment of AML in the elderly. We are also exploring sapacitabine in Phase 2 studies for MDS, non-small cell lung cancer, or NSCLC, and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or CLL and in a Phase 1 study in solid tumors in combination with our own drug candidate, seliciclib. To date sapacitabine has been evaluated in over 500 patients.

In our second development program we are evaluating cyclin dependent kinase, or CDK, inhibitors. CDKs are involved in cancer cell growth, metastatic spread and DNA damage repair. Seliciclib, our lead CDK inhibitor, selectively inhibits a spectrum of enzyme targets - CDK2/E, CDK2/A, CDK7 and CDK9 - that are central to the process of cell division and cell cycle control. In breast and lung tumors overexpression of cyclin E is associated with poor prognosis and drug resistance. Resistant breast and lung tumor cell lines overexpressing cyclin E are resensitized to apoptotic cell killing by seliciclib. NSCLC cell lines with Ras-activating mutations, such as KRAS and NRAS, have been found to be sensitive to seliciclib-induced apoptosis. To date, seliciclib has been evaluated in approximately 450 patients in several Phase 1 and 2 studies and has shown signs of anti-cancer activity. We have retained worldwide rights to commercialize seliciclib. Seliciclib has completed a Phase 2B randomized study in third-line NSCLC and is currently undergoing a study in solid tumors in combination with our own drug candidate, sapacitabine.

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Our second generation CDK inhibitor, CYC065, is a highly selective inhibitor of CDK s targeting CDK -2, -5 and -9 enzymesCYC065 has shown to have increased anti-proliferative potency and improved pharmaceutical properties compared to seliciclib. Investigational new drug (IND)-enabling studies with CYC065 are in progress supported by a $1.9 million grant from the UK Government s Biomedical Catalyst.

In addition to these development programs, we have allocated limited resources, if the funds are available, to other programs allowing us to maintain and build on our core competency in cell cycle biology and related drug discovery. In our polo-like kinase, or Plk inhibitor program, we have discovered potent and selective small molecule inhibitors of Plk1, a kinase active during cell division, targeting the mitotic phase of the cell cycle. Plk was discovered by Professor David Glover, our Chief Scientist, and CYC116, an orally-available inhibitor of Aurora kinase, or AK, A and B and Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor 2, or VEGFR2, has completed a multicenter Phase 1 trial.

We also have a number of earlier stage programs for which limited or no resources will be allocated in the foreseeable future. For example, extensive preclinical data published by independent investigators evidence activity by our CDK inhibitors, including seliciclib, in various autoimmune and inflammatory diseases and conditions associated with aberrant cell proliferation including graft-versus-host disease, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, lupus nephritis, polycystic kidney disease and rheumatoid arthritis. In our GSK-3 inhibitor program, we have demonstrated evidence of activity in preclinical models of Type 2 Diabetes.

Lead Development Programs

Our pipeline and expertise in cell cycle biology

Our core area of expertise is in cell cycle biology and we focus primarily on the development of orally-available anticancer agents that target the cell cycle with the aim of slowing the progression or shrinking the size of tumors, and enhancing the quality of life and improving survival rates of cancer patients.

We have retained rights to commercialize our clinical development candidates and our business strategy is to enter into selective partnership arrangements with these programs.

Oncology Development Programs

We have generated several families of anticancer drugs that act on the cell cycle, including nucleoside analogues, CDK inhibitors, Plk inhibitors and AK/VEGFR2 inhibitors. In our development programs, we have been an early adopter of biomarker analysis to help evaluate whether our drug candidates are having their intended effect through their assumed mechanisms at different doses and schedules. Biomarkers are proteins or other substances whose presence in the blood can serve as an indicator or marker of diseases. Biomarker data from early clinical trials may also enable us to design subsequent trials more efficiently and to monitor patient compliance with trial protocols. For example, we have reported that sapacitabine efficacy is enhanced in homologous recombination defective tumor cell and that in a panel of esophageal cancer cell lines, sensitivity to our Plk1 inhibitor correlated with protein 53, or p53 status, which could be used as a predictive biomarker in clinical trials to

identify responders. We believe that in the longer term biomarkers may allow the selection of patients more likely to respond to our drugs in clinical trials and increase the benefit to patients.

Although a number of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are currently attempting to develop nucleoside analogues, CDK inhibitors, Plk inhibitors and AK and/or VEGFR inhibitor drugs, we believe that our drug candidates, are differentiated in that they are orally-available and demonstrate unique target profiles and mechanisms. For example, we believe that our sapacitabine is the only orally-available nucleoside analogue presently being tested in Phase 3 trials in AML and in Phase 2 for MDS.

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Research and Development Pipeline

The following table summarizes our currently active clinical and preclinical programs.

Program	Indication	Development Status	Target	Cell Cycle Mechanism
Oncology				
Sapacitabine, CYC682	Elderly AML	Phase 3 registration study on-going	DNA polymerase	G2 and S phase
Sapacitabine, CYC682	MDS	Phase 2 randomized trial on-going	DNA polymerase	G2 and S phase
Sapacitabine, CYC682	NSCLC	Phase 2 trial on-going	DNA polymerase	G2 and S phase
Sapacitabine, CYC682	CLL	Phase 2 randomized trial. Investigator-initiated study	DNA polymerase	G2 and S phase
Sapacitabine + Seliciclib	Cancer	Phase 1 trial on-going		
Seliciclib, CYC202	NSCLC	Phase 2b randomized trial. Trial closed to accrual	CDK2, 5, 7, 9	G1/S checkpoint and others
Seliciclib, CYC202	NPC	Phase 2 randomized trial. Trial closed to accrual	CDK2, 7, 9	G1/S checkpoint and others
Seliciclib, CYC065	Cancer	Preclinical	CDK2, 5, 7, 9	G1/S checkpoint and others
Plk1 Inhibitors	Cancer	Preclinical	Plk	G2/M checkpoint
Other therapeutic areas				
Cell Cycle Inhibitors	Autoimmune & Inflammatory Diseases	Phase 1 trial completed On hold. Not a company priority	CDK	G1/S checkpoint and others

Market opportunity in hematology

Cancer remains a major life-threatening disease in the United States with approximately 3.2 million people afflicted by cancer and approximately 1.4 million new cases of cancer diagnosed every year.

Acute myeloid leukemia is a cancer of the blood cells that progresses rapidly and if not treated, could be fatal in a few months. AML is generally a disease of older people and is uncommon before the age of 40. The average age of a patient with AML is about 67 years. According to the American Cancer Society approximately 44,000 cases of leukemia are diagnosed annually in the United States of which about 13,000 are classified as AML of which about half are elderly aged 70 years or older. Nearly 9,000 deaths are caused by this cancer each year in the United States. A review of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center s historical experience with front-line intensive induction chemotherapy for AML patients aged 70 years or older demonstrated that while 45% achieved a complete remission, median overall survival was only 4.6 months and was associated with a 4-week death rate of 26% and a 8-week death rate of 36%.

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Myelodysplastic syndromes, or MDS, is a family of clonal myeloid neoplasms, or malignancies of the blood, caused by the failure of blood cells in the bone marrow to develop into mature cells. Patients with MDS typically suffer from bone marrow failure and cytopenias, or reduced counts of platelets, red and white blood cells. The exact incidence and prevalence of MDS are unknown because it can go undiagnosed and a national survey canvassing both hospitals and office practitioners has not been completed. Some estimates place MDS incidence at 15,000 to 20,000 new cases each year in the US alone with some authors estimating incidence as high as 46,000. Literature suggests that there is a rising incidence of MDS as the age of the population increases with the majority of patients aged above 60 years. Patients currently receive hypomethylating agents as first-line treatment. There is no approved therapy for second-line treatment.

Sapacitabine

Sapacitabine (previously known as CYC682) is an orally-available nucleoside analogue. Both sapacitabine and CNDAC, its major metabolite, have demonstrated potent anti-tumor activity in preclinical studies. Sapacitabine is an orally-available prodrug of CNDAC, which is a novel nucleoside analog, or a compound with a structure similar to a nucleoside. A prodrug is a compound that has a therapeutic effect after it is metabolized within the body. CNDAC has a significantly longer residence time in the blood when it is produced in the body through metabolism of sapacitabine than when it is given directly. Sapacitabine acts through a novel mechanism whereby the compound interferes with DNA synthesis through the incorporation of CNDAC into DNA during replication or repair, triggering a b-elimination reaction and leading to the formation of SSBs, which can activate the G2 checkpoint transcription coupled nucleotide excision repair, or TC-NER. During subsequent rounds of replication, SSBs are converted to double-strand breaks (DSBs); these can be repaired by the homologous recombination repair (HRR) pathway, or, if unrepaired, result in cell death.

We are currently exploring sapacitabine in both hematological cancers and solid tumors and over 500 patients have received sapacitabine in Phase 1, 2 and 3 studies.

Hematological Cancers