GERON CORP
Form 10-Q
October 29, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission File Number: 0-20859

GERON CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	75-2287752 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
230 CONSTITUTION DRIVE, MENLO PARK, CA (Address of principal executive offices)	94025 (Zip Code)

(650) 473-7700
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer	o	Accelerated filer	x
Non-accelerated filer	o	Smaller reporting company	o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class:	Outstanding at October 25, 2010:
Common Stock, $0.001 par value	102,587,183 shares

GERON CORPORATION
INDEX

		Page
	PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1:	Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	1
	Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009	1
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009	2
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009	3
	Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	4
Item 2:	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	17
Item 3:	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	24
Item 4:	Controls and Procedures	25
	PART II. OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1:	Legal Proceedings	26
Item 1A:	Risk Factors	26
Item 2:	Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	42
Item 3:	Defaults Upon Senior Securities	43
Item 4:	(Removed and Reserved)	43
Item 5:	Other Information	43
Item 6:	Exhibits	44
	SIGNATURE	44

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GERON CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(IN THOUSANDS)

	SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 (UNAUDITED)	DECEMBER 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 34,490	$ 34,601
Restricted cash	792	791
Current portion of marketable securities	91,056	77,009
Interest and other receivables	1,047	1,318
Current portion of prepaid assets	10,089	4,060
Total current assets	137,474	117,779
Noncurrent portion of marketable securities	19,856	54,669
Noncurrent portion of prepaid assets	1,364	2,372
Investments in licensees	194	1,328
Property and equipment, net	3,217	3,938
Deposits and other assets	190	296
	$ 162,295	$ 180,382
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,958	$ 2,176
Accrued compensation	2,817	1,757
Accrued liabilities	1,509	1,925
Current portion of deferred revenue	577	700
Fair value of derivatives	764	897
Total current liabilities	7,625	7,455
Noncurrent portion of deferred revenue	—	350
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock	103	92
Additional paid-in capital	783,865	750,158
Accumulated deficit	(629,282)	(577,267)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(16)	(406)
Total stockholders' equity	154,670	172,577
	$ 162,295	$ 180,382

See accompanying notes.

GERON CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE AND PER SHARE DATA)
(UNAUDITED)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Revenues from collaborative agreements	$ 203	$ 225	$ 653	$ 225
License fees and royalties	343	269	1,812	896
Total revenues	546	494	2,465	1,121
Operating expenses:				
Research and development (including amounts for related parties: three months – 2010-$53; 2009-$397; nine months – 2010-$697; 2009-$1,328)	13,728	13,395	40,662	42,278
General and administrative	5,021	3,499	13,359	10,705
Total operating expenses	18,749	16,894	54,021	52,983
Loss from operations	(18,203)	(16,400)	(51,556)	(51,862)
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives, net	(97)	966	133	(287)
Interest and other income	223	240	619	1,128
Losses recognized under equity method investment	(243)	—	(1,135)	(656)
Interest and other expense	(24)	(30)	(76)	(116)
Net loss	(18,344)	(15,224)	(52,015)	(51,793)
Deemed dividend on derivatives	—	—	—	(190)
Net loss applicable to common stockholders	$ (18,344)	$ (15,224)	$ (52,015)	$ (51,983)
Basic and diluted net loss per share applicable to common stockholders	$ (0.19)	$ (0.17)	$ (0.54)	$ (0.59)
Shares used in computing basic and diluted net loss per share applicable to common stockholders	97,476,668	89,402,642	96,400,276	87,370,361

See accompanying notes.

GERON CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS
(IN THOUSANDS)
(UNAUDITED)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	$ (52,015)	$ (51,793)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	1,208	1,346
Accretion and amortization on investments, net	2,803	421
Loss on retirement/sale of property and equipment	53	127
Issuance of common stock in exchange for services by non-employees	3,033	2,227
Stock-based compensation for employees and directors	10,442	7,916
Amortization related to 401(k) contributions	514	416
Loss on investments in licensees	1,135	682
Unrealized (gain) loss on derivatives, net	(133)	287
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Other current and noncurrent assets	3,778	3,527
Other current and noncurrent liabilities	1,033	3,512
Advance payment from related party for research and development	—	(440)
Translation adjustment	12	—
Net cash used in operating activities	(28,137)	(31,772)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Restricted cash transfer	(1)	25
Investment in licensee	—	(2,009)
Purchases of property and equipment	(542)	(1,352)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	2	—
Purchases of marketable securities	(95,855)	(110,491)
Proceeds from maturities of marketable securities	114,195	82,630
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	17,799	(31,197)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from issuances of common stock and warrants, net of issuance costs	10,227	51,490
Net cash provided by financing activities	10,227	51,490
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(111)	(11,479)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	34,601	109,348
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	$ 34,490	$ 97,869

See accompanying notes.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The terms “Geron”, the “Company”, “we” and “us” as used in this report refer to Geron Corporation. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2010 and condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management of Geron, all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2010 or any other period. These financial statements and notes should be read in conjunction with the financial statements for each of the three years ended December 31, 2009, included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K. The accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2009 has been derived from audited financial statements at that date.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Geron, our wholly-owned subsidiary, Geron Bio-Med Ltd. (Geron Bio-Med), a United Kingdom company, and our majority-owned subsidiary, TA Therapeutics, Ltd. (TAT), a Hong Kong company. We have eliminated intercompany accounts and transactions. We prepare the financial statements of Geron Bio-Med using the local currency as the functional currency. We translate the assets and liabilities of Geron Bio-Med at rates of exchange at the balance sheet date and translate income and expense items at average monthly rates of exchange. The resultant translation adjustments are included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a separate component of stockholders’ equity. The functional currency for TAT is U.S. dollars. See Note 3 on Joint Venture and Related Party Transactions for the current status of TAT.

Net Loss Per Share

Basic earnings (loss) per share is calculated based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings (loss) per share is calculated based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock and dilutive securities outstanding during the period. Potential dilutive securities primarily consist of outstanding employee stock options, restricted stock and warrants to purchase common stock and are determined using the treasury stock method at an average market price during the period.

Because we were in a net loss position, diluted earnings per share excludes the effects of potential dilutive securities. Had we been in a net income position, diluted earnings per share would have included the shares used in the computation of basic net loss per share as well as an additional 1,117,454 and 1,279,520 shares for 2010 and 2009, respectively, related to outstanding options, restricted stock and warrants (as determined using the treasury stock method at the estimated average market value).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. On a regular basis, management evaluates these estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Cash Equivalents and Marketable Securities

We consider all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. We are subject to credit risk related to our cash equivalents and marketable securities. We place our cash and cash equivalents in money market funds and municipal securities. Our current investments include U.S. government-sponsored enterprise securities, commercial paper and corporate notes with original maturities ranging from four to 24 months.

We classify our marketable securities as available-for-sale. We record available-for-sale securities at fair value with unrealized gains and losses reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity. Realized gains and losses are included in interest and other income and are derived using the specific identification method for determining the cost of securities sold and have been insignificant to date. Dividend and interest income are recognized when earned and included in interest and other income in our condensed consolidated statements of operations. We recognize a charge when the declines in the fair values below the amortized cost basis of our available-for-sale securities are judged to be other-than-temporary. We consider various factors in determining whether to recognize an other-than-temporary charge, including whether we intend to sell the security or whether it is more likely than not that we would be required to sell the security. Declines in market value associated with credit losses judged as other-than-temporary result in a charge to interest and other income. Other-than-temporary charges not related to credit losses are included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity. See Note 2 on Fair Value Measurements.

Marketable and Non-Marketable Investments in Licensees

Investments in non-marketable nonpublic companies, in which we own less than 20% of the outstanding voting stock and do not otherwise have the ability to exert significant influence over the investees, are carried at cost, as adjusted for other-than-temporary impairments. Investments in marketable equity securities are carried at fair value as of the balance sheet date with unrealized gains and losses reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity. Realized gains or losses are included in interest and other income and are derived using the specific identification method.

We apply the equity method of accounting for investments in licensees in which we own more than 20% of the outstanding voting stock or otherwise have the ability to exert significant influence over the investees. Under this method, we increase (decrease) the carrying value of our investment by a proportionate share of the investee's earnings (losses). If losses exceed the carrying value of the investment, losses are then applied against any advances to the investee, including any commitment to provide financial support, until those amounts are reduced to zero. The equity method is then suspended until the investee has earnings. Any proportionate share of investee earnings is first applied to the share of accumulated losses not recognized during the period the equity method was suspended.

We monitor our investments in licensees for impairment on a quarterly basis and make appropriate reductions in carrying values when such impairments are determined to be other-than-temporary. Other-than-temporary charges are included in interest and other income. Factors used in determining whether an other-than-temporary charge should be recognized include, but are not limited to: the current business environment including competition and uncertainty of financial condition; going concern considerations such as the rate at which the investee company utilizes cash, and the investee company's ability to obtain additional private financing to fulfill its stated business plan; the need for changes to the investee company's existing business model due to changing business environments and its ability to successfully implement necessary changes; and the general progress toward product development, including clinical trial results. See Note 2 on Fair Value Measurements.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Fair Value of Derivatives

For warrants and non-employee options classified as assets or liabilities, the fair value of these instruments is recorded on the condensed consolidated balance sheet at inception of such classification and adjusted to fair value at each financial reporting date. The change in fair value of the warrants and non-employee options is recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of operations as unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives. Fair value of warrants and non-employee options is estimated using the Black Scholes option-pricing model. The warrants and non-employee options continue to be reported as an asset or liability until such time as the instruments are exercised or expire or are otherwise modified to remove the provisions which require this treatment, at which time these instruments are marked to fair value and reclassified from assets or liabilities to stockholders' equity. For warrants and non-employee options classified as permanent equity, the fair value of the warrants and non-employee options is recorded in stockholders' equity and no further adjustments are made. See Note 2 on Fair Value Measurements.

Revenue Recognition

We have several license agreements with various oncology, diagnostics, research tools, agriculture and biologics production companies. With certain of these agreements, we receive nonrefundable license payments in cash or equity securities, option payments in cash or equity securities, royalties on future sales of products, milestone payments, or any combination of these items. Upfront nonrefundable signing, license or non-exclusive option fees are recognized as revenue when rights to use the intellectual property related to the license have been delivered and over the term of the agreement if we have continuing performance obligations. Milestone payments, which are subject to substantive contingencies, are recognized upon completion of specified milestones, representing the culmination of the earnings process, according to contract terms. Royalties are generally recognized upon receipt of the related royalty payment. Deferred revenue represents the portion of research and license payments received which has not been earned. When payments are received in equity securities, we do not recognize any revenue unless such securities are determined to be realizable in cash.

We recognize revenue under collaborative agreements as the related research and development costs for services are rendered. We recognize related party revenue under collaborative agreements as the related research and development costs for services are rendered and when the source of funds have not been derived from our contributions to the related party.

Restricted Cash

The components of restricted cash were as follows:

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Certificate of deposit for unused equipment line of credit	$ 530	$ 530
Certificate of deposit for credit card purchases	262	261
	$ 792	$ 791

Research and Development Expenses

All research and development costs are expensed as incurred. The value of acquired in-process research and development is charged to research and development expense on the date of acquisition, if not acquired in connection with a business combination. Research and development expenses include, but are not limited to, acquired in-process technology deemed to have no alternative future use, payroll and personnel expense, lab supplies, preclinical studies, raw materials to manufacture clinical trial drugs, manufacturing costs for research and clinical trial materials, sponsored research at other labs, consulting, costs to maintain technology licenses and research-related overhead.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Depreciation and Amortization

We record property and equipment at cost and calculate depreciation using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally four years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life or remaining term of the lease.

Stock-Based Compensation

We recognize compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period, for stock-based awards granted after January 1, 2006, plus unvested awards granted prior to January 1, 2006 based on the grant-date fair value estimated using accounting guidance in effect at that time and following the straight-line attribution method.

The following table summarizes the stock-based compensation expense related to stock options, restricted stock awards and employee stock purchases for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 which was allocated as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	(In thousands)			
Research and development	$ 2,124	$ 1,588	$ 4,867	$ 3,925
General and administrative	2,198	1,236	5,575	3,991
Stock-based compensation expense included in operating expenses	$ 4,322	$ 2,824	$ 10,442	$ 7,916

Stock Options

The fair value of options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 has been estimated at the date of grant using the Black Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Dividend yield	None	None
Expected volatility range	0.625 to 0.629	0.630 to 0.631
Risk-free interest rate range	1.46% to 2.65%	1.54% to 2.52%
Expected term	5 yrs	5 yrs

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The fair value of employees' purchase rights during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 has been estimated using the Black Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Dividend yield	None	None
Expected volatility range	0.468 to 0.995	0.536 to 1.016
Risk-free interest rate range	0.18% to 0.54%	0.28% to 2.38%
Expected term range	6 - 12 mos	6 - 12 mos

7

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Dividend yield is based on historical cash dividend payments, which have been none to date. The expected volatility range is based on historical volatilities of our stock since traded options on Geron stock do not correspond to option terms and the trading volume of options is limited. The risk-free interest rate range is based on the U.S. Zero Coupon Treasury Strip Yields for the expected term in effect on the date of grant for an award. The expected term of options is derived from actual historical exercise data and represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The expected term of employees' purchase rights is equal to the purchase period. We grant service-based options under our equity plans to employees, non-employee directors and consultants, for whom the vesting period is generally four years.

As stock-based compensation expense recognized in the condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 is based on awards ultimately expected to vest, it has been reduced for estimated forfeitures but at a minimum, reflects the grant-date fair value of those awards that actually vested in the period. Forfeitures have been estimated at the time of grant based on historical experience and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates.

Restricted Stock Awards

We grant restricted stock awards to employees and non-employee directors with three types of vesting schedules: (i) service-based, (ii) performance-based or (iii) market-based. Service-based awards generally vest annually over four years. Performance-based awards vest only upon achievement of discrete strategic goals within a specified performance period, generally three years. Market-based awards vest only upon achievement of certain market price thresholds of our common stock within a specified performance period, generally three years.

The fair value for service-based restricted stock awards is determined using the fair value of our common stock on the date of grant and reduced for estimated forfeitures, as applicable. The fair value is amortized as compensation expense over the requisite service period of the award on a straight-line basis.

The fair value for performance-based restricted stock awards is determined using the fair value of our common stock on the date of grant and reduced for estimated forfeitures, as applicable. Compensation expense for awards with performance conditions is recognized over the period from the date the performance condition is determined to be probable of occurring through the date the applicable condition is expected to be met. If the performance condition is not considered probable of being achieved, no expense is recognized until such time as the performance condition is considered probable of being met, if ever.

The fair value for market-based restricted stock awards is determined using a lattice valuation model with a Monte Carlo simulation. The model takes into consideration the historical volatility of our stock and the risk-free interest rate at the date of grant. In addition, the model is used to estimate the derived service period for the awards. The derived service period is the estimated period of time that would be required to satisfy the market condition, assuming the market condition will be satisfied. Compensation expense is recognized over the derived service period for the awards using the straight-line method, but is accelerated if the market condition is achieved earlier than estimated.

Non-Employee Stock-Based Awards

For our non-employee stock-based awards, the measurement date on which the fair value of the stock-based award is calculated is equal to the earlier of (i) the date at which a commitment for performance by the counterparty to earn the equity instrument is reached or (ii) the date at which the counterparty's performance is complete. We recognize stock-based compensation expense for the fair value of the vested portion of non-employee stock-based awards in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Comprehensive Loss

Comprehensive loss is comprised of net loss and other comprehensive income (loss). Other comprehensive income (loss) includes certain changes in stockholders' equity that are excluded from net loss. The activity in comprehensive loss during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 was as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	(In thousands)			
Net loss	$ (18,344)	$ (15,224)	$ (52,015)	$ (51,793)
Change in net unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities and marketable investments in licensees	240	(88)	378	(158)
Change in foreign currency translation adjustments	15	(1)	12	—
Comprehensive loss	$ (18,089)	$ (15,313)	$ (51,625)	$ (51,951)

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss were as follows:

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities and marketable investments in licensees, net	$ 144	$ (234)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(160)	(172)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	$ (16)	$ (406)

2. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We categorize assets and liabilities recorded at fair value on our condensed consolidated balance sheet based upon the level of judgment associated with inputs used to measure their fair value. The categories are as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs are unadjusted, quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date. An active market for the asset or liability is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Level 2 – Inputs (other than quoted market prices included in Level 1) are either directly or indirectly observable for the asset or liability through correlation with market data at the measurement date and for the duration of the instrument's anticipated life.

Level 3 – Inputs reflect management's best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Consideration is given to the risk inherent in the valuation technique and the risk inherent in the inputs to the model.

A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on our condensed consolidated balance sheet, including the category for such instruments.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Cash Equivalents and Marketable Securities Available-for-Sale

Where quoted prices are available in an active market, securities are categorized as Level 1. Examples of such Level 1 securities include U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. government-sponsored enterprise securities, municipal securities and money market funds. If quoted market prices are not available for the specific security, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics or discounted cash flows. Examples of such Level 2 securities include corporate notes, asset-backed securities and commercial paper.

Marketable securities by security type at September 30, 2010 were as follows:

	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
	(In thousands)			
Included in cash and cash equivalents:				
Money market funds	$ 19,486	$ —	$ —	$ 19,486
Municipal securities	12,650	—	—	12,650
	$ 32,136	$ —	$ —	$ 32,136
Restricted cash:				
Certificates of deposit	$ 792	$ —	$ —	$ 792
Marketable securities:				
Government-sponsored enterprise securities (due in less than 1 year)	$ 11,455	$ 2	$ —	$ 11,457
Government-sponsored enterprise securities (due in 1 to 2 years)	8,000	1	—	8,001
Commercial paper (due in less than 1 year)	15,480	14	—	15,494
Corporate notes (due in less than 1 year)	64,041	82	(18)	64,105
Corporate notes (due in 1 to 2 years)	11,792	63	—	11,855
Investments in licensees	1	—	—	1
	$ 110,769	$ 162	$ (18)	$ 110,913

Marketable securities by security type at December 31, 2009 were as follows:

	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
	(In thousands)			
Included in cash and cash equivalents:				
Money market funds	$ 33,395	$ —	$ —	$ 33,395
Restricted cash:				
Certificates of deposit	$ 791	$ —	$ —	$ 791
Marketable securities:				
U.S. Treasury securities (due in less than 1 year)	$ 58,146	$ 20	$ (7)	$ 58,159
Government-sponsored enterprise securities (due in 1 to 2 years)	14,058	—	(37)	14,021

Corporate notes (due in less than 1 year)	18,847	11	(8)	18,850
Corporate notes (due in 1 to 2 years)	40,861	—	(213)	40,648
	$ 131,912	$ 31	$ (265)	$ 131,678

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Marketable securities with unrealized losses at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009 were as follows:

	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Greater		Total	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
	(In thousands)					
As of September 30, 2010:						
Corporate notes (due in less than 1 year)	$ 30,386	$ (18)	$ —	$ —	$ 30,386	$ (18)
As of December 31, 2009:						
U.S. Treasury securities (due in less than 1 year)	$ 18,859	$ (7)	$ —	$ —	$ 18,859	$ (7)
Government-sponsored enterprise securities (due in 1 to 2 years)	14,021	(37)	—	—	14,021	(37)
Corporate notes (due in less than 1 year)	7,524	(8)	—	—	7,524	(8)
Corporate notes (due in 1 to 2 years)	40,648	(213)	—	—	40,648	(213)
	$ 81,052	$ (265)	$ —	$ —	$ 81,052	$ (265)

The gross unrealized losses related to U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. government-sponsored enterprise securities and corporate notes as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, were due to changes in interest rates. We determined the gross unrealized losses on our marketable securities as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009 were temporary in nature. We review our investments quarterly to identify and evaluate whether any investments have an indication of possible impairment. Factors considered in determining whether a loss is temporary include the length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost basis, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the investee, and whether we intend to sell the security or whether it is more likely than not that we would be required to sell the security.

Marketable and Non-Marketable Investments in Licensees

Where quoted prices are available in an active market, securities are categorized as Level 1. Level 1 securities include publicly traded equities. Significant investments in licensees accounted for using the equity method of accounting or equity securities in non-marketable companies are not measured at fair value and are not assigned a category level.

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the carrying values of our investments in non-marketable nonpublic companies were $193,000 and $1,328,000, respectively. We recognized no charges related to other-than-temporary declines in fair values of investments in licensees for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009. See Note 3 on Joint Venture and Related Party Transactions for further discussion of investments in licensees.

Derivatives

Warrants to purchase common stock and non-employee options are normally traded less actively, have trade activity that is one way, and/or traded in less-developed markets and are therefore valued based upon models with significant unobservable market parameters, resulting in Level 3 categorization.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

The fair value of derivatives has been calculated at each reporting date using the Black Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
Dividend yield	None	None
Expected volatility range	0.646	0.607 to 0.632
Risk-free interest rate range	1.27%	0.06% to 2.69%
Expected term range	4.5 yrs	4 mos to 5 yrs

Dividend yield is based on historical cash dividend payments, which have been none to date. The expected volatility range is based on historical volatilities of our stock since traded options on Geron stock do not correspond to derivatives' terms and trading volume of Geron options is limited. The risk-free interest rate range is based on the U.S. Zero Coupon Treasury Strip Yields for the expected term in effect on the reporting date. The expected term of derivatives is equal to the remaining contractual term of the instrument.

As of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the following warrants and non-employee options to purchase common stock were considered derivatives and classified as current liabilities:

				At September 30, 2010		At December 31, 2009	
Issuance Date	Exercise Price	Exercisable Date	Expiration Date	Number of Shares	Fair Value (In thousands)	Number of Shares	Fair Value (In thousands)
April 2005	$ 7.95	April 2005	April 2010	—	$ —	351,852	$ 58
March 2005	$ 6.39	January 2007	March 2015	284,600	764	284,600	839
				284,600	$ 764	636,452	$ 897

No reclassifications from current liabilities to stockholders' equity were made for derivatives during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010.

Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The following table presents information about our financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2010, and indicates the fair value category assigned.

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using			
(In thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3	Total
Assets				
Money market funds (1)	$ 19,486	$ —	$ —	$ 19,486
Municipal securities (1)	12,650	—	—	12,650
Government-sponsored enterprise securities (2)	19,458	—	—	19,458
Commercial paper (2)	—	15,494	—	15,494
Corporate notes (2)	—	75,960	—	75,960

Marketable investments in licensees (3)	1	—	—	1
Total	$ 51,595	$ 91,454	$ —	$ 143,049
Liabilities				
Derivatives (4)	$ —	$ —	$ 764	$ 764

(1) Included in cash and cash equivalents on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

(2) Included in current and noncurrent marketable securities on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

(3) Included in investments in licensees on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

(4) Included in fair value of derivatives on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Changes in Level 3 Recurring Fair Value Measurements

The table below includes a roll forward of the balance sheet amounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 (including the change in fair value), for financial instruments in the Level 3 category. When a determination is made to classify a financial instrument within Level 3, the determination is based upon the significance of the unobservable parameters to the overall fair value measurement. However, Level 3 financial instruments typically include, in addition to the unobservable components, observable components (that is, components that are actively quoted and can be validated to external sources). Accordingly, the gains and losses in the table below include changes in fair value due in part to observable factors that are part of the methodology.

	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Three Months Ended September 30, 2010					
(In thousands)	Fair Value at June 30, 2010	Total Unrealized Losses Included In Earnings, net (1)	Purchases, Sales, Issuances, Settlements, net	Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3	Fair Value at September 30, 2010	Change in Unrealized Losses Related to Financial Instruments Held at September 30, 2010 (1)
Derivative liabilities	$ 667	$ 97	$ —	$ —	$ 764	$ 97

	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010					
(In thousands)	Fair Value at December 31, 2009	Total Unrealized Gains Included In Earnings, net (1)	Purchases, Sales, Issuances, Settlements, net	Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3	Fair Value at September 30, 2010	Change in Unrealized Gains Related to Financial Instruments Held at September 30, 2010 (1)
Derivative liabilities	$ 897	$ (133)	$ —	$ —	$ 764	$ (75)

(1) Reported as unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

3. JOINT VENTURE AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Start Licensing, Inc. and ViaGen, Inc.

In April 2005, Geron and Exeter Life Sciences, Inc. (Exeter) established Start Licensing, Inc. (Start), a joint venture to manage and license a broad portfolio of intellectual property rights related to animal reproductive technologies. We and Exeter owned 49.9% and 50.1% of Start, respectively. In connection with the establishment of Start, we granted a worldwide, exclusive, non-transferable license to our patent rights to nuclear transfer technology for use in animal cloning, with the right to sublicense such patent rights. Since there was no net book value associated with the patent rights at the execution of the joint venture, no initial value was recognized for our investment in Start. We suspended the equity method of accounting since our proportionate share of net losses in Start exceeded our original carrying value of the investment and we had no commitments to provide financial support or obligations to perform services or other activities for Start.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

In August 2008, Geron and Exeter entered into Contribution Agreements whereby we and Exeter exchanged our equity interests in Start for equity interests in ViaGen, Inc. (ViaGen). As a result of the exchange, Start became a wholly-owned subsidiary of ViaGen. Ownership of ViaGen immediately following the transaction was as follows: Exeter – 69%; Geron – 27%; and Smithfield Foods – 4%. Since no value had been recorded for our investment in Start, the same zero carrying value was applied to our investment in ViaGen. Geron's share of equity method losses from Start that were not recognized during the period the equity method was suspended has been carried over to the investment in ViaGen.

In September 2009, Geron made a net equity investment in ViaGen of $2,010,000 and simultaneously Exeter converted its outstanding debt with ViaGen into equity. The new equity purchase did not fund prior ViaGen losses and represented additional financial support to ViaGen. Ownership of ViaGen upon consummation of the transactions and at September 30, 2010 was as follows: Exeter – 70%; Geron – 28%; and Smithfield Foods – 2%. We have no commitments to provide financial support or obligations to perform services or other activities for ViaGen.

In applying the equity method of accounting to our investment in ViaGen, we increase (decrease) the carrying value of our investment by our proportionate share of ViaGen's earnings (losses). If equity method losses exceed the carrying value of the investment, losses will be applied against any advances to ViaGen, including any commitments to provide financial support until those amounts are reduced to zero. The equity method of accounting shall then be suspended until income is subsequently reported. If income is reported, Geron's proportionate share of income shall first be applied to recognize the equity method losses accumulated during the time the equity method was suspended.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, we recognized $243,000 and $1,135,000, respectively, for our proportionate share of ViaGen's operating losses compared to none and $656,000 for the comparable 2009 periods. Our share of losses is recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of operations under losses recognized under equity method investment. The adjusted basis of our investment in ViaGen at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009 was $193,000 and $1,328,000, respectively, which is reported under investments in licensees on our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

TA Therapeutics, Ltd.

In March 2005, we and the Biotechnology Research Corporation (BRC), a subsidiary of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, established a joint venture company in Hong Kong called TA Therapeutics, Ltd. (TAT). TAT conducted research and was established to commercially develop products that utilize telomerase activator drugs to restore the regenerative and functional capacity of cells in various organ systems that have been impacted by senescence, injury or chronic disease. On June 15, 2007, we and BRC entered into an agreement to restructure the TAT joint venture. Under the amended agreements, we directed the preclinical and drug development activities, owned a 75% voting interest and exercised control over TAT.

In July 2010, the board of directors and shareholders of TAT approved actions to commence a voluntary winding up of the company. In connection with the winding up of TAT, all intellectual property owned by TAT will be assigned to Geron. BRC will be entitled to receive royalty payments for future sales of products covered by the intellectual property owned by TAT up to an amount equal to 150% of BRC's original capital contributions to TAT. Any remaining assets, other than the intellectual property, shall be distributed so that the losses borne by the shareholders will be in proportion to the cash contributed by both parties. The full wind up of TAT is expected to be completed by March 31, 2011.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

Since obtaining control over TAT beginning June 16, 2007, we have included the results of TAT in our condensed consolidated financial statements. Based on consideration of the relevant rights described above, we determined that BRC's 25% equity interest in TAT was not substantive. The amended arrangement represented, in substance, a research and development arrangement between us and BRC. Therefore, the arrangement was accounted for as a research and development arrangement. As of December 31, 2009, all of BRC's contributions had been fully expended on research and development activities.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, we incurred related party research and development costs of $53,000 and $697,000, respectively, compared to $397,000 and $1,328,000 for the comparable 2009 periods. As the source of funds used to perform this research activity on behalf of TAT was derived from our cash contributions to TAT, no related party revenue has been recognized for research and development services rendered for TAT for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009.

4. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Vendor Stock Issuances

In August 2010, we issued to Hongene Biotechnology Limited (Hongene) 114,957 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for an addendum agreement to a master manufacturing agreement pursuant to which Hongene is making certain raw materials for us intended to be used for the manufacture of a drug product for use in human clinical trials. The fair value of the common stock of $599,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense in connection with the receipt of the proper materials. As of September 30, 2010, $599,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

In August 2010, we issued to Samchully Pharm. Co., Ltd. (Samchully) 115,779 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for an addendum agreement to a master manufacturing agreement pursuant to which Samchully is making certain raw materials for us intended to be used for the manufacture of a drug product for use in human clinical trials. The fair value of the common stock of $603,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense in connection with the receipt of the proper materials. As of September 30, 2010, $603,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

In August 2010, we issued to MPI Research, Inc. (MPI) 158,912 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for two amendments to a master agreement under which MPI has provided and will continue to provide certain preclinical services in support of our clinical programs. The fair value of the common stock of $828,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and is being amortized to research and development expense on a pro-rata basis as services are performed. As of September 30, 2010, $349,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

In August 2010, we issued to ReSearch Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. (RPS) 281,426 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for a project agreement to a master agreement under which RPS is providing certain services to us in support of our clinical programs. The fair value of the common stock of $1,466,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense on a pro-rata basis as services are performed. As of September 30, 2010, $1,466,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

5. COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

In June 2009, we entered into a worldwide exclusive license and alliance agreement with GE Healthcare UK Limited (GEHC) to develop and commercialize cellular assay products derived from human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) for use in drug discovery, development and toxicity screening. Under the terms of the agreement, we granted GEHC an exclusive license under our intellectual property portfolio covering the growth and differentiation of hESCs, as well as a sublicense under our rights to the hESC patents held by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. We have established a multi-year alliance program with GEHC under which scientists from both companies are working to develop hESC-based products for drug discovery.

GERON CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
(UNAUDITED)

In connection with the agreement, we received upfront non-refundable license payments under the exclusive license and sublicense and can receive milestone payments upon achievement of certain commercial development and product sales events and royalties on future product sales. Under the alliance program, GEHC is responsible for all costs incurred by GEHC and all costs incurred by Geron for activities undertaken at Geron, including the funding of Geron scientists working on the alliance program. An Alliance Steering Committee, with representatives from Geron and GEHC, coordinates and manages the alliance program.

License payments under the GEHC agreement were recorded as deferred revenue upon receipt and are being recognized ratably as license fee revenue over the alliance program period as a result of our continuing involvement in the collaboration. Funding received for Geron's efforts under the alliance program is being recognized as revenue from collaborative agreements as costs are incurred, which approximates our level of effort over the period of the alliance program. Since the milestone payments are subject to substantive contingencies, any such payments will be recognized upon completion of the specified milestones. Royalties received under the agreement will generally be recognized as revenue upon receipt of the related royalty payment. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, we recognized $203,000 and $653,000 as revenue from collaborative agreements, respectively, and $175,000 and $525,000 as license fee revenue, respectively, in connection with this agreement.

6. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Our executive management team represents our chief decision maker. To date, we have viewed our operations as one segment, the discovery and development of therapeutic and diagnostic products for oncology and human embryonic stem cell therapies. As a result, the financial information disclosed herein materially represents all of the financial information related to our principal operating segment.

7. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS DATA

Supplemental schedule of non-cash operating and investing activities:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In Thousands)	2010	2009
Supplemental Operating Activities:		
Cash in transit from option exercises	$ —	$ 33
Net unrealized gain on investments in licensees	1	26
Reclassification of derivative liabilities to equity	—	130
Issuance of common stock for 401(k) matching contributions	1,034	665
Issuance of common stock for services rendered to date or to be received in future periods	8,468	3,657
Reclassification of deposits to other current assets	131	350
Supplemental Investing Activities:		
Net unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities	377	(184)

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

In October 2010, GEHC launched the first human cellular assay product for use in drug discovery and toxicity screening and completed the first commercial sale of this product, triggering a milestone payment to Geron. This first commercially available assay product is human cardiomyocytes, or heart muscle cells, for testing potential cardiac toxicity of candidate drug compounds in development.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIALCONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. We use words such as "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "expect", "future", "intend" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements appear throughout the Form 10-Q and are statements regarding our intent, belief, or current expectations, primarily with respect to our operations and related industry developments. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this Form 10-Q. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the risks faced by us and described in Part II, Item 1A, entitled "Risk Factors" and in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Part I, Item 2 of this Form 10-Q.

OVERVIEW

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in Part I, Item 1 of this Form 10-Q and with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 26, 2010.

Geron is developing first-in-class biopharmaceuticals for the treatment of cancer and chronic degenerative diseases, including spinal cord injury, heart failure and diabetes. We are advancing an anti-cancer drug and a cancer vaccine that target the enzyme telomerase through multiple clinical trials in different cancers.

Our results of operations have fluctuated from period to period and may continue to fluctuate in the future, as well as the progress of our research and development efforts and variations in the level of expenses related to developmental efforts during any given period. Results of operations for any period may be unrelated to results of operations for any other period. In addition, historical results should not be viewed as indicative of future operating results. We are subject to risks common to companies in our industry and at our stage of development, including risks inherent in our research and development efforts, reliance upon our collaborative partners, enforcement of our patent and proprietary rights, need for future capital, potential competition and uncertainty of clinical trial results or regulatory approvals or clearances. In order for a product to be commercialized based on our research, we and our collaborators must conduct preclinical tests and clinical trials, demonstrate the efficacy and safety of our product candidates, obtain regulatory approvals or clearances and enter into manufacturing, distribution and marketing arrangements, as well as obtain market acceptance. We do not expect to receive revenues or royalties based on therapeutic products for a period of years, if at all.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

We believe that there have been no significant changes in our critical accounting policies and estimates during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 as compared to the critical accounting policies and estimates disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 that materially impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Our condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Note 1 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements describes the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Estimates and assumptions about future events and their effects cannot be determined with certainty. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions believed to be applicable and reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates may change as new events occur, as additional information is obtained and as our operating environment changes. These changes have historically been minor and have been included in the condensed consolidated financial statements as soon as they became known. Based on a critical assessment of our accounting policies and the underlying judgments and uncertainties affecting the application of those policies, management believes that our condensed consolidated financial statements are fairly stated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and present a meaningful presentation of our financial condition and results of operations.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Revenues

We recognized revenues of $203,000 and $653,000 from collaborative agreements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $225,000 for the comparable 2009 periods. Revenues in 2010 and 2009 reflect revenue recognized under our collaboration with GE Healthcare UK Limited (GEHC), which began in July 2009.

We have entered into license and option agreements with companies involved in oncology, diagnostics, research tools, agriculture and biologics production. In each of these agreements, we have granted certain rights to our technologies. In connection with the agreements, we are entitled to receive license fees, option fees, milestone payments and royalties on future sales, or any combination thereof. We recognized license fee revenues of $295,000 and $1.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $239,000 and $765,000 for the comparable 2009 periods related to our various agreements. The increase in license fee revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the comparable 2009 period, primarily reflected revenue recognized from upfront license fees received under our worldwide exclusive license agreement with GEHC, which began in July 2009. We expect to recognize revenues of $227,000 for the remainder of 2010 and $350,000 in 2011 related to our existing deferred revenue. Current revenues may not be predictive of future revenues.

We received royalties of $48,000 and $610,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $30,000 and $131,000 for the comparable 2009 periods on product sales of telomerase detection and telomere measurement kits to the research-use-only market, cell-based research products and agricultural products. License and royalty revenues are dependent upon additional agreements being signed and future product sales.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses were $13.7 million and $40.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $13.4 million and $42.3 million for the comparable 2009 periods. The increase in research and development expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the comparable 2009 period, was primarily the net result of higher clinical trial costs of $553,000 related to the start up of the Phase II imetelstat trial for non-small cell lung cancer, as well as the Phase I GRNOPC1 trial for acute spinal cord injury and higher preclinical studies costs of $729,000, partially offset by reduced product manufacturing costs of $662,000 resulting from completion of patient enrollment in our Phase II trial of GRNVAC1. The decrease in research and development expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the comparable 2009 period, was primarily due to reduced product manufacturing costs of $2.1 million resulting from completion of patient enrollment in our Phase II trial of GRNVAC1. Overall, we expect research and development expenses to increase as we incur expenses related to the Phase II clinical trials for imetelstat and the Phase I clinical trial for GRNOPC1 along with continued development of our human embryonic stem cell (hESC) programs.

Our research and development activities have arisen from our two major technology platforms, telomerase and hESCs. The oncology programs focus on treating or diagnosing cancer by targeting or detecting the presence of telomerase, either inhibiting activity of the telomerase enzyme, diagnosing cancer by detecting the presence of telomerase, or using telomerase as a target for therapeutic vaccines. Our core knowledge base in telomerase and telomere biology supports all these approaches, and our scientists may contribute to any or all of these programs in a given period. The following table gives the status of our oncology clinical trials:

Product	Product Description	Application	Development Stage	Patient Enrollment Status
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Chronic Lymphoproliferative Diseases	Phase I Trial (single agent)	Completed
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Solid Tumors	Phase I Trial (single agent)	Completed
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Multiple Myeloma*	Phase I Trial (single agent)	Completed
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	Phase I Trial (combination)	Completed
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Breast Cancer*	Phase I/II Trial (combination)	Open
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Multiple Myeloma	Phase I Trial (combination)	Completed
Imetelstat (GRN163L)	Telomerase Inhibitor	Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	Phase II Trial (combination)	Open
GRNVAC1	Telomerase Cancer Vaccine	Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)	Phase II Trial	Completed

* Phase II clinical trials for multiple myeloma, breast cancer and essential thrombocythemia are planned to initiate over the next three months.

Interim data from the Phase I single agent trial in patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma has shown that imetelstat inhibits telomerase both in the bulk myeloma fraction as well as the stem-cell containing fraction in patients' bone marrow. Interim data from the trial in patients with refractory, advanced solid cancers has shown that with a modified dosing schedule, the exposures to imetelstat exceeded the levels associated with inhibiting tumor growth from several models of human cancers. From the above trials, we have obtained data to assess the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of imetelstat. With this information, we have established the single agent Phase II dose and dosing schedule and have been advancing imetelstat to Phase II clinical trials in four different malignancies. In July 2010, the first patient was enrolled into our randomized Phase II clinical trial of imetelstat as maintenance therapy following platinum-based induction therapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

Taking the results from the Duke University clinical studies in prostate cancer, hematologic malignancies and renal cell carcinoma, we optimized the vaccine manufacturing process and transferred it to a contract manufacturer. We are conducting a Phase II clinical trial of our telomerase vaccine using the prime/boost vaccination protocol in patients with acute myelogenous leukemia in complete clinical remission. Recent data from the trial showed that GRNVAC1 was safe and generally well tolerated over multiple vaccinations. Continued follow-up of patients is required to estimate the impact of vaccination on disease-free survival.

Our hESC therapy programs focus on treating injuries and degenerative diseases with cell therapies based on cells derived from hESCs. A core knowledge of hESC biology, as well as a significant continuing effort in deriving, growing, maintaining, and differentiating hESCs, underlies all aspects of this group of programs. Many of our researchers are allocated to more than one hESC program, and the percentage allocations of time change as the resource needs of individual programs vary. In our hESC therapy programs, we have concentrated our resources on several specific cell types, including:

- GRNOPC1, hESC-derived oligodendrocyte progenitor cells, for the treatment of acute spinal cord injury;
- GRNCM1, hESC-derived cardiomyocytes, for toxicology drug testing and the treatment of myocardial disease;
- GRNIC1, hESC-derived pancreatic islet ß cells for the treatment of diabetes;
- GRNCHND1, hESC-derived chondrocytes for the treatment of osteoarthritis;
- hESC-derived hepatocytes for ADME drug testing;
- hESC-derived dendritic cells for cancer immunotherapy and to prevent immune rejection of the other cell types used in therapeutic applications; and
- hESC-derived osteoblasts for the treatment of osteoporosis and non-union bone fractures.

We have developed proprietary methods to grow, maintain, and scale the culture of undifferentiated hESCs that use feeder cell-free and serum-free media with chemically defined components. We have also developed scalable processes to differentiate these cells into therapeutically relevant cells. In July 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lifted its clinical hold on the Investigational New Drug (IND) application for GRNOPC1, our hESC-derived therapy targeted for the treatment of acute spinal cord injury. In October 2010, the first patient was enrolled in the Phase I multi-center trial that is designed to establish the safety of GRNOPC1 in patients with “complete” American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) grade A subacute thoracic spinal cord injuries.

Research and development expenses allocated to programs are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	(Unaudited)			
Oncology	$ 6,281	$ 6,722	$ 19,115	$ 21,747
hESC Therapies	7,447	6,673	21,547	20,531
Total	$ 13,728	$ 13,395	$ 40,662	$ 42,278

At this time, we cannot provide reliable estimates of how much time or investment will be necessary to commercialize products from the programs currently in progress. Drug development in the United States is a process that includes multiple steps defined by the FDA under applicable statutes, regulations and guidance documents. After the preclinical research process of identifying, selecting and testing in animals a potential pharmaceutical compound, the clinical development process begins with the filing of an IND application. Clinical development typically involves three phases of trials: Phase I, II and III. The most significant costs associated with clinical development are incurred in Phase III trials, which tend to be the longest and largest studies conducted during the drug development process. After the completion of a successful preclinical and clinical development program, a New Drug Application (NDA) or Biologics License Application (BLA) must be filed with the FDA, which includes, among other things, substantial amounts of preclinical and clinical data and results and manufacturing-related information necessary to support requested approval of the product. The NDA or BLA must be reviewed and approved by the FDA.

According to industry statistics, it generally takes 10 to 15 years to research, develop and bring to market a new prescription medicine in the United States. In light of the steps and complexities involved, the successful development of our potential products is highly uncertain. Actual timelines and costs to develop and commercialize a product are subject to enormous variability and are very difficult to predict. In addition, various statutes and regulations also govern or influence the manufacturing, safety reporting, labeling, storage, record keeping and marketing of each product.

The lengthy process of seeking these regulatory reviews and approvals, and the subsequent compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, require the expenditure of substantial resources. Any failure by us to obtain, or any delay in obtaining, regulatory approvals could materially adversely affect our business. In responding to an NDA or BLA submission, the FDA may grant marketing approval, may request additional information, may deny the application if it determines that the application does not provide an adequate basis for approval, and may also refuse to review an application that has been submitted if it determines that the application does not provide an adequate basis for filing and review. We cannot provide assurance that any approval required by the FDA will be obtained on a timely basis, if at all.

For a more complete discussion of the risks and uncertainties associated with completing development of potential products, see the sub-section titled “Delays in the commencement of clinical testing of our current and potential product candidates could result in increased costs to us and delay our ability to generate revenues” and “Obtaining regulatory approvals to market our product candidates in the United States and other countries is a costly and lengthy process and we cannot predict whether or when we will be permitted to commercialize our product candidates” in Part II, Item 1A entitled “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this quarterly report.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses were $5.0 million and $13.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $3.5 million and $10.7 million for the comparable 2009 periods. The increase in general and administrative expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, compared to the comparable 2009 periods, was primarily due to higher non-cash compensation expense associated with stock-based awards of $1.0 million and $1.6 million, respectively, higher consulting costs of $262,000 and $617,000, respectively, and higher legal costs associated with our intellectual property portfolio of $195,000 and $181,000, respectively. We currently anticipate general and administrative expenses to remain consistent with current levels.

Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives

Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives reflects a non-cash adjustment for changes in fair value of warrants to purchase common stock and options held by non-employees that are classified as current liabilities. Derivatives classified as assets or liabilities are marked to fair value at each financial reporting date with any resulting unrealized gain (loss) recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. The derivatives continue to be reported as an asset or liability until such time as the instruments are exercised or expire or are otherwise modified to remove the provisions which require them to be recorded as assets or liabilities, at which time these instruments are marked to fair value and reclassified from assets or liabilities to stockholders’ equity. We incurred an unrealized loss of $97,000 and an unrealized gain of $133,000 on derivatives for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to an unrealized gain of $966,000 and an unrealized loss of $287,000 for the comparable 2009 periods. The unrealized gains and losses on derivatives for 2010 and 2009 primarily reflect the change in fair values of derivative liabilities as a result of fluctuating common stock values as of the end of each reporting period in comparison to prior reporting periods.

Interest and Other Income

Interest income was $223,000 and $619,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $240,000 and $1.1 million for the comparable 2009 periods. The decrease in interest income for the 2010 periods compared to the 2009 periods was primarily due to lower interest rates and lower cash and investment balances. Interest earned in future periods will depend on the size of our securities portfolio and prevailing interest rates.

Losses Recognized Under Equity Method Investment

We own 28% of ViaGen, Inc. (ViaGen), a licensee with in-house breeding services and expertise in advanced reproductive technologies for animal cloning. In accordance with the equity method of accounting, we recognized losses of $243,000 and $1.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to none and $656,000 for the comparable 2009 periods for our proportionate share of ViaGen's losses.

Interest and Other Expense

Interest and other expense was $24,000 and $76,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $30,000 and $116,000 for the comparable 2009 periods. The decrease in interest and other expense for the 2010 periods compared to the 2009 periods was primarily due to lower investment management charges.

Deemed Dividend on Derivatives

In April 2009, we modified the terms of certain outstanding warrants held by an investor by extending the exercise term and for certain of these warrants, reducing the exercise price. In connection with the modifications, we recognized a deemed dividend of approximately $190,000 for the incremental fair value of the modified warrants, as calculated using the Black Scholes option-pricing model as of the modification date.

Net Loss Applicable to Common Stockholders

Net loss applicable to common stockholders was $18.3 million and $52.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to $15.2 million and $52.0 million for the comparable 2009 periods. The increase in net loss applicable to common stockholders for the 2010 periods compared to the 2009 periods was primarily the net result of higher operating expenses and increased losses recognized under an equity method investment, partially offset by increased revenues under our license and collaboration with GEHC.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash, restricted cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities at September 30, 2010 were $146.2 million, compared to $167.1 million at December 31, 2009. We have an investment policy to invest these funds in liquid, investment grade securities, such as interest-bearing money market funds, municipal securities, U.S. government and agency securities, corporate notes, commercial paper and asset-backed securities. Our investment portfolio does not contain securities with exposure to sub-prime mortgages, collateralized debt obligations or auction rate securities and, to date, we have not recognized an other-than-temporary impairment on our marketable securities or any significant changes in aggregate fair value that would impact our cash resources or liquidity. To date, we have not experienced lack of access to our invested cash and cash equivalents; however, we cannot provide assurances that access to our invested cash and cash equivalents will not be impacted by adverse conditions in the financial markets. The decrease in cash, restricted cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities in 2010 was the net result of use of cash for operations, partially offset by the receipt of $10.0 million in gross proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock and warrants to purchase additional shares of common stock to institutional investors in January 2010.

We estimate that our existing capital resources, interest income and equipment financing facility will be sufficient to fund our current level of operations through at least December 2011. However, our future capital requirements will be substantial. Changes in our research and development plans or other changes affecting our operating expenses or cash balances may result in the expenditure of available resources before such time. Factors that may require us to use our available capital resources sooner than we anticipate include:

- continued clinical development of our product candidates, imetelstat, GRNVAC1 and GRNOPC1;
- our ability to meaningfully reduce manufacturing costs of current product candidates;
- future clinical trial results;
- progress of product and preclinical development of our other product candidates, such as GRNCM1, GRNIC1 and GRNCHND1;
- cost and timing of regulatory approvals; and
- filing, maintenance, prosecution, defense and enforcement of patent claims and other intellectual property rights.

If our capital resources are insufficient to meet future capital requirements, we will need to raise additional capital to fund our operations. We anticipate that we would to seek additional funding through strategic collaborations, public or private equity financings, equipment loans or other financing sources that may be available. However, we may be unable to raise sufficient additional capital when we need it, on favorable terms or at all. If we are unable to obtain adequate funds on reasonable terms, we may be required to curtail operations significantly or obtain funds by entering into financing, supply or collaboration agreements on unattractive terms or we may be required to relinquish rights to technology or product candidates or to grant licenses on terms that are unfavorable to us.

Cash Flows from Operating Activities. Net cash used in operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 was $28.1 million and $31.8 million, respectively. The decrease in net cash used for operations in 2010 primarily reflects increased revenues from our collaboration with GEHC, greater use of common stock in exchange for services provided by vendors and higher royalties from licensees.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities. Net cash provided by investing activities was $17.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Net cash used in investing activities was $31.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009. The increase in net cash provided by investing activities in 2010 reflected decreased purchases of marketable securities and increased maturities of marketable securities.

As of September 30, 2010 we had approximately $500,000 available for borrowing under our equipment financing facility. We renewed the commitment for this equipment financing facility in 2009 to further fund equipment purchases. If we are unable to renew the commitment in the future, we will use our cash resources for capital expenditures.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities. Net cash provided by financing activities was $10.2 million and $51.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. In January 2010, we exchanged outstanding warrants held by certain institutional investors for shares of our common stock. In connection with the warrant exchange, we sold 1,481,481 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase an additional 740,741 shares of common stock to the investors for gross proceeds of $10.0 million. In February 2009, we completed a public offering of 7,250,000 shares of our common stock at a public offering price of $6.60 per share, resulting in net proceeds of approximately $45.9 million after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses. In September 2009, we sold 550,000 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase an additional 150,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price of $9.00 per share to certain institutional investors at a price of $6.55 per share for total gross proceeds of $3.6 million.

Contractual Obligations

As of September 30, 2010, our contractual obligations were as follows:

	Principal Payments Due by Period				
Contractual Obligations (1)	Total	Remainder in 2010	2011-2012	2013-2014	After 2014
	(In thousands)				
Equipment leases	$ 49	$ 5	$ 38	$ 6	$ —
Operating leases (2)	—	—	—	—	—
Research funding (3)	3,435	494	2,032	384	525
Total contractual cash obligations	$ 3,484	$ 499	$ 2,070	$ 390	$ 525

(1) This table does not include any milestone payments under research collaborations or license agreements as the timing and likelihood of such payments are not known. In addition, this table does not include payments under our severance plan in the event of a change in control of Geron or severance payments to key employees under involuntary termination.

(2) In March 2008, we issued 742,158 shares of our common stock to the lessor of our premises at 200 and 230 Constitution Drive in payment of our monthly rental obligation from August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2012. In May 2007, we issued 210,569 shares of our common stock to the lessor of our premises at 149 Commonwealth Drive in payment of our monthly rental obligation from May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2010. In January 2010, we extended the lease at our premises at 149 Commonwealth Drive. In January 2010 and April 2010, we issued an aggregate of 187,999 shares of our common stock to the lessor of those premises in payment of our monthly rental obligation from May 1, 2010 through July 31, 2012. The fair value of the common stock issuances has been recorded as a prepaid asset and is being amortized to rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease periods. Future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases are zero through July 31, 2012, as a result of the prepayments of rent with our common stock.

(3) Research funding is comprised of sponsored research and license commitments at various laboratories around the world.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The following discussion about our market risk disclosures contains forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. We are exposed to market risk related to changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates. We do not use derivative financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes.

Credit Risk. We place our cash, restricted cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities with seven financial institutions in the United States, Hong Kong and Scotland. Deposits with banks may exceed the amount of insurance provided on such deposits. While we monitor the cash balances in our operating accounts and adjust the cash balances as appropriate, these cash balances could be impacted if the underlying financial institutions fail or could be subject to other adverse conditions in the financial markets. Financial instruments that potentially subject us to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash equivalents and marketable securities. Cash equivalents and marketable securities currently consist of money market funds, municipal securities, U.S. government-sponsored enterprise securities, commercial paper and corporate notes. Our investment policy, approved by our Board of Directors, limits the amount we may invest in any one type of investment issuer, thereby reducing credit risk concentrations. We limit our credit and liquidity risks through our investment policy and through regular reviews of our portfolio against our policy. To date, we have not experienced any loss or lack of access to cash in our operating accounts or to our cash equivalents and marketable securities in our investment portfolios.

24

Interest Rate Sensitivity. The primary objective of our investment activities is to manage our marketable securities portfolio to preserve principal and liquidity while maximizing the return on the investment portfolio through the full investment of available funds without significantly increasing risk. To achieve this objective, we invest in widely diversified investments consisting of both fixed rate and floating rate interest earning instruments, which both carry a degree of interest rate risk. Fixed rate securities may have their fair value adversely impacted due to a rise in interest rates, while floating rate securities may produce less income than expected if interest rates fall. Due in part to these factors, our future interest income may fall short of expectations due to changes in market conditions and in interest rates or we may suffer losses in principal if forced to sell securities which may have declined in fair value due to changes in interest rates.

The fair value of our cash equivalents and marketable securities at September 30, 2010 was $143.0 million. These investments include $32.1 million of cash equivalents that are due in less than 90 days, $91.0 million of short-term investments that are due in less than one year and $19.9 million of long-term investments that are due in one to two years. We primarily invest our marketable securities portfolio in securities with at least an investment grade rating to minimize interest rate and credit risk as well as to provide for an immediate source of funds. Although changes in interest rates may affect the fair value of the marketable securities portfolio and cause unrealized gains or losses, such gains or losses would not be realized unless the investments are sold. Due to the nature of our investments, which are primarily money market funds, municipal securities, U.S. government-sponsored enterprise securities, commercial paper and corporate notes, we have concluded that there is no material market risk exposure.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk. Because we translate foreign currencies into U.S. dollars for reporting purposes, currency fluctuations can have an impact, though generally immaterial, on our operating results. We believe that our exposure to currency exchange fluctuation risk is insignificant primarily because our wholly-owned international subsidiary, Geron Bio-Med Ltd., satisfies its financial obligations almost exclusively in its local currency. As of September 30, 2010, there was an immaterial currency exchange impact from our intercompany transactions. As of September 30, 2010, we did not engage in foreign currency hedging activities.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. The Securities and Exchange Commission defines the term “disclosure controls and procedures” to mean a company’s controls and other procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission’s rules and forms. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer have concluded, based on the evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures by our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, as of the end of the period covered by this report, that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level for this purpose.

(b) Changes in Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting. There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting for the three months ended September 30, 2010 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance, and not absolute assurance, that the objectives of the system are met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Because of these and other inherent limitations of control systems, there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals in all future circumstances.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

None.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business is subject to various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this Form 10-Q. Any of these risks could materially adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS

Our business is at an early stage of development.

Our business is at an early stage of development, in that we do not yet have product candidates in late-stage clinical trials or on the market. We have sponsored six Phase I or I/II trials of our lead anti-cancer drug, imetelstat, in patients with chronic lymphoproliferative diseases, solid tumor malignancies, non-small cell lung cancer, breast cancer and multiple myeloma. Five of those trials have completed patient enrollment and the remaining one is expected to complete enrollment in 2010. We are advancing imetelstat to Phase II trials in four different malignancies. In July 2010, the first patient was enrolled into Geron's randomized Phase II clinical trial of imetelstat as maintenance therapy following platinum-based induction therapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer. Patient enrollment for our telomerase cancer vaccine, GRNVAC1, trial in patients with acute myelogenous leukemia is now complete and we are awaiting the results from this Phase II trial. In July 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lifted its clinical hold on the Investigational New Drug (IND) application for GRNOPC1, our human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-derived therapy targeted for the treatment of acute spinal cord injury. In October 2010, the first patient was enrolled into the Phase I multi-center trial that is designed to establish the safety of GRNOPC1 in patients with "complete" American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) grade A subacute thoracic spinal cord injuries.

Our ability to develop product candidates that progress to and through clinical trials is subject to our ability to, among other things:

- succeed in our research and development efforts;
- select therapeutic compounds or cell therapies for development;
- obtain required regulatory approvals;
- manufacture product candidates; and
- collaborate successfully with clinical trial sites, academic institutions, physician investigators, clinical research organizations and other third parties.

Potential lead drug compounds or other product candidates and technologies require significant preclinical and clinical testing prior to regulatory approval in the United States and other countries. Our product candidates may prove to have undesirable and unintended side effects or other characteristics adversely affecting their safety, efficacy or cost-effectiveness that could prevent or limit their commercial use. In addition, our product candidates may not prove to be more effective for treating disease or injury than current therapies. Accordingly, we may have to delay or abandon efforts to research, develop or obtain regulatory approvals to market our product candidates. In addition, we will need to determine whether any of our potential products can be manufactured in commercial quantities at an acceptable cost. Our research and development efforts may not result in a product that can be or will be approved by regulators or marketed successfully. Competitors may have proprietary rights which prevent us from developing and marketing our products or they may sell similar, superior or lower-cost products. Because of the significant scientific, regulatory and commercial milestones that must be reached for any of our development programs or product candidates to be successful, any program or product candidate may be abandoned, even after we have expended significant resources, such as our investments in telomerase technology, hESCs, imetelstat, GRNVAC1 and GRNOPC1, which could adversely affect our business and cause a sharp drop in our stock price.

The science and technology of telomere biology, telomerase and hESCs are relatively new. There is no precedent for the successful commercialization of therapeutic product candidates based on our technologies. These development programs are therefore particularly risky. In addition, we, our licensees or our collaborators must undertake significant research and development activities to develop product candidates based on our technologies, which will require additional funding and may take years to accomplish, if ever.

Restrictions on the use of hESCs, political commentary and the ethical and social implications of research involving hESCs could prevent us from developing or gaining acceptance for commercially viable products based upon such stem cells and adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Some of our most important programs involve the use of stem cells that are derived from human embryos. The use of hESCs gives rise to ethical and social issues regarding the appropriate use of these cells. Our research related to hESCs may become the subject of adverse commentary or publicity, which could significantly harm the market price of our common stock.

Some political and religious groups have voiced opposition to our technology and practices. We use stem cells derived from human embryos that had been created for in vitro fertilization procedures but were no longer desired or suitable for that use and were donated with appropriate informed consent. Many research institutions, including some of our scientific collaborators, have adopted policies regarding the ethical use of human embryonic tissue. These policies may have the effect of limiting the scope of research conducted using hESCs, thereby impairing our ability to conduct research in this field.

Government-imposed restrictions with respect to use of embryos or hESCs in research and development could have a material effect on our business, including:

- harming our ability to establish critical partnerships and collaborations;
- delaying or preventing progress in our research, product development or clinical testing; and
- preventing commercialization of therapies derived from hESCs.

These potential effects and others may result in a decrease in the market price of our common stock.

Changes in governmental regulations relating to funding of stem cell research may also materially impact our product development programs and result in an increase to the volatility of the market price of our common stock. For example, in March 2009 President Obama issued Executive Order 13505, entitled “Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells.” As a result, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), issued new guidelines relating to human stem cell research to allow federal funding for research using hESCs derived from embryos created by in vitro fertilization for reproductive purposes, but are no longer needed for that purpose. However, in August 2010 the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting federal funding for hESC research. In September 2010, a federal appeals court lifted the injunction. Meanwhile, certain states are considering enacting, or already have enacted, legislation relating to stem cell research, including California, whose voters approved Proposition 71 to provide state funds for stem cell research in November 2004. In the United Kingdom and other countries, the use of embryonic or fetal tissue in research (including the derivation of hESCs) is regulated by the government, whether or not the research involves government funding.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR FINANCIAL POSITION AND NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING

We have a history of losses and anticipate future losses, and continued losses could impair our ability to sustain operations.

We have incurred operating losses every year since our operations began in 1990. As of September 30, 2010, our accumulated deficit was approximately $629.3 million. Losses have resulted principally from costs incurred in connection with our research and development activities and from general and administrative costs associated with our operations. We expect to incur additional operating losses and, as our development efforts and clinical testing activities continue, our operating losses may increase in size.

Substantially all of our revenues to date have been research support payments under collaboration agreements and revenues from our licensing arrangements. We may be unsuccessful in entering into any new corporate collaboration or license agreement that results in revenues. We do not expect that the revenues generated from these arrangements will be sufficient alone to continue or expand our research or development activities and otherwise sustain our operations.

While we receive royalty revenue from licenses, we do not currently expect to receive sufficient royalty revenues from these licenses to independently sustain our operations. Our ability to continue or expand our research and development activities and otherwise sustain our operations is dependent on our ability, alone or with others, to, among other things, manufacture and market therapeutic products.

We also expect to experience negative cash flow for the foreseeable future as we fund our operating losses and capital expenditures. This will result in decreases in our working capital, total assets and stockholders' equity, which may not be offset by future financings. We will need to generate significant revenues to achieve profitability. We may not be able to generate these revenues, and we may never achieve profitability. Our failure to achieve profitability could negatively impact the market price of our common stock. Even if we do become profitable, we cannot assure you that we would be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

We will need additional capital to conduct our operations and develop our product candidates, and our ability to obtain the necessary funding is uncertain.

We will require substantial capital resources in order to conduct our operations and develop our product candidates, and we cannot assure you that our existing capital resources, interest income and equipment financing arrangement will be sufficient to fund future planned operations. The timing and degree of any future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including:

- the accuracy of the assumptions underlying our estimates for our capital needs for the remainder of the 2010 fiscal year and beyond;
- the magnitude and scope of our research and development programs;
- the progress we make in our research and development programs, preclinical development and clinical trials;
- our ability to establish, enforce and maintain strategic arrangements for research, development, clinical testing, manufacturing and marketing;
- the number and type of product candidates that we pursue;

- the time and costs involved in obtaining regulatory approvals and clearances; and
- the costs involved in preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining, defending and enforcing patent claims.

We do not have any committed sources of capital, other than our equipment financing facility. Additional financing through strategic collaborations, public or private equity financings, capital lease transactions or other financing sources may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all. The receptivity of the public and private equity markets to proposed financings is substantially affected by the general economic, market and political climate and by other factors which are unpredictable and over which we have no control. Additional equity financings, if we obtain them, could result in significant dilution to stockholders. Further, in the event that additional funds are obtained through arrangements with collaborative partners, these arrangements may require us to relinquish rights to some of our technologies, product candidates or proposed products that we would otherwise seek to develop and commercialize ourselves. If sufficient capital is not available, we may be required to delay, reduce the scope of or eliminate one or more of our programs, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

RISKS RELATED TO CLINICAL AND COMMERCIALIZATION ACTIVITIES

Delays in the commencement of clinical testing of our current and potential product candidates could result in increased costs to us and delay our ability to generate revenues.

The commencement of clinical trials can be delayed for a variety of reasons, including delays in:

- demonstrating sufficient safety and efficacy to obtain regulatory clearance to commence a clinical trial;
- manufacturing sufficient quantities or producing drugs meeting our quality standards of a product candidate;
- obtaining approval of an Investigational New Drug (IND) application or proposed trial design from the FDA;
- reaching agreement on acceptable terms with our collaborators on all aspects of the clinical trial, including the contract research organizations (CROs) and the trial sites; and
- obtaining institutional review board approval to conduct a clinical trial at a prospective site.

In addition, clinical trials may be delayed due to insufficient patient enrollment, which is a function of many factors, including the size and nature of the patient population, the nature of the protocol, the proximity of patients to clinical sites, the availability of effective treatments for the relevant disease, and the eligibility criteria for the clinical trial. Delays in commencing clinical testing of our product candidates could prevent or delay us from obtaining approval for our product candidates.

We do not have experience as a company in conducting large-scale clinical trials, or in other areas required for the successful commercialization and marketing of our product candidates.

We have no experience as a company in conducting large-scale, late stage clinical trials. We cannot be certain that planned clinical trials will begin or be completed on time, if at all. Large-scale trials would require either additional financial and management resources, or reliance on third-party clinical investigators, CROs or consultants. Relying on third-party clinical investigators or CROs may force us to encounter delays that are outside of our control. Any such delays could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We also do not currently have marketing and distribution capabilities for our product candidates. Developing an internal sales and distribution capability would be an expensive and time-consuming process. We may enter into agreements with third parties that would be responsible for marketing and distribution. However, these third parties may not be capable of successfully selling any of our product candidates. The inability to commercialize and market our product candidates could materially adversely affect our business.

Obtaining regulatory approvals to market our product candidates in the United States and other countries is a costly and lengthy process and we cannot predict whether or when we will be permitted to commercialize our product candidates.

Federal, state and local governments in the United States and governments in other countries have significant regulations in place that govern many of our activities and may prevent us from creating commercially viable products from our discoveries. The regulatory process, particularly for biopharmaceutical product candidates like ours, is uncertain, can take many years and requires the expenditure of substantial resources.

Our potential product candidates will require extensive preclinical and clinical testing prior to submission of any regulatory application to commence commercial sales. In particular, human pharmaceutical therapeutic product candidates are subject to rigorous requirements of the FDA in the United States and similar health authorities in other countries in order to demonstrate safety and efficacy. Data obtained from preclinical and clinical activities is susceptible to varying interpretations that could delay, limit or prevent regulatory agency approvals. In addition, delays or rejections may be encountered as a result of changes in regulatory agency policy during the period of product development and/or the period of review of any application for regulatory agency approval for a product candidate.

Any product candidate that we or our collaborators develop must receive all relevant regulatory agency approvals before it may be marketed in the United States or other countries. Obtaining regulatory approval is a lengthy, expensive and uncertain process. Because certain of our product candidates involve the application of new technologies or are based upon a new therapeutic approach, they may be subject to substantial additional review by various government regulatory authorities, and, as a result, the process of obtaining regulatory approvals for them may proceed more slowly than for product candidates based upon more conventional technologies.

Delays in obtaining regulatory agency approvals could:

- significantly harm the marketing of any products that we or our collaborators develop;
- impose costly procedures upon our activities or the activities of our collaborators;
- diminish any competitive advantages that we or our collaborators may attain; or
- adversely affect our ability to receive royalties and generate revenues and profits.

Even if we commit the necessary time and resources, the required regulatory agency approvals may not be obtained for any product candidates developed by us or in collaboration with us. If we obtain regulatory agency approval for a new product, this approval may entail limitations on the indicated uses for which it can be marketed that could limit the potential commercial use of the product.

Failure to achieve continued compliance with government regulation over approved products could delay or halt commercialization of our products.

Approved products and their manufacturers are subject to continual review, and discovery of previously unknown problems with a product or its manufacturer may result in restrictions on the product or manufacturer, including withdrawal of the product from the market. The sale by us or our collaborators of any commercially viable product will be subject to government regulation from several standpoints, including the processes of:

- manufacturing;
- advertising and promoting;
- selling and marketing;
- labeling; and
- distribution.

If, and to the extent that, we are unable to comply with these regulations, our ability to earn revenues will be materially and negatively impacted.

Failure to comply with regulatory requirements can result in severe civil and criminal penalties, including but not limited to:

- recall or seizure of products;
- injunction against the manufacture, distribution and sales and marketing of products; and
- criminal prosecution.

The imposition of any of these penalties or other commercial limitations could significantly impair our business, financial condition and results of operations.

RISKS RELATED TO PROTECTING OUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Impairment of our intellectual property rights may adversely affect the value of our technologies and product candidates and limit our ability to pursue their development.

Protection of our proprietary technology is critically important to our business. Our success will depend in part on our ability to obtain and enforce our patents and maintain trade secrets, both in the United States and in other countries. Further, our patents may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented, and our patent rights may not provide proprietary protection or competitive advantages to us. In the event that we are unsuccessful in obtaining and enforcing patents, we may not be able to further develop or commercialize our product candidates and our business would be negatively impacted.

The patent positions of pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies, including ours, are highly uncertain and involve complex legal and technical questions. In particular, legal principles for biotechnology and pharmaceutical patents in the United States and in other countries are evolving, and the extent to which we will be able to obtain patent coverage to protect our technology, or enforce issued patents, is uncertain. In the United States, recent court decisions in patent cases as well as proposed legislative changes to the patent system only exacerbate this uncertainty. Furthermore, significant amendments to the regulations governing the process of obtaining patents were proposed in a new rule package by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the Patent Office) in 2007. The proposed new rules were widely regarded as detrimental to the interests of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The implementation of the rule package was blocked by a court injunction requested by a pharmaceutical company. The Patent Office challenged the court decision through an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC), but the appeal was dismissed in November 2009, after the Patent Office changed course and rescinded the proposed new rules. At this point we do not know whether the Patent Office will attempt to introduce new rules to replace those that were recently withdrawn or whether any such new rules would also be challenged.

In Europe, the European Patent Convention prohibits the granting of European patents for inventions that concern "uses of human embryos for industrial or commercial purposes." The European Patent Office (EPO) was earlier interpreting this prohibition broadly, and applying it to reject claims in any patent application that pertained to hESCs. An early patent application filed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) with claims covering the original isolation of hESCs was appealed as a test case, and examination of other hESC patent applications was suspended while that case was heard. In November 2008, the EPO Enlarged Board of Appeals held that the claims in the WARF application were unpatentable. Geron holds a worldwide license under this patent family, and since the decision is not subject to further appeal, this WARF patent family will not afford protection to Geron's hESC-based product candidates in Europe. However, the reason given by the EPO for the decision was narrowly focused: the EPO found the claims objectionable on the basis that at the time that WARF filed the patent application it was necessary to use a human embryo to obtain hESCs since no cell lines were available. In contrast, the hESCs that we use, and which we employed in the technologies claimed in our own European patent applications, were sourced from established hESC lines. Consequently, the decision in the WARF case does not directly address the patentability of the subject matter in our filings. The EPO has recently restarted examination of hESC patent applications, but is being inconsistent in its application of the WARF decision to these later filed cases. At this time, we do not know whether or to what extent we will be able to obtain patent protection for our hESC technologies in Europe. If we are unable to protect our inventions related to hESCs in Europe, our business would be negatively impacted.

Challenges to our patent rights can result in costly and time-consuming legal proceedings that may prevent or limit development of our product candidates.

Publication of discoveries in scientific or patent literature tends to lag behind actual discoveries by at least several months and sometimes several years. Therefore, the persons or entities that we or our licensors name as inventors in our patents and patent applications may not have been the first to invent the inventions disclosed in the patent applications or patents, or the first to file patent applications for these inventions. As a result, we may not be able to obtain patents for discoveries that we otherwise would consider patentable and that we consider to be extremely significant to our future success.

Where several parties seek U.S. patent protection for the same technology, the Patent Office may declare an interference proceeding in order to ascertain the party to which the patent should be issued. Patent interferences are typically complex, highly contested legal proceedings, subject to appeal. They are usually expensive and prolonged, and can cause significant delay in the issuance of patents. Moreover, parties that receive an adverse decision in an interference can lose important patent rights. Our pending patent applications, or our issued patents, may be drawn into interference proceedings which may delay or prevent the issuance of patents, or result in the loss of issued patent rights. By way of example, we are currently a party to an interference proceeding that involves patent filings for making endoderm cells from hESCs. We requested that the Patent Office declare this interference after Novocell Inc. (recently renamed ViaCyte, Inc. (Viacyte)) was granted patent claims that conflict with subject matter we filed in an earlier patent application. The interference proceeding will determine whether ViaCyte is entitled to such patent claims. A number of outcomes are possible: (i) the claims may be awarded to ViaCyte; (ii) the claims may be awarded to Geron, or (iii) neither party might be found to be entitled to the claims. The decision from the Patent Office may also be subject to appeal. Since the interference is still ongoing, we cannot predict what the outcome will be.

Outside of the United States, certain jurisdictions, such as Europe, New Zealand and Australia, permit oppositions to be filed against the granting of patents. Because our intent is to commercialize products internationally, securing both proprietary protection and freedom to operate outside of the United States is important to our business. We are involved in both opposing the grant of patents to others through such opposition proceedings and in defending our patent applications against oppositions filed by others. For example, we have been involved in two patent oppositions before the EPO with a Danish company, Pharmexa. Pharmexa (which acquired the Norwegian company GemVax in 2005) was developing a cancer vaccine that employs a short telomerase peptide to induce an immune response against telomerase and was conducting a Phase III clinical trial. Pharmexa obtained a European patent with broad claims to the use of telomerase vaccines for the treatment of cancer, and Geron opposed that patent in 2004. In 2005, the Opposition Division (OD) of the EPO revoked the claims originally granted to Pharmexa, but permitted Pharmexa to add new, narrower claims limited to five specific small peptide fragments of telomerase. The decision was appealed to the Technical Board of Appeals (TBA). In August 2007, the TBA ruled, consistent with the decision of the OD, that Pharmexa was not entitled to the originally granted broad claims but was only entitled to the narrow claims limited to the five small peptides.

In parallel, Pharmexa opposed a European patent held by Geron, the claims of which cover many facets of human telomerase, including the use of telomerase peptides in cancer vaccines. In June 2006, the OD of the EPO revoked three of the granted claims in Geron's patent, specifically the three claims covering telomerase peptide cancer vaccines. We have appealed that decision to the TBA, and that appeal is still pending. Because this appeal is ongoing, the outcome cannot be determined at this time. In late 2008, Pharmexa reported that it sold its telomerase vaccine program to a Korean company, KAEL Co. Ltd. We have recently been awarded a second European patent with claims to telomerase peptides, and this patent has also been opposed by KAEL-GemVax. We cannot predict the outcome of this opposition or any subsequent appeal of the decision in the opposition.

European opposition and appeal proceedings can take several years to reach final decision. The oppositions discussed above reflect the complexity of the patent landscape in which we operate, and illustrate the risks and uncertainties. We are also currently involved in other patent opposition proceedings in Europe and Australia.

Patent opposition proceedings are not currently available in the U.S. patent system, but legislation has been proposed to introduce them. However, issued U.S. patents can be reexamined by the Patent Office at the request of a third party. Patents owned or licensed by Geron may therefore be subject to reexamination. As in any legal proceeding, the outcome of patent reexaminations is uncertain, and a decision adverse to our interests could result in the loss of valuable patent rights.

In July 2006, requests were filed on behalf of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (now renamed as "Consumer Watchdog") for reexamination of three issued U.S. patents owned by WARF and relating to hESCs. These three patents (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,843,780, 6,200,806 and 7,029,913), which are the U.S. equivalents of the European WARF case discussed above, are licensed to Geron pursuant to a January 2002 license agreement with WARF. The license agreement conveys exclusive rights to Geron under the WARF patents for the development and commercialization of therapeutics based on neural cells, cardiomyocytes and pancreatic islet cells, derived from hESCs, as well as non-exclusive rights for other product opportunities. In October 2006, the Patent Office initiated the reexamination proceedings. After initially rejecting the patent claims, the Patent Office issued decisions in all three cases upholding the patentability of the claims. The decisions to uphold the 5,843,780 and 6,200,806 patents are final and not subject to further appeal. Consumer Watchdog appealed the decision on the 7,029,913 patent. In April 2010, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversed the earlier decision of the Patent Office on the 7,029,913 patent. WARF will now have the opportunity to present the claims for further examination at the Patent Office. We cooperated with WARF in these reexamination actions and expect that WARF will continue to vigorously defend its patent position. The final outcome of these or of any future reexamination proceedings cannot be determined at this time. Reduction or loss of claim scope in these WARF embryonic stem cell patents could negatively impact Geron's proprietary position in this technology.

As more groups become engaged in scientific research and product development in the areas of telomerase biology and embryonic stem cells, the risk of our patents being challenged through patent interferences, oppositions, reexaminations or other means will likely increase. Challenges to our patents through these procedures can be extremely expensive and time-consuming, even if the outcome is favorable to us. An adverse outcome in a patent dispute could severely harm our business by:

- causing us to lose patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction(s);
-
- subjecting us to litigation, or otherwise preventing us from commercializing potential products in the relevant jurisdiction(s);
- requiring us to obtain licenses to the disputed patents;
- forcing us to cease using the disputed technology; or
- requiring us to develop or obtain alternative technologies.

Furthermore, if such challenges to our patent rights are not resolved promptly in our favor, our existing business relationships may be jeopardized and we could be delayed or prevented from entering into new collaborations or from commercializing certain products, which could materially harm our business.

If we fail to meet our obligations under license agreements, we may lose our rights to key technologies on which our business depends.

Our business depends on several critical technologies that are based in part on patents licensed from third parties. Those third-party license agreements impose obligations on us, such as payment obligations and obligations to diligently pursue development of commercial products under the licensed patents. If a licensor believes that we have failed to meet our obligations under a license agreement, the licensor could seek to limit or terminate our license rights, which could lead to costly and time-consuming litigation and, potentially, a loss of the licensed rights. During the period of any such litigation our ability to carry out the development and commercialization of potential products could be significantly and negatively affected. If our license rights were restricted or ultimately lost, our ability to continue our business based on the affected technology would be severely adversely affected.

We may be subject to litigation that will be costly to defend or pursue and uncertain in its outcome.

Our business may bring us into conflict with our licensees, licensors, or others with whom we have contractual or other business relationships, or with our competitors or others whose interests differ from ours. If we are unable to resolve those conflicts on terms that are satisfactory to all parties, we may become involved in litigation brought by or against us. That litigation is likely to be expensive and may require a significant amount of management's time and attention, at the expense of other aspects of our business. The outcome of litigation is always uncertain, and in some cases could include judgments against us that require us to pay damages, enjoin us from certain activities, or otherwise affect our legal or contractual rights, which could have a significant adverse effect on our business.

We may be subject to infringement claims that are costly to defend, and which may limit our ability to use disputed technologies and prevent us from pursuing research and development or commercialization of potential products.

Our commercial success depends significantly on our ability to operate without infringing patents and the proprietary rights of others. Our technologies may infringe the patents or proprietary rights of others. In addition, we may become aware of discoveries and technology controlled by third parties that are advantageous to our programs. In the event our technologies infringe the rights of others or we require the use of discoveries and technology controlled by third parties, we may be prevented from pursuing research, development or commercialization of potential products or may be required to obtain licenses to those patents or other proprietary rights or develop or obtain alternative technologies. We have obtained licenses from several universities and companies for technologies that we anticipate incorporating into our potential products, and we initiate negotiation for licenses to other technologies as the need or opportunity arises. We may not be able to obtain a license to patented technology on commercially favorable terms, or at all. If we do not obtain a necessary license, we may need to redesign our technologies or obtain rights to alternate technologies, the research and adoption of which could cause delays in product development. In cases where we are unable to license necessary technologies, we could be prevented from developing certain potential products. Our failure to obtain alternative technologies or a license to any technology that we may require to research, develop or commercialize our product candidates would significantly and negatively affect our business.

Much of the information and know-how that is critical to our business is not patentable and we may not be able to prevent others from obtaining this information and establishing competitive enterprises.

We sometimes rely on trade secrets to protect our proprietary technology, especially in circumstances in which we believe patent protection is not appropriate or available. We attempt to protect our proprietary technology in part by confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants, collaborators and contractors. We cannot assure you that these agreements will not be breached, that we would have adequate remedies for any breach, or that our trade secrets will not otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors, any of which would harm our business significantly.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD PARTIES

We depend on other parties to help us develop, manufacture and test our product candidates, and our ability to develop and commercialize potential products may be impaired or delayed if collaborations are unsuccessful.

Our strategy for the development, clinical testing and commercialization of our product candidates requires that we enter into collaborations with corporate partners, licensors, licensees and others. We are dependent upon the subsequent success of these other parties in performing their respective responsibilities and the continued cooperation of our partners. By way of examples: Merck is developing cancer vaccines targeted to telomerase other than dendritic cell-based vaccines; Sienna is developing cancer diagnostics using our telomerase technology; and GE Healthcare UK Limited is developing cell-based assays using cells derived from our hESCs. Our collaborators may not cooperate with us or perform their obligations under our agreements with them. We cannot control the amount and timing of our collaborators' resources that will be devoted to activities related to our collaborative agreements with them. Our collaborators may choose to pursue existing or alternative technologies in preference to those being developed in collaboration with us.

Under agreements with other parties, we may rely significantly on them to, among other activities:

- conduct research and development activities in conjunction with us;
- design and conduct advanced clinical trials in the event that we reach clinical trials;
- fund research and development activities with us;
- manage and license certain patent rights;
- pay us fees upon the achievement of milestones; and
- market with us any commercial products that result from our collaborations.

The development and commercialization of potential products will be delayed if collaborators or other partners fail to conduct these activities in a timely manner or at all. In addition, our collaborators could terminate their agreements with us and we may not receive any development or milestone payments. If we do not achieve milestones set forth in the agreements, or if our collaborators breach or terminate their collaborative agreements with us, our business may be materially harmed.

We also rely on other companies for certain process development, manufacturing or other technical scientific work, especially with respect to our imetelstat, GRNVAC1, GRNOPC1 and GRNCM1 programs. We have contracts with these companies that specify the work to be done and results to be achieved, but we do not have direct control over their personnel or operations. If these companies do not perform the work which they were assigned, our ability to develop or manufacture our product candidates could be significantly harmed.

Our reliance on the activities of our non-employee consultants, research institutions, and scientific contractors, whose activities are not wholly within our control, may lead to delays in development of our product candidates.

We rely extensively upon and have relationships with scientific consultants at academic and other institutions, some of whom conduct research at our request, and other consultants who assist us in formulating our research and development and clinical strategy or other matters. These consultants are not our employees and may have commitments to, or consulting or advisory contracts with, other entities that may limit their availability to us. We have limited control over the activities of these consultants and, except as otherwise required by our collaboration and consulting agreements, can expect only limited amounts of their time to be dedicated to our activities.

In addition, we have formed research collaborations with many academic and other research institutions throughout the world. These research facilities may have commitments to other commercial and noncommercial entities. We have limited control over the operations of these laboratories and can expect only limited amounts of their time to be dedicated to our research goals.

If any of these third parties are unable or refuse to contribute to projects on which we need their help, our ability to generate advances in our technologies and develop our product candidates could be significantly harmed.

RISKS RELATED TO COMPETITIVE FACTORS

The loss of key personnel could slow our ability to conduct research and develop product candidates.

Our future success depends to a significant extent on the skills, experience and efforts of our executive officers and key members of our scientific staff. We face intense competition for qualified individuals from numerous pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as academic and other research institutions. We may be unable to retain our current personnel or attract or assimilate other highly qualified management and scientific personnel in the future on acceptable terms. The loss of any or all of these individuals could harm our business and might significantly delay or prevent the achievement of research, development or business objectives.

Our product candidates are likely to be expensive to manufacture, and they may not be profitable if we are unable to significantly reduce the costs to manufacture them.

Our telomerase inhibitor compound, imetelstat, our telomerase cancer vaccine, GRNVAC1, and our hESC-based products are likely to be more expensive to manufacture than most other treatments currently on the market today. Oligonucleotides are relatively large molecules with complex chemistry, and the cost of manufacturing an oligonucleotide like imetelstat is greater than the cost of making most small-molecule drugs. Our present manufacturing processes are conducted at a modest scale and we hope to substantially reduce manufacturing costs through process improvements, as well as through scale increases. If we are not able to do so, however, and, depending on the pricing of the potential product, the profit margin on the telomerase inhibitor may be significantly less than that of most drugs on the market today.

GRNVAC1 is an autologous therapy that is produced from a patient’s blood using a unique process that generates highly activated dendritic cells that contain RNA coding for the protein component of telomerase. If we are unable to scalably produce dendritic cells at a lower manufacturing cost, the cost of GRNVAC1 may reduce the affordability of the therapy for patients and reduce our potential profitability.

Our manufacturing processes for differentiated cells from hESCs are conducted at a small scale and at a high cost per unit measure. The cell-based therapies we are developing based on hESCs will probably require large quantities of cells. We continue to develop processes to scale up production of the cells in a cost-effective way. We may not be able to charge a high enough price for any cell therapy product we develop, even if it is safe and effective, to make a profit. If we are unable to realize significant profits from our potential product candidates, our business would be materially harmed.

Some of our competitors may develop technologies that are superior to or more cost-effective than ours, which may impact the commercial viability of our technologies and which may significantly damage our ability to sustain operations.

The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are intensely competitive. Other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and research organizations currently engage in or have in the past engaged in efforts related to the biological mechanisms that are the focus of our programs in oncology and human embryonic stem cell therapies, including the study of telomeres, telomerase and hESCs. In addition, other products and therapies that could compete directly with the product candidates that we are seeking to develop and market currently exist or are being developed by pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies and by academic and other research organizations.

Many companies are developing alternative therapies to treat cancer and, in this regard, are competitors of ours. According to public data from the FDA and NIH, there are more than 200 approved anti-cancer products on the market in the United States, and several thousand in clinical development.

Many of the pharmaceutical companies developing and marketing these competing products (including GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and Novartis AG, among others) have significantly greater financial resources and expertise than we do in:

- research and development;
- manufacturing;
- preclinical and clinical testing;
- obtaining regulatory approvals; and
- marketing and distribution.

Smaller companies may also prove to be significant competitors, particularly through collaborative arrangements with large and established companies. Academic institutions, government agencies and other public and private research organizations may also conduct research, seek patent protection and establish collaborative arrangements for research, clinical development and marketing of products similar to ours. These companies and institutions compete with us in recruiting and retaining qualified scientific and management personnel as well as in acquiring technologies complementary to our programs.

In addition to the above factors, we expect to face competition in the following areas:

- product efficacy and safety;
- the timing and scope of regulatory consents;
- availability of resources;
- reimbursement coverage;
- price; and
- patent position, including potentially dominant patent positions of others.

As a result of the foregoing, our competitors may develop more effective or more affordable products, or achieve earlier patent protection or product commercialization than we do. Most significantly, competitive products may render any product candidates that we develop obsolete, which would negatively impact our business and ability to sustain operations.

To be successful, our product candidates must be accepted by the health care community, which can be very slow to adopt or unreceptive to new technologies and products.

Our product candidates and those developed by our collaborators, if approved for marketing, may not achieve market acceptance since hospitals, physicians, patients or the medical community in general may decide not to accept and utilize these products. The product candidates that we are attempting to develop represent substantial departures from established treatment methods and will compete with a number of conventional drugs and therapies manufactured and marketed by major pharmaceutical companies. The degree of market acceptance of any of our developed potential products will depend on a number of factors, including:

- our establishment and demonstration to the medical community of the clinical efficacy and safety of our product candidates;
- our ability to create products that are superior to alternatives currently on the market;
- our ability to establish in the medical community the potential advantage of our treatments over alternative treatment methods; and
- reimbursement policies of government and third-party payors.

If the health care community does not accept our potential products for any of the foregoing reasons, or for any other reason, our business would be materially harmed.

If we fail to obtain acceptable prices or adequate reimbursement for our product candidates, the use of our potential products could be severely limited.

Our ability to successfully commercialize our product candidates will depend significantly on our ability to obtain acceptable prices and the availability of reimbursement to the patient from third-party payors. In March 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act (collectively, the PPACA) into law. Focused on expanding healthcare coverage to millions of uninsured Americans and reducing the rate of increase in healthcare costs, the PPACA contains numerous initiatives that impact the pharmaceutical industry. These include, among other things:

- increasing existing price rebates in federally funded health care programs;
- expanding rebates, or other pharmaceutical company discounts, into new programs;
- imposing a new non-deductible excise tax on sales of certain prescription pharmaceutical products by prescription drug manufacturers and importers;
- reducing incentives for employer-sponsored health care;
- creating an independent commission to propose changes to Medicare with a particular focus on the cost of biopharmaceuticals in Medicare Part D;
- providing a government-run public option with biopharmaceutical price-setting capabilities;

- allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices within Medicare Part D directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers;
- reducing the number of years of data exclusivity for innovative biological products potentially leading to earlier biosimilar competition;
- increasing oversight by the FDA of pharmaceutical research and development processes and commercialization tactics; and
- adding a tax credit for qualifying therapeutic discovery projects (QTDP).

While the PPACA may increase the number of patients who have insurance coverage for our product candidates, its cost containment measures could also adversely affect reimbursement for our potential products. Cost control initiatives could decrease the price that we receive for any product candidate we may develop in the future. If our potential products are not considered cost-effective or if we fail to generate adequate third-party reimbursement for the users of our potential products and treatments, then we may be unable to maintain price levels sufficient to realize an appropriate return on our investment for potential products currently in development, which could have an adverse impact on our business.

The QTDP tax credit is equal to 50% of qualifying expenses incurred or directly related to the conduct of a qualifying therapeutic discovery project for taxable years beginning in 2009 and 2010. The credit can be used to either reduce the federal tax liability for an eligible taxpayer or be received as a grant for the same amount tax free. Eligible taxpayers must be a single employer of not more than 250 employees. To qualify for the credit, a project must be submitted to and certified by the Treasury Department. The deadline for the QTDP application was July 21, 2010 and final decision on the awardees will be announced by October 31, 2010. Although our research and development activities appear to meet the initial criteria to receive a tax credit, we cannot predict the availability or amount of funds that could be received. If we are unsuccessful in obtaining the benefits of the QTDP tax credit and our competitors are successful, our business may be adversely impacted.

RISKS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND PRODUCT LIABILITY

Our activities involve hazardous materials, and improper handling of these materials by our employees or agents could expose us to significant legal and financial penalties.

Our research and development activities involve the controlled use of hazardous materials, chemicals and various radioactive compounds. As a consequence, we are subject to numerous environmental and safety laws and regulations, including those governing laboratory procedures, exposure to blood-borne pathogens and the handling of biohazardous materials. We may be required to incur significant costs to comply with current or future environmental laws and regulations and may be adversely affected by the cost of compliance with these laws and regulations.

Although we believe that our safety procedures for using, handling, storing and disposing of hazardous materials comply with the standards prescribed by state and federal regulations, the risk of accidental contamination or injury from these materials cannot be eliminated. In the event of such an accident, state or federal authorities could curtail our use of these materials and we could be liable for any civil damages that result, the cost of which could be substantial. Further, any failure by us to control the use, disposal, removal or storage, or to adequately restrict the discharge, or assist in the clean up, of hazardous chemicals or hazardous, infectious or toxic substances could subject us to significant liabilities, including joint and several liability under certain statutes. Any such liability could exceed our resources and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, an accident could damage our research and manufacturing facilities and operations.

Additional federal, state and local laws and regulations affecting us may be adopted in the future. We may incur substantial costs to comply with these laws and regulations and substantial fines or penalties if we violate any of these laws or regulations, which would adversely affect our business.

We may not be able to obtain or maintain sufficient insurance on commercially reasonable terms or with adequate coverage against potential liabilities in order to protect ourselves against product liability claims.

Our business exposes us to potential product liability risks that are inherent in the testing, manufacturing and marketing of human therapeutic and diagnostic products. We may become subject to product liability claims if the use of our potential products is alleged to have injured subjects or patients. This risk exists for product candidates tested in human clinical trials as well as potential products that are sold commercially. We currently have limited clinical trial liability insurance and we may not be able to maintain this type of insurance for any of our clinical trials. In addition, product liability insurance is becoming increasingly expensive. Being unable to obtain or maintain product liability insurance in the future on acceptable terms or with adequate coverage against potential liabilities could have a material adverse effect on our business.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR COMMON STOCK AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

Our stock price has historically been very volatile.

Stock prices and trading volumes for many biopharmaceutical companies fluctuate widely for a number of reasons, including factors which may be unrelated to their businesses or results of operations such as media coverage, legislative and regulatory measures and the activities of various interest groups or organizations. This market volatility, as well as general domestic or international economic, market and political conditions, could materially and adversely affect the market price of our common stock and the return on your investment.

Historically, our stock price has been extremely volatile. Between January 2000 and September 2010, our stock has traded as high as $75.88 per share and as low as $1.41 per share. Between January 1, 2007 and September 30, 2010, the price has ranged between a high of $9.85 per share and a low of $1.95 per share. The significant market price fluctuations of our common stock are due to a variety of factors, including:

- the demand in the market for our common stock;
- the experimental nature of our product candidates;
- fluctuations in our operating results;
- market conditions relating to the biopharmaceutical and pharmaceutical industries;
- announcements of technological innovations, new commercial products, or clinical progress or lack thereof by us, our collaborative partners or our competitors;
- announcements concerning regulatory developments, developments with respect to proprietary rights and our collaborations;
- comments by securities analysts;
- general market conditions;
- political developments related to hESC research;
- public concern with respect to our product candidates; or
- the issuance of common stock to partners, vendors or to investors to raise additional capital.

In addition, the stock market is subject to other factors outside our control that can cause extreme price and volume fluctuations. In the third and fourth quarters of 2008, as well as during 2009, broad distress in the financial markets and the economy have resulted in greatly increased market uncertainty and instability in both U.S. and international capital and credit markets. These conditions, combined with volatile oil prices, declining business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment have recently contributed to substantial market volatility, and if such market conditions persist, the price of our common stock may fluctuate or decline. Securities class action litigation has often been brought against companies, including many biotechnology companies, which experience volatility in the market price of their securities. Litigation brought against us could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources, which could adversely affect our business.

The sale of a substantial number of shares may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

The sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that such sales could occur, could significantly and negatively affect the market price of our common stock. As of September 30, 2010, we had 200,000,000 shares of common stock authorized for issuance and 102,590,381 shares of common stock outstanding. In addition, as of September 30, 2010, we have reserved for future issuance approximately 23,067,060 shares of common stock for our stock plans, potential milestone payments and outstanding warrants.

In addition, we have issued common stock to certain parties, such as vendors and service providers, as payment for products and services. Under these arrangements, we typically agree to register the shares for resale soon after their issuance. We may continue to pay for certain goods and services in this manner, which would dilute your interest in us. Also, sales of the shares issued in this manner could negatively affect the market price of our common stock.

Our undesignated preferred stock may inhibit potential acquisition bids; this may adversely affect the market price for our common stock and the voting rights of holders of our common stock.

Our certificate of incorporation provides our Board of Directors with the authority to issue up to 3,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock and to determine or alter the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions granted to or imported upon these shares without further vote or action by our stockholders. As of the date of this Form 10-Q, 50,000 shares of preferred stock have been designated Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and the Board of Directors still has authority to designate and issue up to 2,950,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. The issuance of shares of preferred stock may delay or prevent a change in control transaction without further action by our stockholders. As a result, the market price of our common stock may be adversely affected.

In addition, if we issue preferred stock in the future that has preference over our common stock with respect to the payment of dividends or upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or if we issue preferred stock with voting rights that dilute the voting power of our common stock, the rights of holders of our common stock or the market price of our common stock could be adversely affected.

Provisions in our share purchase rights plan, charter and bylaws, and provisions of Delaware law, may inhibit potential acquisition bids for us, which may prevent holders of our common stock from benefiting from what they believe may be the positive aspects of acquisitions and takeovers.

Our Board of Directors has adopted a share purchase rights plan, commonly referred to as a "poison pill." This plan entitles existing stockholders to rights, including the right to purchase shares of common stock, in the event of an acquisition of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock.

Our share purchase rights plan could prevent stockholders from profiting from an increase in the market value of their shares as a result of a change of control of us by delaying or preventing a change of control. In addition, our Board of Directors has the authority, without further action by our stockholders, to issue additional shares of common stock, and to fix the rights and preferences of one or more series of preferred stock.

In addition to our share purchase rights plan and the undesignated preferred stock, provisions of our charter documents and bylaws may make it substantially more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us and may prevent changes in our management, including provisions that:

- prevent stockholders from taking actions by written consent;
- divide the Board of Directors into separate classes with terms of office that are structured to prevent all of the directors from being elected in any one year; and
- set forth procedures for nominating directors and submitting proposals for consideration at stockholders' meetings.

Provisions of Delaware law may also inhibit potential acquisition bids for us or prevent us from engaging in business combinations. In addition, we have severance agreements with several employees and a change of control severance plan which could require an acquiror to pay a higher price. Either collectively or individually, these provisions may prevent holders of our common stock from benefiting from what they may believe are the positive aspects of acquisitions and takeovers, including the potential realization of a higher rate of return on their investment from these types of transactions.

We do not intend to pay cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

We do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. Any payment of cash dividends will depend upon our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements and other factors and will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Furthermore, we may incur additional indebtedness that may severely restrict or prohibit the payment of dividends.

Failure to achieve and maintain effective internal controls in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 could have a material adverse effect on our business and stock price.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Sarbanes-Oxley Act) requires that we establish and maintain an adequate internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting. Our annual report on Form 10-K must contain an assessment by management of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and must include disclosure of any material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting that we have identified. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm must annually provide an opinion on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

The requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act are ongoing and also apply to future years. We expect that our internal control over financial reporting will continue to evolve as our business develops. Although we are committed to continue to improve our internal control processes and we will continue to diligently and vigorously review our internal control over financial reporting in order to ensure compliance with Section 404 requirements, any control system, regardless of how well designed, operated and evaluated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that its objectives will be met. Therefore, we cannot be certain that in the future material weaknesses or significant deficiencies will not exist or otherwise be discovered. If material weaknesses or other significant deficiencies occur, these weaknesses or deficiencies could result in misstatements of our results of operations, restatements of our consolidated financial statements, a decline in our stock price, or other material adverse effects on our business, reputation, results of operations, financial condition or liquidity.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

On August 17, 2010, we issued to Hongene Biotechnology Limited (Hongene) 114,957 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for an addendum agreement to a master manufacturing agreement pursuant to which Hongene is making certain raw materials for us intended to be used for the manufacture of a drug product for use in human clinical trials. The fair value of the common stock of $599,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense in connection with the receipt of the proper materials. As of September 30, 2010, $599,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

On August 17, 2010, we issued to Samchully Pharm. Co., Ltd. (Samchully) 115,779 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for an addendum agreement to a master manufacturing agreement pursuant to which Samchully is making certain raw materials for us intended to be used for the manufacture of a drug product for use in human clinical trials. The fair value of the common stock of $603,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense in connection with the receipt of the proper materials. As of September 30, 2010, $603,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

On August 17, 2010, we issued to MPI Research, Inc. (MPI) 158,912 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for two amendments to a master agreement under which MPI has provided and will continue to provide certain preclinical services in support of our clinical programs. The fair value of the common stock of $828,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and is being amortized to research and development expense on a pro-rata basis as services are performed. As of September 30, 2010, $349,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

On August 17, 2010, we issued to ReSearch Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. (RPS) 281,426 shares of our common stock in a private placement as consideration for a project agreement to a master agreement under which RPS is providing certain services to us in support of our clinical programs. The fair value of the common stock of $1,466,000 was recorded as a prepaid asset and will be amortized to research and development expense on a pro-rata basis as services are performed. As of September 30, 2010, $1,466,000 remained as a prepaid asset which is expected to be expensed over the next six months.

We issued the above-described shares of common stock in independent transactions and in reliance upon the exemption from registration provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Regulation D of the Securities Act. Each of Hongene, Samchully, MPI and RPS represented to us that it is an accredited investor as defined in Rule 501(a) of the Securities Act and that the securities issued pursuant thereto were being acquired for investment purposes.

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. (REMOVED AND RESERVED)

None.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Form of Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, dated October 29, 2010.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Form of Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, dated October 29, 2010.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, dated October 29, 2010.
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, dated October 29, 2010.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GERON CORPORATION

By: /s/ DAVID L. GREENWOOD

David L. Greenwood
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
(Duly Authorized Signatory)
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: October 29, 2010

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