

Verastem, Inc.  
Form PRE 14A  
November 09, 2018

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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 under §240.14a-12

**Verastem, Inc.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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**Verastem, Inc.**  
117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500  
Needham, MA 02494

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

The 2018 Special Meeting of Stockholders of Verastem, Inc. (the "Company" or "Verastem Oncology") will be held on December 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. local time, at the Company's offices, 117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500, Needham, Massachusetts 02494 for the following purposes:

1. To approve an amendment to the Company's restated certificate of incorporation to provide for an increase in the total number of shares of common stock that the Company is authorized to issue from 100,000,000 shares to 200,000,000 shares (the "Charter Amendment");
2. To approve the adoption of the Company's Amended and Restated 2012 Incentive Plan (the "Amended 2012 Plan"), including an amendment to increase the number of shares under the plan by 6,250,000 shares;
3. To approve the adoption of the Verastem, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP"); and
4. To consider and act upon any other matters that properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Each outstanding share of the Company's common stock (Nasdaq: VSTM) entitles the holder of record at the close of business on November 12, 2018, to receive notice of and to vote at the Special Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Special Meeting.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING, WE URGE YOU TO VOTE YOUR SHARES BY INTERNET, TELEPHONE, OR BY SIGNING, DATING AND RETURNING THE PROXY CARD INCLUDED IN THESE MATERIALS. IF YOU CHOOSE TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING, YOU MAY STILL VOTE YOUR SHARES IN PERSON, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY VOTED OR RETURNED YOUR PROXY BY ANY OF THE METHODS DESCRIBED IN OUR PROXY STATEMENT. IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD IN A BANK OR BROKERAGE ACCOUNT, PLEASE REFER TO THE MATERIALS PROVIDED BY YOUR BANK OR BROKER FOR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS.

All stockholders are extended a cordial invitation to attend the special meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Robert Forrester  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
November , 2018

Verastem, Inc.  
117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500  
Needham, MA 02494

## PROXY STATEMENT FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 9:00 am Eastern Time

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### When are this proxy statement and the accompanying materials scheduled to be sent to stockholders?

This proxy statement and accompanying proxy card or, for shares held in street name (held for your account by a broker or other nominee), voting instruction form, are scheduled to be sent to stockholders beginning on or about November 19, 2018.

#### Who is soliciting my vote?

The Board of Directors of the Company is soliciting your vote for the 2018 Special Meeting of Stockholders.

#### When is the record date for the Special Meeting?

The Company's Board of Directors has fixed the record date for the Special Meeting as of the close of business on November 12, 2018.

#### How many votes can be cast by all stockholders?

A total of \_\_\_\_\_ shares of common stock of the Company were outstanding on the record date and are entitled to be voted at the Special Meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter.

#### How do I vote?

If you are a stockholder of record and your shares are registered directly in your name, you may vote:

**By Internet.** Access the website at [www.proxyvoting.com](http://www.proxyvoting.com) and follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. Your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. You must specify how you want your shares voted, or your Internet vote cannot be completed and you will receive an error message.

**By Telephone.** Call 1-800-690-6903 toll-free and follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. Your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. You must specify how you want your shares voted, or your telephone vote cannot be completed.

**By Mail.** Complete and mail the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717. Your proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign and return the enclosed proxy but do not specify how you want your shares voted, they will be voted FOR approval of the Charter Amendment, FOR approval of the Amended 2012 Plan, FOR approval of the ESPP, and will be voted according to the discretion of the proxy holder named in the proxy card upon any other business that may properly be brought before the Special Meeting and at all adjournments and postponements thereof.

**In Person at the Special Meeting.** If you attend the Special Meeting, be sure to bring a form of personal photo identification with you, and you may deliver your completed proxy card in person, or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the Special Meeting.

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If your shares of common stock are held in street name (held for your account by a broker or other nominee):

**By Internet or By Telephone.** You will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee if you are permitted to vote by Internet or telephone.

**By Mail.** You will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee explaining how to vote your shares.

**In Person at the Special Meeting.** If you attend the Special Meeting, in addition to photo identification, you should both bring an account statement or a letter from the record holder indicating that you owned the shares as of the record date, and contact the broker or other nominee who holds your shares to obtain a legal proxy from your broker giving you the right to vote the shares at the Special Meeting.

### What is the Board of Director's recommendation on how to vote my shares?

The Board of Directors recommends a vote:

Proposal No. 1: FOR approval of the Charter Amendment

Proposal No. 2: FOR approval of the Amended 2012 Plan

Proposal No. 3: FOR approval of the ESPP

### Who pays the cost for soliciting proxies?

Verastem Oncology will bear the cost of solicitation of proxies. This includes the charges and expenses of brokerage firms and others for forwarding solicitation material to beneficial owners of our outstanding common stock. Verastem Oncology may solicit proxies by mail, personal interview, telephone, or via the Internet through its officers, directors and other management employees, who will receive no additional compensation for their services.

### Can I change my vote?

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by notifying the Secretary of the Company in writing, by returning a signed proxy with a later date, by transmitting a subsequent vote over the Internet or by telephone prior to the close of the Internet voting facility or the telephone voting facility, or by attending the Special Meeting and voting in person. If your stock is held in street name, you must contact your broker or nominee for instructions as to how to change your vote.

### How is a quorum reached?

The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of at least a majority of the total number of outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Special Meeting. Abstentions and "broker non-votes" (i.e., shares represented at the Special Meeting held by brokers, bankers or other nominees as to which instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote such shares and, with respect to one or more but not all issues, such brokers or nominees do not have discretionary voting power to vote such shares), if any, will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business at the Special Meeting.

### What vote is required to approve each item?

Proposal No. 1 Charter Amendment: The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote is necessary for the approval of the Charter Amendment.

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Because a minimum vote is required, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of a negative vote on this proposal.

Proposal No. 2 Adoption of Amended 2012 Plan: A majority of votes cast is necessary for the approval of the Amended 2012 Plan. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no direct effect on the outcome of this proposal.

Proposal No. 3 Adoption of ESPP: A majority of votes cast is necessary for approval of the ESPP. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no direct effect on the outcome of this proposal.

If there are insufficient votes to approve these proposals, your proxy may be voted by the persons named in the proxy card to adjourn the Special Meeting in order to solicit additional proxies in favor of the approval of such proposals. If the Special Meeting is adjourned or postponed for any purpose, at any subsequent reconvening of the Special Meeting, your proxy will be voted in the same manner as it would have been voted at the original convening of the Special Meeting unless you withdraw or revoke your proxy.

### **Could other matters be decided at the Special Meeting?**

Verastem Oncology does not know of any other matters that may be presented for action at the Special Meeting. Should any other business come before the Special Meeting, the persons named on the enclosed proxy will have discretionary authority to vote the shares represented by such proxies in accordance with their best judgment.

### **What happens if the Special Meeting is postponed or adjourned?**

Your proxy may be voted at the postponed or adjourned Special Meeting. You will still be able to change your proxy until it is voted.

### **What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card or voting instruction form?**

It means that you have multiple accounts at the transfer agent or with brokers. Please complete and return all proxy cards or voting instruction forms to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

### **Who should I call if I have any additional questions?**

If you hold your shares directly, please call Sean Flynn, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company, at (781) 292-4200. If your shares are held in street name, please contact the telephone number provided on your voting instruction form or contact your broker or nominee holder directly.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1 AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANY'S RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**

The Company is asking stockholders to approve an amendment to the Company's restated certificate of incorporation, in the form attached hereto as *Appendix A* (the "Charter Amendment"). The Charter Amendment increases the number of authorized shares of common stock from one hundred million (100,000,000) shares to two hundred million (200,000,000) shares. On November 9, 2018, the Board of Directors approved the Charter Amendment, subject to stockholder approval, and directed that the Charter Amendment be submitted to a vote of the Company's stockholders at the Special Meeting. The Board of Directors has determined that the Charter Amendment is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and recommends approval by the stockholders.

The current restated certificate of incorporation, as amended (the "Current Charter"), authorizes the issuance of up to 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.0001 per share (the "Common Stock"). As of the close of business on November 12, 2018, \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock were outstanding. In addition, as of the close of business on November 12, 2018, the Company had \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding stock options granted under the 2012 Incentive Plan, \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance under the 2012 Incentive Plan, \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding stock options granted under the Company's 2010 Equity Incentive Plan, \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding stock options granted under inducement awards, \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance under the inducement plan, and \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance for the potential conversion of the Company's 5.00% senior convertible notes into Common Stock. This means that as of November 12, 2018, the Company had \_\_\_\_\_ shares of Common Stock available for corporate purposes, including, among other things, the issuance of the underlying shares of Common Stock in connection with the convertible note offering of 5.00% senior convertible notes and the issuance of stock options. The Current Charter also authorizes the issuance of 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, though no shares of preferred stock are issued and outstanding as of November 12, 2018. The Charter Amendment will not increase or otherwise affect the Company's authorized preferred stock or otherwise affect any other provisions of the Current Charter.

**Purpose of the Charter Amendment**

The Board of Directors believes it is in the best interest of the Company to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock in order to give the Company greater flexibility in considering and planning for future potential business needs. In addition, under the indenture pursuant to which we issued our 5.00% senior convertible notes, we agreed to use our reasonable best efforts to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock to an amount that is sufficient to cover the settlement of the conversion of all outstanding notes.

With the exception of the Company's routine practice of granting stock options to employees and directors, and the obligation to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock to cover the settlement of the conversion of all outstanding 5.00% senior convertible notes, the Company has no current specific plan, commitment, arrangement, understanding, or agreement regarding the issuance of the additional shares of Common Stock resulting from the proposed increase in authorized shares. The additional shares of Common Stock will be available for issuance by the Board of Directors for various corporate purposes, including but not limited to, grants under employee stock plans or to new employees as inducement awards, financings, potential strategic transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, divestitures, business combinations, stock splits, stock dividends, as well as other general corporate transactions.

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If the Charter Amendment is not approved, the Company is obligated under the indenture for the 5.00% senior convertible notes to again seek such approval at its 2019 annual meeting and continue to seek such approval, if not previously obtained, at its 2020 annual meeting and 2021 annual meeting.

### **Possible Effects of the Charter Amendment and Additional Anti-takeover Consideration**

If the Charter Amendment is approved, the additional authorized shares of Common Stock would be available for issuance at the discretion of the Board of Directors and without further stockholder approval, except as may be required by law or the rules of Nasdaq. In addition, only 11,740,185 shares of Common Stock are currently available to settle the conversion of the Company's 5.00% senior convertible notes, which is insufficient to settle the conversion of all the notes outstanding, and the Company would be required to settle any deficiency in cash. The Charter Amendment would increase the number of shares reserved and available for issuance upon conversion of the notes to 24,077,040 shares of Common Stock, which would be sufficient to cover the settlement of the conversion of all outstanding notes.

The additional shares of authorized Common Stock would have the same rights and privileges as the shares of Common Stock currently issued and outstanding. The adoption of the Charter Amendment would not have any immediate dilutive effect on the proportionate voting power or other rights of existing stockholders. Shares of Common Stock issued otherwise than for a stock split may decrease existing stockholders' percentage equity ownership and, depending on the price at which they are issued, could be dilutive to the voting rights of existing stockholders and have a negative effect on the market price of the Common Stock. The Common Stock carries no preemptive rights to purchase additional shares of Common Stock.

The Company cannot provide assurances that any such transactions will be consummated on favorable terms or at all, that they will enhance stockholder value or that they will not adversely affect the Company's business or the trading price of our stock.

The Company has not proposed the increase in the number of authorized shares of Common Stock with the intention of using the additional authorized shares for anti-takeover purposes, but the Company would be able to use the additional shares to oppose a hostile takeover attempt or delay or prevent changes in control or management of the Company. For example, without further stockholder approval, the Board of Directors could sell shares of Common Stock in a private transaction to purchasers who would oppose a takeover or favor the current Board of Directors. Although this proposal to increase the authorized number of shares of Common Stock has been prompted by business and financial considerations and not by the threat of any known or threatened hostile takeover attempt, stockholders should be aware that approval of this proposal could facilitate future efforts by the Company to oppose changes in control of the Company and perpetuate the Company's management, including transactions in which the stockholders might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over then-current market prices.

If the Company's stockholders approve the Charter Amendment, the Board of Directors will have authority to file with the Secretary of State of Delaware the Charter Amendment. The Charter Amendment will become effective on the date it is filed. The Board of Directors reserves the right to abandon or delay the filing of the Charter Amendment even if it is approved by our stockholders. The Charter Amendment is attached to this proxy statement as *Appendix A*.

None of Delaware law, the Current Charter, nor the Company's bylaws provides for appraisal or other similar rights for dissenting stockholders in connection with this proposal. Accordingly, the Company's stockholders will have no right to dissent and obtain payment for their shares.



**Required Vote**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to vote is required to approve the Amended Charter. Accordingly, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of a negative vote.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE  
"FOR"  
THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANY'S RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO  
PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK  
THAT THE COMPANY IS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE FROM 100,000,000 SHARES  
TO 200,000,000 SHARES  
(PROPOSAL NO. 1 ON YOUR PROXY CARD)**

**PROPOSAL NO. 2 ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2012 PLAN**

At the Special Meeting, stockholders will be asked to approve the adoption of the Company's Amended and Restated 2012 Incentive Plan adopted by our Board of Directors on November 9, 2018 (the "Amended 2012 Plan"). The Company's 2012 Incentive Plan (the "2012 Plan") was originally adopted by our Board of Directors in December 2011 and approved by our stockholders in January 2012, with an amendment and restatement thereof approved by our Board of Directors on January 5, 2018 to provide that the total tax withholding where stock is being used to satisfy tax obligations may be up to the maximum withholding amount consistent with the award being subject to equity accounting treatment under the applicable accounting rules.

The 2012 Plan initially allowed the Company to grant awards for up to 3,428,571 shares of Common Stock, plus the number of shares of Common Stock available for grant under our 2010 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2010 Plan") as of the effectiveness of the 2012 Plan (which was an additional 30,101 shares), plus that number of shares of Common Stock related to awards outstanding under the 2010 Plan that terminate by expiration, forfeiture, cancellation or otherwise. The 2012 Plan included an "evergreen provision" that allowed for an annual increase in the number of shares of Common Stock available for issuance under the 2012 Plan. The annual increase was added on the first day of each year beginning in 2013, and was equal to the lowest of 1,285,714 shares of Common Stock, 4.0% of the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on such date, and an amount determined by our Board of Directors. As of September 30, 2018, 729,363 shares were available for issuance under the 2012 Plan.

As discussed further below, stockholders are being asked to approve the adoption of the Amended 2012 Plan to enable us to increase the number of shares of Common Stock available for issuance pursuant to awards under the plan by 6,250,000 shares, for a total of 16,628,425 shares (including 140,910 shares of Common Stock related to awards that were outstanding under the 2010 Plan and which terminated by expiration, forfeiture, cancellation or otherwise). The Amended 2012 Plan does not contain an evergreen provision.

Equity grants are an essential element of the Company's compensation program. Stockholder approval of the Amended 2012 Plan would allow us to continue to use equity incentives to attract and retain high quality and high performing directors, executives, and other employees. Our Board of Directors approved the Amended 2012 Plan and the additional shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance under it based upon its review and consideration of:

the Company's historic rates of equity award issuances;

the dilutive impact to stockholders; and

advice provided by Pearl Meyers, LLP, the independent consultant of the compensation committee of our Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee").

Our Board of Directors believes that equity awards have been, and will continue to be, a critical part of our total compensation program and allow us to attract and retain the key talent needed to effectively compete in our industry, incentivize superior results and long-term value creation, and align the interests of our employees with those of our stockholders. In addition, we believe that equity ownership fosters an ownership mindset by allowing employees to take part in the successes of the Company.

Our Board of Directors believes that the Amended 2012 Plan will promote the interests of our stockholders and is consistent with principles of good corporate governance, including the following:

*No Evergreen Provision.* The Amended 2012 Plan does not contain an evergreen provision. The Amended 2012 Plan authorizes a fixed number of shares and, as a result, requires stockholder approval to issue any additional shares pursuant to awards under the plan. This gives our stockholders the opportunity to provide direct input on our equity compensation programs.

*No Liberal Share-Recycling.* Shares underlying stock options and other awards delivered under the Amended 2012 Plan will not be recycled into the share pool if they are withheld in satisfaction of tax withholding obligations or the exercise or purchase price of the award.

*Limitations on Awards.* The Amended 2012 Plan limits the number of stock options, stock appreciate rights ("SARs"), and other awards that may be granted to plan participants in any calendar year.

*No Discounted Stock Options or SARs.* All stock options and SARs granted under the Amended 2012 Plan must have a per share exercise price or base value that is not less than the fair market value of the underlying shares on the date of grant.

*No Repricing.* Other than in connection with certain corporate transactions or changes to our capital structure, the Amended 2012 Plan prohibits the repricing of stock options or SARs without obtaining stockholder approval.

Our three-year historic rate of equity award issuances (referred to as our "burn rate" or our "usage rate") under the 2012 Plan the number of shares granted in each of the past three fiscal years divided by the weighted shares of Common Stock outstanding at year-end is 6%. Our three-year usage rate under the 2012 Plan and taking into account inducement awards is 7%. We believe that our historic usage rate is reasonable in our industry, especially given our broad-based use of equity awards to compensate our employees. We will continue to monitor our equity use in future years to ensure our usage rate is within competitive market norms. Based on a review of the remaining shares available for grant under the 2012 Plan, the number of equity awards outstanding under the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan (under which we cannot grant additional awards but under which certain awards remain outstanding), our historic usage rate, and current and proposed plan features, our Board of Directors approved the increased share pool under the Amended 2012 Plan.

#### **Existing Equity Plan Information**

In fiscal 2017, the Company granted stock options covering a total of 2,809,430 shares under the 2012 Plan. Our fiscal year 2017 usage rate under the 2012 Plan was determined to be 7%. Our fiscal 2017 usage rate under the 2012 Plan and taking into account inducement awards is 9%.

As of September 30, 2018, our 2012 Plan had 729,363 shares of Common Stock available for grant as equity awards. If the Amended 2012 Plan is approved, the total number of shares of Common Stock that will be available for future awards under the Amended 2012 Plan will be 6,979,363, which is the sum of 6,250,000 shares plus the number of shares currently available under the 2012 Plan. If the

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stockholders do not approve the Amended 2012 Plan, the Amended 2012 Plan will not become effective and additional awards will only be granted from the shares currently available under the 2012 Plan, plus any additional shares made available under the 2012 Plan pursuant to its evergreen provision.

### Potential Dilution

The following table provides information regarding the number of shares subject to each type of outstanding award under the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan, the number of shares of Common Stock available for future awards under the 2012 Plan, the number of additional shares that would be available for future awards under the Amended 2012 Plan, if approved by stockholders, and the dilutive impact of each to our stockholders as of September 30, 2018.

	Number of shares	As a percentage of stock outstanding on a fully diluted basis
Outstanding stock options	8,360,733	11%
Outstanding restricted stock units	266,875	<1%
Total shares subject to outstanding awards under the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan	8,627,608	11%
Total shares available for future awards under the 2012 Plan	729,363	1%
Total shares subject to outstanding awards under the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan or available for future awards under the 2012 Plan	9,356,971	13%
Proposed additional shares available for future awards under the Amended 2012 Plan	6,250,000	9%
Total potential dilution	15,606,971	21%

As indicated by the numbers in the table above, as of September 30, 2018, prior to the date on which our Board of Directors adopted the Amended 2012 Plan, the potential dilution under the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan was 13%. If the Amended 2012 Plan is approved by our stockholders, our potential dilution will be 21%.

**Supplemental Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table provides information on the Company's equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2017.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights</b> (a)	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights</b> (b)	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities in Column (a))</b> (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)	7,609,728	\$ 5.40	654,630(3)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders(2)	1,110,250	\$ 3.75	2,506,000(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,719,978</b>	<b>\$ 5.19</b>	<b>3,160,630</b>

- (1) Includes information regarding the 2012 Plan and the 2010 Plan.
- (2) Includes stock options granted to new employees in accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4) as an inducement material to such employees entering into employment with the Company. The terms of these stock options are consistent with stock options granted under the Company's 2012 Plan. The number of shares remaining available for future issuance reflects shares reserved by the Board of Directors for future issuance to new employees in accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4), as an inducement material to such employees entering into employment with the Company.
- (3) Excludes the Amended 2012 Plan and the Verastem, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP"), which are subject to stockholder approval in accordance with this Proposal No. 2 and Proposal No. 3.

**Reasons for Seeking Stockholder Approval**

Our Board of Directors believes that the ability to grant equity compensation to all employees has been, and will continue to be, essential to the Company's ability to attract and retain the highest quality and highest performing employees and directors. Our Board of Directors also believes that equity compensation motivates our employees, including our executive officers, and our directors to contribute to the achievement of our corporate objectives and encourages the alignment of their interests with the interests of our stockholders. After a review of its routine historical practice and an estimation of the Company's future growth, the Company believes that the availability of 6,250,000 additional shares of Common Stock under the Amended 2012 Plan would provide a sufficient number of shares to enable the Company to continue to make awards at historical average annual rates for the next two years.

**Summary of the Amended 2012 Plan**

The following summary describes the material terms of the Amended 2012 Plan. This summary of the Amended 2012 Plan is not a complete description of all provisions of the Amended 2012 Plan and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Amended 2012 Plan, in the form attached hereto as *Appendix B*.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Amended 2012 Plan is to advance the interests of our stockholders by enhancing the Company's ability to attract, retain and motivate persons who are expected to make important contributions to the Company and by providing such persons with equity ownership opportunities and performance-based incentives that are intended to better align the interests of such persons with those of the Company's stockholders.

## **Administration**

Pursuant to the terms of the Amended 2012 Plan, our Board of Directors administers the plan and, subject to any limitations in the Amended 2012 Plan, our Board of Directors has the authority to (1) grant awards; (2) adopt, amend and repeal such administrative rules, guidelines and practices relating to the Amended 2012 Plan as it deems advisable; (3) construe and interpret the terms of the Amended 2012 Plan and any award agreements entered into under the Amended 2012 Plan; and (4) correct any defect, supply any omission, or reconcile any inconsistency in the Amended 2012 Plan or any award. Our Board of Directors may delegate its authority to one of its committees, or one or more of its members, and, to the extent permitted by law, our officers. As used in this summary, the term "Administrator" refers to our Board of Directors and its authorized delegates, as applicable.

Our Board of Directors has delegated authority to our Chief Executive Officer to grant awards under our Amended 2012 Plan. Under this delegation, our Chief Executive Officer has the power to make awards to all of our present or future employees, except himself, any other executive officer, and any other person that our Board of Directors or Compensation Committee may from time to time designate in writing as not being eligible. Under this delegation, our Chief Executive Officer is not authorized to grant options for more than 750,000 shares of Common Stock in the aggregate and is required to maintain a list of the options granted pursuant to this authority and report to our Compensation Committee upon request. The exercise price of such options is equal to the closing price of Common Stock on the date of grant.

## **Eligibility**

Our employees, officers, directors, consultants and advisors are eligible to receive awards under the Amended 2012 Plan. However, incentive stock options may only be granted to our employees. As of September 30, 2018, approximately 169 employees, 7 directors and 20 consultants and advisors would be eligible to participate in the Amended 2012 Plan, including all of our executive officers.

## **Authorized Shares**

Subject to adjustment as described below, the number of shares of Common Stock that are reserved for issuance under the Amended 2012 Plan, including upon the exercise of incentive stock options, is 16,628,425 shares (including 140,910 shares of Common Stock related to awards that were outstanding under the 2010 Plan and which terminated by expiration, forfeiture, cancellation or otherwise).

Shares of Common Stock underlying any award made under the 2012 Plan to the extent the award (1) expires or is terminated, surrendered or canceled without having been fully exercised or is forfeited in whole or in part (including as the result of shares of Common Stock subject to such award being repurchased by the Company at the original issuance price pursuant to a contractual repurchase right) or (2) results in any Common Stock not being issued (including as a result of an SAR that was settleable either in cash or in stock actually being settled in cash) become available for issuance again under the Amended 2012 Plan. Shares of Common Stock that are retained or withheld by or delivered to the Company to satisfy any purchase or exercise price or tax withholding obligation are treated as issued under the Amended 2012 Plan. SARs that may be settled only in cash are not counted for

purposes of determining the number of shares available for grant under the Amended 2012 Plan. If the Company grants an SAR in tandem with an option for the same number of shares of Common Stock and provides that only one such award may be exercised, only the shares covered by the option, and not the shares covered by the tandem SAR, will be counted for purposes of determining the number of shares available for grant under the Amended 2012 Plan, and the expiration of one in connection with the other's exercise will not restore shares to the Amended 2012 Plan.

### **Individual Limits**

The maximum number of shares of Common Stock with respect to which awards may be granted to any participant under the Amended 2012 Plan is 1,142,857 per calendar year. For purposes of this limit on the maximum number of shares that may be awarded to any participant, the combination of an option in tandem with a stock appreciation right will be treated as a single award. The maximum amount of cash awards which may be granted to any participant under the Amended 2012 Plan is \$5,000,000 per calendar year.

### **Types of Awards**

The Amended 2012 Plan provides for the grant of incentive stock options, non-statutory stock options, SARs, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units and other stock-based or cash awards. Dividends or dividend equivalents may also be provided in connection with awards under the Amended 2012 Plan.

*Stock options and SARs.* The Administrator may grant stock options, including incentive stock options, and SARs. A stock option is a right entitling the holder to acquire shares of Common Stock upon payment of the applicable exercise price. An SAR is a right entitling the holder upon exercise to receive an amount (payable in cash or shares of equivalent value) equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares subject to the right over the base value from which appreciation is measured. The exercise price of each stock option, and the base value of each SAR, granted under the Amended 2012 Plan may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share on the date of grant. Other than in connection with certain changes in capitalization or reorganization events, stock options and SARs granted under the Amended 2012 Plan may not be repriced, amended to provide a for a lower exercise price or base value, or substituted for new stock options or SARs having a lower exercise price or base value, nor may any consideration be paid upon the cancellation of any stock options or SARs that have a per share exercise or base price greater than the fair market value of a share on the date of such cancellation, in each case, without stockholder approval. Each stock option and SAR will have a maximum term of not more than ten years from the date of grant.

*Restricted and unrestricted stock and stock units.* The Administrator may grant awards of shares, stock units, restricted stock and restricted stock units. A stock unit is an unfunded and unsecured promise, denominated in shares, to deliver shares or cash measured by the value of shares in the future, and a restricted stock unit is a stock unit that is subject to the satisfaction of specified performance or other vesting conditions. Restricted stock is an award of shares subject to restrictions requiring that they be redelivered or forfeited to the company if specified conditions are not satisfied.

*Performance awards.* The Administrator may grant performance awards, which are awards subject to performance criteria.

*Other share-based awards.* The Administrator may grant other awards that are convertible into or otherwise based on our Common Stock, subject to such terms and conditions as it determines.

*Substitute awards.* The Administrator may grant substitute awards in connection with certain corporate transactions, which may have terms and conditions that are inconsistent with the terms and conditions of the Amended 2012 Plan.

#### **Vesting; Terms of Awards**

The Administrator determines the terms of all awards granted under the Amended 2012 Plan, including the time or times an award vests or becomes exercisable, the terms on which an award remains exercisable, and the effect of termination of a participant's employment or service on an award. The Administrator may at any time accelerate the vesting or exercisability of an award.

#### **Transferability of Awards**

Except as the Administrator may otherwise determine, awards may not be transferred other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

#### **Effect of Certain Transactions**

Upon a merger or other reorganization event set forth in the Amended 2012 Plan, the Administrator may, in its sole discretion, take any one or more of the following actions as to some or all outstanding awards other than restricted stock: (1) provide that all outstanding awards shall be assumed, or substantially equivalent awards shall be substituted, by the acquiring or successor corporation (or an affiliate thereof); (2) upon written notice to a participant, provide that all of the participant's unexercised awards will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such reorganization event unless exercised by the participant; (3) provide that outstanding awards shall become exercisable, realizable or deliverable, or restrictions applicable to an award shall lapse, in whole or in part, prior to or upon such reorganization event; (4) in the event of a reorganization event pursuant to which holders of shares of Common Stock will receive a cash payment for each share surrendered in the reorganization event, make or provide for a cash payment to the participants with respect to each award held by a participant equal to (i) the number of shares of Common Stock subject to the vested portion of the award (after giving effect to any acceleration of vesting that occurs upon or immediately prior to such reorganization event) multiplied by (ii) the excess, if any, of the cash payment for each share surrendered in the reorganization event over the exercise, measurement or purchase price of such award and any applicable tax withholdings, in exchange for the termination of such award; or (5) provide that, in connection with a liquidation or dissolution, awards shall convert into the right to receive liquidation proceeds. The Administrator is not required to take the same action with respect to all awards and may take different actions with respect to portions of the same award. In the case of certain restricted stock units, no assumption or substitution is permitted, and the restricted stock units will instead be settled in accordance with the terms of the applicable restricted stock unit agreement.

Upon the occurrence of a reorganization event other than a liquidation or dissolution, the repurchase and other rights with respect to outstanding restricted stock awards will continue for the benefit of the successor company and will, unless the Administrator may otherwise determine, apply to the cash, securities or other property into which shares of Common Stock are converted or exchanged pursuant to the reorganization event. Upon the occurrence of a reorganization event involving a liquidation or dissolution, all restrictions and conditions on each outstanding restricted stock award will automatically be deemed terminated or satisfied, unless otherwise provided in the agreement evidencing the restricted stock award.

At any time, the Administrator may, in its sole discretion, provide that any award under the Amended 2012 Plan will become immediately exercisable in full or in part, free of some or all restrictions or conditions, or otherwise realizable in full or in part.

### **Amendments and Termination**

No award may be granted under the Amended 2012 Plan on or after January 10, 2022. Our Board of Directors may amend, suspend or terminate the Amended 2012 Plan at any time, except that stockholder approval may be required in accordance with applicable law or stock market requirements.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following is a summary of some of the material federal income tax consequences associated with the grant and exercise of awards under the Amended 2012 Plan under current federal tax laws and certain other tax considerations associated with awards under the Amended 2012 Plan. This summary deals with the general tax principles that apply and is provided only for general information. Certain types of taxes, such as state and local income taxes, are not discussed. Tax laws are complex and subject to change and may vary depending on individual circumstances and from locality to locality. The summary does not discuss all aspects of income taxation that may be relevant to a participant in light of his or her personal investment circumstances. This summarized tax information is not tax advice.

*Restricted Stock.* A participant who is awarded or purchases shares subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture generally does not have income until the risk of forfeiture lapses. When the risk of forfeiture lapses, the participant has ordinary income equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares at that time over the purchase price, if any, and a corresponding deduction is generally available to the Company. However, a participant may make an election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") to be taxed on restricted stock when it is acquired rather than later, when the substantial risk of forfeiture lapses. A Section 83(b) election must be made not later than 30 days after the transfer of the shares to the participant and must satisfy certain other requirements. A participant who makes an effective Section 83(b) election will realize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares as of the time of acquisition less any price paid for the shares. A corresponding deduction will generally be available to the Company. Fair market value for this purpose is determined without regard to the forfeiture restrictions. If a participant makes an effective Section 83(b) election, no additional income results by reason of the lapsing of the restrictions.

For purposes of determining capital gain or loss on a sale of shares awarded under the Amended 2012 Plan, the holding period in the shares begins when the participant realizes taxable income with respect to the transfer. The participant's tax basis in the shares equals the amount paid for the shares plus any income realized with respect to the transfer. However, if a participant makes an effective Section 83(b) election and later forfeits the shares, the tax loss realized as a result of the forfeiture is limited to the excess of what the participant paid for the shares (if anything) over the amount realized (if any) in connection with the forfeiture.

*Incentive Stock Options.* In general, a participant realizes no taxable income upon the grant or exercise of an incentive stock option. However, the exercise of an incentive stock option may result in an alternative minimum tax liability to the participant. With some exceptions, a disposition of shares purchased under an incentive stock option within two years from the date of grant or within one year after exercise produces ordinary income to the participant (and generally a deduction to the Company) equal to the value of the shares at the time of exercise less the exercise price. Any additional gain recognized on the disposition is treated as a capital gain, for which the Company is not entitled to a deduction. If the participant does not dispose of the shares until after the expiration of these one- and two-year holding periods, any gain or loss recognized upon a subsequent sale is treated as a long-term capital gain or loss, for which the Company is not entitled to a deduction.

*Non-Statutory Stock Options.* In general, a participant has no taxable income upon the grant of a non-statutory stock option but realizes income in connection with exercise of the option in an amount



equal to the excess (at time of exercise) of the fair market value of the shares acquired upon exercise over the exercise price. A corresponding deduction is generally available to the Company. Upon a subsequent sale or exchange of the shares, any recognized gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss for which the Company is not entitled to a deduction. An incentive stock option that is exercised more than three months after termination of employment (other than termination by reason of death) is generally treated as a non-statutory stock option. Incentive stock options are also treated as non-statutory stock options to the extent they first become exercisable by an individual in any calendar year for shares having a fair market value (determined as of the date of grant) in excess of \$100,000.

*SARs.* The grant of a SAR does not itself result in taxable income, nor does taxable income result merely because a SAR becomes exercisable. In general, a participant who exercises a SAR for shares of stock or receives payment in cancellation of a SAR will have ordinary income equal to the amount of any cash and the fair market value of any stock received. A corresponding deduction is generally available to the Company.

*Restricted Stock Units.* The grant of a restricted stock unit does not itself result in taxable income. Instead, the participant is taxed upon delivery of the underlying shares (and a corresponding deduction is generally available to the Company). If the shares delivered are restricted for tax purposes, the participant will be subject to the rules described above for restricted stock.

*Section 162(m).* Section 162(m) generally disallows a deduction to a publicly held corporation and its affiliates for certain compensation paid to a "covered employee" in a taxable year in excess of \$1,000,000, unless, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, the compensation satisfies the requirements of the "performance-based compensation" exception under Section 162(m). Outstanding stock options, SARs and certain performance awards granted under the Amended 2012 Plan on or prior to November 2, 2017 (and thus eligible for grandfathering) were generally intended to satisfy the requirements of this exception. However, the Administrator had discretionary authority to grant awards under the 2012 Plan not intended to satisfy the requirements of this exception.

*Certain Change in Control Payments.* Under Section 280G of the Code, the vesting or accelerated exercisability of stock options or the vesting and payment of other awards in connection with a change in control of a corporation may be required to be valued and taken into account in determining whether participants have received compensatory payments contingent on the change in control in excess of certain limits. If these limits are exceeded, a substantial portion of amounts payable to the participant, including income recognized by reason of the grant, vesting or exercise of awards, may be subject to an additional 20% federal tax and may be non-deductible to the Company.

#### **New Plan Benefits**

Awards under the Amended 2012 Plan are subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and its delegates and, therefore, are not determinable at this time. Our Board of Directors and its delegates have full discretion to determine the shares subject to awards to be granted to participants under the Amended 2012, subject to the limits described above under *Summary of the Amended 2012 Plan Individual Limits*.

**Required Vote**

Approval of the Amended 2012 Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy and voting on the matter. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as shares voting on this matter and accordingly will have no effect on the approval of this Proposal No. 2.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE  
"FOR"**

**THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2012 PLAN, INCLUDING AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SHARES  
UNDER THE AMENDED 2012 PLAN BY 6,250,000 SHARES  
(PROPOSAL NO. 2 ON YOUR PROXY CARD)**

**PROPOSAL NO. 3 ADOPTION OF A COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

At the Special Meeting, stockholders will be asked to approve the adoption of the Verastem, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP"). The ESPP was adopted by our Board of Directors on November 9, 2018.

The purpose of the ESPP is to enable eligible employees of the Company and certain of its subsidiaries to use payroll deductions to purchase shares of Common Stock and thereby enhance the sense of participation in the affairs of the Company. Our Board of Directors believes that providing eligible employees with the opportunity to acquire an ownership interest in the Company has been, and will continue to be, essential to the Company's ability to attract and retain the highest quality and highest performing employees. Our Board of Directors also believes that the ownership of shares of Common Stock by our employees motivates our employees to contribute to the achievement of our corporate objectives and our success. As described below, the ESPP is designed to satisfy the requirements of an "employee stock purchase plan" under Section 423 of the Code. Such qualification will provide potential additional tax benefits to employees, in addition to the general plan benefit of enabling them to share in the ownership of the Company.

The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be purchased under the ESPP will be 2,000,000 (the "ESPP Share Pool"), subject to adjustment as provided for in the plan. The ESPP Share Pool represents approximately 3% of the total number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of September 30, 2018. In establishing the ESPP Share Pool, our Board of Directors considered the potential dilutive impact to stockholders, the projected participation rate, equity plan guidelines established by certain proxy advisory firms and advice provided by outside counsel.

**Summary of the ESPP**

The following summary describes the material terms of the ESPP. This summary is not a complete description of all provisions of the ESPP and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the ESPP, in the form attached hereto as *Appendix C*. As of the date of this proxy, no options to purchase shares of Common Stock have been granted under the ESPP.

**Purposes**

The purposes of the ESPP are to attract, retain and reward eligible employees, to incentivize them to generate stockholder value, to enable them to participate in our growth and to align their interests with the interests of our stockholders. The ESPP is intended to qualify as an "employee stock purchase plan" under Section 423 of the Code.

### **Administration**

The ESPP will be administered by our Compensation Committee, which will have the authority to interpret the ESPP, determine eligibility under the ESPP, prescribe forms, rules and procedures relating to the ESPP, and otherwise do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the ESPP. Our Compensation Committee may delegate such of its duties, powers and responsibilities as it may determine to one or more of its members, members of our Board of Directors and, to the extent permitted by law, our officers, and may delegate to employees and other persons such ministerial tasks as it deems appropriate. As used in this summary, the term "Administrator" refers to our Compensation Committee and its authorized delegates, as applicable.

### **Shares subject to the ESPP**

Subject to adjustment as described below, 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock are available for purchase pursuant to the exercise of options under the ESPP. Shares to be delivered upon exercise of options under the ESPP may be authorized but unissued stock, treasury stock, or stock acquired in an open-market transaction. If any option granted under the ESPP expires or terminates for any reason without having been exercised in full or ceases for any reason to be exercisable in whole or in part, the unpurchased shares subject to such option will again be available for purchase under the ESPP.

### **Eligibility**

Participation in the ESPP will generally be limited to our employees and employees of any subsidiaries listed by the Administrator on an exhibit to the ESPP (i) who have been continuously employed by us or one of our subsidiaries, as applicable, for a period of at least 30 days as of the first day of an applicable offering period, (ii) whose customary employment with us is for more than five months per calendar year and (iii) who customarily work 20 hours or more per week. The Administrator may establish additional or other eligibility requirements, or change the requirements described in this paragraph, to the extent consistent with Section 423 of the Code. Any employee who owns (or is deemed under statutory attribution rules to own) shares possessing five percent or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of shares of us or our parent or subsidiaries, if any, will not be eligible to participate in the ESPP. As of September 30, 2018, approximately 164 employees would be eligible to participate in the ESPP, including all of our executive officers.

### **General terms of participation**

The ESPP allows eligible employees to purchase shares during specified offering periods. Unless otherwise determined by the Administrator, offering periods under the ESPP will be six months in duration and commence on the first business day of January and July of each year. During each offering period, eligible employees will be granted an option to purchase shares of Common Stock on the last business day of the offering period. A participant may purchase a maximum of 3,333 shares of Common Stock with respect to any offering period (or such lesser number as the Administrator may prescribe). No participant will be granted an option under the ESPP that permits the participant's right to purchase shares of Common Stock under the ESPP and under all other employee stock purchase plans of us or our parent or subsidiaries, if any, to accrue at a rate that exceeds \$25,000 in fair market value (or such other maximum as may be prescribed by the Code) for each calendar year during which any option granted to the participant is outstanding at any time, determined in accordance with Section 423 of the Code.

The purchase price of each share of Common Stock issued pursuant to the exercise of an option under the ESPP on an exercise date will be 85% (or such greater percentage as specified by the Administrator) of the lesser of: (a) the fair market value of a share of Common Stock date the option

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is granted, which will be the first day of the offering period, and (b) the fair market value of a share of Common Stock on the exercise date, which will be the last business day of the offering period.

The Administrator has the discretion to change the commencement and exercise dates of offering periods, the purchase price, the maximum number of shares that may be purchased with respect to any offering period, the duration of any offering periods and other terms of the ESPP, in each case, without stockholder approval, except as required by law.

Participants in the ESPP will pay for shares purchased under the ESPP through payroll deductions. Participants may elect to authorize payroll deductions between one and ten percent of the participant's eligible compensation each payroll period.

### **Adjustments**

In the event of any change in our outstanding stock by reason of a stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, split-up, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, reorganization, or other capital change, the aggregate number and type of shares available for purchase under the ESPP, the maximum number and type of shares purchasable during an offering period, and the purchase price per share will be appropriately adjusted.

### **Corporate transactions**

In the event of a sale of all or substantially all of the stock of the Company, a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, or a merger or similar transaction in which the Company is not the surviving corporation or that results in the acquisition of the Company by another person, the Administrator may provide that each outstanding option will be assumed or substituted for or will be cancelled and the balances of participants' accounts returned, or that the option period will end before the date of the proposed corporate transaction.

### **Amendments and termination**

Our Board of Directors has discretion to amend the ESPP to any extent and in any manner it may deem advisable, provided that any amendment that would be treated as the adoption of a new plan for purposes of Section 423 of the Code will require stockholder approval. Our Board of Directors may suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time.

### **Federal Income Tax Information**

The following is a summary of some of the material federal income tax consequences to participants in the ESPP under current federal tax laws. This summary deals with the general tax principles that apply and is provided only for general information. Certain types of taxes, such as state and local income taxes, are not discussed. Tax laws are complex and subject to change and may vary depending on individual circumstances and from locality to locality. The summary does not discuss all aspects of income taxation that may be relevant to a participant in light of his or her personal investment circumstances. This summarized tax information is not tax advice.

The ESPP, and the right of participants to make purchases thereunder, is intended to qualify under the provisions of Section 423 of the Code. The ESPP is not subject to any provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Under the applicable Code provisions, no income will be taxable to a participant until the sale or other disposition of the shares of Common Stock purchased under the ESPP (the "ESPP shares"). Upon such sale or disposition, the participant will generally be subject to tax in an amount that depends upon the participant's holding period with respect to the ESPP shares. If the ESPP shares are sold or disposed of more than two years from the first day of the offering period and more than one

year from the date of purchase, or upon the participant's death while owning the ESPP shares, the participant will recognize ordinary income measured as the lesser of (1) the excess of the fair market value of the ESPP shares at the time of such sale or disposition over the purchase price or (2) an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the ESPP shares as of the first day of the offering period over the purchase price. Any additional gain will be treated as long-term capital gain. If the ESPP shares held for the periods described above are sold and the sale price is less than the purchase price, there is no ordinary income and the participant has a long-term capital loss equal to the difference between the sale price and the purchase price. If shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before the expiration of the holding periods described above, other than following the participant's death while owning the shares, the participant will recognize ordinary income generally measured as the excess of the fair market value of the ESPP shares on the date the ESPP shares are purchased over the purchase price. Any additional gain or loss on such sale or disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the participant's holding period with respect to the ESPP shares. We are not entitled to a deduction for amounts taxed as ordinary income or capital gain to a participant except to the extent of ordinary income recognized upon a sale or disposition of shares prior to the expiration of the holding periods described above. We will treat any transfer of record ownership of shares as a disposition, unless we are notified to the contrary. In order to enable us to learn of dispositions prior to the expiration of the holding periods described above and ascertain the amount of the deductions to which we are entitled, participating employees will be required to notify us in writing of the date and terms of any disposition of shares purchased under the ESPP.

#### **New Plan Benefits**

The amounts of future stock purchases under the ESPP are not determinable because, under the terms of the ESPP, purchases are based upon elections made by participants. Future purchase prices are not determinable because they are based upon fair market value of shares of Common Stock.

#### **Required Vote**

Approval of the ESPP requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy and voting on the matter. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as shares voting on such matter and accordingly will have no effect on the approval of this Proposal No. 3.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE  
"FOR"  
ADOPTION OF THE ESPP  
(PROPOSAL NO. 3 ON YOUR PROXY CARD)**

**NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

The following Named Executive Officer Compensation and related compensation tables were previously included in the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2018 annual meeting of stockholders held on May 16, 2018. The Company has included this disclosure in this proxy statement for the Special Meeting as required by Schedule 14A and related rules of the SEC.

Our named executive officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 were:

Robert Forrester, our President and Chief Executive Officer;

Julie B. Feder, our former Chief Financial Officer; and

Diep Le, M.D., Ph.D., our former Chief Medical Officer.

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table provides information regarding the total compensation for services rendered in all capacities that was earned during the fiscal year indicated by our named executive officers for 2017.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary(\$)	Bonus(\$)	Option	Non-Equity	All Other	Total (\$)
				Awards	Incentive	Compensation	
				(\$)(1)	Plans	(\$)(3)	
Robert Forrester	2017	535,000		294,804	321,000	15,014	1,165,818
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	2016	525,000		245,844	321,000	12,690	1,104,534
Julie B. Feder(4)	2017	150,385		878,024	60,000	6,708	1,095,117
<i>Former Chief Financial Officer</i>							
Diep Le, M.D. Ph.D.(5)	2017	76,923	95,000(6)	1,125,863	40,000	3,365	1,341,151
<i>Former Chief Medical Officer</i>							

- (1) The amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of option awards granted during the year computed in accordance with the provisions of FASB ASC Topic 718. For information regarding assumptions underlying the value of stock awards, see Note 7 to our financial statements and the discussion under Part II, Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies Stock-Based Compensation," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.
- (2) The amounts shown for non-equity incentive plan compensation represent amounts earned for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. Amounts earned for 2017 were paid in 2018, and amounts earned in 2016 were paid in 2017.
- (3) The amounts shown represent the sum of 401(k) contributions, Health Savings Account contributions, and the dollar value of life insurance premiums paid by the Company for the applicable named executive officer.
- (4) Ms. Feder served as our Chief Financial Officer from July 2017 to May 2018.
- (5) Dr. Le served as our Chief Medical Officer from October 2017 to October 2018.
- (6) The amount reflects a one-time sign-on bonus of \$95,000 paid to Dr. Le.



**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table provides information regarding equity awards held by each of our named executive officers that were outstanding as of December 31, 2017.

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Option Awards		Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options	Unexercisable (#)		
Robert Forrester	250,000	(1)		9.85	1/15/2023
	50,000	(2)		14.18	9/17/2023
	250,000	(3)		13.59	1/7/2024
	250,000	(4)		13.59	1/7/2024
	185,963	84,525(5)		9.19	1/8/2025
	268,000	(6)		2.13	11/8/2025
	132,000	(7)		1.86	1/1/2026
	100,000	(8)		1.37	6/14/2026
			360,000(9)		1.20
Julie B. Feder		370,000(10)		3.45	7/10/2027
Diep Le, M.D.		300,000(11)		4.63	10/9/2027
		70,000(12)		4.63	10/9/2027

- (1) This option was granted on January 15, 2013. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period following the first anniversary of the grant date until the fourth anniversary of the grant date.
- (2) This option was granted on September 17, 2013. The option vests as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option on October 1, 2013 and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period until July 1, 2017.
- (3) This option was granted on January 7, 2014. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on July 1, 2014 and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option on the last day of each calendar quarter after such date, through June 30, 2017.
- (4) This option was granted on January 7, 2014. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option on the last day of each calendar quarter after such date, through December 31, 2017.
- (5) This option was granted on January 8, 2015. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period following the first anniversary of the grant date until the fourth anniversary of the grant date.
- (6) This option was granted on November 9, 2015. The option vests as to 50% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to the remaining 50% of the shares underlying the option on the second anniversary of the grant date.
- (7) This option was granted on January 1, 2016. The option vests as to 50% of the shares underlying the option on November 9, 2016 and, thereafter, as to the remaining 50% of the shares underlying the option on November 9, 2017.
- (8) This option was granted on June 14, 2016. The option vested as to 50% of the shares underlying the option upon satisfaction of a certain performance milestone by June 2017, and as to the remaining 50% of the shares underlying the option upon satisfaction of a



certain performance milestone in September 2017.

- (9) This option was granted on January 9, 2017. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period following the first anniversary of the grant date until the fourth anniversary of the grant date.
- (10) This option was granted on July 10, 2017. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period following the first anniversary of the grant date until the fourth anniversary of the grant date.
- (11) This option was granted on October 9, 2017. The option vests as to 25% of the shares underlying the option on the first anniversary of the grant date and, thereafter, as to 6.25% of the shares underlying the option at the end of each successive three-month period following the first anniversary of the grant date until the fourth anniversary of the grant date.
- (12) This option was granted on October 9, 2017. The option vests as to 100% of the shares underlying the option upon satisfaction of a certain performance milestone.

### **Pension Benefits and Deferred Compensation**

We maintain a defined contribution employee retirement plan for our employees. Our 401(k) plan is intended to qualify as a tax-qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Code. Employee contributions may be made on a pre-tax basis or after-tax (Roth) basis. The 401(k) plan provides for employer matching contributions equal to (1) 100% of employee deferral contributions up to a deferral rate of 3% of eligible compensation plus (2) 50% of employee deferral contributions up to a deferral rate of an additional 2% of eligible compensation.

### **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS**

We have entered into an employment agreement with each of our named executive officers. Each of the employment agreements provides that employment will continue for an indefinite period until either the Company or the employee provides written notice of termination in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

#### *Robert Forrester*

Pursuant to his amended and restated employment agreement, as of July 1, 2013, Mr. Forrester was entitled to an initial base salary of \$490,000, subject to increase from time to time by the Board of Directors. As of January 1, 2018, Mr. Forrester's annual base salary is \$555,000. Mr. Forrester is eligible to receive a bonus of 60% of his current annual base salary. Subject to Mr. Forrester's execution of an effective release of claims, Mr. Forrester would be entitled to the severance payments described below if we terminate his employment without cause, as defined in his employment agreement, or if Mr. Forrester terminates his employment for good reason, as defined in his employment agreement.

If Mr. Forrester's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. Forrester for good reason, absent a change in control, as defined in his employment agreement, we would be obligated, (1) to pay Mr. Forrester his base salary for a period of 12 months following the termination of his employment, (2) to accelerate the vesting of the portion of any equity awards granted prior to the date of his amended and restated employment agreement that, by their terms, vest only based on the passage of time and that would have vested during the 12-month period following the termination of his employment, (3) to pay Mr. Forrester any bonus which has been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination and (4) if Mr. Forrester exercises his right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Mr. Forrester a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for 12 months following such termination of

employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Mr. Forrester becomes eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer).

If Mr. Forrester's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. Forrester for good reason, in each case within 90 days prior to, or within one year following, a change in control, we would be obligated (1) to pay Mr. Forrester a lump sum amount equal to two times the sum of his then-current annual base salary plus an amount equal to his target bonus, (2) to accelerate the vesting of all outstanding equity awards that, by their terms, vest only based on the passage of time, (3) to pay Mr. Forrester any bonus which has been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination and (4) if Mr. Forrester exercises his right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Mr. Forrester a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for 24 months following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when provided that such benefits shall end when Mr. Forrester becomes eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer).

To the extent that any severance or compensation payable to Mr. Forrester pursuant to his employment agreement or otherwise in connection with a change in control of the Company would be subject to the excise tax imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, Mr. Forrester would be entitled to an additional cash payment equal to an amount calculated by multiplying the grossed-up amount of such payments (i.e., an amount such that net amount retained by Mr. Forrester after payment of all applicable taxes, interest and penalties thereon is equal to the total payments payable to him) by a fraction, the numerator of which is the portion of such payments related to equity awards granted prior to the execution of his employment agreement and the denominator of which is the portion of such payments related to all equity awards granted to him. However, if it would result in a greater amount payable to Mr. Forrester, Mr. Forrester would instead be entitled to either the full amount of the total payments payable in connection with a change in control or a reduced amount of the total payments payable in connection with a change in control, whichever results in the greater economic benefit for Mr. Forrester.

*Julie B. Feder*

Pursuant to her employment agreement, Ms. Feder was entitled to an initial base salary of \$340,000, subject to increase from time to time by the Board of Directors. As of January 1, 2018, Ms. Feder's annual base salary was \$355,000. Ms. Feder was also eligible to receive a bonus of 35% of her current annual base salary. Subject to Ms. Feder's execution of an effective release of claims, Ms. Feder's employment agreement entitled her to the severance payments described below if we had terminated her employment without cause, as defined in her employment agreement, or if Ms. Feder had terminated her employment for good reason, as defined in her employment agreement.

If Ms. Feder's employment had been terminated by us without cause or by Ms. Feder for good reason, absent a change in control, as defined in her employment agreement, we would have been obligated (1) to pay Ms. Feder her base salary for a period of nine months following such termination of employment, (2) to pay Ms. Feder any bonus which had been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination and (3) if Ms. Feder had exercised her right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Ms. Feder a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for nine months following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Ms. Feder became eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer).

If Ms. Feder's employment had been terminated by us without cause or by Ms. Feder for good reason, in each case within 90 days prior to, or within 18 months following, a change in control, we would have been obligated (1) to pay Ms. Feder a lump sum amount equal to 12 months of her then-current annual base salary, (2) to accelerate the vesting of all outstanding equity awards that, by

their terms, vest only based on the passage of time, (3) if Ms. Feder had exercised her right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Ms. Feder a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for 12 months following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Ms. Feder became eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer) and (4) to pay any bonus which had been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination.

Ms. Feder resigned from the Company, effective as of May 30, 2018. In connection with her resignation and the termination of her employment, Ms. Feder entered into a separation agreement with the Company that obligates us (1) to pay Ms. Feder her base salary for a period of nine months following her termination of employment and (2) if Ms. Feder exercises her right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Ms. Feder a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for nine months following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Ms. Feder becomes eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer). In addition, pursuant to the terms of the separation agreement, we accelerated the vesting of 92,500 stock options held by Ms. Feder as of the date her employment terminated. Ms. Feder's severance benefits were conditioned on her execution of an effective release of claims.

*Diep Le, M.D., Ph.D.*

Pursuant to her employment agreement, Dr. Le was entitled to an initial base salary of \$400,000, subject to increase from time to time by the Board of Directors, and a one-time sign-on bonus of \$95,000 that would be earned on the second anniversary of her hire date, but was paid during 2017. If Dr. Le resigns before the second anniversary of her hire date, she would be obligated to repay the sign-on bonus in full. Dr. Le was also entitled to payment or reimbursement of moving expenses up to \$50,000 associated with relocating to the Boston area, and for reasonable and customary commuting expenses prior to such relocation. As of January 1, 2018, Dr. Le's annual base salary was \$400,000. Dr. Le was also eligible to receive a bonus of 40% of her current annual base salary. Subject to Dr. Le's execution of an effective release of claims, Dr. Le's employment agreement entitled her to the severance payments described below if we had terminated her employment without cause, as defined in her employment agreement, or if Dr. Le had terminated her employment for good reason, as defined in her employment agreement.

If Dr. Le's employment had been terminated by us without cause or by Dr. Le for good reason, absent a change in control, as defined in her employment agreement, we would have been obligated (1) to pay Dr. Le her base salary for a period of nine months following such termination of employment, or if the termination had occurred prior to Dr. Le's relocation to Massachusetts, her then-current annual base salary for a period of one month for each full month that had elapsed between the effective date of her employment agreement and the termination date, up to a maximum of nine months, (2) to pay Dr. Le any bonus which had been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination and (3) if Dr. Le had exercised her right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Dr. Le a monthly cash amount equal to the full premium cost of that participation for a period commensurate with the period over which Dr. Le was entitled to receive salary payments following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Dr. Le became eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer).

If Dr. Le's employment had been terminated by us without cause or by Dr. Le for good reason, in each case within 90 days prior to, or within 18 months following, a change in control, we would have been obligated (1) to pay Dr. Le a lump sum amount equal to 12 months of her then-current annual base salary, (2) to accelerate the vesting of all outstanding equity awards that, by their terms, vest only based on the passage of time, (3) if Dr. Le had exercised her right to continue participation in our health and dental plans under the federal law known as COBRA, to pay Dr. Le a monthly cash amount

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equal to the full premium cost of that participation for 12 months following such termination of employment (or, if earlier, until the time when Dr. Le became eligible to enroll in the health or dental plan of a new employer) and (4) to pay any bonus which had been awarded, but not yet paid on the date of termination.

Dr. Le resigned from the Company, effective as of October 12, 2018. Dr. Le was not entitled to any severance benefits in connection with her resignation and the termination of her employment. The Company is entitled to recoup the \$95,000 sign-on bonus paid to Dr. Le during 2017.

### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK

The following table sets forth certain information as of September 30, 2018 (unless otherwise specified), with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by each person who is known to own beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock, each person currently serving as a director, each nominee for director, each named executive officer (as set forth in the Summary Compensation Table above), and all directors and executive officers as a group.

Shares of common stock subject to options, restricted stock units or other rights to purchase which are now exercisable or are exercisable within 60 days after September 30, 2018 are to be considered outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of the persons holding these options or other rights but are not to be considered outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. As of September 30, 2018, there were 73,703,423 shares of common stock outstanding.

Name and address of beneficial owner	Number of shares beneficially owned	Percentage of shares beneficially owned
<b>5% stockholders:</b>		
Consonance Capital(1) 1370 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 33 New York, NY 10019	7,166,666	9.7%
FMR, LLC 245 Summer Street Boston, Massachusetts 02210	4,058,097	5.5%
<b>Directors and Executive Officers</b>		
Robert Forrester(2) Julie B. Feder	2,019,817	2.7%
Diep Le, M.D.(3)	152,500	*
Timothy Barberich(4)	263,016	*
Gina Consylman(5)		*
Michael Kauffman, M.D., Ph.D.(6)	147,395	*
Alison Lawton(7)	149,895	*
Eric Rowinsky, M.D.(8)	60,790	*
Brian Stuglik, R. Ph.(9)	50,000	*
Bruce Wendel(10)	85,419	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (Thirteen persons)(11)	4,243,376	5.5%

\* Represents beneficial ownership of less than one percent of our outstanding common stock.

(1) Consists of 7,166,666 shares of Common Stock held by Consonance Capital Master Account L.P. and P Consonance Opportunities Ltd. as of September 30, 2018.

(2) Consists of 9,000 shares of Common Stock held by the Claudia Forrester 2001 Trust, 9,000 shares of common stock held by the Iona Forrester 2001 Trust and 200,734 shares

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of common stock held by Mr. Forrester and 1,801,083 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.

- (3) Consists of 152,500 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (4) Consists of 130,000 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Barberich and 133,016 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (5) Gina Consylman joined the Board of Directors on October 17, 2018.
- (6) Consists of 147,395 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (7) Consists of 2,500 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Lawton and 147,395 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (8) Consists of 60,790 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (9) Consists of 50,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (10) Consists of 85,419 shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.
- (11) Includes shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 30, 2018.

### NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Under our non-employee director compensation policy, each non-employee director receives an annual base retainer of \$40,000. In addition, our non-employee directors receive the following cash compensation for Board services, as applicable:

the non-executive Lead Director of the Board of Directors receives an additional annual retainer of \$25,000;

the chairpersons of our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees receive additional annual retainers of \$20,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively; and

each member of our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees receives an additional retainer of \$8,000, \$6,000 and \$5,000, respectively.

All amounts are paid in quarterly installments.

In addition, our non-employee directors receive stock options as compensation for their service on our Board of Directors. Newly appointed non-employee directors receive a one-time initial award of options to purchase 50,000 shares of our common stock, which vests monthly over a one-year period subject to the director's continued service on the Board of Directors. Thereafter, each non-employee director who was serving on the Board of Directors as of the prior year's annual meeting of the Company's stockholders, receives an annual award of options to purchase shares of our common stock, which vests monthly over a one-year period, subject to the director's continued service on the Board of Directors (the Annual Grant). Additionally, each non-employee director who has served 12 months on the Board of Directors as of the date of the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders, but has not yet received an Annual Grant also receives a pro-rated grant (based on the Annual Grant for such year) to reflect the time such director has served on the Board of Directors since the 12-month



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anniversary of the commencement of such director's service, which vests monthly over a one-year period, subject to the director's continued service on the Board of Directors. In 2017, the Annual Grant consisted of options to purchase 25,000 shares of our common stock.

Mr. Forrester, our President and Chief Executive Officer, does not receive compensation for his service as a director. Mr. Forrester's compensation is described under the heading "Named Executive Officer Compensation."

### 2017 Director Compensation

The following table summarizes the compensation paid to or earned by our directors during the year ended December 31, 2017:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Option Awards \$(1)(2)	Total (\$)
Timothy Barberich	53,000	35,742	88,742
Paul Friedman, M.D.(3)	16,125		16,125
Michael Kauffman, M.D., Ph.D.	79,000	35,742	114,742
Alison Lawton	55,000	35,742	90,742
S. Louise Phanstiel(4)	60,000	35,742	95,742
Eric Rowinsky, M.D.	33,125	71,483	104,608
Brian Stuglik, R.Ph.	14,831	168,776	183,607
Bruce Wendel	49,320	35,742	85,062

- (1) Amounts shown represent the aggregate grant date fair value of stock option awards granted to the director and calculated in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standard Codification Topic 718 (FASB ASC Topic 718). For information regarding assumptions underlying the value of stock awards, see Note 7 to our financial statements and the discussion under Part II, Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies Stock-Based Compensation," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.
- (2) The number of stock options awarded to any non-employee director who received a grant during 2017 was 25,000, with the exception of Dr. Rowinsky and Mr. Stuglik who each received 50,000 stock options as a result of their new appointments to our Board of Directors.
- (3) Dr. Friedman resigned from our Board of Directors effective April 27, 2017.
- (4) Ms. Phanstiel resigned from our Board of Directors effective October 16, 2018.

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2017, the aggregate number of exercisable and unexercisable stock option awards held by our directors:

Name	Option Awards Exercisable (#)	Unexercisable	Total (#)
Timothy Barberich	110,099	12,498	122,597
Michael Kauffman, M.D., Ph.D.	124,478	12,498	136,976
Alison Lawton	124,478	12,498	136,976
S. Louise Phanstiel	126,841	12,498	139,339
Eric Rowinsky, M.D.	25,002	24,998	50,000
Brian Stuglik, R.Ph.	12,501	37,499	50,000
Bruce Wendel	62,502	12,498	75,000



## GENERAL MATTERS

### Availability of Certain Documents

A copy of our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K has been posted on the Internet along with this proxy statement. We will mail without charge, upon written request, a copy of our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K excluding exhibits. Please send a written request to our Corporate Secretary at:

Verastem, Inc.  
117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500  
Needham, MA 02494  
Attention: Secretary

Only one copy of this proxy statement is being delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address, unless we have received contrary instructions from one or more of the stockholders. We will undertake to deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the proxy statement was delivered. You may make a written or oral request by sending a written notification to our Secretary at the address above, providing your name, your shared address, and the address to which we should direct the additional copy of the proxy statement. Multiple stockholders sharing an address who have received one copy of the proxy statement and would prefer us to mail each stockholder a separate copy of future mailings should contact us at our principal executive offices. Additionally, if current stockholders with a shared address received multiple copies of the proxy statement and would prefer us to mail one copy of future mailings to stockholders at the shared address, notification of that request may also be made through our principal executive offices.

### Stockholder Proposals and Nominations

*Requirements for Stockholder Proposals to be Considered for Inclusion in our Proxy Materials.* To be considered for inclusion in next year's annual meeting proxy statement, stockholder proposals must be received by our Secretary at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on December 11, 2018.

*Requirements for Stockholder Proposals to be Brought Before an Annual Meeting.* Our bylaws provide that, for stockholder nominations to the Board of Directors or other proposals to be considered at an annual meeting, the stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to the Secretary at Verastem, Inc., 117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500, Needham, MA 02494. To be timely for the 2019 annual meeting, the stockholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received by us not more than 120 days, and not less than 90 days, before the anniversary date of the preceding annual meeting, except that if the annual meeting is set for a date that is not within 20 days before or 60 days after such anniversary date, we must receive the notice not more than 120 days before such meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the ninetieth day prior to such annual meeting and the tenth day following the day on which we provide notice or public disclosure of the date of the meeting. Assuming the date of our 2019 annual meeting is not so advanced or delayed, stockholders who wish to make a proposal at the 2019 annual meeting must notify us no earlier than January 16, 2019 and no later than February 15, 2019. Such notice must provide the information required by our bylaws with respect to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before the 2019 annual meeting.

### Communications with the Board of Directors

A stockholder may send general communications to our Board of Directors, any committee of our Board of Directors or any individual director by directing such communication to the Secretary, Verastem, Inc., 117 Kendrick Street, Suite 500, Needham, Massachusetts 02494. All communications

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will be shared with the Lead Director, who will provide copies or summaries of such communications to the other directors as he considers appropriate.

### **Other Matters**

As of the date of this proxy statement, the Board of Directors does not intend to present any matters other than those described herein at the Special Meeting and is unaware of any matters to be presented by other parties. If other matters are properly brought before the Special Meeting for action by the stockholders, proxies will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in accordance with the judgment of the proxy holder.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Robert Forrester  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
November , 2018  
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APPENDIX A

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
VERASTEM, INC.

Verastem, Inc. (the "*Corporation*"), a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "*DGCL*"), **DOES HEREBY CERTIFY:**

**FIRST:** The name of the Corporation is Verastem, Inc. The original Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on August 4, 2010. The Certificate of Incorporation was amended and restated on November 1, 2011, was amended on November 15, 2011 and January 5, 2012, and was amended and restated on February 1, 2012.

**SECOND:** The Certificate of Incorporation, as amended and restated, is hereby further amended by deleting the first sentence of Article FOURTH and replacing it as follows:

"The total number of shares of all classes of stock which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is 205,000,000 shares, consisting of (i) 200,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$.0001 par value per share ("*Common Stock*"), and (ii) 5,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$.0001 par value per share ("*Preferred Stock*")."

**THIRD:** That, pursuant to resolution of the Corporation's board of directors, a special meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation was duly called and held upon notice in accordance with Section 222 of the DGCL, at which meeting the necessary number of shares as required by statute were voted in favor of this Certificate of Amendment.

**FOURTH:** This Certificate of Amendment was duly adopted by the directors and stockholders of the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of Section 242 of the DGCL.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Corporation has caused this Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation to be signed by the authorized officer below as of the date hereof.

By:

Name: Robert Forrester  
Title: *President and Chief Executive Officer*

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**APPENDIX B**

**VERASTEM, INC.**

*Amended and Restated  
2012 Incentive Plan*

*1. Purpose*

The purpose of this 2012 Incentive Plan (the "**Plan**") of Verastem, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), is to advance the interests of the Company's stockholders by enhancing the Company's ability to attract, retain and motivate persons who are expected to make important contributions to the Company and by providing such persons with equity ownership opportunities and performance-based incentives that are intended to better align the interests of such persons with those of the Company's stockholders. Except where the context otherwise requires, the term "**Company**" shall include any of the Company's present or future parent or subsidiary corporations as defined in Sections 424(e) or (f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any regulations thereunder (the "**Code**") and any other business venture (including, without limitation, joint venture or limited liability company) in which the Company has a controlling interest, as determined by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "**Board**").

*2. Eligibility*

All of the Company's employees, officers and directors, as well as consultants and advisors to the Company (as such terms consultants and advisors are defined and interpreted for purposes of Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Securities Act**"), or any successor form) are eligible to be granted Awards under the Plan. Each person who is granted an Award under the Plan is deemed a "**Participant**." "**Award**" means Options (as defined in Section 5), SARs (as defined in Section 6), Restricted Stock (as defined in Section 7), Restricted Stock Units (as defined in Section 7) and Other Stock-Based Awards (as defined in Section 8) and Cash-Based Awards (as defined in Section 8).

*3. Administration and Delegation*

(a) *Administration by Board of Directors.* The Plan will be administered by the Board. The Board shall have authority to grant Awards and to adopt, amend and repeal such administrative rules, guidelines and practices relating to the Plan as it shall deem advisable. The Board may construe and interpret the terms of the Plan and any Award agreements entered into under the Plan. The Board may correct any defect, supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan or any Award in the manner and to the extent it shall deem expedient and it shall be the sole and final judge of such expediency. All decisions by the Board shall be made in the Board's sole discretion and shall be final and binding on all persons having or claiming any interest in the Plan or in any Award.

(b) *Appointment of Committees.* To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Board may delegate any or all of its powers under the Plan to one or more committees or subcommittees of the Board (a "**Committee**"). All references in the Plan to the "**Board**" shall mean the Board or a Committee of the Board or the officers referred to in Section 3(c) to the extent that the Board's powers or authority under the Plan have been delegated to such Committee or officers.

(c) *Delegation to Officers.* To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Board may delegate to one or more officers of the Company the power to grant Options and other Awards that constitute rights under Delaware law (subject to any limitations under the Plan) to employees or officers of the Company and to exercise such other powers under the Plan as the Board may determine, *provided* that the Board shall fix the terms of such Awards to be granted by such officers (including the exercise price of such Awards, which may include a formula by which the exercise price will be determined) and the maximum number of shares subject to such Awards that the officers may grant; *provided further*,

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however, that no officer shall be authorized to grant such Awards to any "executive officer" of the Company (as defined by Rule 3b-7 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "**Exchange Act**")) or to any "officer" of the Company (as defined by Rule 16a-1 under the Exchange Act). The Board may not delegate authority under this Section 3(c) to grant Restricted Stock, unless Delaware law then permits such delegation.

### 4. Stock Available for Awards

#### (a) Number of Shares; Share Counting.

(1) *Authorized Number of Shares.* Subject to adjustment under Section 9, Awards may be made under the Plan (any or all of which Awards may be in the form of Incentive Stock Options, as defined in Section 5(b)) for up to 16,628,425 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, of the Company (the "**Common Stock**").

(2) *Share Counting.* For purposes of counting the number of shares available for the grant of Awards under the Plan:

(A) all shares of Common Stock covered by SARs shall be counted against the number of shares available for the grant of Awards under the Plan; *provided, however*, that (i) SARs that may be settled only in cash shall not be so counted and (ii) if the Company grants an SAR in tandem with an Option for the same number of shares of Common Stock and provides that only one such Award may be exercised (a "**Tandem SAR**"), only the shares covered by the Option, and not the shares covered by the Tandem SAR, shall be so counted, and the expiration of one in connection with the other's exercise will not restore shares to the Plan;

(B) if any Award (i) expi