

VICAL INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 07, 2017

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of**  
**the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Vical Incorporated**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)**

**N/A**

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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(4) Date Filed:

**VICAL INCORPORATED**

10390 Pacific Center Court

San Diego, CA 92121

(858) 646-1100

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON MAY 25, 2017**

**TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF VICAL INCORPORATED:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Vical Incorporated, a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time at the offices of Cooley LLP, 4401 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, California 92121, for the following purposes:

1. To elect two nominees named herein as Class I directors to serve until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their respective successors are elected;
2. To approve an amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the authorized number of shares of the Company's common stock from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares;
3. To amend the Company's Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of the Company's common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares;
4. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as described in the accompanying proxy statement;
5. An advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers;
6. To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2017; and
7. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this Notice.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 28, 2017, as the record date for the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date may vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Vijay B. Samant

Vijay B. Samant

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

San Diego, California

April 7, 2017

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE  
STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 25, 2017**

**THE PROXY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM](http://WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM)**

**ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE VOTE ON THE INTERNET AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS OR, IF THIS PROXY STATEMENT WAS MAILED TO YOU, COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY OR VOTE OVER THE TELEPHONE OR ON THE INTERNET AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS, AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. IF THIS PROXY STATEMENT WAS MAILED TO YOU, A RETURN ENVELOPE (WHICH IS POSTAGE PREPAID IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES) IS ENCLOSED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EVEN IF YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR PROXY, YOU MAY STILL VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD OF RECORD BY A BROKER, BANK OR OTHER AGENT AND YOU WISH TO VOTE AT THE MEETING, YOU MUST OBTAIN FROM THE RECORDHOLDER A PROXY CARD ISSUED IN YOUR NAME.**

**THANK YOU FOR ACTING PROMPTLY.**

**VICAL INCORPORATED**

10390 Pacific Center Court

San Diego, CA 92121

(858) 646-1100

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

To Be Held May 25, 2017

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING**

**Why am I receiving these materials?**

We have provided you this proxy statement and, if this proxy was mailed to you, the enclosed proxy card, because the Board of Directors of Vical Incorporated (sometimes referred to as the Company or Vical ) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting ). You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. If you have received a printed copy of these materials by mail, you may complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card or follow the instructions below to submit your proxy over the telephone or on the Internet. If you did not receive a printed copy of these materials by mail and are accessing them on the Internet, you may follow the instructions below to submit your proxy on the Internet.

We intend to mail a notice regarding the availability of proxy materials to our stockholders of record and to make this proxy statement available on or about April 7, 2017. We will pay for the cost of soliciting proxies to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**What am I voting on?**

There are six matters scheduled for a vote:

Election of the two nominees named herein as Class I directors to serve until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their respective successors are elected;

Amendment to the Company s Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the authorized number of shares of the Company s common stock from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares;

Amendment of the Company s Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of the Company s common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares;

An advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as described in this proxy statement;

An advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers; and

Ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

**Why did I receive a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials?**

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we make our proxy materials available to our stockholders on the Internet. Accordingly, we are sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") to our stockholders of record. The Notice will instruct you as to how you may access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials. The Notice also instructs you as to how you may submit your proxy on the Internet. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, including a proxy card, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice.

**Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?**

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 28, 2017, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On this record date, there were 11,095,478 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.



**Am I a stockholder of record?**

If at the close of business on March 28, 2017, your shares were registered directly in your name with Vical's transfer agent, Computershare, then you are a stockholder of record.

**What if my shares are not registered directly in my name but are held in street name?**

If at the close of business on March 28, 2017, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name and the Notice is being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct that organization on how to vote the shares in your account.

**If I am a stockholder of record of Vical shares, how do I cast my vote?**

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. We will give you a ballot when you arrive.

If you do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the Annual Meeting, you may vote by proxy. You may vote by proxy over the telephone, on the Internet, or using a proxy card that you may request or that we may elect to deliver at a later time.

The procedures for voting by proxy are as follows:

To vote by proxy on the Internet, go to <http://www.proxyvote.com> to complete an electronic proxy card.

To vote by proxy using a proxy card that may be delivered, complete, sign and date your proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you wish to request a proxy card, please follow the instructions for requesting proxy materials in the Notice.

To vote by proxy over the telephone, dial the toll-free phone number listed on a proxy card that may be delivered under the heading "Vote by Phone" and follow the recorded instructions.

If you vote by proxy, your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 24, 2017, to be counted.

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

**If I am a beneficial owner of Vical shares, how do I vote?**

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and you received a Notice by mail, you should have received the Notice from the organization that is the record owner of your shares rather than from us. Beneficial owners who received a Notice by mail from the record owner should follow the instructions included in the Notice to view the proxy statement and transmit their voting instructions. Beneficial owners who wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting must obtain a valid proxy from the record owner. To request the requisite proxy form, follow the

instructions provided by your broker or contact your broker.

**What types of votes are permitted on each proposal?**

For Proposal 1, the election of the nominees named herein as directors, you may either vote **For** each nominee to the Board of Directors or you may **Withhold** your vote for any of the nominees. For Proposal 5, the advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, you may either vote **For** one year, two years or three years or you may **Withhold** your vote for any of the frequencies. For the other matters to be voted on, you may vote **For** or **Against** or you may **Abstain** from voting. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure that your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person if you have already voted by proxy.

**How are votes counted?**

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the meeting, who will separately count, for the proposal to elect directors, votes For, Withhold and broker non-votes; for the proposal regarding the advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, For votes; and, with respect to other proposals, votes For and Against, abstentions and, if applicable, broker non-votes. Abstentions will be counted towards the vote total for each proposal, other than the proposal regarding the advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, and will have the same effect as Against votes. A broker non-vote occurs when a stockholder of record, such as a broker, holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular item because the stockholder of record does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. Broker non-votes will be counted towards the presence of a quorum but will not be counted towards the vote total for any proposal, other than the proposal to amend the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

**How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?**

For Proposal 1, the election of the nominees named herein as Class I directors, the nominees named herein receiving the most For votes (among votes properly cast in person or by proxy) will be elected. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

Proposal 2, the amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the authorized number of shares of the Company's common stock from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares, will be approved if it receives a For vote from the holders of a majority of the shares of the Company's common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. An Abstain vote and a broker non-vote will have the same effect as an Against vote.

Proposal 3, the amendment of the Company's Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of the Company's common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares, will be approved if it receives a For vote from the holders of a majority of shares either present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote. An Abstain vote will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

Proposal 4, the advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, will be approved if it receives a For vote from the holders of a majority of shares either present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote. An Abstain vote will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

For Proposal 5, the advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, the frequency receiving the highest number of affirmative votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be considered the frequency preferred by the stockholders. An Abstain vote and a broker non-vote will have no effect.

Proposal 6, the ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, will be approved if it receives a For vote from the holders of a majority of shares either present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote. An Abstain vote will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

**How many votes do I have?**

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of the Company's common stock you owned as of the close of business on March 28, 2017.

**What is the quorum requirement?**

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if at least a majority of the outstanding shares are present at the meeting or represented by proxy. At the close of business on the record date for the meeting, there were 11,095,478 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus 5,547,740 shares must be present at the Annual Meeting or represented by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy or vote at the Annual Meeting. If there is no quorum, a majority of the votes present at the Annual Meeting or represented by proxy may adjourn the Annual Meeting to another date.

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

If you received more than one Notice or proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please follow the voting instructions included in each Notice and proxy card to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

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

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted For the election of both nominees for director in Proposal 1, For Proposal 2, the amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the authorized number of shares of the Company's common stock from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares, For Proposal 3, the amendment of the Company's Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan, For Proposal 4, the advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, For one year as the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers in Proposal 5, and For Proposal 6, the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP. If any other matter is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

**Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?**

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date;

You may send a written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Vical's Corporate Secretary at 10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, CA 92121; or

You may attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

**What is the deadline to submit a proposal for inclusion in the proxy materials for the 2018 Annual Meeting?**

To be eligible for inclusion in the proxy materials for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a stockholder proposal must be received by Vical's Corporate Secretary by the close of business on December 8, 2017. Stockholder proposals should be addressed to Vical Incorporated, Attn: Corporate Secretary, 10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, CA 92121.

**What procedure should I follow if I intend to present a proposal or nominate a director from the floor at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders?**

If you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year's proxy materials, you generally must do so not less than 50 days nor more than 75 days prior to the date of our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in order for the

proposal to be considered at the meeting. If you wish to submit a director nomination for consideration at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, you must do so by delivering at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the mailing of our proxy statement for our last Annual Meeting of Stockholders a written recommendation to the Nominating/Governance Committee. All proposals and nominations must be submitted in writing to Vical Incorporated, Attn: Corporate Secretary, 10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, CA 92121. You are also advised to review the Company's Bylaws, which you may request in writing from the Company's Secretary at the address above and which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

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

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. We expect to report final voting results in a current report on Form 8-K within four business days after the Annual Meeting.

## PROPOSAL 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

We have three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. Our Board is presently composed of seven directors. Class I and Class III currently consist of two directors and Class II consists of three directors. Two Class I directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve until our 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualified or until such director's earlier resignation, removal from office, death or incapacity. The terms of the Class II and Class III directors expire at our 2018 and 2019 Annual Meetings of Stockholders, respectively.

The nominees for Class I directors are Robert C. Merton and Vijay B. Samant. They are currently directors of Vical and have been nominated for election by the Board based on the recommendation of the Nominating/Governance Committee of our Board of Directors. It is our policy to encourage all directors to attend the Annual Meeting. All of our then current directors attended our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at a meeting. The nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes of the shares represented and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be elected as directors of Vical. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the nominees named above. Shares represented by proxy cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named. In the event that any nominee should be unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, such shares will be voted for the election of such substitute nominee as our Board of Directors may propose. The persons nominated for election have agreed to serve if elected, and our management has no reason to believe that the nominees will be unavailable for election.

#### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NAMED NOMINEES.**

Set forth below is biographical information as of March 1, 2017, for the nominees and each person whose term of office as a director will continue after the Annual Meeting. There are no family relationships among our executive officers or directors.

Name	Age	Position(s) Held with Vical	Director Since
R. Gordon Douglas, M.D.	82	Chairman of the Board	May 1999
Richard M. Beleson	63	Director	May 2013
Gary A. Lyons	65	Director	March 1997
Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.	72	Director	March 2002
George J. Morrow	65	Director	October 2012
Vijay B. Samant	64	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer	November 2000
Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D.	70	Director	December 2015

#### **Nominees for Election for a Three-Year Term Expiring at the 2020 Annual Meeting**

*Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.*, is currently the School of Management Distinguished Professor of Finance at the MIT Sloan School of Management. He is also University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University and the Resident Scientist at Dimensional Holdings, Inc. Dr. Merton was the George Fisher Baker Professor of Business Administration from 1988 to 1998 and the John and Natty McArthur University Professor from 1998 to 2010 at the Harvard Business School. He previously served on the finance faculty of the MIT Sloan School of Management from 1970 until 1988. Dr. Merton received the Alfred Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1997 for a new method to determine the value of derivatives. He is a past President of the American Finance Association, a member of the National Academy of

Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Merton served as a member of the board of directors of Dimensional Funds from 2003 to 2009. Until September 2008, Dr. Merton was also a director and the Chief Science Officer of Trinsum, created in 2007 by a merger of Marakon Associates and Integrated Finance Limited, a specialized investment bank he co-founded in 2002. Dr. Merton served as a director of Community First Financial Group and Peninsula Banking Group from 2003 to 2010. He serves on advisory boards of several companies and institutions. Some of Dr. Merton's other financial and accounting experience includes serving as a Senior Advisor to and Managing Director of JP Morgan Chase & Co. from 1999 to 2001, and a cofounder and principal of Long-Term Capital Management, L.P. He has received numerous academic awards and has lectured widely. Dr. Merton holds a B.S. degree in engineering mathematics from Columbia University, an M.S. degree in applied mathematics from the California Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. degree in economics from MIT. In addition, Dr. Merton holds numerous honorary degrees.



*Vijay B. Samant* joined us as President and Chief Executive Officer in November 2000. Prior to joining us, he had 23 years of diverse U.S. and international sales, marketing, operations, and business development experience with Merck & Co., Inc. ( Merck ). From 1998 to 2000, he was Chief Operating Officer of the Merck Vaccine Division. From 1990 to 1998, he served in the Merck Manufacturing Division as Vice President of Vaccine Operations, Vice President of Business Affairs and Executive Director of Materials Management. Mr. Samant holds a master's degree in management studies from the Sloan School of Management at MIT, a master's degree in chemical engineering from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Bombay, University Department of Chemical Technology. Mr. Samant presently serves as a member of the board of directors of AmpliPhi Biosciences Corporation. Mr. Samant was a member of the board of directors of Raptor Pharmaceutical Corporation from 2011 to 2014, and was a member of the board of directors for BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. from 2002 to 2004. Mr. Samant was a Director of the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation from 2001 to 2010, a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases from 2003 to 2012, and a member of the Board of Trustees for the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul, Korea from 2008 to 2012.

### **Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2018 Annual Meeting**

*Richard M. Beleson* retired as a Senior Vice President with the Capital Group Companies in 2010, where from 1984 until his retirement, he served as an equity investment analyst and institutional investor focused on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Mr. Beleson also served as a Vice President of the Growth Fund of America, and during his career had investment responsibilities in the Investment Company of America, Washington Mutual Investors Fund, the Income Fund of America, Fundamental Investors, the AMCAP Fund, the New Perspective Fund, and the Smallcap World Fund. Mr. Beleson holds a B.S. degree in biological sciences from Stanford University and an M.B.A. degree in finance and accounting from the UCLA Graduate School of Management. He currently serves as a director of Spineview, Inc. and is on the advisory board of the UCLA Anderson School of Management Center for Global Management.

*R. Gordon Douglas, M.D.*, currently serves as chairman of the board of directors for NovaDigm Therapeutics Inc. Dr. Douglas also serves as a member of the board of directors of Protein Sciences Corporation. Dr. Douglas served on the boards of directors of Middlebrook Pharmaceuticals Inc. from 2000 to 2010, Aeras from 2000 to 2014 and IOMAI Corporation from 2002 to 2008. Dr. Douglas consulted for the Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health from 1999 to 2011. He is currently a Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Douglas retired in April 1999 from Merck, where he had been President of the Merck Vaccine Division since 1991 and a member of the Merck Management Committee. Prior to joining Merck, Dr. Douglas was Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, and he held earlier teaching, research and administrative posts at the University of Rochester Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine. He holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and an M.D. degree from Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Douglas received his medical staff training at The New York Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, the Infectious Diseases Society of America and numerous other organizations.

*George J. Morrow* served as Executive Vice President, Global Commercial Operations at Amgen Inc., a global biotechnology company, from 2003 until his retirement in 2011. Mr. Morrow also served as Amgen's Executive Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing from 2001 to 2003. From 1992 to 2001, Mr. Morrow held multiple leadership positions at GlaxoSmithKline Inc. and its subsidiaries, last serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Glaxo Wellcome Inc. Mr. Morrow currently serves on the boards of directors of Align Technology, Inc., Otonomy, Inc. and Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. Mr. Morrow has served previously on boards for Glaxo Wellcome, Inc., Human Genome Sciences, Inc., Safeway, Inc., the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, National Commerce Bank and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business. Mr. Morrow holds a B.S. in chemistry from Southampton College, Long Island University, an M.S. in biochemistry from Bryn Mawr College and an M.B.A. from Duke

University.

**Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2019 Annual Meeting**

*Gary A. Lyons* held various positions with Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, for 16 years through January 2008, including President and Chief Executive Officer. From 1983 to 1993, Mr. Lyons held various executive positions at Genentech, Inc., a biotechnology company, including Vice President of Business Development, Vice President of Sales, and Director of Sales and Marketing. Mr. Lyons presently serves as a member of the board of directors of Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. and Cytori Therapeutics, Inc., and is chairman of the board of directors of Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Retrophin, Inc., all of which are publicly held biotechnology companies. In addition, Mr. Lyons served previously on the board of directors of PDL BioPharma, Facet Biotech Corporation, KaloBios Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and NeurogesX, Inc. Mr. Lyons holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of New Hampshire and an M.B.A. degree from Northwestern University, J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

*Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D.*, has held various positions at Princeton University since 1984. Dr. Shenk is currently the James A. Elkins Professor in the Life Sciences at Princeton University, is a pre-eminent virologist and is a leading expert on human cytomegalovirus. Dr. Shenk's research has focused on gene functions and pathogenesis of adenovirus, a DNA tumor virus, and, more recently, human cytomegalovirus. His laboratory's current areas of focus include the use of genetic and proteomic approaches for the dissection of cytomegalovirus gene functions and the cellular response to infection, as well as the development and analysis of models for study of viral latency. Dr. Shenk is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine. He is a past president of the American Society for Virology and the American Society for Microbiology, and he served on the board of directors of Merck & Company for 11 years. He currently serves on several boards, including the Forge Life Science, Kadmon Corporation and MeiraGTx.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MATTERS**

### **Independence of the Board of Directors**

Under the Nasdaq Stock Market ( Nasdaq ) listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. Our Board of Directors consults with our counsel to ensure that the Board's determinations are consistent with all relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of independent, including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of Nasdaq, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of their family members, and us, our senior management and our independent registered public accounting firm, our Board of Directors has affirmatively determined that all of our directors, except for Mr. Samant, our President and Chief Executive Officer, are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable Nasdaq listing standards.

See also Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions below.

### **Board Leadership Structure and Risk Management**

Our Chairman of the Board position is a non-executive position and is separate from the position of Chief Executive Officer. Separating these positions allows our Chief Executive Officer to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing the Chairman of the Board to lead our Board in its fundamental role of providing advice to and independent oversight of management. Our Board recognizes the time, effort and energy that the Chief Executive Officer is required to devote to his position in the current business environment, as well as the commitment required to serve as our Chairman, particularly as the Board's oversight responsibilities continue to grow. Our Board believes that having separate positions, with an independent, non-executive director serving as Chairman, is the appropriate leadership structure for our Company at this time and allows each of the positions to be carried out more effectively than if one person were tasked with both the day-to-day oversight of our business as well as leadership of our Board.

The Board has an active role in overseeing the Company's risk management. The Board regularly reviews information presented by management regarding the Company's business and operations risks, including those relating to liquidity, regulatory and compliance, and monitors risk through Board reports and discussions regarding risk at Board meetings. The Board also reviews and approves corporate goals and budgets on an annual basis. Further, pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee reviews with the Board any issues that may arise in the performance of its duties, including those relating to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements and its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. The Compensation Committee monitors risk related to compensation policies and the Nominating/Governance Committee monitors risk related to governance and succession planning.

**Insider Trading Policy**

We have an insider trading policy which establishes guidelines for the trading of our stock by our employees. The policy specifically restricts trading in our stock by employees during specified time periods generally surrounding the anticipated release of our annual or quarterly financial results. The policy also prohibits individuals that are deemed to be insiders from holding our stock in a margin account or pledging our stock as collateral for a loan at any time. In addition, the policy prohibits insiders from engaging in short sales, transactions in put or call options or derivative transactions (including but not limited to forward sale contracts, zero-cost collars or other hedging or monetization transactions) with respect to our stock at any time.

## Corporate Governance Guidelines

We are committed to the diligent exercise of sound corporate governance principles. Our Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to provide assistance to the Board in managing Board composition, representation, function and performance. The Corporate Governance Guidelines are attached as an exhibit to the charter of our Nominating/Governance Committee, which is available on our website at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com).

## Executive Sessions

As required under Nasdaq listing standards, our independent directors meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present.

## Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors has adopted a formal process for stockholder communications with the Board or individual directors. Information regarding this process is available on our website at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com).

## Committees of the Board of Directors

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, our Board of Directors had three standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating/Governance Committee. The Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating/Governance Committee each operate under a written charter adopted by our Board, all of which are available on our website at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com).

The following table provides membership and meeting information as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, for each of the committees:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Nominating/ Governance
Richard M. Beleson	X		
R. Gordon Douglas, M.D.		X	X
Gary A. Lyons		X	X*
Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.	X*		
George J. Morrow	X	X*	
Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D.			X
Total meetings held in fiscal year 2016	5	3	1

\* Chairperson

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, each director attended at least 75% in the aggregate of the meetings of the committees on which he served.

Below is a description of each committee of our Board of Directors. Our Board has determined that each committee member is independent within the meaning of applicable Nasdaq listing standards.

### *Audit Committee*

Our Board of Directors has a separately designated standing Audit Committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). The Audit Committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting processes, our systems of internal control over financial reporting and audits of our financial statements. Among other functions, the Audit Committee evaluates the performance of and assesses the qualifications of the independent registered public accounting firm; engages the independent registered public accounting firm; determines whether to retain or terminate the existing independent registered public accounting firm or to appoint and engage a new independent registered public accounting firm; confers with senior management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; establishes procedures, as required under applicable law, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding

accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; reviews and approves the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent registered public accounting firm on our audit engagement team as required by law; reviews annually the Audit Committee's written charter and the committee's performance; reviews the financial statements to be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K; and discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the results of the annual audit and the results in our quarterly financial statements. The Audit Committee has the authority to retain special legal, accounting or other advisors or consultants as it deems necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties.

Our Board of Directors has determined that Robert C. Merton, Ph.D., qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as defined in applicable SEC rules. In making such determination, the Board made a qualitative assessment of Dr. Merton's level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including his formal education and experience. Our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is independent under the Nasdaq rules and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act.

The report of the Audit Committee is included herein on page 33.

### ***Compensation Committee***

The Compensation Committee oversees our overall compensation strategy and related policies, plans and programs. Among other functions, the Compensation Committee determines and approves the compensation and other terms of employment of our Chief Executive Officer; determines and approves the compensation and other terms of employment of our other executive officers, as appropriate; reviews and recommends to the Board the type and amount of compensation to be paid to Board members; recommends to the Board the adoption, amendment and termination of our Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (the "Stock Incentive Plan"); administers the Stock Incentive Plan; and reviews and establishes appropriate insurance coverage for our directors and executive officers. The Compensation Committee has the authority to retain special legal, accounting or other advisors or consultants as it deems necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties. The Compensation Committee has broad power to form and delegate its authority to subcommittees pursuant to its charter. The Compensation Committee has delegated authority to the President's Stock Option Committee, which was established by our Board of Directors, to make initial equity grants within certain parameters, beyond which Compensation Committee approval is required.

### ***Nominating/Governance Committee***

The Nominating/Governance Committee is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve on our Board of Directors; reviewing and evaluating our incumbent directors and the performance of our Board; recommending candidates to our Board for election to our Board of Directors; making recommendations to the Board regarding the membership of the committees of our Board; assessing the performance of our Board, including its committees; and developing a set of corporate governance guidelines for Vical.

### **Consideration of Director Nominees**

#### ***Director Qualifications***

The Nominating/Governance Committee believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including having the highest personal integrity and ethics and being able to read and understand basic financial statements. The Nominating/Governance Committee also considers factors such as possessing relevant expertise upon which to be able to offer advice and guidance to management, having sufficient time to devote to the affairs of Vical, demonstrated excellence in his or her field, having the ability to exercise sound business judgment

and having the commitment to rigorously represent the long-term interests of our stockholders. However, the Nominating/Governance Committee retains the right to modify these qualifications from time to time.



### *Qualification of Current Directors*

The composition of our current Board reflects diversity in business and professional experience and skills. When considering whether our current directors and nominees have the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, taken as a whole, to enable our Board to satisfy its oversight responsibilities effectively in light of our Company's business and structure, our Nominating/Governance Committee and Board focused primarily on the information discussed in each of the directors' individual biographies set forth herein. In particular:

With regard to Dr. Douglas, our Board considered his extensive industry-specific expertise, including his previously held role as President of Merck's vaccine division, as well as his extensive experience as a physician and academician.

With regard to Mr. Beleson, our Board considered his extensive experience in the finance and investment industry, including his previously held role as Senior Vice President with the Capital Group Companies, as well as his extensive experience as an equity investment analyst and institutional investor focused on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

With regard to Mr. Lyons, our Board considered his extensive managerial experience, including his role as a Chief Executive Officer and other executive level positions at public and private companies in the biotechnology sector.

With regard to Mr. Morrow, our Board considered his global experience in commercial activities and oncology, as well as his experience managing policy and strategies with various government agencies.

With regard to Dr. Merton, our Board considered his global experience in finance and investments, financial planning and risk management.

With regard to Mr. Samant, our Board considered his extensive expertise in biopharmaceutical development and product commercialization, as well as his strong technical and entrepreneurial experience in diverse fields.

With regard to Dr. Shenk, our Board considered his extensive expertise in the life sciences, including his expertise in virology and human cytomegalovirus.

### *Evaluating Nominees for Director*

The Nominating/Governance Committee reviews candidates for director nominees in the context of the current composition of our Board, our operating requirements and the long-term interests of our stockholders. In conducting this assessment, the Committee considers age, experience, skills, and such other factors as it deems appropriate given the current needs of the Board and Vical, to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability. In addition, the Nominating/Governance Committee also considers diversity in its evaluation of candidates for Board membership. The Board of Directors believes that diversity with respect to viewpoint, skills and experience should be an important factor in board composition. In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the

Nominating/Governance Committee reviews such directors' overall service to Vical during their term, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance, and any other relationships and transactions that might impair such directors' independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Committee also determines whether the nominee must be independent, which determination is based upon applicable Nasdaq listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of our Board of Directors. The Committee meets to discuss and consider such candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to our Board of Directors by majority vote. To date, neither the Nominating/Governance Committee nor any predecessor to the Committee has paid a fee to any third party to assist in the process of identifying or evaluating director candidates. To date, neither the Nominating/Governance Committee nor any predecessor to the Committee has rejected a timely director nominee from a stockholder, or stockholders, holding more than 5% of our voting stock.

***Stockholder Nominations***

The Nominating/Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Nominating/Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether or not the candidate was recommended by a stockholder.

Stockholders

who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating/Governance Committee to become nominees for election to the Board at an Annual Meeting of Stockholders must do so by delivering at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the mailing of our proxy statement for our last Annual Meeting of Stockholders a written recommendation to the Nominating/Governance Committee c/o Vical Incorporated, 10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, CA 92121-4340, Attn: Corporate Secretary. Each submission must set forth: the name and address of the Vical stockholder on whose behalf the submission is made; the number of Vical shares that are owned beneficially by such stockholder as of the date of the submission; the full name of the proposed candidate; a description of the proposed candidate's business experience for at least the previous five years; complete biographical information for the proposed candidate; and a description of the proposed candidate's qualifications as a director. Each submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected.

### **Board Meetings**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, our Board of Directors held four meetings. All directors attended at least 75% in the aggregate of the meetings of our Board of Directors.

### **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS**

We have adopted a Related Person Transactions Policy to monitor transactions in which Vical and any of the following have an interest: a director, executive officer or other employee or a nominee to become a director of the Company; a security holder known by the Company to be the record or beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of the Company's voting securities; an immediate family member of any of the foregoing, which means any child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of such person, and any person (other than a tenant or employee) sharing the household of such person; and any firm, corporation or other entity in which any of the foregoing persons is an executive, partner or principal or holds a similar control position or in which such person directly or indirectly has a 5% or greater equity interest (collectively, "Related Persons"). The policy covers any transaction, arrangement or relationship (or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships) in which the Company is, was or will be a participant in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and in which any Related Person had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest ("Related Person Transactions"). Transactions involving compensation for services provided to the Company as an employee, consultant or director are not considered Related Person Transactions under this policy.

Under this policy, any proposed transaction that has been identified as a Related Person Transaction may be consummated or materially amended only following approval by the Audit Committee in accordance with the provisions of this policy. In the event that it is inappropriate for the Audit Committee to review the transaction for reasons of conflict of interest or otherwise, after taking into account possible recusals by Audit Committee members, then the Related Person Transaction shall be approved by another independent member of the Board. Our Related Person Transaction Policy can be found in the Corporate Governance section posted on our website at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com).

There were no Related Person Transactions since January 1, 2015 required to be reported in which the amount involved in the transaction exceeded the lesser of \$120,000 or one percent of the average of the Company's total assets at year-end for the last two completed fiscal years, other than the following transaction:

On April 4, 2017, we entered into a research collaboration agreement with AnGes MG, Inc. ("AnGes"), which holds greater than 5% of our outstanding common stock. Pursuant to the collaboration agreement, AnGes agreed to pay to us a total of \$750,000 and we agreed to conduct certain preclinical research related to a development program targeting chronic hepatitis B. In exchange for the payment, AnGes will receive an option to negotiate exclusive rights in Japan related to the program. The parties also agreed to share the costs of prosecuting and maintaining intellectual

property rights arising from the research program after such costs reach a specified limit.

### **CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics ( Code of Ethics ) applicable to all of our officers, directors and employees, which can be viewed on our website at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com). If we make any substantive amendments to our Code of Ethics or grant any waiver from a provision of the Code of Ethics to any executive officer or director, we will promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver on our website.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2016 are listed below. Biographical information about each of the Company's executive officers and other executives is contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Vijay B. Samant, Chief Executive Officer

Larry R. Smith, Ph.D., Vice President, Vaccine Research

Anthony A. Ramos, Vice President Finance, Chief Accounting Officer

The primary objectives of the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors with respect to executive compensation are to attract, retain, and motivate the best possible executive talent. In doing so, the Compensation Committee seeks to tie short and long-term cash and equity incentives to achievement of measurable corporate and individual performance objectives, and to align executives' incentives with stockholder value creation. To achieve these objectives, the Compensation Committee has maintained, and expects to further implement, compensation plans that tie a substantial portion of executives' overall compensation to our research, clinical, regulatory, commercial, financial and operational performance.

### *Market Compensation Data*

The Compensation Committee develops our compensation plans by utilizing subscription compensation survey data for national and regional companies in the biopharmaceutical industry and publicly available compensation data from a peer group. In addition, the Compensation Committee will, from time to time, use the services of a compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee retained the services of an independent compensation consultant to support its 2016 compensation review.

### *Determination of Executive Compensation*

After performing individual evaluations, the CEO submits recommendations for approval to the Compensation Committee for salary increases, cash bonuses, and stock-based awards for the other executives. In the case of the CEO, his individual performance evaluation is conducted by the Compensation Committee, which determines his base salary, cash bonus, and stock-based awards. Annual base salary increases, annual stock-based awards, and annual cash bonuses, to the extent granted, are implemented during the first calendar quarter of the year.

In addition to corporate and individual goal achievement, the Compensation Committee also considers the following factors in determining an executive's compensation package:

the executive's role within the Company and the compensation data for similar persons in peer group companies and subscription compensation survey data;

the demand for executives with the executive's specific expertise and experience;

a comparison to other executives within the Company having similar levels of expertise and experience; and

uniqueness of the executive's industry skills.

The Compensation Committee retains ultimate discretion as to whether any salary increases, cash bonuses or stock-based awards will be awarded for any year, including whether to accept or vary from the CEO's recommendations for other executives.

### ***Compensation Components***

The components of our compensation package are as follows:

#### ***Base Salary***

Base salaries for our executives are established based on the scope of their responsibilities and their prior relevant background, training, and experience, taking into account competitive market compensation paid by the companies represented in the compensation data we review for similar positions and the overall market demand for such executives at the time of hire. As with total executive compensation, we believe that if our executives meet the performance expectations of the Compensation Committee, then their base salaries should be in line with the median range of salaries for executives in similar positions and with similar responsibilities in the companies of similar size to us represented in the compensation data we review. However we also believe that superior performance may, if justified, warrant compensation levels at up to the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile of the compensation data we review. An executive's base salary is also evaluated together with other components of the executive's other compensation to ensure that the executive's total compensation is in line with our overall compensation philosophy.

Base salaries are reviewed annually as part of our annual performance program and increased for merit reasons, based on the executive's success in meeting or exceeding individual performance objectives and an assessment of whether significant corporate goals were achieved. If necessary, we also realign base salaries with market levels for the same positions in the companies of similar size to us represented in the compensation data we review, if we identify significant market changes in our data analysis. Additionally, the Compensation Committee adjusts base salaries as warranted throughout the year for promotions or other changes in the scope or breadth of an executive's role or responsibilities.

#### *Annual Bonus*

Our compensation program includes eligibility for an annual performance-based cash bonus in the case of all executives and certain non-executive employees. The amount of the cash bonus depends on the level of achievement of the stated corporate, department, and individual performance goals, with a target bonus generally set as a percentage of base salary. Currently, all executives and certain non-executive employees are eligible for annual performance-based cash bonuses. The bonus amounts for our executives typically range between 25% - 50% of their base salary. The payment of any bonus is at the discretion of the Compensation Committee.

#### *Long-Term Incentives*

We believe that long-term performance is achieved through an ownership culture that encourages long-term participation by our executives through equity-based awards. Our Stock Incentive Plan allows the grant to executives of stock options, restricted stock, and other equity-based awards. We typically make an initial equity award of stock options to new employees and annual stock-based grants as part of our overall compensation program. The cumulative amount of stock options granted as part of our annual performance program is approved by the Compensation Committee. All equity-based awards granted to executives are approved by our Compensation Committee or our Board of Directors. Our current practice, as required by our Stock Incentive Plan, is to price equity-based awards at the closing price of our common stock on the date the awards are granted.

*Initial stock option awards.* Executives who join us are awarded initial stock option grants. These grants have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date and a vesting schedule of 25% on the first anniversary of the date of hire and quarterly thereafter for the next three years. The amount of the initial stock option award is determined based on the executive's position with us and analysis of the competitive practices of the companies similar in size to us represented in the compensation data that we review. The amount of the initial stock option award is also reviewed in light of the executive's base salary and other compensation to ensure that the executive's total compensation is in line with our overall compensation philosophy.

*Annual stock option awards.* Our practice is to make annual stock option awards as part of our overall performance program or upon promotion. The Compensation Committee believes that stock options provide management with a strong link to long-term corporate performance and the creation of stockholder value. We intend that the annual aggregate value of these awards will be set near competitive median levels for companies represented in the compensation data we review. As is the case when the amounts of base salary and initial equity awards are determined, a review of all components of the executive's compensation is conducted, including awards granted in prior periods, when determining annual equity awards to ensure that an executive's total compensation conforms to our overall philosophy and objectives.

*Restricted stock unit awards.* In the past we have made grants of RSUs to executives and certain non-executive employees to provide additional long-term incentive to build stockholder value. Because the shares underlying the RSUs have a defined value at the time the RSU grant is made, RSU grants are often perceived as having more immediate value than stock options, which have a less calculable value when granted. Because these awards are perceived to have more immediate value to the employee, they help ensure that certain key employees remain with the

Company. However, the RSUs we grant generally cover fewer shares than the stock options we would grant for a similar purpose. The RSUs we grant typically vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant and quarterly thereafter for the next three years. Executives have the option at the time of grant to defer the issuance of the shares underlying the RSUs beyond the date at which the RSU vests. This feature allows the individual to defer the payment of income taxes related to these shares until the shares underlying the RSU are issued. Upon vesting and issuance of the common stock underlying the RSU, we typically withheld from each holder the number of shares of common stock necessary in order to satisfy our statutory minimum tax withholding obligation. This feature provides the holders with a method to satisfy our statutory minimum tax withholding obligations without immediately selling a portion of the shares issued. Beginning in April of 2014, we no longer withheld vested shares from our executive officers to satisfy our statutory minimum tax withholding obligation. We did not grant any RSUs in 2016.



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### *Retirement Plan*

We currently maintain a 401(k) retirement savings plan that allows eligible employees to defer a portion of their compensation, within limits prescribed by the Internal Revenue Code, on a pre-tax or after-tax basis through contributions to the plan. Our named executive officers are eligible to participate in the 401(k) plan on the same general terms as other full-time employees. Currently, we match contributions made by participants in the 401(k) plan up to a specified percentage, and these matching contributions are fully vested as of the date on which the contribution is made.

### *Other Compensation*

We maintain broad-based benefits and perquisites that are offered to all employees, including health insurance, life and disability insurance and dental insurance. In particular circumstances, we also utilize cash signing bonuses when certain executives join us. Generally, such cash signing bonuses are contractually required to be repaid on a pro-rata basis to the Company if the employee recipient voluntarily terminates employment with us prior to the first anniversary of the date of hire. Whether a signing bonus is paid and the amount thereof is determined on a case-by-case basis under the specific hiring circumstances. For example, we will consider paying a signing bonus to compensate for amounts forfeited by an executive upon terminating prior employment to assist with relocation expenses and/or to create additional incentive for an executive to join our Company in a position where there is high market demand. We also reimburse our CEO up to \$50,000 per year for costs related to housing.

### *Termination Based Compensation*

*Severance.* Upon termination of employment, our executive officers are entitled to receive severance payments. In determining whether to approve, and setting the terms of, such severance arrangements, the Compensation Committee recognizes that executives, especially highly ranked executives, often face challenges securing new employment following termination. We have employment agreements that contain severance arrangements with our CEO and our other executives. Under the agreement with our CEO, we are obligated to pay severance if we terminate the CEO's employment without cause, or if the CEO resigns for good reason, as defined in the agreement, within the periods set forth therein. The severance for our CEO consists of continued base salary payments at the then-current rate, including the payment of health insurance premiums for 18 months, plus a payment equal to one and one-half times the CEO's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, the CEO receives accelerated vesting on all his unvested stock awards as if he had remained employed by us for 18 months from the date of termination. In the event that the termination occurs within 24 months of a change in control, as defined in the agreement, the severance for our CEO consists of a lump sum payment equal to 24 months of base salary at the then-current rate, the payment of health insurance premiums for 18 months, plus a payment equal to one and one-half times the CEO's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, all outstanding unvested stock awards will vest immediately. Under the agreements with our other executives, we are obligated to pay severance if we terminate the executive's employment without cause, or if the executive resigns for good reason, as defined in the agreements, within the periods set forth therein. The severance for our other executives consists of a lump-sum payment equal to 12 months of base salary at the then-current rate, including the payment of health insurance premiums for 12 months, plus a payment equal to the executive's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, the executive receives accelerated vesting on all his unvested stock awards as if he had remained employed by us for 12 months from the date of termination. In the event that the termination occurs within 12 months of a change in control, as defined in the agreements, the severance for the other executives consists of a lump sum payment equal to 18 months of base salary at the then-current rate, the payment of health insurance premiums for 12 months, plus a payment equal to the executive's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, all outstanding unvested stock awards will vest immediately.

Additional details about these severance provisions, including definitions of cause and good reason can be found under Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control, below. We believe that our executives' severance

packages are generally in line with severance packages offered to executives of the companies of similar size to us represented in the compensation data we reviewed.

*Acceleration of vesting of equity-based awards.* In addition to the severance provisions contained in the employment agreements with our CEO and our other executives, provisions of our Stock Incentive Plan allow our Board of Directors to grant stock-based awards to employees and executives that provide for the acceleration of vesting in the event of a change of control (as defined in the Plan). Currently, all of our outstanding equity-based awards include provisions that accelerate vesting of such awards in the event of a change of control. The Compensation Committee believes that these provisions are properly designed to promote stability during a change of control and enable our executives to focus on corporate objectives during a change of control, even if their employment may be subsequently terminated.

*Tax and Accounting Implications*

*Deductibility of executive compensation.* As part of its role, the Compensation Committee reviews and considers the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), which provides that the Company may not deduct compensation of more than \$1,000,000 that is paid to certain individuals. The Company believes that compensation paid under the management incentive plans is generally fully deductible for federal income tax purposes. However, in certain situations, the Committee may approve compensation that will not meet these requirements in order to ensure competitive levels of total compensation for its executives.

*Accounting for stock-based compensation.* Beginning on January 1, 2006, the Company began accounting for stock-based compensation including its Stock Option Program, Long-Term Stock Grant Program, Restricted Stock Program and Stock Award Program in accordance with the requirements of FASB ASC Topic 718. The Compensation Committee considers the accounting impact of equity-based compensation when developing the Company's compensation strategy.

*The Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Votes.* We provide our stockholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote on executive compensation through a say-on-pay proposal. At our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, over 92% of the votes cast on the say-on-pay proposal were voted in favor of the proposal. The Compensation Committee believes that this affirms stockholder support of our overall approach to executive compensation. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee did not materially change its approach in 2016. The Compensation Committee will continue to consider the outcome of our say-on-pay votes when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The Company has entered into compensation agreements with its executives. The terms of those agreements provide for benefits such as relocation reimbursement, severance payments and vesting acceleration of equity-based awards in the event of a change of control. The terms of these benefits are further discussed under the heading "Compensation Components" included herein. The following table provides information regarding the compensation of each of our named executive officers for each of the three fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus \$(1)	Stock Awards \$(2)	Option Awards \$(2)	All Other Compensation	Total (\$)
						(\$)	
Vijay B. Samant President and Chief Executive Officer	2016	574,000	275,000		113,422(3)	56,937(6)	1,019,359
	2015	574,000	300,000	318,000	180,135(4)	56,937(7)	1,429,072
	2014	557,000	264,000	465,300	136,023(5)	56,832(8)	1,479,155
Larry R. Smith, Ph.D. Vice President, Vaccine Research	2016	284,280	70,000		48,759	6,667	409,706
	2015	276,000	60,000	74,200	66,422	6,667	483,289
	2014	267,800	70,000	126,900	103,002	6,562	574,264
Anthony A. Ramos Vice President Finance, Chief Accounting Officer	2016	256,267	75,000		58,511	5,364	395,142
	2015	240,000	60,000	63,600	55,352	5,033	423,985
	2014	232,185	60,000	98,700	76,298	4,876	472,059

- (1) Annual bonuses are granted after the completion of each calendar year at the Compensation Committee's discretion, taking into account the Company's performance against corporate goals and, except with respect to our CEO, each named executive officer's performance against his or her individual goals.
- (2) These amounts represent the grant date fair value of equity-based awards granted by the Company during the years presented, determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. All awards are amortized over the vesting life of the award. For a detailed discussion of our grant date fair value calculation methodology, including assumptions and estimates inherent therein, please refer to Note 1 to the financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the SEC on March 10, 2017.
- (3) Included in this amount is \$16,182 related to 21,250 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 50% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would have been \$32,364. Also included in this amount is \$14,349 related to 21,250 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 40% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would have been \$35,874.
- (4) Included in this amount is \$29,825 related to 12,500 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 50% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would have been \$59,650. Also included in this amount is \$11,930 related to 12,500 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 20% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would have been \$59,650.
- (5) Included in this amount is \$51,968 related to 17,500 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 40% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would have been \$129,920. Also included in this amount is \$84,055 related to 32,500 performance-based options for which the grant date fair value was determined assuming a 30% probability of vesting. Assuming a 100% probability of vesting at the grant date, the grant date fair value would

have been \$280,183.

- (6) Of the amount shown, \$50,000 represents housing costs, including \$39,800 in rent and utility payments for an apartment for Mr. Samant and \$8,123 for tax reimbursements.
- (7) Of the amount shown, \$50,000 represents housing costs, including \$38,536 in rent and utility payments for an apartment for Mr. Samant and \$8,922 for tax reimbursements.
- (8) Of the amount shown, \$50,000 represents housing costs, including \$36,373 in rent and utility payments for an apartment for Mr. Samant and \$11,649 for tax reimbursements.

### OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

The following table provides details regarding outstanding stock-based awards for each of our named executive officers as of December 31, 2016 and gives effect to the 1-for-10 reverse split of our common stock effected by the filing of a certificate of amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation that became effective on May 26, 2016.

	Option Awards				Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Unexercisable(1)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(2)
Vijay B. Samant	10,000		67.10	1/4/2017	20,152	46,349
	8,000		42.70	1/3/2018		
	24,000		17.30	1/8/2019		
	36,000		34.70	1/10/2020		
	45,000		21.40	1/6/2021		
	36,200		36.70	1/12/2022		
	45,188	3,012	33.10	1/10/2023		
	17,500		14.20	1/9/2024		
	23,440	14,060	10.70	1/18/2025		
	21,250	42,500	3.56	1/14/2026		
Larry R. Smith, Ph.D.	2,000		67.10	1/4/2017	4,791	11,019
	1,500		42.70	1/3/2018		
	4,500		17.30	1/8/2019		
	6,750		34.70	1/10/2020		
	9,000		21.40	1/6/2021		
	7,700		36.70	1/12/2022		
	9,108	607	33.10	1/10/2023		
	15,000		13.60	8/25/2023		
	12,376	1,124	14.20	1/9/2024		
	5,250	6,750	10.70	1/18/2025		
		25,000	3.56	1/14/2026		
Anthony A. Ramos	343		66.50	1/17/2017	3,973	9,138
	200		61.20	2/15/2017		
	250		42.90	1/15/2018		
	1,700		17.90	1/15/2019		
	2,500		34.10	1/18/2020		
	200		30.20	7/15/2020		
	2,500		20.10	1/20/2021		
	2,300		34.10	1/22/2022		
	1,688	112	34.10	1/23/2023		
	6,126	875	40.00	4/15/2023		
	15,000		13.60	8/25/2023		
9,167	833	14.20	1/9/2024			

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4,375	5,625	10.70	1/18/2025
	30,000	3.56	1/14/2026

- (1) For those options granted on August 26, 2013 and expiring on August 25, 2023, the right to exercise vested 100% on the first anniversary of the date of grant. For those options granted on January 10, 2014 and expiring on January 9, 2024, the right to exercise vests one-third on the first anniversary of the date of grant, with the remaining rights vesting quarterly over the remaining two years. For those options granted to Mr. Samant on January 10, 2014 and expiring on January 9, 2024, 17,500 shares subject to such options vested upon the achievement of specified performance goals and

- 32,500 shares subject to such options did not vest and were cancelled as of December 31, 2015 due to other specified performance goals not having been met as of such date. For those options granted to Mr. Samant on January 19, 2015 and expiring on January 18, 2025, 12,500 shares subject to such options vested upon the achievement of specified performance goals and 12,500 shares subject to such options did not vest and were cancelled as of December 31, 2015 due to other specified performance goals not having been met as of such date. For those options granted to Mr. Samant on January 15, 2016 and expiring on January 14, 2026, 21,250 shares subject to such options vested upon the achievement of specified performance goals and 21,250 shares subject to such options did not vest and were cancelled as of December 31, 2016 due to other specified performance goals not having been met as of such date. For all other options, the right to exercise vests 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant, with the remaining rights vesting quarterly over the remaining three years.
- (2) The market value of the RSUs is determined by multiplying the number of shares underlying the RSUs by the closing price for our common stock of \$2.30 on December 31, 2016.

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

We have entered into employment agreements with our executive officers, which include provisions that entitle those executive officers to receive severance payments in specified cases upon termination without cause or resignation for good reason. Severance for our executive officers, other than our CEO, consists of a lump-sum payment equal to 12 months of base salary at the then-current rate, including the payment of health insurance premiums for 12 months, plus a payment equal to the executive's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, the executive receives accelerated vesting on all his unvested stock awards as if he had remained employed by us for 12 months from the date of termination. In the event that the termination occurs within 12 months of a change in control, as defined in the agreements, the severance for the other executives consists of a lump sum payment equal to 18 months of base salary at the then-current rate, the payment of health insurance premiums for 12 months, plus a payment equal to the executive's cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, all outstanding unvested stock awards will vest immediately. Cause is defined as any one of the following: (i) sustained inadequate performance of the employee's duties, (ii) a failure to perform the employee's duties, other than a failure resulting from complete or partial incapacity due to physical or mental illness or impairment; (iii) gross misconduct or fraud, or (iv) a conviction of, or a plea of guilty or no contest to a felony. Good reason is defined as any one of the following: (i) a material reduction in authority or responsibility or significant demotion or (ii) a reduction in the employee's base salary of more than 25%. To resign for good reason, an executive must notify us of his or her intention within 60 days after the occurrence of a condition constituting good reason and provide us with 30 days to cure the condition. In the event that our executives qualify for severance payments, the salary continuation payments will be made in a lump sum payment within 60 days following a qualifying termination.

We have entered into an employment agreement with our CEO, which provides for continued base salary payments at the then-current rate, including the payment of health insurance premiums, for a period of 18 months, plus a payment equal to one and one-half times his cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months, if his employment is terminated without cause or if he resigns for good reason. In addition, he receives accelerated vesting on all his unvested stock awards as if he had remained employed by us for 18 months from the date of termination. Cause is defined as any one of the following: (i) failure to perform the executive's duties, (ii) gross misconduct, (iii) fraud or (iv) a conviction of, or a plea of guilty or no contest to, a felony. Good reason is defined as any one of the following: (i) a material reduction in authority or responsibility, (ii) removal of the direct reporting relationship with the Board of Directors, (iii) any material reduction in base compensation, or (iv) a material breach of the employment agreement by the Company. In the event that our CEO qualifies for severance payments, the salary continuation payments will be made on a semi-monthly basis, will be reduced dollar for dollar by any other compensation earned by him during the severance period, as an employee or consultant, and will be terminated if he enters into an employment or consulting agreement with a company which is primarily involved in research, development or commercialization of a method of delivery of naked DNA into humans or animals. In the event that the termination occurs within 24 months of a change in control, as defined in the agreement, our CEO's employment agreement provides for a lump sum payment equal to 24 months of base salary, at the then-current rate, the payment of health insurance premiums for 18 months, plus a payment equal



to one and one-half times his cash bonus paid during the previous 12 months. In addition, all outstanding unvested stock awards held by our CEO will vest immediately.

All of the Company's outstanding equity-based awards include provisions that accelerate vesting of such awards in the event of a change of control. A change of control is defined as the occurrence of either of the following events: (i) a change in the composition of the Board of Directors, as a result of which fewer than 50% of the incumbent directors are directors who either: (a) had been directors of the Company 24 months prior to such change; or (b) were elected, or nominated for election, to the Board of Directors of the Company 24 months prior to such change and who were still in office at the time of the election or nomination; or (ii) any person becomes, by acquisition or aggregation of securities, the beneficial owner of securities of the Company representing 50% or more of the combined voting power of the Company's securities eligible to vote for the election of directors.

The following table provides details of potential payments which could occur upon termination of the named executive officers or in the event of a change of control of the Company assuming a triggering event occurred on December 31, 2016.

Name	Cash Severance Payment (\$)(1)	Bonus Payment(\$)	Health Insurance Premiums\$(1)	Acceleration of Equity Awards \$(2)
<b>Vijay B. Samant</b>				
Involuntary termination without cause	861,000	412,500	29,769	31,959
Voluntary resignation for good reason	861,000	412,500	29,769	31,959
Change in control	1,148,000	412,500	29,769	44,334
<b>Larry R. Smith, Ph.D.</b>				
Involuntary termination without cause	284,280	70,000	17,347	5,733
Voluntary resignation for good reason	284,280	70,000	17,347	5,733
Change in control	426,420	70,000	17,347	10,540
<b>Anthony A. Ramos</b>				
Involuntary termination without cause	259,600	75,000	28,294	4,616
Voluntary resignation for good reason	259,600	75,000	28,294	4,616
Change in control	389,400	75,000	28,294	8,741

- (1) In the cases of an involuntary termination without cause and voluntary resignation with good reason, the amounts assume no subsequent employment or consultancy by the executive during the applicable severance period.
- (2) The amounts shown reflect (a) for stock options, the excess, if any, of the closing price for our common stock of \$2.30 on December 31, 2016 over the exercise price of the stock options, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the options for which vesting is accelerated due to the specified termination and (b) for RSUs, the closing price for our common stock of \$2.30 on December 31, 2016, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the RSUs for which vesting is accelerated due to the specified termination.

#### DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The compensation program for our non-employee directors is intended to fairly compensate them for the time and effort required of a director. The Company uses a combination of cash and stock-based incentive compensation to attract and retain qualified candidates to serve on the Board. The Board also takes into consideration the performance of the Company when determining the appropriate level of their compensation.

#### Director Fees

Each of our non-employee directors receives an annual fee of \$44,000 for service on the Board of Directors. All fees are paid on a quarterly basis. Non-employee directors are also reimbursed for their expenses for each meeting attended.

#### Director Equity Awards

Under the Stock Incentive Plan, each of our new non-employee directors, on the date of his or her election to the Board of Directors, receives an option to purchase 6,500 shares of our common stock at its fair market value on the date of grant. The shares subject to these options generally vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant, with the remaining shares vesting quarterly over the next three years. Each non-employee director who has served on our

Board of Directors for at least six months on the date of each regular Annual Meeting of Stockholders also receives an annual grant of an option to purchase 6,500 shares of our common stock. These options vest in full on the date of the regular Annual Meeting of Stockholders for the year following the year in which the options were granted. No more than an aggregate of 30% of the shares available under our Stock Incentive Plan are available for grant to non-employee directors. Our Board of Directors may provide discretionary grants under the Stock Incentive Plan to our non-employee directors. Under the Stock Incentive Plan, stock-based awards to purchase a total of 236,354 shares of our common stock have been granted to our current non-employee directors, with 40,500 shares of this total amount granted during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

## Fees and Equity Awards of the Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dr. Douglas receives a total annual fee of \$64,000 for serving as Chairman of our Board of Directors. Our Chairman of the Board of Directors also receives an annual grant of an option to purchase 8,000 shares of our common stock under the Stock Incentive Plan (in lieu of the annual grant of an option to purchase 6,500 shares which he would otherwise receive as a non-employee director), which vest in full on the date of the regular Annual Meeting of Stockholders for the year following the year in which the options were granted.

## Committee Fees

The Chairman of the Audit Committee receives an annual Audit Committee Chairman fee of \$25,000. The Chairman of the Compensation Committee receives an annual Compensation Committee Chairman fee of \$15,000. The Chairman of the Nominating/Governance Committee receives an annual Nominating/Governance Committee Chairman fee of \$10,000. All non-chairman Committee members receive an additional fee of \$7,000 for each committee on which they serve.

## Director Compensation Table

The table below summarizes the compensation paid by the Company to non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

Name(1)	Fees Earned in Cash (\$)	Option Awards \$(2)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
R. Gordon Douglas, M.D.	78,000	13,672		91,672
Richard M. Beleson	51,000	11,109		62,109
Gary A. Lyons	61,000	11,109		72,109
Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.	69,000	11,109		80,109
George J. Morrow	66,000	11,109		77,109
Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D.	51,000	11,109		62,109

- (1) Vijay B. Samant, the Company's President and CEO, is not included in this table as he is an employee of the Company and thus receives no compensation for his service as a director.
- (2) These amounts represent the grant date fair value of equity-based awards granted by the Company during 2016, determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. All awards are amortized over the vesting life of the award. For a detailed discussion of our grant date fair value calculation methodology, including assumptions and estimates inherent therein, please refer to Note 1 of the financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on March 10, 2017. As of December 31, 2016, each director had the following number of shares underlying RSUs and options outstanding, respectively: R. Gordon Douglas, M.D. 0 and 60,330; Richard M. Beleson 86 and 20,518; Gary A. Lyons 0 and 42,624; Robert C. Merton, Ph.D. 0 and 42,624; George J. Morrow 0 and 24,090; and Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D. 749 and 12,500.

## EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table provides certain information as of December 31, 2016, with respect to our equity compensation plan in effect on that date.

	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options and RSUs (a)	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders	1,299,784(1)	\$ 17.61	689,012

(1) Includes 96,983 RSUs.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP

### Security Ownership of Directors and Named Executive Officers

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock as of March 1, 2017, for each director of the Company, each executive named in the Summary Compensation Table herein, and by all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

Name	Common Stock	Rights to Acquire Shares Within 60 Days of		Total Stock and Stock Based Holdings	Percent of Total(1)
		March 1, 2017			
Vijay B. Samant	53,916	275,997		329,913	2.90%
Larry R. Smith, Ph.D.	13,320	82,229		95,549	*
Anthony A. Ramos	10,924	58,252		69,176	*
R. Gordon Douglas, M.D.	10,828	52,330		63,158	*
Gary A. Lyons	7,828	36,124		43,952	*
George J. Morrow	2,734	17,590		20,324	*
Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.	9,751	36,124		45,875	*
Richard M. Beleson	2,165	13,767		15,932	*
Thomas E. Shenk, Ph.D.	251	1,938		2,189	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (9 persons)	111,717	574,351		686,068	5.88%

\* Less than 1%

- (1) Percent of shares beneficially owned by any person is calculated by dividing the number of shares beneficially owned by that person as of March 1, 2017 (including any shares which that person has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of within 60 days of March 1, 2017), by the sum of the total number of shares outstanding as of March 1, 2017, and the number of shares which that person has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of within 60 days of March 1, 2017. Applicable percentages are based on 11,093,663 shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 1, 2017, adjusted as required.

## Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock as of March 1, 2017, for each stockholder who was a beneficial owner of more than five percent of the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock on such date. The information below is based on filings by the beneficial owners with the SEC pursuant to section 13G under the Exchange Act as well as additional information provided to us by the stockholders as noted in the footnotes below. The Company is not aware of any other beneficial owner of more than five percent of the Company's Common Stock.

Name and Address	Common Stock	Percent of Total(1)
AnGes MG, Inc. (2) 4F, Saito Bio-Incubator, 7-7-15 Saito-Asagi Ibaraki, Osaka, 567-0085 Japan	2,058,528	18.6%
Fidelity Management & Research Company (3) 245 Summer Street Boston, MA 02210	1,006,875	9.1%

- (1) Percent of shares beneficially owned by any stockholder is calculated by dividing the number of shares beneficially owned by the stockholder by the sum of the number of shares outstanding as of March 1, 2017. Applicable percentages are based on 11,093,663 shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 1, 2017.
- (2) Based on Schedule 13G filed by AnGes MG, Inc. ( AnGes ) on August 10, 2016. According to the schedule 13G, 2,058,528 shares of our common stock were beneficially owned by AnGes as of August 2, 2016.
- (3) Based on Amendment No. 7 to Schedule 13G filed by Fidelity Management & Research Company ( Fidelity ) on February 14, 2017. According to the schedule 13G, 1,006,875 shares of our common stock were beneficially owned by Fidelity as of December 30, 2016.

**PROPOSAL 2**

**APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANY'S RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO REDUCE THE AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF SHARES OF THE COMPANY'S COMMON STOCK**

On March 10, 2017 the Board of Directors unanimously approved, subject to stockholder approval, a proposal to amend the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of shares of the Company's common stock we are authorized to issue from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares (the "Amendment").

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Company's common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required to approve this Amendment. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted toward the tabulation of votes cast on this proposal and will have the same effect as negative votes.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO REDUCE THE AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF SHARES OF THE**

**COMPANY'S COMMON STOCK.**

As of March 28, 2017, a total of 11,095,478 shares of the Company's common stock were issued and outstanding and a total of 1,945,021 shares of common stock were reserved for future issuance of RSU's and possible future issuance on exercise of outstanding stock options or for future grants of options or other equity incentives under the Company's outstanding stock incentive plans. Therefore, if the proposed Amendment is approved by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting, on May 25, 2017, we would still have a total of 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock and 36,959,501 shares of common stock available for future issuance. The Board of Directors believes that 36,959,501 available shares of the Company's common stock will be adequate to meet the Company's needs for the foreseeable future.

The purpose of the reduction in the number of authorized shares of the Company's common stock is to reduce our Delaware franchise tax liability. Currently, the Company incurs an annual Delaware franchise tax liability of approximately \$180,000, based on the number of the Company's authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock. By reducing the number of shares of common stock that the Company is authorized to issue to 50,000,000, the Company will be able to reduce its annual Delaware franchise tax liability to approximately \$90,000, resulting in annual savings to the Company of approximately \$90,000.

The Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders to reduce the number of authorized shares of the Company's common stock as described herein because, in its business judgment, the reduced number of authorized shares will still provide adequate flexibility to the Company to engage in future capital raising transactions, acquisitions or other transactions which might require the issuance of the Company's common stock or preferred stock, while allowing the Company to reduce its annual Delaware franchise tax liability.



### **PROPOSAL 3**

#### **AMENDMENT OF THE STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN**

Our Stock Incentive Plan was adopted by our Board of Directors on October 14, 1992, and has been subsequently amended and restated on fifteen occasions. The most recent amendment and restatement of the plan approved by our stockholders was effective as of May 20, 2016. Stockholders are being asked to approve an amendment to the Stock Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares. This proposed amendment of the Stock Incentive Plan will be effective as of May 25, 2017, if approved by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Our Stock Incentive Plan as proposed to be amended is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required to approve this amendment to the Stock Incentive Plan as described in this Proposal 3. Abstentions will be counted toward the tabulation of votes cast on this proposal and will have the same effect as negative votes. Broker non-votes are counted towards a quorum, but are not counted for any purpose in determining whether this matter has been approved.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO OUR STOCK  
INCENTIVE  
PLAN.**

#### **Summary of Amendment**

Stockholders are being asked to approve an amendment to the Stock Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of our common stock reserved for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares. The Board of Directors approved the proposed amendment on March 10, 2017, conditioned upon approval by our stockholders.

#### **Description of Stock Incentive Plan**

The following description of the Stock Incentive Plan is a summary only. It is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the full text of the Stock Incentive Plan as proposed to be amended attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement.

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Stock Incentive Plan is to assist us in recruiting and retaining qualified employees, consultants, advisors and non-employee directors and to allow us to build a satisfying long-term relationship with these individuals through recognition of their contributions to our affiliates and to us. The plan provides for the grant of nonstatutory stock options ( NSOs ), options intended to qualify as incentive stock options ( ISOs ) under Section 422(b) of the Code and rights to purchase shares of our common stock, including RSU awards.

#### ***Administration***

The Stock Incentive Plan is administered by our Compensation Committee, consisting exclusively of non-employee directors of the Company who are appointed by our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors may act on its own behalf with respect to grants under the plan. The Compensation Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, consisting of one or more of our officers who do not need to be directors, to administer the plan with respect to our employees who are not covered employees under Section 162(m)(3) of the Code and who are not required to report

pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act. On February 5, 2002, our Board of Directors created the President's Stock Option Committee to administer the plan with respect to these employees. Mr. Samant is currently the sole member of the President's Stock Option Committee. The President's Stock Option Committee periodically acted by written consent during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Subject to the limitations set forth in the Stock Incentive Plan, our Compensation Committee selects who will receive awards under the plan and determines the amount, vesting requirements and other conditions of each award. In addition, the Compensation Committee establishes the guidelines and forms for implementing the plan and is responsible for interpreting and making all decisions regarding the operation of the plan. The Compensation Committee's decisions are final and binding upon all participants in the plan.

### ***Eligibility and Shares Subject to the Stock Incentive Plan***

Under the Stock Incentive Plan, 2,370,000 shares of our common stock have been reserved for issuance (not including 500,000 shares which are subject to stockholder approval at the Annual Meeting) either by direct sale or upon exercise of options granted to our employees (including our officers and directors who are also employees), non-employee directors, and consultants and advisors who provide services to us as independent contractors. ISOs may be granted only to our employees who are paid from our payroll. NSOs and RSUs may be granted to our employees, consultants and advisors and non-employee directors.

The Stock Incentive Plan currently provides that options and awards that do not vest upon the satisfaction of performance goals made to any employee in a single calendar year and that are intended to comply with Section 162(m) of the Code may not cover more than 1,300,000 shares of common stock. In addition, of the shares available under the Stock Incentive Plan, no more than 30% in the aggregate are available for grant to non-employee directors, subject to certain adjustments. If any rights to acquire shares under the Stock Incentive Plan expire or are canceled without having been exercised in full, the shares allocable to the unexercised portion of such rights shall again become available for grant under the Stock Incentive Plan. If shares issued under the Stock Incentive Plan are forfeited, they also become available for new grants.

As of March 28, 2017, we had 72 employees and 6 non-employee directors eligible to participate in the Stock Incentive Plan.

As of March 28, 2017, options to purchase an aggregate of 1,667,893 shares of our common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$12.73 per share and a weighted average remaining life of 7.37 years were outstanding under the Stock Incentive Plan. To date, all stock options have been granted with exercise prices equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. As of March 28, 2017, RSUs covering 52,506 shares of our common stock were outstanding under the Stock Incentive Plan. As of March 28, 2017, a total of 224,622 shares of our common stock were available for future options, RSU or other awards under the Stock Incentive Plan (not including 500,000 shares which are subject to stockholder approval at the Annual Meeting). On March 28, 2017, the closing price for our common stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market was \$2.20 per share.

The allocation of the additional 500,000 shares of stock which the stockholders are being asked to approve has not been determined. Pursuant to the terms of the Stock Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee and/or committees appointed by the Board of Directors, including the President's Stock Option Committee, will determine the number of options and RSUs (and any other awards) to be allocated to our employees and non-employee directors under the Stock Incentive Plan in the future, and such allocations may only be made in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Incentive Plan as described herein.

### **Terms of Options**

The Compensation Committee will determine the date or dates on which stock options granted pursuant to the Stock Incentive Plan will vest. The Committee will also determine the terms for each option granted under the plan. The maximum term of each option granted under the Stock Incentive Plan is ten years (five years in the case of an ISO granted to any key employee of ours who, together with certain family members, owns more than 10% of our outstanding voting stock (a 10% stockholder)).

The exercise price of ISOs and NSOs granted under the plan may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of the grant (110% in the case of an ISO granted to a 10% stockholder). Under the Stock Incentive Plan, the exercise price is payable in cash.

Neither the Compensation Committee nor the Board of Directors has the authority to take any of the below actions with respect to the Stock Incentive Plan:

Amend the exercise price of outstanding grants;

Issue new grants in exchange for the cancellation of outstanding grants; or

Buyout outstanding underwater grants for cash.

### **Terms of Shares Offered for Sale**

The terms of any sale of shares of our common stock in connection with a restricted stock award or unit under the Stock Incentive Plan will be set forth in an award agreement to be entered into between us and each purchaser or RSU holder. The terms of the award agreements entered into under the Stock Incentive Plan need not be identical, and the Compensation Committee determines all terms and conditions of each of these agreements, consistent with the Stock Incentive Plan. The purchase price for shares sold under the Stock Incentive Plan may not be less than the par value of the shares.

Any shares sold or RSUs granted under the Stock Incentive Plan may be subject to vesting upon conditions specified in the award agreement. Vesting conditions are determined by the Compensation Committee and may be based on the recipient's service, individual performance, our performance or such other criteria as the Compensation Committee may adopt. Shares sold pursuant to an RSU award may be subject to a right of repurchase by us at their original purchase price in the event that any applicable vesting conditions are not satisfied and will be subject to restrictions on resale or transfer until they have vested. RSUs may not be transferred or sold. Any right to acquire shares under the Stock Incentive Plan (other than an option or RSU) will automatically expire if not exercised within 30 days after the grant of such right was communicated by the Compensation Committee to the recipient. A holder of shares sold under the Stock Incentive Plan has the same voting, dividend and other rights as our other stockholders. Shares underlying RSUs may not be acquired until the RSUs vest. The holders of RSUs are not entitled to vote or receive dividends on any of the shares underlying the RSUs until the RSUs vest and the shares are acquired. In certain circumstances the award agreement governing RSUs permits the holder to defer receipt of the vested shares beyond the vesting date, subject to certain conditions.

### **Duration, Amendment and Termination**

Our Board of Directors may amend, suspend or terminate the Stock Incentive Plan at any time, except that any such amendment, suspension or termination shall not affect any award previously granted. Any amendment of the Stock Incentive Plan is subject to approval of our stockholders only to the extent required by applicable law. Because the term of the Stock Incentive Plan is 10 years, if the proposal to amend the Stock Incentive Plan is approved at the Annual Meeting, the amended and restated plan will terminate on May 25, 2027 (unless sooner terminated by our Board of Directors), and no further options may be granted or stock sold pursuant to the plan following that date. If the proposal to amend the Stock Incentive Plan is not approved at the Annual Meeting, the plan will terminate on May 20, 2026.

### **Effect of Certain Corporate Events**

Outstanding awards under the Stock Incentive Plan provide for the automatic vesting of employee stock options and RSUs in the event of a Change in Control. Future employee stock option agreements and other award agreements entered into pursuant to the Stock Incentive Plan will contain similar provisions, unless otherwise determined by the Compensation Committee.

For purposes of the Stock Incentive Plan, the term Change in Control means either of the following events: (1) a change in the composition of our Board of Directors after which fewer than one-half of the incumbent directors either had been directors of the Company 24 months prior to the change or were elected or nominated for election to our Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the directors who had been directors of the Company 24 months prior to the change and who were still in office at the time of the election or nomination; or (2) any person becomes, by acquisition or aggregation of securities, the beneficial owner of securities representing 50% or more of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities at that time. A change in the relative beneficial ownership under clause (2) above by reason of a reduction in the number of our outstanding securities will be disregarded.

In the event of a subdivision of our outstanding common stock, a combination or consolidation of our outstanding common stock (by reclassification or otherwise) into a lesser number of shares, a declaration of a dividend payable in common stock or in a form other than common stock in an amount that has a material effect on the price of our shares, a recapitalization, spinoff, reclassification, or a similar occurrence, the Compensation Committee will make adjustments in the number and/or exercise price of options and/or the number of shares available under the Stock Incentive Plan, as appropriate.

In the event we merge or otherwise reorganize, outstanding options will be subject to the agreement of merger or reorganization. Such agreement may provide for the assumption of outstanding options by the surviving corporation or its parent, for their continuation by us (if we are the surviving corporation), for payment of a cash settlement equal to the difference between the amount to be paid for one share of our common stock under the agreement of merger or reorganization and the exercise price for each option, or for the acceleration of the exercisability of each option followed by the cancellation of options not exercised or settled, in all cases without the optionee's consent.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences of Awards Under the Stock Incentive Plan**

Neither we nor the optionee will incur any federal tax consequences as a result of the grant of an option. The optionee will have no taxable income upon exercising an ISO (except that the alternative minimum tax may apply), and we will receive no deduction when an ISO is exercised. Upon exercising an NSO, the optionee generally must recognize ordinary income equal to the spread between the exercise price and the fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise; we generally will be entitled to a deduction for the same amount. In the case of an employee, the option spread at the time an NSO is exercised is subject to income tax withholding, but the optionee generally may elect to satisfy the withholding tax obligation by having shares of common stock withheld from those purchased under the NSO. The tax treatment of a disposition of option shares acquired under the Stock Incentive Plan depends on how long the shares have been held and whether such shares were acquired by exercising an ISO or by exercising an NSO. We will not be entitled to a deduction in connection with a disposition of option shares, except in the case of a disposition of shares acquired under an ISO before the applicable ISO holding periods have been satisfied.

If a plan participant is awarded or allowed to purchase fully-vested shares under the Stock Incentive Plan, the amount by which the fair market value of the shares on the date of award or purchase exceeds the amount (if any) paid for the shares will be taxed to the participant as ordinary income. We will be entitled to a deduction in the same amount provided it includes the compensation element of the sale or award in income on the Form W-2 or Form 1099 issued to the participant. The participant's tax basis in the shares acquired is equal to the shares' fair market value on the date of acquisition. Upon a subsequent sale of any shares, the participant will realize capital gain or loss (long-term or short-term, depending on whether the shares were held for more than one year before the sale) in an amount equal to the difference between his or her basis in the shares and the sale price.

If a participant in the Stock Incentive Plan is awarded or purchases shares that are subject to a vesting schedule, the participant is deemed to receive an amount of ordinary income equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time they vest over the amount (if any) paid for such shares by the participant. We are entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of the income recognized by the participant, subject to the tax reporting requirements.

Section 83(b) of the Code permits a participant in the Stock Incentive Plan to elect, within 30 days after the transfer of any shares subject to a vesting schedule to him or her, to be taxed at ordinary income rates on the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time of the transfer over the amount (if any) paid by the participant for such shares. Withholding taxes apply at that time. If the participant makes a Section 83(b) election, any later appreciation in the value of the shares is not taxed as ordinary income, but instead is taxed as capital gain when the shares are sold or transferred.

## Awards Under the Stock Incentive Plan

Awards under the Stock Incentive Plan will be made at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has not made any decisions on the amount and type of awards that are to be made to our key service providers in future years under the Stock Incentive Plan, and therefore we cannot currently determine the amount or types of awards that may be granted in the future under the Stock Incentive Plan to the individuals and groups listed below. The following table sets forth information concerning equity-based compensation under the Stock Incentive Plan as of March 28, 2017.

Name	Number of Units
Vijay B. Samant President and Chief Executive Officer	529,650
Larry R. Smith, Ph.D. Vice President, Vaccine Research	153,162
Anthony A. Ramos Vice President Finance, Chief Accounting Officer	131,251
Executive officers, as a group	814,063
Non-employee directors, as a group	203,415
Associates of any director, executive officer or director nominee	
Other persons who received 5% of such units	
All employees, including all current officers who are not executive officers, as a group	688,903



## PROPOSAL 4

### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Section 14A of the Exchange Act, the Company's stockholders are now entitled to vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with SEC rules. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of the Company's named executive officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement.

Because the vote is advisory, it is not binding on the Board or the Company. Nevertheless, the views expressed by the stockholders, whether through this vote or otherwise, are important to management and the Board and, accordingly, the Board and the Compensation Committee intend to consider the results of this vote in making determinations in the future regarding executive compensation arrangements.

In addition, at our Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on May 26, 2011, our stockholders voted to express their preference on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation. Because the frequency of once per year received the highest number of votes cast, our Board determined that we will include a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation in our proxy materials every year until the next required advisory vote of our stockholders on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation.

The compensation of the Company's named executive officers subject to the vote is disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables, and the related narrative disclosure contained in this proxy statement. As discussed in those disclosures, the Company believes that its compensation policies and decisions are focused on pay-for-performance principles, strongly aligned with our stockholders' interests and consistent with current market practices. Compensation of the Company's named executive officers is designed to enable the Company to attract and retain talented and experienced executives to lead the Company successfully in a competitive environment.

Accordingly, the Board is asking the stockholders to indicate their support for the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as described in this proxy statement by casting a non-binding advisory vote FOR the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the compensation tables and narrative discussion is hereby APPROVED.

Advisory approval of this proposal requires the vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 4.**

**PROPOSAL 5**

**ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF VOTING ON THE COMPENSATION PAID TO THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and Section 14A of the Exchange Act, every six calendar years, stockholders vote on whether the Company should solicit a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers every year, every other year or every three years. The Company last held a say-on-frequency vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and in response, the Company has since held an annual vote on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers. Accordingly, at the Annual Meeting, the Company is asking stockholders to indicate whether they would prefer an advisory vote every year, every other year or every three years. Alternatively, stockholders may abstain from casting a vote. For the reasons described below, the Board recommends that the stockholders select a frequency of every year.

After considering the benefits and consequences of each alternative, the Board recommends that our stockholders select a frequency of one year (*i.e.*, annual vote). An annual vote provides a consistent and clear communication channel for stockholders to voice their opinion on the Company's executive pay program.

While the Board believes that its recommendation is appropriate at this time, the stockholders are not voting to approve or disapprove that recommendation, but are instead asked to indicate their preferences, on an advisory basis, as to whether the non-binding advisory vote on the approval of the Company's named executive officer compensation practices should be held every year, every other year or every three years. The option among those choices that receives the highest number of affirmative votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be deemed to be the frequency preferred by the stockholders.

The advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers is nonbinding on the Company and the Board of Directors. Although nonbinding, the Board of Directors will consider the voting results when making future decisions regarding frequency of advisory votes on named executive officer compensation.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS**

**A VOTE IN FAVOR OF ONE YEAR ON PROPOSAL 5.**

**PROPOSAL 6**

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

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors is seeking stockholder ratification of its selection of Ernst & Young LLP ( Ernst & Young ) to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. Ernst & Young has been engaged as our independent registered public accounting firm since June 2, 2006. Representatives of Ernst & Young are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Stockholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young as our independent registered public accounting firm is not required under the laws of the State of Delaware, by our Bylaws or otherwise. However, the Audit Committee is submitting the selection of Ernst & Young to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Ernst & Young. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in our best interests and those of our stockholders.

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

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL 6.**

### Fees of Principal Accounting Firm

The following table sets forth certain fees paid to Ernst & Young for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:

	Year Ended 12/31/16	Year Ended 12/31/15
Audit Fees (1)	\$ 352,533	\$ 464,314
Audit-Related Fees		
Tax Fees		
All Other Fees (2)	1,970	1,940

(1) Represents aggregate fees for professional services rendered for the audit of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and review of financial statements included in the Company's Form 10-Q filings, and other services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

(2) Includes fees for a subscription to an online accounting research library.

All fees described above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors.

#### Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

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

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors has determined that the rendering of non-audit services by Ernst & Young was compatible with maintaining the independence of Ernst & Young and all such services had been preapproved.

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## REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The material in this report is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC and shall not be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this proxy statement into any filing of Vical under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent Vical specifically incorporates this report by reference.*

### **Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors. The members of the Audit Committee are Robert C. Merton, Ph.D., Chairman of the Audit Committee, Richard M. Beleson and George J. Morrow. All of the members of the Audit Committee are independent directors as defined in Nasdaq Listing Rule 5605(a)(2). In accordance with its written charter, the Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of Vical's accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices.

In discharging its oversight responsibility as to the audit process, the Audit Committee obtained from Ernst & Young a formal written statement describing all relationships between Vical and its independent registered public accounting firm that might bear on the registered public accounting firm's independence consistent with applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young any relationships that may impact their objectivity and independence and satisfied itself as to Ernst & Young's independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young the matters required to be communicated under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 16, as amended, Communication with Audit Committees. In addition, with and without management present, the Audit Committee discussed and reviewed the results of Ernst & Young's examination of Vical's 2016 financial statements and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

Based upon the Audit Committee's discussion with management and Ernst & Young and the Audit Committee's review of the representation of Vical's management and the independent registered public accounting firm's report to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that Vical include the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, for filing with the SEC.

The charter of the Audit Committee provides that one duty of the Audit Committee is to determine whether to retain or to terminate Vical's existing independent registered public accounting firm or to appoint and engage a new independent registered public accounting firm for the ensuing year. In performing that duty, the Audit Committee evaluated the performance of Ernst & Young in performing the examination of Vical's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and engaged Ernst & Young as Vical's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The Audit Committee is seeking stockholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young to serve as Vical's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

### **Audit Committee**

Robert C. Merton, Ph.D.  
Richard M. Beleson



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## SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, named executive officers and any persons beneficially holding more than 10% of our common stock to report their initial ownership of our common stock and any subsequent changes in that ownership to the SEC. Our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Specific due dates for these reports have been established and we are required to identify in this proxy statement those persons who failed to timely file these reports. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and written representations that no other reports were required, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, all of our directors, officers and greater than 10% stockholders complied with the Section 16(a) filing requirements.

## HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (*e.g.*, brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as *householding*, potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are Vical stockholders will be *householding* our proxy materials. A single proxy statement will be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be *householding* communications to your address, *householding* will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in *householding* and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and annual report, please notify your broker, direct your written request to Vical Incorporated, Investor Relations, 10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, California 92121-4340 or contact Vijay B. Samant at (858) 646-1100. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the proxy statement at their address and would like to request *householding* of their communications should contact their broker.

## OTHER MATTERS

We know of no other business that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. If any other business is properly brought before the Annual Meeting, it is intended that proxies in the enclosed form will be voted in accordance with the judgment of the persons voting the proxies.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Vijay B. Samant

Vijay B. Samant  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

San Diego, California  
April 7, 2017





**AMENDED AND RESTATED STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN  
OF VICAL INCORPORATED**

**SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.**

The Plan was adopted on October 14, 1992. The Plan was amended and restated effective as of January 7, 1993, was amended and restated effective as of December 4, 1996, was amended and restated effective March 11, 1998, was amended and restated effective March 2, 1999, was amended and restated effective May 30, 2001, was amended and restated effective June 14, 2002, was amended and restated effective May 21, 2003, was amended and restated effective May 10, 2004, was amended and restated effective March 30, 2006, was amended and restated effective May 19, 2006, was amended and restated effective May 23, 2007, was amended and restated effective March 26, 2009, was amended effective May 25, 2010, was amended and restated effective May 24, 2012, was amended and restated effective May 23, 2013, was amended and restated effective May 20, 2016, and was amended and restated effective , 2017.

The purpose of the Plan is to offer Employees an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company, or to increase such interest, by purchasing Shares of the Company's Stock. The Plan provides both for the direct award or sale of Shares and for the grant of Options to purchase Shares. Options granted under the Plan may include NSOs as well as ISOs intended to qualify under Section 422 of the Code.

The Plan is intended to comply in all respects with Rule 16b-3 (or its successor) under the Exchange Act and shall be construed accordingly.

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) *Board of Directors* shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company, as constituted from time to time.

(b) *Change in Control* shall mean the occurrence of either of the following events:

(i) A change in the composition of the Board of Directors, as a result of which fewer than one-half of the incumbent directors are directors who either:

(A) Had been directors of the Company 24 months prior to such change; or

(B) Were elected, or nominated for election, to the Board of Directors with the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the directors who had been directors of the Company 24 months prior to such change and who were still in office at the time of the election or nomination; or (ii) Any person (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Exchange Act) by the acquisition or aggregation of securities is or becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing 50 percent or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding securities ordinarily (and apart from rights accruing under special circumstances) having the right to vote at elections of directors (the Base Capital Stock); except that any change in the relative beneficial ownership of the Company's securities by any person resulting solely from a reduction in the aggregate number of outstanding shares of Base Capital Stock, and any decrease thereafter in such person's ownership of securities, shall be disregarded until such person increases in any manner, directly or indirectly, such person's beneficial ownership of any securities of the Company.

(c) *Code* shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

- (d) *Committee* shall mean a committee of the Board of Directors, as described in Section 3(a).
- (e) *Common-Law Employee* means an individual paid from W-2 Payroll of the Company or a Subsidiary. If, during any period, the Company (or a Subsidiary, as applicable) has not treated an individual as a Common-Law Employee and, for that reason, has not withheld employment taxes with respect to him or her, then that individual shall not be an Employee for that period, even if any person, court of law or government agency determines, retroactively, that individual is or was a Common-Law Employee during all or any portion of that period.
- (f) *Company* shall mean Vical Incorporated, a Delaware corporation.
- (g) *Employee* shall mean (i) any individual who is a Common-Law Employee of the Company or of a Subsidiary or (ii) an Outside Director and (iii) a consultant or adviser who provides services to the Company or a Subsidiary as an independent contractor. Service as an Outside Director or as an independent contractor shall be considered employment for all purposes of the Plan except as provided in Section 4(b).

- (h) *Exchange Act* shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (i) *Exercise Price* shall mean the amount for which one Share may be purchased upon exercise of an option, as specified by the Committee in the applicable Stock Option Agreement.
- (j) *Fair Market Value* shall mean the market price of Stock, determined by the Committee as follows:
- (i) If Stock was traded over-the-counter on the date in question then the Fair Market Value shall be equal to the mean between the last reported representative bid and asked prices quoted for such date by the principal automated inter-dealer quotation system on which Stock is quoted;
- (ii) If Stock was traded on a stock exchange on the date in question, then the Fair Market Value shall be equal to the closing price reported by the applicable composite transactions report for such date; and
- (iii) If none of the foregoing provisions is applicable, then the Fair Market Value shall be determined by the Committee in good faith on such basis as it deems appropriate. Whenever possible, the determination of Fair Market Value by the Committee shall be based on the prices reported in the Western Edition of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Such determination shall be conclusive and binding on all persons.
- (k) *Incentive Stock Option* or *ISO* shall mean an employee incentive stock option described in Section 422(b) of the Code.
- (l) *Nonstatutory Option* or *NSO* shall mean an employee stock option not described in Sections 422(b) or 423(b) of the Code.
- (m) *Offeree* shall mean an individual to whom the Committee has offered the right to acquire Shares under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an Option).
- (n) *Option* shall mean an ISO or NSO granted under the Plan and entitling the holder to purchase Shares.
- (o) *Optionee* shall mean an individual who holds an Option.
- (p) *Outside Director* shall mean a member of the Board of Directors who is not a Common-Law Employee of the Company or of a Subsidiary.
- (q) *Plan* shall mean this Stock Incentive Plan of Vical Incorporated, formerly the 1992 Stock Plan of Vical Incorporated.
- (r) *Purchase Price* shall mean the consideration for which one Share may be acquired under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an Option), as specified by the Committee.
- (s) *Service* shall mean service as an Employee.
- (t) *Share* shall mean one share of Stock, as adjusted in accordance with Section 9 (if applicable).
- (u) *Stock* shall mean the Common Stock (\$.01 par value) of the Company.
- (v) *Stock Option Agreement* shall mean the agreement between the Company and an Optionee, which contains the terms, conditions and restrictions pertaining to the Optionee's Option.

(w) *Stock Purchase Agreement* shall mean the agreement between the Company and an Offeree who acquires Shares under the Plan, which contains the terms, conditions and restrictions pertaining to the acquisition of such Shares.

(x) *Subsidiary* shall mean any corporation if the Company and/or one or more other Subsidiaries own not less than 50 percent of the total combined voting power of all classes of outstanding stock of such corporation. A corporation that attains the status of a Subsidiary on a date after the adoption of the Plan shall be considered a Subsidiary commencing as of such date.

(y) *Total and Permanent Disability* shall mean that the Optionee is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted, or can be expected to last, for a continuous period of not less than one year.

(z) *W-2 Payroll* shall mean whatever mechanism or procedure that the Company or a Subsidiary utilizes to pay any individual which results in the issuance of a Form W-2 to the individual. W-2 Payroll does not include any mechanism or procedure which results in the issuance of any form other than a Form W-2 to an individual, including, but not limited to, any Form 1099 which may be issued to an independent contractor, an agency employee or a consultant. Whether a mechanism or procedure qualifies as a W-2 Payroll shall be determined in the absolute discretion of the Company (or Subsidiary, as applicable), and the Company or Subsidiary determination shall be conclusive and binding on all persons.

### **SECTION 3. ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) *Committee Composition.* The Plan shall be administered by the Committee. Except as provided below, the Committee shall consist exclusively of directors of the Company, who shall be appointed by the Board. In addition, the composition of the Committee shall satisfy:

(i) Such requirements, if any, as the Securities and Exchange Commission may establish for administrators acting under plans intended to qualify for exemption under Rule 16b-3 (or its successor) under the Exchange Act; and

(ii) Such requirements as the Internal Revenue Service may establish for outside directors acting under plans intended to qualify for exemption under Section 162(m)(4)(C) of the Code.

The Board may act on its own behalf with respect to Outside Directors and may also appoint one or more separate committees composed of one or more officers of the Company, who need not be directors of the Company and who need not satisfy the foregoing requirements, who may administer the Plan with respect to Employees who are not covered employees under Section 162(m)(3) of the Code and who are not required to report pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

(b) *Committee Responsibilities.* The Committee shall (i) select the Employees who are to receive Options and other rights to acquire shares under the Plan, (ii) determine the type, number, vesting requirements and other features and conditions of such Options or other rights, (iii) interpret the Plan and (iv) make all other decisions relating to the operation of the Plan. The Committee may adopt such rules or guidelines as it deems appropriate to implement the Plan. The Committee's determinations under the Plan shall be final and binding on all persons.

### **SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY.**

(a) *General Rules.* Only Employees (including, without limitation, independent contractors who are not members of the Board) shall be eligible for designation as Optionees or Offerees by the Committee.

(b) *Incentive Stock Options.* Only Employees who are Common-Law Employees of the Company or a Subsidiary shall be eligible for the grant of ISOs. In addition, an Employee who owns more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of outstanding stock of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries shall not be eligible for the grant of an ISO unless the requirements set forth in Section 422(c)(5) of the Code are satisfied.

### **SECTION 5. STOCK SUBJECT TO PLAN.**

(a) *Basic Limitation.* Shares offered under the Plan shall be authorized but unissued Shares or treasury Shares. The aggregate number of Shares which may be issued under the Plan (upon exercise of Options or other rights to acquire Shares) shall not exceed 2,870,000 Shares (subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 9). Of the Shares available hereunder, no more than 30% in the aggregate shall be available with respect to Outside Directors, subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 9. The number of Shares that are subject to Options or other rights outstanding at any time under the Plan shall not exceed the number of Shares that then remain available for issuance under the Plan. The

Company, during the term of the Plan, shall at all times reserve and keep available sufficient Shares to satisfy the requirements of the Plan. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, no Employee shall receive a grant of more than 1,300,000 Shares in any calendar year; provided that Shares subject to awards which are not Options and which do not vest upon the satisfaction of performance goals shall be excluded from such limitation.

(b) *Additional Shares.* In the event that any outstanding option or other right for any reason expires or is canceled or otherwise terminated, the Shares allocable to the unexercised portion of such Option or other right shall again be available for the purposes of the Plan. In the event that Shares issued under the Plan are reacquired by the Company pursuant to any forfeiture provision, right of repurchase or right of first refusal, such Shares shall again be available for the purposes of the Plan, provided, however, that no such reacquired Shares may be used for the grant of an ISO.

## **SECTION 6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS OR SALES.**

(a) *Stock Purchase Agreement.* Each award or sale of Shares under the Plan (other than upon exercise of an option) shall be evidenced by a Stock Purchase Agreement between the Offeree and the Company. Such award or sale shall be subject to all applicable terms and conditions of the Plan and may be subject to any other terms and conditions which are not inconsistent with the Plan and which the Committee deems appropriate for inclusion in a Stock Purchase Agreement. The provisions of the various Stock Purchase Agreements entered into under the Plan need not be identical.

(b) *Duration of Offers and Non-Transferability of Rights.* Any right to acquire Shares under the Plan (other than an Option) shall automatically expire if not exercised by the Offeree within 30 days after the grant of such right was communicated to the Offeree by the Committee. Such right shall not be transferable and shall be exercisable only by the Offeree to whom such right was granted.

(c) *Purchase Price.* The Purchase Price of Shares to be offered under the Plan shall not be less than the par value of such Shares. Subject to the preceding sentence, the Purchase Price shall be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. The Purchase Price shall be payable in a form described in Section 8.

(d) *Withholding Taxes.* As a condition to the purchase of Shares, the Offeree shall make such arrangements as the Committee may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with such purchase. The Committee may permit the Offeree to satisfy all or part of his or her tax obligations related to such Shares by having the Company withhold a portion of any Shares that otherwise would be issued to him or her or by surrendering any Shares that previously were acquired by him or her. The Shares withheld or surrendered shall be valued at their Fair Market Value on the date when taxes otherwise would be withheld in cash. The payment of taxes by assigning Shares to the Company, if permitted by the Committee, shall be subject to such restrictions as the Committee may impose, including any restrictions required by rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(e) *Restrictions on Transfer of Shares.* Any Shares awarded or sold under the Plan shall be subject to such special forfeiture conditions, rights of repurchase, rights of first refusal and other transfer restrictions as the Committee may determine. Such restrictions shall be set forth in the applicable Stock Purchase Agreement and shall apply in addition to any restrictions that may apply to holders of Shares generally.

(f) *Effect of Change in Control.* The Committee may set forth in an Offeree's Stock Purchase Agreement, or in any subsequent written agreement between the Company and the Offeree, terms upon which the Shares shall become fully vested on an accelerated basis in the event that a Change in Control occurs with respect to the Company; *provided, however*, that in the absence of any such terms, no such acceleration shall occur with respect to the Shares.

## **SECTION 7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPTIONS.**

(a) *Stock Option Agreement.* Each grant of an Option under the Plan shall be evidenced by a Stock Option Agreement between the Optionee and the Company. Such Option shall be subject to all applicable terms and conditions of the Plan and may be subject to any other terms and conditions which are not inconsistent with the Plan and which the Committee deems appropriate for inclusion in a Stock Option Agreement. The Stock Option Agreement shall specify whether the Option is an ISO or an NSO. The provisions of the various Stock Option Agreements entered into under the Plan need not be identical.

(b) *Number of Shares.* Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the number of Shares that are subject to the Option and shall provide for the adjustment of such number in accordance with Section 9.

(c) *Exercise Price.* Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the Exercise Price; provided that the Exercise Price shall in no event be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of grant (except as a higher percentage may be required by Section 4(b)). Subject to the preceding sentence, the Exercise Price under any Option shall be determined by the Committee at its sole discretion. The Exercise Price shall be payable in a form described in Section 8.

(d) *Withholding Taxes.* As a condition to the exercise of an Option, the Optionee shall make such arrangements as the Committee may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with such exercise. The Optionee shall also make such arrangements as the Committee may require for the satisfaction of any federal, state, local or foreign withholding tax obligations that may arise in connection with the disposition of Shares acquired by exercising an Option. The Committee may permit the Optionee to satisfy all or part of his or her tax obligations related to the Option by having the Company withhold a portion of any Shares that otherwise would be issued to him or her or by surrendering any Shares that previously were acquired by him or her. Such Shares shall be valued at their Fair Market Value on the date when taxes otherwise would be withheld in cash. The payment of taxes by assigning Shares to the Company, if permitted by the Committee, shall be subject to such restrictions as the Committee may impose, including any restrictions required by rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.



(e) *Exercisability*. Each Stock Option Agreement shall specify the date when all or any installment of the Option is to become exercisable. The vesting of any Option shall be determined by the Committee at its sole discretion. A Stock Option Agreement may provide for accelerated exercisability in the event of the Optionee's death, Total and Permanent Disability, retirement or other events.

(f) *Effect of Change in Control*. The Committee may set forth in an Optionee's Stock Option Agreement, or in any subsequent written agreement between the Company and the Optionee, terms upon which the Option grant shall become exercisable on an accelerated basis in the event that a Change in Control occurs with respect to the Company provided, however, that in the absence of any such terms, no such acceleration shall occur with respect to the Option.

(g) *Term*. The Stock Option Agreement shall specify the term of the Option. The term shall not exceed 10 years from the date of grant, except as otherwise provided in Section 4(b). Subject to the preceding sentence, the Committee at its sole discretion shall determine when an Option is to expire.

(h) *Non-Transferability*. An option granted under the Plan shall not be anticipated, assigned, attached, garnished, optioned, transferred or made subject to any creditor's process, whether voluntarily, involuntarily or by operation of law, except as approved by the Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ISOs may not be transferable. However, this Section 7 shall not preclude an Optionee from designating a beneficiary who will receive any outstanding Options in the event of the Optionee's death, nor shall it preclude a transfer of Options by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

(i) *Termination of Service (except by death)*. If an Optionee's Service terminates for any reason other than the Optionee's death, then the Optionee's Option(s) shall, except to the extent determined by the Committee, expire on the earliest of the following occasions:

(i) The expiration date determined pursuant to Subsection (g) above;

(ii) The date 90 days (or such longer or shorter period as provided in Optionee's Stock Option Agreement) after the termination of the Optionee's Service for any reason other than Total and Permanent Disability; or

(iii) The date six months after the termination of the Optionee's Service by reason of Total and Permanent Disability.

The Optionee may exercise all or part of the Optionee's Option(s) at any time before the expiration of such Option(s) under the preceding sentence, but only to the extent that such Option(s) had become exercisable before the Optionee's Service terminated. The balance of such Option(s) shall lapse when the Optionee's Service terminates. In the event that the Optionee dies after the termination of the Optionee's Service but before the expiration of the Optionee's Option(s), all or part of such Option(s) may be exercised (prior to expiration) by the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or by any person who has acquired such Option(s) directly from the Optionee by bequest, beneficiary designation or inheritance, but only to the extent that such Option(s) had become exercisable before the Optionee's Service terminated.

(j) *Leaves of Absence*. For purposes of Subsection (i) above, Service shall, except to the extent determined by the Committee, be deemed to continue while the Optionee is on military leave, sick-leave or other bona fide leave of absence (as determined by the Committee). The foregoing notwithstanding, in the case of an ISO granted under the Plan, Service shall not be deemed to continue beyond the first 90 days of such leave, unless the Optionee's reemployment rights are guaranteed by statute or by contract.

(k) *Death of Optionee*. If an Optionee dies while the Optionee is in Service, then the Optionee's Option(s) shall, except to the extent determined by the Committee, expire on the earlier of the following dates:

- (i) The expiration date determined pursuant to Subsection (g) above; or
- (ii) The date six months (or such longer or shorter period as provided in Optionee's Stock Option Agreement) after the Optionee's death.

All or part of the Optionee's Option(s) may be exercised at any time before the expiration of such Option(s) under the preceding sentence by the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or by any person who has acquired such Option(s) directly from the Optionee by bequest, beneficiary designation or inheritance, but only to the extent that such Option(s) had become exercisable before the Optionee's death. The balance of such Option(s) shall lapse when the Optionee dies.

(l) *No Rights as a Stockholder.* An Optionee, or a transferee of an Optionee, shall have no rights as a stockholder with respect to any Shares covered by the Optionee's Option until such person is entitled, pursuant to the terms of such Option, to receive such Shares. No adjustments shall be made, except as provided in Section 9.

(m) *Modification, Extension and Assumption of Options.* Within the limitations of the Plan, the Committee may modify, extend or assume outstanding Options; provided that the Committee may not (i) amend the Exercise Price of outstanding Options granted by the Company, (ii) accept the cancellation of outstanding Options granted by the Company in return for the grant of new Options for the same or a different number of Shares and at the same or a different Exercise Price or (iii) accept in return for cash payments the cancellation of outstanding Options granted by the Company having an Exercise Price greater than the then existing Fair Market Value. The foregoing notwithstanding, no modification of an Option shall, without the consent of the Optionee, impair the Optionee's rights or increase the Optionee's obligations under such Option.

(n) *Restrictions on Transfer of Shares.* Any Shares issued upon exercise of an Option shall be subject to such special forfeiture conditions, rights of repurchase, rights of first refusal and other transfer restrictions as the Committee may determine. Such restrictions shall be set forth in the applicable Stock Option Agreement and shall apply in addition to any restrictions that may apply to holders of Shares generally.

## **SECTION 8. PAYMENT FOR SHARES.**

(a) *General Rule.* The entire Purchase Price or Exercise Price of Shares issued under the Plan shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America at the time when such Shares are purchased, except as provided in Subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e) below. The foregoing notwithstanding, no portion of the Exercise Price or Purchase Price (as the case may be) of Shares issued under the Plan may be paid with a promissory note.

(b) *Surrender of Stock.* To the extent that a Stock Option Agreement so provides, payment may be made all or in part with Shares which have already been owned by the Optionee or the Optionee's representative for more than six months and which are surrendered to the Company in good form for transfer. Such Shares shall be valued at their Fair Market Value on the date when the new Shares are purchased under the Plan.

(c) *[Reserved].*

(d) *Exercise/Sale.* To the extent that a Stock Option Agreement so provides, payment may be made all or in part by the delivery (on a form prescribed by the Company) of an irrevocable direction to a securities broker approved by the Company to sell Shares and to deliver all or part of the sales proceeds to the Company in payment of all or part of the Exercise Price and any withholding taxes.

(e) *Exercise/Pledge.* To the extent that a Stock Option Agreement so provides, payment may be made all or in part by the delivery (on a form prescribed by the Company) of an irrevocable direction to pledge Shares to a securities broker or lender approved by the Company, as security for a loan, and to deliver all or part of the loan proceeds to the Company in payment of all or part of the Exercise Price and any withholding taxes.

## **SECTION 9. ADJUSTMENT OF SHARES.**

(a) *General.* In the event of a subdivision of the outstanding Stock, a declaration of a dividend payable in Shares, a declaration of a dividend payable in a form other than Shares in an amount that has a material effect on the value of Shares, a combination or consolidation of the outstanding Stock into a lesser number of Shares, a recapitalization, a spinoff, a reclassification or a similar occurrence, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in one or more of (i) the number of Shares available for future grants under Section 5a, (ii) the number of Shares covered by each outstanding Option or (iii) the Exercise Price under each outstanding Option.

(b) *Mergers and Consolidations.* In the event that the Company is a party to a merger or consolidation, outstanding Options shall be subject to the agreement of merger or consolidation. Such agreement may provide for the assumption of outstanding Options by the surviving corporation or its parent or for their continuation by the Company (if the Company is the surviving corporation). In the event the Company is not the surviving corporation and the surviving corporation will not assume the outstanding Options, the agreement of merger or consolidation may provide for payment of a cash settlement for exercisable options equal to the difference between the amount to be paid for one Share under such agreement and the Exercise Price and for the cancellation of Options not exercised or settled, in either case without the Optionees' consent.

(c) *Reservation of Rights.* Except as provided in this Section 9, an Optionee or Offeree shall have no rights by reason of (i) any subdivision or consolidation of shares of stock of any class, (ii) the payment of any dividend or (iii) any other increase or decrease in the number of shares of stock of any class. Any issue by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall not affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or Exercise Price of Shares subject to an Option. The grant of an Option pursuant to the Plan shall not affect in any way the right or power of the Company to make adjustments, reclassifications, reorganizations or changes of its capital or business structure, to merge or consolidate or to dissolve, liquidate, sell or transfer all or any part of its business or assets.

#### **SECTION 10. SECURITIES LAWS.**

Shares shall not be issued under the Plan unless the issuance and delivery of such Shares comply with (or are exempt from) all applicable requirements of law, including (without limitation) the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Exchange Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, state securities laws and regulations, and the regulations of any stock exchanges on which the Company's securities may then be listed.

#### **SECTION 11. NO EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.**

No provision of the Plan, nor any right or Option granted under the Plan, shall be construed to give any person any right to become, to be treated as, or to remain an Employee. The Company and its Subsidiaries reserve the right to terminate any person's Service at any time and for any reason.

#### **SECTION 12. DURATION AND AMENDMENTS.**

(a) *Term of the Plan.* The Plan, as set forth herein, shall become effective as of the date indicated herein. The Plan shall terminate automatically 10 years after its amendment and restatement by the Board of Directors to read as set forth herein and may be terminated on any earlier date pursuant to Subsection (b) below.

(b) *Right to amend or Terminate the Plan.* The Board of Directors may at any time and for any reason, amend, suspend or terminate the Plan. An amendment of the Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Company's stockholders only to the extent required by applicable laws, regulations and rules, including the rules of any applicable exchange.

(c) *Effect of Amendment or Termination.* No Shares shall be issued or sold under the Plan after the termination thereof, except upon (i) the exercise of an Option granted prior to such termination or (ii) the issuance of Shares pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement executed prior to such termination. The termination of the Plan, or any amendment thereof, shall not affect any Share previously issued or any Option previously granted under the Plan.

#### **SECTION 13. EXECUTION.**

To record the amendment and restatement of the Plan by the Board of Directors, effective \_\_\_\_\_ 2017, the Company has caused its authorized officer to execute the same.

VICAL INCORPORATED

By:



**V O T E B Y I N T E R N E T -  
www.proxyvote.com**

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE  
PROXY MATERIALS**

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

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

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

**VOTE BY MAIL**

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

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

KEEP THIS PORTION  
FOR YOUR  
RECORDS

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

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

<b>For All</b>	<b>Withhold</b>	<b>For All</b>	To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark <b>For All Except</b> and write the number(s) of the nominee(s) on the line below.
<b>All</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Except</b>	

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following:**

**1. Election of Directors**

**Nominees**

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 01 Robert C. Merton<br>B. Samant | 02 Vijay |
|----------------------------------|----------|

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR proposals 2, 3, and 4.**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>proposal:</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
5 An advisory vote on the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory voting on the compensation paid to the Company's named executive							

- 2** To approve an amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the authorized number of shares of the Company's common stock from 160,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares.



3 To amend the Company's Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of the Company's common stock authorized for issuance under the plan by 500,000 shares.

4 To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as described in the accompanying proxy statement.

officers.  
**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following proposal:**

6 To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

**NOTE:**  
Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**For    Against    Abstain**

For address change/comments, mark here.

(see reverse for instructions)                      **Yes    No**

Please indicate if you plan to attend this meeting

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



**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:** The Annual Report, Notice & Proxy Statement is/are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

**VICAL INCORPORATED**

**Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

**May 25, 2017 8:00 AM**

**This proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors**

The undersigned stockholder of Vical Incorporated, or the Company, acknowledges receipt of the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, each dated April 7, 2017, and the undersigned revokes all prior proxies and appoints Vijay B. Samant and Anthony A. Ramos, and each of them, as attorneys and proxies for the undersigned to vote all shares of common stock of the Company which the undersigned would be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 4401 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, California 92121, at 8:00 a.m., Pacific Time, on May 25, 2017, or at any adjournment, continuation or postponement thereof, and instructs said proxies to vote as indicated on the reverse side.

**THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS MADE. IF NO SPECIFICATIONS ARE MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR IN PROPOSAL 1, FOR 1 YEAR IN PROPOSAL 5, AND FOR THE APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS 2, 3, 4, and 6. PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY, USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH IS POSTAGE PREPAID IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.**

**Address change/comments:**

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

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