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

SCHEDULE 14A

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only** (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

PRELIMINARY PROXY MATERIALS – SUBJECT TO COMPLETION



[], 2017

Dear Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to our Annual Meeting of Stockholders on Friday, August 11, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, at our headquarters at One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. The enclosed notice of annual meeting of stockholders sets forth the proposals that will be presented at the meeting, which are described in more detail in the enclosed proxy statement. Our board of directors recommends that you vote “FOR” each of the director nominees in Proposal 1, “FOR” Proposal 2 (“say-on-pay”), “FOR” Proposal 3 (ratification of our independent auditors) and “FOR” Proposal 4 (approval of a reverse stock split).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Very truly yours,

Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

PRELIMINARY PROXY MATERIALS – SUBJECT TO COMPLETION

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
One Kendall Square, Suite B7201
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
to be held on Friday, August 11, 2017

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“Merrimack”), will be held on Friday, August 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, at our headquarters at One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. To elect nine directors for a one year term, to hold office until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
2. To hold a non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation;
3. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;
4. To approve an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split of our issued and outstanding common stock at a ratio of one-for-[] and a proportionate reduction in the number of authorized shares of common stock, with such reverse stock split to be effected at such time and date, if at all, as determined by our board of directors in its sole discretion; and
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on June 16, 2017 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. This Notice, the accompanying Proxy Statement and a form of proxy card are being mailed beginning on or about [], 2017 to all stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cambridge, Massachusetts
[], 2017

YOU MAY OBTAIN ADMISSION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING BY IDENTIFYING YOURSELF AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AS A STOCKHOLDER AS OF THE RECORD DATE. IF YOU ARE A RECORD OWNER, POSSESSION OF A COPY OF A PROXY CARD WILL BE ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION. IF YOU ARE A BENEFICIAL (BUT NOT RECORD) OWNER, A COPY OF AN ACCOUNT STATEMENT FROM YOUR BANK, BROKER OR OTHER NOMINEE SHOWING SHARES HELD FOR YOUR BENEFIT ON JUNE 16, 2017 WILL BE ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND MAIL IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE IN ORDER TO HELP ENSURE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR SHARES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY CARD IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR VOTE VIA THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS SET FORTH ON THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

	Page
Information About the Annual Meeting and Voting	1
Votes Required	2
Corporate Governance	4
Board of Directors	4
How Our Board Is Organized	7
Board Committees	8
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	10
Board Meetings and Attendance	10
Board Processes	10
Board Policies	13
Executive Compensation	15
Executives	15
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	16
Organization and Compensation Committee Report	26
Risk Considerations in Our Compensation Program	26
Limits on Hedging and Pledging	26
Tax and Accounting Considerations	26
Summary Compensation Table	27
2016 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table	29
Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Year End	30
2016 Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table	31
Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans	31
Employment Agreements	32
Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control	33
Pension Benefits	34
Nonqualified Deferred Compensation	34
401(k) Plan	34
Director Compensation	35
Compensation for 2016	35
Director Compensation Arrangements	36
Audit-Related Matters	37
Audit Committee Report	37
Audit Fees and Services	37
Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures	38
Matters to Be Voted On	39
Proposal 1: Election of Directors	39
Proposal 2: Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation	39
Proposal 3: Ratification of Independent Auditors	40
Proposal 4: Approval of an Amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to Effect a Reverse Stock Split	40
Stock Ownership and Reporting	46
Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management	46
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance	49
Other Matters	50
Solicitation of Proxies	50
Householding of Annual Meeting Materials	50
Deadline for Submission of Stockholder Proposals for 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders	50

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
One Kendall Square, Suite B7201
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

Information About the Annual Meeting and Voting

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors (the “board of directors” or the “board”) of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Merrimack,” “we” or “us”) for use at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) to be held on Friday, August 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, at our headquarters at One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. On June 16, 2017, the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, there were outstanding and entitled to vote an aggregate of [] shares of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (“common stock”). Each share of common stock entitles the record holder thereof to one vote on each of the matters to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

This proxy statement, the enclosed proxy card and our 2016 annual report to stockholders were first made available to stockholders on or about [], 2017.

Your vote is important no matter how many shares you own. Please take the time to vote. Take a moment to read the instructions below. Choose the way to vote that is easiest and most convenient for you, and cast your vote as soon as possible.

If you are the “record holder” of your shares, meaning that you own your shares in your own name and not through a bank, broker or other nominee, you may vote in one of four ways:

- (1) *You may vote over the Internet.* You may vote your shares by following the “Vote by Internet” instructions on the enclosed proxy card. If you vote over the Internet, you do not need to vote by telephone or complete and mail your proxy card.
- (2) *You may vote by telephone.* You may vote your shares by following the “Vote by Phone” instructions on the enclosed proxy card. If you vote by telephone, you do not need to vote over the Internet or complete and mail your proxy card.
- (3) *You may vote by mail.* You may vote by completing, dating and signing the proxy card delivered with this proxy statement and promptly mailing it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you vote by mail, you do not need to vote over the Internet or by telephone.
- (4) *You may vote in person.* If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote by delivering your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot at the Annual Meeting. Ballots will be available at the Annual Meeting.

All proxies that are executed or are otherwise submitted over the Internet or by telephone will be voted on the matters set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders in accordance with the stockholders’ instructions. However, if no choice is specified on a proxy as to one or more of the proposals, the proxy will be voted in accordance with our board of directors’ recommendations on such proposals as set forth in this proxy statement.

After you have submitted a proxy, you may still change your vote and revoke your proxy prior to the Annual Meeting by doing any one of the following things:

- submitting a new proxy by following the “Vote by Internet” or “Vote by Phone” instructions on the enclosed proxy card up until 11:59 p.m., Eastern time, the day before the Annual Meeting;

[Table of Contents](#)

- signing another proxy card with a later date and either arranging for delivery of that proxy card by mail prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, or by delivering that signed proxy card in person at the Annual Meeting;
- giving our Corporate Secretary a written notice before or at the Annual Meeting that you want to revoke your proxy; or
- voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

Your attendance at the Annual Meeting alone will not revoke your proxy.

If the shares you own are held in “street name” by a bank, broker or other nominee record holder, which, for convenience, we collectively refer to in this proxy statement as brokerage firms, your brokerage firm, as the record holder of your shares, is required to vote your shares according to your instructions. In order to vote your shares, you will need to follow the directions your brokerage firm provides you. Many brokerage firms also offer the option of providing for voting over the Internet or by telephone, instructions for which, if available, would be provided by your brokerage firm on the voting instruction form that it delivers to you. Under applicable stock exchange rules, if you do not give instructions to your brokerage firm subject to these rules, it will still be able to vote your shares with respect to certain “discretionary” items, but will not be allowed to vote your shares with respect to certain “non-discretionary” items. The ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 3) and the approval of an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split (Proposal 4) are considered to be discretionary items, and your brokerage firm will be able to vote on those items even if it does not receive instructions from you, so long as it holds your shares in its name. The election of directors (Proposal 1) and the non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation, or “say-on-pay” vote (Proposal 2), are “non-discretionary” items, meaning that if you do not instruct your brokerage firm on how to vote with respect to either of these proposals, your brokerage firm will not vote with respect to that proposal and your shares will be counted as “broker non-votes.” “Broker non-votes” are shares that are held in “street name” by a brokerage firm that indicates on its proxy that it does not have or did not exercise discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter.

If your shares are held in street name, you must bring an account statement from your brokerage firm showing that you are the beneficial owner of the shares as of the record date (June 16, 2017) in order to be admitted to the Annual Meeting. To be able to vote your shares held in street name at the Annual Meeting, you will need to obtain a proxy card from the holder of record.

Votes Required

The holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Shares of common stock represented in person or by proxy (including “broker non-votes” and shares that abstain or do not vote with respect to one or more of the matters presented for stockholder approval) will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting. The following votes are required for approval of the proposals being presented at the Annual Meeting:

Proposal 1: Election of Directors. A nominee will be elected as a director at the Annual Meeting if the nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast “FOR” the applicable seat on our board of directors.

Proposal 2: Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation, or “Say-on-Pay.” This proposal calls for a non-binding, advisory vote, and accordingly there is no “required vote” that would constitute approval. However, our board, including our organization and compensation committee, values the opinions of our stockholders and, to the extent there are a substantial number of votes cast against the executive officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, we will consider our stockholders’ concerns and evaluate what actions may be appropriate to address those concerns.

[Table of Contents](#)

Proposal 3: Ratification of Independent Auditors. The affirmative vote of the holders of shares of common stock representing a majority of the votes cast on the matter is required for the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year.

Proposal 4: Approval of an Amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to Effect a Reverse Stock Split. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is required for approval of an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split of our issued and outstanding common stock at a ratio of one-for-[] and a proportionate reduction in the number of authorized shares of common stock, with such reverse stock split to be effected at such time and date, if at all, as determined by our board of directors in its sole discretion (the “Reverse Split”).

Shares that abstain from voting as to a particular matter and shares held in “street name” by brokerage firms who indicate on their proxies that they do not have discretionary authority to vote such shares as to a particular matter will not be counted as votes in favor of such matter, and will also not be counted as shares voting on such matter. Accordingly, abstentions and “broker non-votes” will have no effect on the voting on Proposals 1, 2 and 3 referenced above. Proposal 4 is a “discretionary” item, so if your shares are held in “street name” and you do not provide voting instructions with respect to your shares, your brokerage firm may vote your unvoted shares on Proposal 4. If you abstain from voting on Proposal 4, your shares will not be voted for or against the proposal. Because Proposal 4 requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, abstentions will have the same effect as votes against this proposal.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for
the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to Be Held on August 11, 2017:**

**This proxy statement and our 2016 annual report to stockholders are available at
www.proxyvote.com for viewing, downloading and printing.**

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, except for exhibits, will be furnished without charge to any stockholder upon written or oral request to Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, Attention: Corporate Secretary, Telephone: (617) 441-1000.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

Members of Our Board of Directors

Set forth below are the names and certain information about each of our directors as of June 12, 2017. The information presented includes each director's principal occupation and business experience for the past five years and the names of other public companies of which he or she has served as a director during the past five years. We believe that all of our directors possess the attributes and characteristics described in “—Board Processes—Director Nomination Process.”

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>
Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D. (4)	54	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Gary L. Crocker (1)(2)(4)	65	Chairman of the Board
John M. Dineen (3)	54	Director
Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (3)	50	Director
John Mendelsohn, M.D. (3)	80	Director
Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D.	45	Director
Michael E. Porter, Ph.D. (2)(4)	70	Director
James H. Quigley (1)	65	Director
Russell T. Ray (1)	70	Director

- (1) Member of the audit committee.
- (2) Member of the corporate governance and nominating committee.
- (3) Member of the organization and compensation committee.
- (4) Member of the executive committee.

Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D. has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of our board of directors since February 2017. Prior to joining us, Dr. Peters served in various capacities at Sanofi Genzyme, a global pharmaceutical company, since 2008, including as Senior Vice President, Head of Global Rare Diseases Business Unit since January 2015, Vice President, Strategy Development Officer, U.S. Rare Disease Unit from May 2014 to December 2014, Vice President, Division Medical Officer, Global Oncology Division from 2011 to May 2014, and Vice President, Head of Global and U.S. Medical Affairs, Hematology and Transplant from 2008 to 2011. Prior to Sanofi Genzyme, Dr. Peters held medical affairs roles at Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Amgen Inc., both pharmaceutical companies, and was a co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mednav, Inc., a healthcare information technology company. Dr. Peters has also served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Peters holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the Medical University of South Carolina and a B.S. from the College of Charleston. We believe that Dr. Peters is qualified to serve on our board of directors because of his extensive leadership experience in oncology and specialty care, his extensive knowledge of our industry and his medical oncology expertise.

Gary L. Crocker has served as a member of our board of directors since 2004 and as Chairman of the Board since 2005. Mr. Crocker also served as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer from October 2016 to February 2017. Since 2002, Mr. Crocker has served as President and Managing Director of Crocker Ventures, LLC, a privately-held life science investment firm funding differentiated biotechnology and medical device companies. Mr. Crocker has held senior executive positions or served on the board of directors of several life science companies, including as Chairman of the Board of ARUP Laboratories, co-founder and director of Theratech, Inc. (acquired by Actavis plc) and President, Chief Executive Officer and founder of Research Medical, Inc. (acquired by Baxter International). Mr. Crocker also served on the boards of directors of the

[Table of Contents](#)

publicly traded firms Interleuken Genetics, Inc. and The Med-Design Corporation. Mr. Crocker served as a member of the board of the Federal Reserve Branch of San Francisco from 1999 to 2007, and currently serves as the Chairman of the University of Utah's Center for Medical Innovation and on the board of the Sorenson Legacy Foundation. Mr. Crocker holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S. from Harvard College. We believe that Mr. Crocker is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his experience in the life sciences industry as an entrepreneur, venture capitalist and executive and his service on the boards of directors of a range of public and private companies and government institutions, as well as his ability to provide us with his expertise in diagnostics and therapeutic development.

John M. Dineen has served as a member of our board of directors since June 2015. Mr. Dineen has been an Operating Advisor to Clayton, Dublier & Rice, LLC, a private equity firm, since January 2015. From 1986 to October 2014, Mr. Dineen served in a variety of leadership roles with General Electric Company, or GE, including as Chief Executive Officer of GE Healthcare, Chief Executive Officer of GE Transportation, President of GE Plastics, General Manager of GE's Power Equipment business and General Manager of GE's Appliances, Microwave and Air-Conditioning businesses. Mr. Dineen also currently serves on the board of directors of Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. Mr. Dineen holds a B.S. from the University of Vermont. We believe that Mr. Dineen is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his experience in the leadership and management of several businesses, including a large healthcare company.

Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D. has served as a member of our board of directors since November 2014. Dr. Lee currently serves as a Professor of Radiology at the University of Utah's School of Medicine. From July 2011 to April 2017, Dr. Lee served as Senior Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Utah, Dean of the University of Utah's School of Medicine and Chief Executive Officer of University of Utah Health Care. From 2007 to June 2011, Dr. Lee served as Vice Dean for Science, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of New York University Medical Center. Dr. Lee also currently serves on the board of directors of Zions Bancorporation. Dr. Lee is a member of the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Medicine and is a Fellow and past President of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine. Dr. Lee holds a Ph.D. in medical engineering from Oxford University, an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business at New York University and a B.A. from Harvard-Radcliffe College. We believe that Dr. Lee is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to her knowledge of the healthcare industry, her expertise in medical imaging and her leadership and management experience.

John Mendelsohn, M.D. has served as a member of our board of directors since June 2012. Dr. Mendelsohn has served as the Director of the Khalifa Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center since September 2011. Dr. Mendelsohn also served as President of the MD Anderson Cancer Center from 1996 to August 2011. Prior to joining the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Mendelsohn was founding director of the cancer center at the University of California San Diego and served as Chairman of Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center from 1985 to 1996. Dr. Mendelsohn is recognized for his research on the binding of growth factors to cell surface receptors and how they regulate cell functions, which led to the discovery, development and eventual commercialization of the cancer therapy cetuximab (Erbiximab®). Dr. Mendelsohn holds an M.D. from Harvard Medical School and a B.A. from Harvard College. We believe that Dr. Mendelsohn is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his expertise in cancer research and his experience leading a cancer treatment and research center.

Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D. has served as a member of our board of directors since January 2015 and is one of our co-founders. Dr. Nielsen led our research and drug discovery in various roles from when he joined us in 2002 to January 2015, including as our Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer from March 2009 until January 2015. Dr. Nielsen has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Torque Inc., a biotechnology company, since January 2015. Dr. Nielsen also served as Chief Executive Officer of Silver Creek Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a majority owned subsidiary of ours, from July 2010 to March 2014. Dr. Nielsen holds a Ph.D. in molecular biology and an M.S. in biochemistry from the University of Copenhagen. We believe that

[Table of Contents](#)

Dr. Nielsen is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his extensive knowledge of Merrimack, his leadership and management experience at Merrimack and Torque Inc. and his thorough understanding of our business and industry.

Michael E. Porter, Ph.D. has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2010. Dr. Porter was also a strategy advisor to us from 1999 until he joined our board in December 2010. Dr. Porter is the Bishop William Lawrence University Professor at Harvard Business School and has been on the faculty at Harvard Business School since 1973. Dr. Porter also served on the boards of directors of PTC Inc. from 1995 to 2015, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company from 2013 to 2015 and Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. from 2001 to 2012. Dr. Porter has written extensively on healthcare delivery and has worked with leading healthcare providers in multiple countries and with government leaders on healthcare policy issues. Dr. Porter holds a Ph.D. in business economics from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S.E. from Princeton University. We believe that Dr. Porter is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his expertise in corporate strategy, healthcare delivery and the development of companies in the life sciences industry, as well as his experience as an advisor and consultant to many leading companies globally, including a range of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies.

James H. Quigley has served as a member of our board of directors since July 2012. Mr. Quigley also currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Hess Corporation and on the board of directors of Wells Fargo & Company. Mr. Quigley retired as a Senior Partner from Deloitte LLP, a global public accounting firm, in June 2012, where he also served as Chief Executive Officer of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Limited (Deloitte's global network) from June 2007 to June 2011. Mr. Quigley is also a member of the board of directors of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation and a member of the National Advisory Committee of Brigham Young University. Mr. Quigley holds a B.S. and an honorary Doctorate of Business from Utah State University. We believe that Mr. Quigley is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his expertise in financial reporting and auditing, his experience as a leader of a global firm and his experience working with the boards of directors of a range of public and private companies as their independent auditor.

Russell T. Ray has served as a member of our board of directors since January 2015. From January 2016 until his retirement in February 2017, Mr. Ray served as Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Healthcare Investment Banking at Stifel Financial Corp., an investment banking firm. From January 2014 to December 2015, Mr. Ray was a Senior Advisor to HLM Venture Partners, a healthcare venture capital firm. Mr. Ray was also a Partner at HLM Venture Partners from 2003 to December 2013. From 1999 to 2003, Mr. Ray was a Managing Director and Global Co-Head of Healthcare Investment Banking at Credit Suisse First Boston. From 1987 to 1999, Mr. Ray was a Managing Director and Global Head of Healthcare Investment Banking at Deutsche Bank and its predecessor entities, BT Alex. Brown and Alex. Brown & Sons. Mr. Ray served on the board of directors of Allergan, Inc. from 2003 to March 2015. Mr. Ray holds an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, an M.S. in evolutionary biology from the University of Pennsylvania and B.S. degrees from the United States Military Academy and the University of Washington. We believe that Mr. Ray is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his knowledge of the healthcare industry, his financial expertise and his management background as an executive in the financial services industry.

Board Composition

Our board of directors is currently authorized to have nine members. All of our directors are elected annually for a one year term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders. Each director will hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. Our bylaws provide that the authorized number of directors may be changed only by resolution of our board of directors. Our bylaws also provide that our directors may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the votes that all of our stockholders would be entitled to cast in an annual election of directors, and that any vacancy on our board of directors, including a vacancy resulting from an enlargement of our board of directors, may be filled only by vote of a majority of our directors then in office.

[Table of Contents](#)

Board Determination of Independence

Rule 5605 of the NASDAQ Listing Rules requires a majority of a listed company's board of directors to be comprised of independent directors. In addition, the NASDAQ Listing Rules require that, subject to specified exceptions, each member of a listed company's audit, compensation and corporate governance and nominating committees be independent and that audit committee members also satisfy independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Under Rule 5605(a)(2), a director will only qualify as an "independent director" if, in the opinion of our board of directors, that person does not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. In order to be considered independent for purposes of Rule 10A-3, a member of an audit committee of a listed company may not, other than in his or her capacity as a member of the audit committee, the board of directors, or any other board committee: (1) accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the listed company or any of its subsidiaries; or (2) be an affiliated person of the listed company or any of its subsidiaries. In addition, in affirmatively determining the independence of any director who will serve on a company's compensation committee, Rule 10C-1 under the Exchange Act requires that a company's board of directors consider all factors specifically relevant to determining whether a director has a relationship to such company which is material to that director's ability to be independent from management in connection with the duties of a compensation committee member, including, but not limited to: (i) the source of compensation of the director, including any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee paid by such company to the director; and (ii) whether the director is affiliated with the company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning his or her background, employment and affiliations, including family relationships, our board of directors has determined that none of Mr. Crocker, Mr. Dineen, Dr. Lee, Dr. Mendelsohn, Dr. Porter, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Ray, representing seven of our nine directors, has a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that each of these directors is "independent" as that term is defined under Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ Listing Rules. Our board of directors has also determined that Mr. Crocker, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Ray, who comprise our audit committee, Mr. Crocker and Dr. Porter, who comprise our corporate governance and nominating committee, and Mr. Dineen, Dr. Lee and Dr. Mendelsohn, who comprise our organization and compensation committee, each satisfy the independence standards for such committees established by the SEC and the NASDAQ Listing Rules, as applicable. In making such determination, our board of directors considered the relationships that each such non-employee director has with Merrimack, including any transactions of the type described below in "*—Board Policies—Related Person Transactions,*" and all other facts and circumstances our board of directors deemed relevant in determining independence. From October 2016 to February 2017 when Mr. Crocker served as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, he was not independent under NASDAQ Listing Rules and he did not serve on our audit committee or corporate governance and nominating committee, but he was independent under NASDAQ Listing Rules following the end of his term as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Lee served on our audit committee during such time in lieu of Mr. Crocker, and our board of directors determined that she satisfied the independence standards for such committee established by the SEC and the NASDAQ Listing Rules.

How Our Board Is Organized

Board Leadership Structure

Our board of directors, upon the recommendation of our corporate governance and nominating committee, has determined that the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer should be separated at the current time. Accordingly, our board has appointed Mr. Crocker, an independent director within the meaning of NASDAQ Listing Rules, as the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Crocker's duties as Chairman of the Board include the following:

- chairing meetings of our board and of the independent directors in executive session;

Table of Contents

- meeting with any director who is not adequately performing his or her duties as a member of our board or any committee;
- facilitating communications between other members of our board and the Chief Executive Officer;
- determining the frequency and length of board meetings and recommending when special meetings of our board should be held;
- preparing or approving the agenda for each board meeting; and
- reviewing and, if appropriate, recommending action to be taken with respect to written communications from stockholders submitted to our board.

Our board of directors decided to separate the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer because it believes that a bifurcated leadership structure offers the following benefits:

- increasing the independent oversight of Merrimack and enhancing our board's objective evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer;
- freeing the Chief Executive Officer to focus on company operations instead of board administration;
- providing the Chief Executive Officer with an experienced sounding board;
- providing greater opportunities for communication between stockholders and our board;
- enhancing the independent and objective assessment of risk by our board; and
- providing an independent spokesman for Merrimack.

Notwithstanding the above, Mr. Crocker did continue to serve as Chairman of the Board while he served as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer from October 2016 to February 2017.

Board Committees

Our board of directors has established an audit committee, a corporate governance and nominating committee, an organization and compensation committee and an executive committee, each of which operates under a charter that has been approved by our board. Copies of the committee charters are posted on the Investors section of our website, which is located at investors.merrimack.com.

Audit Committee

The members of our audit committee are Mr. Crocker, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Ray. Mr. Quigley chairs the audit committee. Our audit committee's responsibilities include:

- appointing, approving the compensation of and assessing the independence of our registered public accounting firm;
- overseeing the work of our independent registered public accounting firm, including through the receipt and consideration of reports and other communications from such firm;
- reviewing and discussing with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our annual and quarterly financial statements and related disclosures;
- monitoring our internal control over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures and code of business conduct and ethics;
- overseeing our internal audit function;
- overseeing our risk assessment and risk management policies;
- establishing policies regarding hiring employees from the independent registered public accounting firm and procedures for the receipt and retention of accounting-related complaints and concerns;

[Table of Contents](#)

- meeting independently with our internal auditing staff, independent registered public accounting firm and management;
- reviewing and approving or ratifying any related person transactions; and
- preparing the audit committee report required by SEC rules.

All audit and non-audit services, other than *de minimis* non-audit services, to be provided to us by our independent registered public accounting firm must be approved in advance by our audit committee.

Our board of directors has determined that Mr. Quigley is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined in applicable SEC rules. We believe that the composition of our audit committee meets the requirements for independence under the current NASDAQ Listing Rules and SEC rules and regulations.

The audit committee met nine times during 2016.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

The members of our corporate governance and nominating committee are Mr. Crocker and Dr. Porter. Dr. Porter chairs the corporate governance and nominating committee. Our corporate governance and nominating committee’s responsibilities include:

- identifying individuals qualified to become members of our board;
- recommending to our board the persons to be nominated for election as directors and to each of our board’s committees;
- reviewing and making recommendations to our board with respect to our board leadership structure;
- developing and recommending to our board corporate governance principles; and
- overseeing an annual evaluation of our board.

The corporate governance and nominating committee met four times during 2016.

Organization and Compensation Committee

The members of our organization and compensation committee are Mr. Dineen, Dr. Lee and Dr. Mendelsohn. Mr. Dineen chairs the organization and compensation committee. Our organization and compensation committee’s responsibilities include:

- annually reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and our other executive officers;
- reviewing and making recommendations to our board with respect to our Chief Executive Officer’s compensation;
- reviewing and approving, or making recommendations to our board with respect to, the compensation of our other executive officers;
- overseeing an evaluation of our executive officers;
- overseeing and administering our cash and equity incentive plans;
- reviewing and making recommendations to our board with respect to director compensation;
- reviewing and making recommendations to our board with respect to management succession planning;
- reviewing and discussing annually with management our “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” disclosure required by SEC rules; and
- preparing the organization and compensation committee report required by SEC rules.

[Table of Contents](#)

The processes and procedures followed by our organization and compensation committee in considering and determining executive and director compensation are described below under “—Board Processes—Executive and Director Compensation Processes.”

The organization and compensation committee met six times during 2016.

Executive Committee

The members of our executive committee are Mr. Crocker, Dr. Peters and Dr. Porter. Mr. Crocker chairs the executive committee. Our executive committee has, and may exercise when necessary, all of the authority and powers of our full board of directors during the intervals between meetings of our board, except as limited by Delaware law.

The executive committee met three times during 2016.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The members of our organization and compensation committee during 2016 were Mr. Dineen, Dr. Lee and Dr. Mendelsohn. No other person served as a member of our organization and compensation committee during 2016. None of our executive officers serves as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee, or other committee serving an equivalent function, of any entity that has one or more executive officers who serve as members of our board of directors or our organization and compensation committee. None of the members of our organization and compensation committee is an officer or employee of Merrimack, nor have they ever been an officer or employee of Merrimack.

Board Meetings and Attendance

Our board of directors met 24 times during 2016. During 2016, each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the number of board meetings and the number of meetings held by all committees of our board on which he or she then served.

Our directors are expected to attend our annual meetings of stockholders. Seven of our nine directors then serving attended our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Board Processes

Oversight of Risk

Our board oversees our risk management processes directly and through its committees. Our management is responsible for risk management on a day-to-day basis. The role of our board and its committees is to oversee the risk management activities of management. They fulfill this duty by discussing with management the policies and practices utilized by management in assessing and managing risks and providing input on those policies and practices. In general, our board oversees risk management activities relating to business strategy, acquisitions, capital allocation, organizational structure and certain operational risks; our audit committee oversees risk management activities related to financial controls and legal and compliance risks; our corporate governance and nominating committee oversees risk management activities relating to board composition; and our organization and compensation committee oversees risk management activities relating to our compensation policies and practices and management succession planning. Each committee reports to the full board on a regular basis, including reports with respect to the committee’s risk oversight activities as appropriate. In addition, since risk issues often overlap, committees from time to time request that the full board discuss particular risks.

[Table of Contents](#)

Director Nomination Process

The process followed by our corporate governance and nominating committee to identify and evaluate director candidates may include requests to board members and others for recommendations, evaluation of the performance on our board and its committees of any existing directors being considered for nomination, consideration of biographical information and background material relating to potential candidates and, particularly in the case of potential candidates who are not then serving on our board, interviews of selected candidates by members of the committee and our board.

In considering whether to recommend any particular candidate for inclusion in our board's slate of recommended director nominees, our corporate governance and nominating committee applies the criteria set forth in our corporate governance guidelines. Consistent with these criteria, our corporate governance and nominating committee expects every nominee to have the following attributes or characteristics, among others: integrity, honesty, adherence to high ethical standards, business acumen, good judgment and a commitment to understand our business and industry.

All of the director nominees are currently members of our board of directors. The nominee biographies under “—Board of Directors—Members of Our Board of Directors” indicate the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of each of our current directors that led our corporate governance and nominating committee and our board to conclude he or she should continue to serve as a director of Merrimack. Our corporate governance and nominating committee and our board believe that each of the nominees has the individual attributes and characteristics required of our directors, and that the nominees as a group possess the skill sets and specific experience desired of our board as a whole. At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will be asked to consider the election of Dr. Peters, who has been nominated for election as a director for the first time. Dr. Peters was appointed to our board in February 2017 by board action in connection with his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Our corporate governance and nominating committee considers the value of diversity when selecting nominees, and believes that our board, taken as a whole, should embody a diverse set of skills, experiences and backgrounds. The committee does not make any particular weighting of diversity or any other characteristic in evaluating nominees and directors.

Stockholders may recommend individuals for consideration as potential director candidates by submitting their names, together with appropriate biographical information and background materials, and information with respect to the stockholder or group of stockholders making the recommendation, including the number of shares of common stock owned by such stockholder or group of stockholders, to our Corporate Secretary at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, Attention: Corporate Secretary. The specific requirements for the information that is required to be provided for such recommendations to be considered are specified in our bylaws and must be received by us no later than the date referenced below in “Other Matters—Deadline for Submission of Stockholder Proposals for 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.” Assuming that appropriate biographical and background material has been provided on a timely basis, the corporate governance and nominating committee will evaluate stockholder-recommended candidates by following substantially the same process, and applying substantially the same criteria, as it follows for candidates submitted by others.

Executive and Director Compensation Processes

Our executive compensation program is administered by the organization and compensation committee of our board of directors, subject to the oversight and approval of our full board of directors. Our organization and compensation committee reviews our executive compensation practices on an annual basis and based on this review makes recommendations to our board of directors for approval, which has full discretion to approve or modify the recommendations of the organization and compensation committee.

[Table of Contents](#)

In designing our executive compensation program, our organization and compensation committee considers publicly available compensation data for national and regional companies in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry to help guide its executive compensation decisions at the time of hiring and for subsequent adjustments in compensation. Historically, our organization and compensation committee has also retained the services of Mercer, LLC, or Mercer, an independent compensation consultant, to provide it with additional comparative data on executive compensation practices in our industry and to advise it on our executive compensation program generally. Although the organization and compensation committee considers Mercer's advice and recommendations about our executive compensation program, the organization and compensation committee ultimately makes its own decisions about these matters. None of the organization and compensation committee members and none of our executive officers or directors have any relationship with Mercer or the individual consultants employed by Mercer. Mercer has not provided any other services to Merrimack other than compensation consulting services to the organization and compensation committee. The organization and compensation committee has determined that no conflicts of interest exist between Merrimack and Mercer. The organization and compensation committee is directly responsible for the appointment and oversight of any compensation consultants and other advisors it retains.

Our director compensation program is administered by our board of directors with the assistance of the organization and compensation committee. The organization and compensation committee periodically reviews director compensation and makes recommendations to our board with respect thereto.

Communications with Stockholders

Our management will give appropriate attention to written communications that are submitted by stockholders, and will respond if and as appropriate. Stockholders may communicate with our management by writing to our Corporate Secretary at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, Attention: Corporate Secretary, or by calling (617) 441-1000. Additional information about contacting Merrimack is available on the Investors section of our website, which is located at investors.merrimack.com.

In addition, stockholders who wish to communicate with our entire board may do so by writing to Gary L. Crocker, Chairman of the Board, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Communications will be forwarded to other directors if they relate to substantive matters that the Chairman of the Board, in consultation with our General Counsel, considers appropriate for attention by the other directors. In general, communications relating to corporate governance and long-term corporate strategy are more likely to be forwarded than communications relating to ordinary business affairs, personal grievances or matters as to which we tend to receive repetitive or duplicative communications.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our board of directors has adopted corporate governance guidelines to assist in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities and to serve the best interests of Merrimack and our stockholders. The guidelines provide that:

- our board's principal responsibility is to oversee the management of Merrimack;
- a majority of the members of our board must be independent directors;
- the independent directors meet in executive session at least twice a year;
- directors have full and free access to management and, as necessary, independent advisors;
- new directors participate in an orientation program and all directors are expected to participate in continuing director education on an ongoing basis; and
- our board will conduct an annual self-evaluation to determine whether it and its committees are functioning effectively.

[Table of Contents](#)

A copy of the corporate governance guidelines is posted under the heading “Corporate Governance” on the Investors section of our website, which is located at investors.merrimack.com.

Board Policies

Related Person Transactions

Our board of directors has adopted written policies and procedures for the review of any transaction, arrangement or relationship in which Merrimack is a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and one of our executive officers, directors, director nominees or 5% stockholders, or their immediate family members, each of whom we refer to as a “related person,” has a direct or indirect material interest.

If a related person proposes to enter into such a transaction, arrangement or relationship, which we refer to as a “related person transaction,” the related person must report the proposed related person transaction to our General Counsel. The policy calls for the proposed related person transaction to be reviewed and, if deemed appropriate, approved by our audit committee. Whenever practicable, the reporting, review and approval will occur prior to entry into the transaction. If advance review and approval is not practicable, the audit committee will review, and, in its discretion, may ratify the related person transaction. The policy also permits the chair of the audit committee to review and, if deemed appropriate, approve proposed related person transactions that arise between audit committee meetings, subject to ratification by the audit committee at its next meeting. Any related person transactions that are ongoing in nature will be reviewed annually.

A related person transaction reviewed under the policy will be considered approved or ratified if it is authorized by the audit committee after full disclosure of the related person’s interest in the transaction. As appropriate for the circumstances, the audit committee will review and consider:

- the related person’s interest in the related person transaction;
- the approximate dollar value of the amount involved in the related person transaction;
- the approximate dollar value of the amount of the related person’s interest in the transaction without regard to the amount of any profit or loss;
- whether the transaction was undertaken in the ordinary course of our business;
- whether the terms of the transaction are no less favorable to us than terms that could have been reached with an unrelated third party;
- the purpose, and the potential benefits to us, of the transaction; and
- any other information regarding the related person transaction or the related person in the context of the proposed transaction that would be material to investors in light of the circumstances of the particular transaction.

The audit committee may approve or ratify the transaction only if the audit committee determines that, under all of the circumstances, the transaction is in, or is not inconsistent with, Merrimack’s best interests. The audit committee may impose any conditions on the related person transaction that it deems appropriate.

In addition to the transactions that are excluded by the instructions to the SEC’s related person transaction disclosure rule, our board of directors has determined that the following transactions do not create a material direct or indirect interest on behalf of related persons and, therefore, are not related person transactions for purposes of this policy:

- interests arising solely from the related person’s position as an executive officer of another entity (whether or not the person is also a director of such entity), that is a participant in the transaction, where (a) the related person and all other related persons own in the aggregate less than a 10% equity interest in such entity, (b) the related person and his or her immediate family members are not involved

Table of Contents

in the negotiation of the terms of the transaction and do not receive any special benefits as a result of the transaction and (c) the amount involved in the transaction equals less than the greater of \$200,000 or 5% of the annual gross revenues of the company receiving payment under the transaction; and

- a transaction that is specifically contemplated by provisions of our charter or bylaws.

The policy provides that transactions involving compensation of executive officers shall be reviewed and approved by the organization and compensation committee in the manner specified in its charter.

Since January 1, 2016, we have not engaged in any related person transactions.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our board of directors has adopted a written code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our directors, officers and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. A copy of the code of business conduct and ethics is posted on the Investors section of our website, which is located at investors.merrimack.com. In addition, we intend to post on our website all disclosures that are required by law or the NASDAQ Listing Rules concerning any amendments to, or waivers from, any provision of our code of business conduct and ethics.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Executives

Our executives, their current positions and their ages as of June 12, 2017 are set forth below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>
Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.	54	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Daryl C. Drummond, Ph.D.	48	Head of Research
Ellen K. Forest	53	Head of Human Resources
Jeffrey A. Munsie	40	General Counsel, Head of Corporate Operations and Secretary
Sergio L. Santillana, M.D.	54	Chief Medical Officer

In addition to Dr. Peters, whose biography is set forth above in “Corporate Governance—Board of Directors—Members of Our Board of Directors,” the biographies of our executive officers are as follows:

Daryl C. Drummond, Ph.D. has served as our Head of Research since March 2017. Dr. Drummond served as our Vice President of Discovery from July 2014 to March 2017 and our Senior Director of Nanotherapeutics from October 2009 to July 2014. Dr. Drummond previously served as Director of Liposome Research and Development at Hermes BioSciences, Inc., a biotechnology company that was acquired by Merrimack in October 2009. Prior to joining Hermes BioSciences, Inc. in 2000, Dr. Drummond was a post-doctoral fellow at California Pacific Medical Center, where he focused on lipid-based drug delivery systems. Dr. Drummond is a principal inventor for many of Merrimack’s nanotechnology-based drugs and platform technologies, including ONIVYDE®, which Merrimack sold to Ipsen S.A. in April 2017. Dr. Drummond holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and a B.S. from Indiana University.

Ellen K. Forest has served as our Head of Human Resources since May 2017. Ms. Forest previously served as a Director of Human Resources at Baxalta, a global biopharmaceutical company, from January 2016 to July 2016. From January 2014 to December 2015, Ms. Forest served as Human Resources Manager at Partners HealthCare System, Inc., a not-for-profit healthcare system. From January 2013 to July 2013, Ms. Forest served as Director at Dovetail Health, a provider of medication management solutions. From 2006 to January 2013, Ms. Forest served as Director of Human Resources at TA Associates Management, LP, a private equity firm. Ms. Forest holds an M.S. in human resources management and a B.S. from Emmanuel College.

Jeffrey A. Munsie has served as our General Counsel since January 2013, as our Head of Corporate Operations since March 2017 and as our Secretary since August 2011. Mr. Munsie served as our Corporate Counsel from February 2011 to January 2013. Previously, Mr. Munsie was Counsel in the corporate department at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, a law firm, where he practiced from 2002 to January 2011. Mr. Munsie holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an A.B. from Dartmouth College.

Sergio L. Santillana, M.D. has served as our Chief Medical Officer since June 2017. Dr. Santillana previously served as Vice President of Clinical Research at ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a pharmaceutical company, from March 2016 to June 2017, and as Chief Medical Officer at ARIAD from May 2016 to June 2017. From August 2014 to March 2016, Dr. Santillana served as Senior Medical Director and Global Clinical Lead of Oncology Clinical Research at Takeda Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., a global pharmaceutical company. From 2006 to August 2014, Dr. Santillana served in various capacities at GlaxoSmithKline plc, a global pharmaceutical company, including as Global Project Physician Leader and Director of Clinical Development from February 2012 to August 2014. Dr. Santillana also served as a Clinical Research Physician for Eli Lilly and Company, a global pharmaceutical company, from 2002 to 2006. Dr. Santillana was also a practicing medical oncologist for 15 years, first at the National Cancer Institute of Peru (INEN) from 1994 to 2002, and then in private practice from 2002 to 2006. Dr. Santillana holds an M.S. in experimental therapeutics from Kellogg College at the University of Oxford and an M.D. and B.S. from the Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal School of Medicine.

[Table of Contents](#)

Our executive officers are elected by, and serve at the discretion of, our board of directors. There are no family relationships among any of our directors or executive officers.

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Overview

This section discusses the principles underlying our policies and decisions with respect to the compensation of our executive officers and the most important factors relevant to an analysis of these policies and decisions. This section also describes the material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to each of our named executive officers for 2016. Our “named executive officers” for 2016 are Robert J. Mulroy, our former President and Chief Executive Officer, Gary L. Crocker, our Chairman of the Board and former Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Yasir B. Al-Wakeel, our former Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Development, and our three other most highly compensated executive officers, Peter N. Laivins, our former Head of Development, William M. McClements, our former Head of Corporate Operations, and Edward J. Stewart, our former Head of Commercial. In addition, this section provides qualitative information regarding the manner and context in which compensation is awarded to and earned by our executive officers and is intended to place in perspective the data presented in the tables and narrative that follow.

Our organization and compensation committee oversees our policies governing the compensation of our executive officers. In this role, the organization and compensation committee reviews and approves all compensation decisions relating to our named executive officers. Our organization and compensation committee consists of three members of our board of directors, all of whom have extensive experience in our industry and each of whom is an independent director. Our organization and compensation committee uses its judgment and experience and has historically considered the recommendations of our President and Chief Executive Officer when determining the amount and appropriate mix of compensation for each of our executive officers. Specifically, our President and Chief Executive Officer provides input and recommendations, via an annual review of executive performance and otherwise, regarding salary adjustments, the corporate and individual goals used to determine annual performance-based cash bonuses and appropriate equity incentive compensation levels. Historically, our President and Chief Executive Officer has provided input to the organization and compensation committee on his own compensation, but has not had any control over setting the amount or mix of his compensation and is not present when the organization and compensation committee discusses and determines his compensation.

The organization and compensation committee periodically evaluates the need for revisions to our executive compensation program to ensure our program is competitive with the companies with which we compete for executive talent.

Objectives and Philosophy of Our Executive Compensation Program

The primary objectives of the organization and compensation committee with respect to executive compensation are to:

- attract, retain and motivate experienced and talented executives;
- ensure executive compensation is aligned with our corporate strategies, research and development programs and business goals;
- recognize the individual contributions of executives, but foster a shared commitment among executives by aligning their individual goals with our corporate goals;
- promote the achievement of key strategic, development and operational performance measures by linking compensation to the achievement of measurable corporate and individual performance goals; and

[Table of Contents](#)

- align the interests of our executives with our stockholders by rewarding performance that leads to the creation of stockholder value.

To achieve these objectives, the organization and compensation committee evaluates our executive compensation program with the goal of setting compensation at levels that are justifiable based on each executive's level of experience, performance and responsibility and that the committee believes are competitive with those of other companies in our industry and our region that compete with us for executive talent. In addition, our executive compensation program ties a portion of each executive's overall compensation to the achievement of key corporate and individual goals. We provide a portion of our executive compensation in the form of stock options that vest over time, which we believe helps to retain our executives and aligns their interests with those of our stockholders by allowing them to participate in the longer term success of Merrimack as reflected in the appreciation of our stock price.

Consideration of 2016 Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

At our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, we held an advisory vote on our 2015 executive compensation program, and 95% of the votes cast on the matter were voted in support of the program. The organization and compensation committee considered the results of this advisory vote, together with the other factors and data discussed in this proxy statement, in determining executive compensation decisions and policies and believes that the result affirms stockholders' support of our approach to and structure of executive compensation. The organization and compensation committee will continue to consider the outcome of our say-on-pay votes when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

Use of Compensation Consultants and Market Benchmarking

In designing our executive compensation program, our organization and compensation committee considers publicly available compensation data for national and regional companies in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry to help guide its executive compensation decisions at the time of hiring and for subsequent adjustments in compensation. Historically, our organization and compensation committee has also retained the services of Mercer, an independent compensation consultant, to provide it with additional comparative data on executive compensation practices in our industry and to advise it on our executive compensation program generally. Although the organization and compensation committee considers Mercer's advice and recommendations about our executive compensation program, the organization and compensation committee ultimately makes its own decisions about these matters. None of the organization and compensation committee members and none of our executive officers or directors have any relationship with Mercer or the individual consultants employed by Mercer. Mercer has not provided any other services to Merrimack other than compensation consulting services to the organization and compensation committee. The organization and compensation committee has determined that no conflicts of interest exist between Merrimack and Mercer.

In December 2015, Mercer provided our organization and compensation committee with comparative data showing where our total compensation and each element of our compensation ranked among (1) both public and private companies in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry generally, according to compensation data from the 2015 Radford Global Life Sciences Survey, and (2) a peer group of publicly traded companies in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry at a stage of development, market capitalization or size comparable to ours at the time with which the organization and compensation committee believed we competed against for executive talent, according to publicly available compensation data for years prior to 2015. The companies included in that peer group were Aegerion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Array BioPharma Inc., Clovis Oncology, Inc., Exelexis, Inc., FibroGen, Inc., Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc., ImmunoGen, Inc., Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Momenta Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Raptor Pharmaceuticals Corp. and Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

[Table of Contents](#)

This peer group is subject to change, and we expect that our organization and compensation committee will continue to periodically review and update the list. The changes made to our peer group in late 2015, which had been last updated in early 2014, consist of:

- the removal of Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., InterMune, Inc., NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Targacept, Inc., which had been acquired since 2014;
- the removal of Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Celldex Therapeutics, Inc., Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. and Puma Biotechnology, Inc., which our organization and compensation committee deemed not to be comparable because they had no or minimal revenue;
- the removal of ArQule, Inc., BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc. and XOMA Corporation, which our organization and compensation committee deemed to have revenue and a market capitalization too small compared to ours at the time;
- the removal of Vanda Pharmaceuticals Inc., which our organization and compensation committee deemed to have a market capitalization too small compared to ours at the time; and
- the addition of Aegerion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc., FibroGen, Inc., Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc., Momenta Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Raptor Pharmaceuticals Corp. and Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which our organization and compensation committee deemed to have revenue, market capitalizations or business orientations similar to ours.

Our peer group is used for purposes of gathering data to compare against our existing executive compensation practices and for guiding future compensation decisions. Our compensation consultant also makes suggestions for changes to our executive compensation practices based on the data they provide to us as well as compensation trends in our industry. However, although the organization and compensation committee may consider peer group and other industry compensation data and the recommendations of our compensation consultant when making decisions related to executive compensation, to date, it has not made and does not intend to make adjustments to overall executive compensation or any element thereof solely or primarily either to target a specified threshold level of compensation or market benchmark within the peer group, our larger industry or some other group of comparable companies or to act on the recommendations of our compensation consultant.

Annual Compensation Review Process

After the end of each calendar year, we evaluate each executive's performance for the completed year. Our President and Chief Executive Officer, with respect to each executive other than himself, prepares a written evaluation based on his evaluation of the executive and input from others within Merrimack. Our President and Chief Executive Officer also prepares his own self-assessment. This process leads to a recommendation by our President and Chief Executive Officer to the organization and compensation committee with respect to each executive officer, including himself, as to:

- the achievement of stated corporate and individual performance goals;
- the level of contributions made to the general management and guidance of Merrimack;
- the need for salary increases;
- the amount of bonuses to be paid; and
- whether or not stock option awards should be made.

These recommendations are reviewed by the organization and compensation committee and are taken into account when it makes a final determination on all such matters.

[Table of Contents](#)

Components of Our Executive Compensation Program

The primary elements of our executive compensation program are:

- base salary;
- annual performance-based cash bonuses;
- equity incentive awards;
- benefits and other compensation; and
- severance and change in control benefits.

We do not have a formal or informal policy for allocating between long-term and short-term compensation, between cash and non-cash compensation or among different forms of non-cash compensation. Instead, our organization and compensation committee, after reviewing information provided by our compensation consultant and other relevant data, determines subjectively what it believes to be the appropriate level and mix of the various compensation components. We generally strive to provide our named executive officers with a balance of short-term and long-term incentives to encourage consistently strong performance. Ultimately, the objective in allocating between long-term and currently paid compensation is to ensure adequate base compensation to attract and retain personnel, while providing incentives to maximize long-term value for Merrimack and our stockholders. Therefore, we provide cash compensation in the form of base salary to meet competitive salary norms and reward good performance on an annual basis and in the form of bonus compensation to incent and reward superior performance based on specific annual goals. To further focus our executives on longer-term performance and the creation of stockholder value, we rely upon equity-based awards that vest over a meaningful period of time. In addition, we provide our executives with benefits that are generally available to our salaried employees and severance benefits to incentivize them to continue to strive to achieve stockholder value in connection with change in control situations.

Base salary

We use base salaries to recognize the experience, skills, knowledge and responsibilities of our employees, including our executive officers. Base salaries for our named executive officers typically are established through arm's length negotiation at the time the executive is hired, taking into account the position for which the executive is being considered and the executive's qualifications, prior experience and prior salary. None of our executive officers is currently party to an employment agreement that provides for automatic or scheduled increases in base salary. However, on an annual basis, our organization and compensation committee reviews and evaluates, with input from our President and Chief Executive Officer, the need for adjustment of the base salaries of our executives based on changes and expected changes in the scope of an executive's responsibilities, including promotions, the individual contributions made by and performance of the executive during the prior fiscal year, the executive's performance over a period of years, overall labor market conditions, the relative ease or difficulty of replacing the executive with a well-qualified person, our overall growth and development as a company and general salary trends in our industry and among our peer group and where the executive's salary falls in the salary range presented by that data. In making decisions regarding salary increases, we may also draw upon the experience of members of our board of directors with other companies. No formulaic base salary increases are provided to our named executive officers, and we do not target the base salaries of our named executive officers at a specified compensation level within our peer group or other market benchmark.

[Table of Contents](#)

The following table sets forth the annual base salary for 2015 and 2016 for our named executive officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2015 Base Salary (\$)(1)</u>	<u>2016 Base Salary (\$)(2)</u>
Robert J. Mulroy (3) <i>Former President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	570,180	598,689
Gary L. Crocker (4) <i>Chairman of the Board and Former Interim President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	—	260,000
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel (5) <i>Former Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Development</i>	370,000	370,000
Peter N. Laivins (6) <i>Former Head of Development</i>	314,815	333,704
William M. McClements (6) <i>Former Head of Corporate Operations</i>	371,382	386,237
Edward J. Stewart (6) <i>Former Head of Commercial</i>	339,888	360,281

- (1) Amounts for Mr. Mulroy, Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart reflect adjustments made by our organization and compensation committee effective April 1, 2015.
- (2) Amounts for Mr. Mulroy, Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart reflect adjustments made by our organization and compensation committee effective April 1, 2016.
- (3) Mr. Mulroy resigned from Merrimack in October 2016.
- (4) Mr. Crocker served as Merrimack's Interim President and Chief Executive Officer from October 2016 to February 2017.
- (5) Dr. Al-Wakeel resigned from Merrimack in June 2017. Dr. Al-Wakeel joined Merrimack in August 2015.
- (6) Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart resigned from Merrimack in April 2017.

For 2016, the organization and compensation committee generally determined to adjust the base salaries of each of our named executive officers, other than Dr. Al-Wakeel who had joined Merrimack in August 2015, based on their overall performance in 2015 and their increased level of experience, and to ensure that their salaries remained competitive with those of similarly situated executives in our peer group.

More specifically, our organization and compensation committee increased Mr. Mulroy's base salary by 5% for 2016. Although Mr. Mulroy's overall performance did not fully meet expectations in 2015 because he did not achieve some of his individual objectives, our organization and compensation committee provided this increase to bring his salary closer to the median of similarly situated executives in our peer group. In addition, based on the recommendation of Mr. Mulroy, our organization and compensation committee increased the base salaries for each of Mr. Laivins and Mr. Stewart by 6% for 2016 as a result of their overall performance having exceeded expectations in 2015, and increased the base salary of Mr. McClements by 4% for 2016 as a result of his overall performance having met expectations in 2015.

In addition, our board of directors approved an annual base salary of \$260,000 for Mr. Crocker while he served as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

Annual performance-based cash bonuses

We have designed our annual performance-based cash bonus program to emphasize pay-for-performance and to reward our named executive officers for (1) the achievement of specified annual corporate objectives, (2) the achievement of specified annual individual performance objectives and (3) the support of the overall

[Table of Contents](#)

management of Merrimack and the creation of long-term value for Merrimack's stockholders, which we refer to as the general management contribution. Each executive officer is eligible to receive an annual performance-based cash bonus, which we refer to as an annual cash bonus, in an amount up to a fixed percentage of his base salary, or bonus percentage.

For our President and Chief Executive Officer, our organization and compensation committee weighs each of the three foregoing elements equally when determining the percentage of the annual cash bonus that he will receive. Achievement of each of the corporate and individual objectives is measured on a successful/unsuccessful basis, and proportionate achievement of a particular objective is not taken into account.

For our other named executive officers, our organization and compensation committee looks at the three foregoing elements as a whole when determining the annual cash bonus. If the organization and compensation committee determines that the named executive officer has substantially satisfied the three elements as a whole, then the named executive officer will receive his full annual cash bonus. On the other hand, if the organization and compensation committee determines that the named executive officer has not substantially satisfied the elements as a whole, then the named executive officer will not receive an annual cash bonus.

The annual corporate objectives component of the annual cash bonus focuses on the achievement of specific research, clinical, regulatory, commercial, operational and financial milestones, with a focus on the advancement of our product candidates in preclinical and clinical development, the commercialization of our products, the pursuit of various internal initiatives and ensuring the adequate funding of Merrimack. The corporate objectives are proposed by senior management each year in our annual operating plan that is reviewed and approved by our board of directors, with such modifications as our board deems appropriate.

The annual individual performance objectives component of the annual cash bonus focuses on contributions made by each individual executive officer within their respective areas of responsibility that facilitate the achievement of our corporate objectives. Each executive officer, including our President and Chief Executive Officer, proposes his own annual individual objectives at the start of each fiscal year, which are then reviewed and approved by the organization and compensation committee, with such modifications as the committee deems appropriate.

Our organization and compensation committee has the authority to shift both corporate and individual goals to subsequent fiscal years and eliminate them from the current year's bonus calculation if it determines that circumstances that were beyond the control of the executive were the primary cause of a goal being unattainable. The corporate and individual objectives established by our board of directors and the organization and compensation committee are designed to require significant effort and operational success on the part of our executives and Merrimack, but also to be achievable with hard work and dedication.

The general management contribution of each executive officer, including our President and Chief Executive Officer, is evaluated retrospectively by our President and Chief Executive Officer, who reports his findings to the organization and compensation committee. Historically, each executive officer has been evaluated on his contributions to the following areas:

- the improvement of processes and efficiency;
- the development of human and scientific capacity; and
- the development and management of stakeholders, including partners, collaborators, investigators, stockholders and licensees.

Each executive officer's contributions are evaluated on a scale of 0 to 3, with 0 meaning that the executive officer made no contribution, 1 meaning that the executive officer's contributions were below expectations, 2 meaning that the executive officer's contributions met expectations and 3 meaning that the executive officer's contributions exceeded expectations. The executive officer's scores in each of the categories for the particular year are totaled and the ratio of the executive officer's score to the maximum number of points that the executive

[Table of Contents](#)

officer could have earned across all categories is used to determine what portion of this element of the annual cash bonus that the executive officer will earn. The organization and compensation committee reviews and has the authority to approve the evaluation prepared by our President and Chief Executive Officer or to adjust it in a manner that it sees fit. While this element of the annual cash bonus is inherently subjective in nature, we believe that it is important to recognize the contributions made by our executive officers that do not appear in the operating plan, via objective individual goals or on our financial statements. These contributions may have an impact beyond the current fiscal year, and we believe that giving a partial weighting in the annual cash bonus calculation to these intangible contributions made by an executive officer is appropriate in light of our long-term goal of developing a motivated workforce and creating stockholder value.

The bonus percentages for each executive officer are set by the organization and compensation committee. These bonus percentages are derived from peer group data that is adjusted to match the level of qualification and experience of the executive officer, but are guided by our overarching “team-based” philosophy. Our organization and compensation committee believes that our executive officers should function as a team and that one way to foster a collaborative, team-based environment is to provide for each executive officer to have a similar bonus percentage.

Our organization and compensation committee has authority, in its sole discretion, to adjust the bonus percentage each year in connection with its review of the executive officer’s performance and to allow an executive officer to receive a bonus payment in excess of his annual cash bonus for exceptional performance. In addition, our organization and compensation committee reviews the assessment of each executive officer’s performance conducted by the organization and compensation committee with respect to the annual cash bonus and retains the authority, in its sole discretion, to modify the amount of the annual cash bonus above or below the amount recommended by the organization and compensation committee.

2016 bonuses

Mr. Mulroy was not eligible to receive an annual cash bonus for 2016 because he resigned in October 2016. However, in connection with the Separation and Release of Claims Agreement that we entered into with him, we paid Mr. Mulroy a pro-rated bonus of \$154,271 for 2016. See “—Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” for a discussion of such agreement.

Mr. Crocker was not eligible for an annual cash bonus for 2016 for his service as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

We also entered into Separation and Release of Claims Agreements with each of Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart in connection with their resignations in April 2017. Pursuant to such agreements, we agreed to pay each of them their target cash bonus for 2016 as follows: Mr. Laivins, \$116,796; Mr. McClements, \$135,183; and Mr. Stewart, \$126,098. See “—Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” for a discussion of such agreements.

Dr. Al-Wakeel was eligible to receive an annual cash bonus for 2016 of up to 35% of his 2016 base salary.

For 2016, the annual corporate objectives were as follows:

- launching ONIVYDE successfully in the United States and executing on expansion indications;
- executing on late-stage development programs through enrollment and commercial manufacturing progress to set up next-stage registration opportunities;
- executing on developing next generation integrated medicine combinations guided by diagnostics; and
- continuing to strengthen our balance sheet, advance our corporate development opportunities and build our long-term investor base.

[Table of Contents](#)

Our organization and compensation committee considered all of the information available to it at the time and determined that Dr. Al-Wakeel had substantially satisfied the element related to the achievement of the annual corporate objectives.

Dr. Al-Wakeel's individual objectives for 2016 related to advancing our business development relationships to enable collaboration opportunities, continuing to develop Merrimack's long-term financial strategy to ensure adequate capitalization, building and strengthening Merrimack's investor position, complying with all of our obligations as a public company and preparing our 2017 operating plan. Our organization and compensation committee determined that Dr. Al-Wakeel achieved each of his individual objectives and had substantially satisfied the element related to the achievement of annual individual objectives.

Our organization and compensation committee also assessed the general management contribution of Dr. Al-Wakeel and determined that his contributions met or exceeded expectations for 2016 and that he had substantially satisfied the element related to the general management contribution.

As a result, the organization and compensation committee determined that Dr. Al-Wakeel had substantially satisfied all three elements as a whole and should receive his full annual cash bonus of \$129,500. The following table sets forth Dr. Al-Wakeel's annual cash bonus eligibility (both as a percentage of 2016 base salary and in actual dollars), the total cash bonus paid and the total cash bonus paid as a percentage of salary.

<u>Name</u>	<u>2016 Base Salary (\$)</u>	<u>Bonus Percentage Range</u>	<u>Target Cash Bonus (\$)</u>	<u>2016 Actual Cash Bonus (\$)</u>	<u>Actual Cash Bonus as Percentage of Salary</u>
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	370,000	0-35%	129,500	129,500	35%

Equity incentive awards

Our equity award program is the primary vehicle for offering long-term incentives to our executives. While we do not currently have any equity ownership guidelines for our executives, we believe that equity grants provide our executives with a strong link to our long-term performance, create an ownership culture and help to align the interests of our executives and our stockholders. Because our executives profit from stock options only if our stock price increases relative to the stock option's exercise price, we believe that stock options provide meaningful incentives to our executives to achieve increases in the value of our stock over time. In addition, the vesting feature of our equity grants contributes to executive retention by providing an incentive to our executives to remain employed by us during the vesting period. During 2016, all stock options were granted pursuant to our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan. Under our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, our employees and executive officers are eligible to receive grants of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights and other stock-based equity awards at the discretion of our organization and compensation committee.

We use stock options to compensate our named executive officers both in the form of initial grants in connection with the commencement of employment and generally on an annual basis thereafter. Our organization and compensation committee may also make additional discretionary grants, typically in connection with the promotion of an employee, to reward an employee, for retention purposes or for other circumstances recommended by management. Typically, the stock options we grant to our executive officers vest quarterly over a three year period. Vesting and exercise rights cease shortly after termination of employment, except in the case of death or disability. Prior to the exercise of an option, the holder has no rights as a stockholder with respect to the shares subject to such option, including voting rights or the right to receive dividends or dividend equivalents.

The exercise price of all stock options granted since the closing of our initial public offering is equal to the fair market value of shares of our common stock on the date of grant, which generally is determined by reference to the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant. It is our intention to grant equity awards annually.

[Table of Contents](#)

In determining the size of the annual stock option grants to our named executive officers, our organization and compensation committee considers recommendations developed by our compensation consultant, including information regarding comparative stock ownership of and equity grants received by the executives in our peer group and our industry. In addition, our organization and compensation committee considers our corporate performance, the potential for enhancing the creation of value for our stockholders, the amount of equity previously awarded to the executives and the vesting of such awards.

On May 26, 2017, we paid a special cash dividend (the “special dividend”) of approximately \$1.055 per outstanding share of common stock. As required by our 1999 Stock Option Plan, as amended, our 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended, and our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, equitable adjustments were made in June 2017 to all awards outstanding under such plans at the time of the special dividend. As a result, the exercise prices of outstanding stock options were reduced and the number of shares subject to such options was increased. Except where specifically noted in this proxy statement, the number of shares issuable and the exercise prices for stock option awards do not reflect the equitable adjustment described above since the information called for is either as of a date prior to the time of the special dividend or relates to former named executive officers whose options were no longer outstanding at the time of the special dividend or both.

2016 grants

In February 2016, as part of our annual grant process, our organization and compensation committee granted options to purchase shares of our common stock to our named executive officers, as set forth in the table below. Each of these options vests quarterly over a three year period and had, as of the date of grant, an exercise price of \$5.42, the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Shares Underlying Stock Option Grant</u>
Robert J. Mulroy	250,000
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	105,000
Peter N. Laivins	150,000
William M. McClements	125,000
Edward J. Stewart	150,000

In granting the annual options, our organization and compensation committee considered, among other things, the value of annual grants as a percentage of base salary received by executives in our peer group and our industry, or the peer analysis. Based on the recommendation of our President and Chief Executive Officer, our organization and compensation committee determined that it would be appropriate to target these options at slightly above the 50th percentile of the peer analysis for named executive officers that met expectations during 2015 given Merrimack’s success in becoming a commercial company. Our organization and compensation committee determined that Mr. Mulroy did not fully meet expectations during 2015 and therefore granted him an option at less than the 50th percentile. Our organization and compensation committee decided to grant Dr. Al-Wakeel an option at the 50th percentile considering that he joined Merrimack in August 2015 and had also received a grant at that time. In addition, our organization and compensation committee determined that Mr. McClements met expectations during 2015 and that Mr. Laivins and Mr. Stewart exceeded expectations during 2015.

Mr. Crocker did not receive an option grant during 2016 for his service as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. Please refer to “Director Compensation” below for information regarding the option grant that Mr. Crocker received as a member of our board of directors.

Benefits and other compensation

We believe that establishing competitive benefit packages for our employees is an important factor in attracting and retaining highly qualified personnel. We maintain broad-based benefits that are provided to all employees, including medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, group life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, long and short term disability insurance, medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts, work welfare stipends and matching contributions in our 401(k) plan. All of our executive officers are eligible to participate in all of our employee benefit plans, in each case on the same basis as other employees. Under our 401(k) plan, we are permitted to make discretionary contributions and matching contributions, subject to established limits and a vesting schedule. Currently, we generally match 50% of employee contributions up to a maximum contribution by us of 3% of the employee's deferrable income, subject to employer match limitations by the Internal Revenue Service. The match vests at 25% per year over four years. We also provide each employee, including our executive officers, with an annual \$1,250 work welfare stipend that can be used to pay for services such as personal professional development, public transportation passes, gym memberships and medical insurance co-pays. In addition, we subsidize \$15 per month of the membership fee to the gym in our office complex for all employees, including our executive officers. Our executive officers are also entitled to supplemental long-term disability insurance coverage that is not available to our other employees. Consistent with our compensation philosophy, we intend to continue to maintain our current benefits for our executive officers. The organization and compensation committee in its discretion may revise, amend or add to the executive officer's benefits and perquisites if it deems it advisable.

In particular circumstances, we sometimes award cash signing bonuses when executive officers first join us. Such cash signing bonuses typically must be repaid in full, minus any applicable taxes and withholding that the executive was required to pay with respect to such amount, if the executive officer voluntarily terminates employment with us prior to the first anniversary of the date of hire. Whether a signing bonus is paid and the amount of the bonus is determined on a case-by-case basis under the specific hiring circumstances. For example, we will consider paying signing bonuses to compensate for amounts forfeited by an executive upon terminating prior employment, to assist with relocation expenses or to create additional incentive for an executive to join Merrimack in a position where there is high market demand.

Severance and change in control benefits

Pursuant to employment agreements we have entered into with our executive officers, our executive officers are entitled to specified benefits in the event of the termination of their employment under specified circumstances, including termination following a change in control of Merrimack. Please refer to "—Employment Agreements" for a more detailed discussion of these benefits. We have provided estimates of the value of the severance payments and other benefits that would have been made or provided to executive officers under various termination circumstances under the caption "—Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below.

We believe that providing these benefits helps us compete for executive talent. After reviewing the practices of companies represented in our peer group, we believe that our severance and change in control benefits are generally in line with severance packages offered to executives of the companies in our peer group.

We have structured our change in control benefits as "double trigger" benefits. In other words, the change in control does not itself trigger benefits. Rather, benefits are paid only if the employment of the executive officer is terminated during a specified period after the change in control. We believe that a "double trigger" benefit maximizes stockholder value because it prevents an unintended windfall to executive officers in the event of a friendly change in control, while still providing them appropriate incentives to cooperate in negotiating any change in control in which they believe they may lose their jobs.

Organization and Compensation Committee Report

The organization and compensation committee of the board of directors of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with Merrimack's management. Based on such review and discussions, the organization and compensation committee recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

By the organization and compensation committee of the board of directors of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

John M. Dineen
Vivian S. Lee
John Mendelsohn

Risk Considerations in Our Compensation Program

Our organization and compensation committee has reviewed and evaluated the philosophy and standards on which our compensation plans have been developed and implemented across Merrimack. It is our belief that our compensation programs do not encourage inappropriate actions or risk taking by our executive officers. We do not believe that any risks arising from our employee compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Merrimack. In addition, we do not believe that the mix and design of the components of our executive compensation program encourage management to assume excessive risks. We believe that our current business process and planning cycle fosters the behaviors and controls that would mitigate the potential for adverse risk caused by the action of our executives, including the following:

- annual establishment of corporate and individual objectives for our performance-based cash bonus programs for our executive officers that are consistent with our annual operating and strategic plans, that are designed to achieve the proper risk/reward balance, and that should not require excessive risk taking to achieve;
- the mix between fixed and variable, annual and long-term and cash and equity compensation are designed to encourage strategies and actions that balance our short-term and long-term best interests; and
- stock option awards vest over a period of time, which we believe encourages executives to take a long-term view of our business.

Limits on Hedging and Pledging

As part of our insider trading policy, all employees, including executive officers, and members of our board of directors are prohibited from engaging in certain types of hedging transactions involving our securities, specifically short sales, including short sales "against the box," and purchases or sales of puts, calls or other derivative securities. Our insider trading policy also prohibits certain types of pledges of our securities by all employees, including executive officers, and members of our board of directors, specifically purchases of our securities on margin, borrowing against our securities held in a margin account or pledging our securities as collateral for a loan, with an exception for pledges of our securities as collateral for a loan only after certain prerequisites are met and only with the pre-approval of our Chief Financial Officer or General Counsel.

Tax and Accounting Considerations

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, generally disallows a tax deduction for compensation in excess of \$1.0 million paid to each of our Chief Executive Officer and our three other most highly paid executive officers (other than our Chief Financial Officer). Qualifying performance-based

[Table of Contents](#)

compensation is not subject to the deduction limitation if specified requirements are met. We intend to periodically review the potential consequences of Section 162(m), and we generally intend to structure the performance-based portion of our executive compensation, where feasible, to comply with exemptions in Section 162(m) so that the compensation will remain tax deductible to us. However, the organization and compensation committee may, in its judgment, authorize compensation payments that do not comply with the exemptions in Section 162(m) when it believes that such payments are appropriate to attract and retain executive talent and are in the best interests of our stockholders.

We account for equity compensation paid to our employees in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, *Compensation—Stock Compensation*, or ASC 718, which requires us to measure and recognize compensation expense in our financial statements for all stock-based payments based on an estimate of their fair value over the service period of the award. We record cash compensation as an expense at the time the obligation is accrued.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth the total compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to our named executive officers during 2014, 2015 and 2016.

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Salary (\$)</u>	<u>Bonus (\$)</u>	<u>Option Awards (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(2)</u>	<u>All Other Compensation (\$)(3)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Robert J. Mulroy (4)	2016	443,980	154,271(5)	811,850	—	58,836(6)	1,468,937
<i>Former President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2015	560,320	—	1,376,775	176,756	14,451	2,128,302
	2014	527,343	—	939,060	245,310	17,446	1,729,159
Gary L. Crocker (7)	2016	63,368		175,928(8)	—	70,633(9)	309,929
<i>Chairman of the Board and former Interim President and Chief Executive Officer</i>							
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel (10)	2016	369,096		340,977	129,500	8,636	848,209
<i>Former Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Development</i>	2015	145,002	100,000(11)	1,820,880	129,500	90,017	2,285,399
Peter N. Laivins (12)	2016	328,106	—	487,110	116,796	15,610	947,622
<i>Former Head of Development</i>	2015	304,645	—	826,065	110,185	15,473	1,256,368
	2014	273,201	—	519,755	95,575	9,050	897,581
William M. McClements	2016	381,422	—	405,925	135,183	15,764	938,294
<i>Former Head of Corporate Operations</i>	2015	366,885	—	495,639	129,984	15,353	1,007,861
	2014	351,658	—	391,275	123,794	15,117	881,844
Edward J. Stewart	2016	354,228	—	487,110	126,098	13,233	980,669
<i>Former Head of Commercial</i>	2015	333,965	—	495,639	118,961	13,444	962,009
	2014	314,353	—	391,275	110,661	13,358	829,647

- (1) The amounts in the “Option Awards” column reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted during the year computed in accordance with the provisions of ASC 718, excluding the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions (which in our case were none). The assumptions that we used to calculate these amounts are discussed in Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements appearing in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. The amounts listed in this column are calculated as of the date of grant and do not reflect any incremental fair

[Table of Contents](#)

value resulting from the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.

- (2) The amounts in the “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” column represent awards to our named executive officers under our annual cash bonus program.
- (3) The amounts in the “All Other Compensation” column represent the value of perquisites and other personal benefits, which are further detailed below for 2016.

Name	401(k) Match (\$)	Group Life and Disability Insurance Premium (\$)	Stipend \$(a)	Total (\$)
Robert J. Mulroy	3,948	8,835	—	12,783
Gary L. Crocker	—	—	—	—
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	6,832	554	1,250	8,636
Peter N. Laivins	6,781	7,578	1,250	15,610
William M. McClements	6,902	7,613	1,250	15,764
Edward J. Stewart	5,405	6,478	1,250	13,233

(a) Represents the value of the work welfare stipend provided to the named executive officer, as described in “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Components of Our Executive Compensation Program—Benefits and other compensation.”

- (4) Mr. Mulroy resigned as our President and Chief Executive Officer on October 3, 2016. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Mulroy was a member of our board of directors, but did not receive any additional compensation in such capacity.
- (5) Reflects the pro-rated bonus for 2016 paid to Mr. Mulroy in connection with his Separation and Release of Claims Agreement.
- (6) In addition to the amounts noted in Footnote 3, this amount reflects the \$46,053 of severance payments that Mr. Mulroy received in 2016 as salary continuation under his Separation and Release of Claims Agreement.
- (7) Mr. Crocker, our Chairman of the Board, also served as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer from October 3, 2016 to February 6, 2017.
- (8) Reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of an option award granted to Mr. Crocker for his service on our board of directors prior to becoming our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2016.
- (9) Represents the fees earned or paid to Mr. Crocker for his service on our board of directors prior to becoming our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2016.
- (10) Dr. Al-Wakeel resigned from Merrimack in June 2017. Dr. Al-Wakeel joined Merrimack in August 2015.
- (11) Reflects a signing bonus paid to Dr. Al-Wakeel upon joining Merrimack.
- (12) Mr. Laivins became an executive officer in May 2014. Mr. Laivins served as our Vice President of Clinical Development prior to May 2014.

2016 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

The following table sets forth information regarding grants of plan-based awards to our named executive officers during 2016. All equity awards were issued under our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)(2)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/share) (3)	Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards \$(4)
		Threshold (\$)	Target \$(1)	Maximum (\$)			
Robert J. Mulroy	2/8/2016	—	—	—	250,000	5.42	811,850
	2/8/2016	—	299,345(5)	—	—	—	—
Gary L. Crocker (6)	6/14/2016	—	—	—	49,500(7)	6.22	175,928
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	2/8/2016	—	—	—	105,000	5.42	340,977
	2/8/2016	—	129,500	—	—	—	—
Peter N. Laivins	2/8/2016	—	—	—	150,000	5.42	487,110
	2/8/2016	—	116,796	—	—	—	—
William M. McClements	2/8/2016	—	—	—	125,000	5.42	405,925
	2/8/2016	—	135,183	—	—	—	—
Edward J. Stewart	2/8/2016	—	—	—	150,000	5.42	487,110
	2/8/2016	—	126,098	—	—	—	—

- (1) The target amounts in the “Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards” column represent the amount determined by our organization and compensation committee as the target annual cash bonus payable to each named executive officer for 2016.
- (2) The amounts listed in this column do not reflect the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.
- (3) The exercise price per share of each option award is equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant. The prices listed in this column do not reflect the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.
- (4) The amounts in the “Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards” column reflect the grant date fair value of option awards granted in 2016 calculated in accordance with ASC 718. Such amounts listed do not reflect any incremental fair value resulting from the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.
- (5) Mr. Mulroy was not eligible to receive an annual cash bonus for 2016 because he resigned in October 2016.
- (6) Mr. Crocker was not eligible for an annual cash bonus for 2016 for his service as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.
- (7) Represents the option award received by Mr. Crocker for his service on our board of directors prior to becoming our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2016.

[Table of Contents](#)

Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Year End

The following table sets forth information regarding outstanding stock options held by our named executive officers as of December 31, 2016.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Option Awards(1)</u>			
	<u>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable</u>	<u>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable</u>	<u>Option Exercise Price (\$/share)</u>	<u>Option Expiration Date</u>
Robert J. Mulroy	97,015	—	2.47	1/23/2017
	248,311	—	2.59	10/4/2017
	680,662	—	2.12	11/5/2019
	50,000	—	5.54	5/3/2021
	750,000	—	7.53	8/22/2022
	350,000	—	6.35	3/11/2023
	274,999	25,001(2)	5.02	2/10/2024
	145,832	104,168(3)	9.08	2/8/2025
	62,498	187,502(4)	5.42	2/7/2026
Gary L. Crocker	35,000	—	2.59	10/4/2017
	35,000	—	1.81	9/22/2018
	50,000	—	2.12	11/5/2019
	66,250	—	5.54	5/3/2021
	31,600	—	7.53	8/22/2022
	37,834	—	5.41	6/10/2023
	37,834	—	6.63	5/13/2024
	17,500	—	11.88	5/13/2025
	49,500	—	6.22	6/14/2026
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	125,000	175,000(5)	10.08	08/10/2025
	26,249	78,751(4)	5.42	2/7/2026
Peter N. Laivins	40,000	—	6.78	11/1/2021
	10,000	—	6.80	6/12/2022
	22,300	—	7.53	8/22/2022
	35,000	—	6.35	3/11/2023
	91,666	8,334(2)	5.02	2/10/2024
	37,499	12,501(6)	6.85	8/18/2024
	87,499	62,501(3)	9.08	2/8/2025
	37,499	112,501(4)	5.42	2/7/2026
William M. McClements	150,000	—	6.78	11/1/2021
	150,000	—	7.53	8/22/2022
	100,000	—	6.35	3/11/2023
	114,583	10,417(2)	5.02	2/10/2024
	52,499	37,501(3)	9.08	2/8/2025
	31,249	93,751(4)	5.42	2/7/2026
Edward J. Stewart	50,000	—	2.59	10/4/2017
	8,000	—	1.81	9/22/2018
	200,000	—	2.12	11/5/2019
	50,000	—	2.69	10/15/2020
	50,000	—	2.69	12/22/2020
	100,000	—	5.54	5/3/2021
	125,000	—	7.53	8/22/2022
	100,000	—	6.35	3/11/2023
	114,583	10,417(2)	5.02	2/10/2024
	52,499	37,501(3)	9.08	2/8/2025
	37,499	112,501(4)	5.42	2/7/2026

[Table of Contents](#)

- (1) The number of exercisable and unexercisable securities underlying unexercised options and the option exercise prices listed in this table do not reflect the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend. The equitable adjustment had no effect on the option expiration dates.
- (2) The unvested shares under this option were scheduled to vest in approximately equal quarterly installments through February 11, 2017.
- (3) The unvested shares under this option are scheduled to vest in approximately equal quarterly installments through February 9, 2018.
- (4) The unvested shares under this option are scheduled to vest in approximately equal quarterly installments through February 8, 2019.
- (5) The unvested shares under this option are scheduled to vest in approximately equal quarterly installments through August 11, 2018.
- (6) The unvested shares under this option are scheduled to vest in approximately equal quarterly installments through August 19, 2017.

2016 Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table

The following table sets forth information regarding stock options exercised by our named executive officers during 2016.

Name	Option Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)
Edward J. Stewart	34,000	119,560

In 2016, none of our named executive officers held any restricted stock that was subject to vesting.

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table contains information about our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2016. As of December 31, 2016, we had three equity compensation plans, all of which were approved by our stockholders: our 1999 Stock Option Plan, as amended, our 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended, and our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	19,025,057	\$ 5.7681	4,745,924(1)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	19,025,057	\$ 5.7681	4,745,924(1)

- (1) Reflects the total number of shares of our common stock available for future issuance under our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2016. Our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan contains an “evergreen” provision, which allows for an annual increase in the number of shares of our common stock available for issuance under the plan on the first day of each fiscal year. The annual increase in the number of shares is equal to the

[Table of Contents](#)

lowest of: (i) 4,500,000 shares of our common stock; (ii) 3.5% of the number of shares of our common stock outstanding on the first day of the fiscal year; and (iii) an amount determined by our board of directors. In December 2016, our organization and compensation committee determined not to increase the number of shares of our common stock available for issuance under the plan pursuant to the “evergreen” provision on January 1, 2017. There was no adjustment to the total number of shares available for future issuance under our equity compensation plans as a result of the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 following the special dividend.

Employment Agreements

We were previously a party to employment agreements with Dr. Al-Wakeel, Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements, Mr. Mulroy and Mr. Stewart prior to their resignations. We did not enter into an employment agreement with Mr. Crocker for his service as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

The following is a description of the employment agreements that we had with Dr. Al-Wakeel, Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements, Mr. Mulroy and Mr. Stewart while they were employed by us. See “—Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” for a discussion of the Separation and Release of Claims Agreements we entered into with each of Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements, Mr. Mulroy and Mr. Stewart in connection with their respective resignations.

The employment agreements prohibit our named executive officers, during the term of employment and any severance period and for a period of one year thereafter, from competing with us and soliciting or hiring our employees. Our named executive officers also are bound by the terms of separate non-competition, non-solicitation, non-disclosure and developments agreements.

Pursuant to their respective employment agreements, upon execution and effectiveness of a severance agreement and release of claims, each named executive officer is entitled to severance payments if we terminate the named executive officer’s employment without cause, as defined in the employment agreement, including our decision not to renew the named executive officer’s term of employment, or the named executive officer terminates employment with us for good reason, as defined in the employment agreement.

If a named executive officer’s employment terminates under these circumstances, in each case prior to a change in control, as defined in the employment agreement, we are obligated for a period of 12 months (nine months for Dr. Al-Wakeel until he would have been employed with us for five years) to pay such named executive officer his base salary, pay for coverage for such named executive officer under any company sponsored insurance and benefit programs available to our senior management employees and, to the extent allowed by applicable law and the applicable plan documents, continue to provide to such named executive officer all company employee benefit plans and arrangements available to our senior management employees. In addition, we would be obligated to pay to each of our named executive officers a pro-rata bonus for the portion of the year in which such named executive officer was employed by us based on his average annual bonus payments over each of the three years prior to the year of termination, or such lesser period during which such named executive officer served as one of our executive officers.

If a named executive officer’s employment terminates under these circumstances, in each case within 18 months following a change in control, we are obligated to pay such named executive officer a lump sum amount equal to 36 months of his base salary plus a bonus equal to three times the average of his annual bonus payments over each of the three years prior to the year of termination, or such lesser period during which such named executive officer served as one of our executive officers, accelerate the vesting of all outstanding stock options, restricted stock or other equity awards granted to the named executive officer, pay for coverage for such named executive officer under any company sponsored insurance and benefit programs available to our senior management employees for a period of 18 months and, to the extent allowed by applicable law and the applicable plan documents, continue to provide to such named executive officer all company employee benefit plans and arrangements available to our senior management employees for a period of 18 months.

[Table of Contents](#)

If we terminate a named executive officer's employment due to disability, the named executive officer will be eligible to receive a pro-rata bonus for the portion of the year in which such named executive officer was employed by us based on his average annual bonus payments over each of the three years prior to the year of termination, or such lesser period during which such named executive officer served as one of our executive officers.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

The following tables set forth information regarding potential payments that each named executive officer who was serving as an executive officer as of December 31, 2016 would have received if the named executive officer's employment had terminated as of December 31, 2016 under the circumstances set forth below. Mr. Mulroy resigned as our President and Chief Executive Officer on October 3, 2016. In connection with such resignation, we entered into a Separation and Release of Claims Agreement with Mr. Mulroy that provides Mr. Mulroy with payments as if he had been terminated without cause. The amounts reflected below are the actual amounts that Mr. Mulroy is entitled to receive under his Separation and Release of Claims Agreement. Mr. Crocker was not eligible to receive any such payments for his service as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Al-Wakeel, who resigned effective June 9, 2017, is not eligible to receive the payments described below. Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart, who each resigned on April 3, 2017, each entered into a Separation and Release of Claims Agreement with us as described below that provides for payments as if the individual had been terminated without cause.

Name	Termination Without Cause or For Good Reason Prior to a Change in Control	
	Cash Payment (\$)	Value of Benefits (\$)
Robert J. Mulroy	752,960	28,419
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	374,625	9,761
Peter N. Laivins	426,385	19,915
William M. McClements	511,285	25,801
Edward J. Stewart	472,985	20,091

Name	Termination Without Cause or for Good Reason Within 18 Months Following a Change in Control		
	Cash Payment (\$)	Value of Stock Options with Accelerated Vesting (\$)(1)	Value of Benefits (\$)
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	1,498,500	—	19,522
Peter N. Laivins	1,279,156	—	29,872
William M. McClements	1,533,856	—	38,702
Edward J. Stewart	1,418,956	—	30,137

- (1) The amounts in the "Value of Stock Options with Accelerated Vesting" column represent the value of unvested stock options, calculated by multiplying the number of shares subject to the accelerated portion of the option by the amount (if any) by which \$4.08, the closing market price of our common stock on December 30, 2016, exceeds the exercise price of such option.

Name	Termination for Disability Cash Payment (\$)
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel	129,500
Peter N. Laivins	92,681
William M. McClements	125,048
Edward J. Stewart	112,704

[Table of Contents](#)

We entered into a Separation and Release of Claims Agreement, or Separation Agreement, with each of Mr. Laivins, Mr. McClements and Mr. Stewart on April 3, 2017. Pursuant to the Separation Agreements, in connection with each such individual resigning from his respective positions with us as of April 3, 2017, we agreed to:

- commencing on the first regularly scheduled payroll date following June 2, 2017, continue paying such individual's annual base salary for a period of 12 months, or the Severance Term, as set forth below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Base Salary (\$)</u>
Peter N. Laivins	333,704
William M. McClements	386,237
Edward J. Stewart	360,281

- continue paying the share of the premium for such individual's health and dental insurance through the end of the Severance Term that we currently pay on behalf of active and similarly situated employees who receive the same type of coverage and/or to otherwise continue to provide to such individual during the Severance Term all employee benefit plans and arrangements available to our senior management employees; and
- on June 2, 2017, pay such individual a pro-rated 2017 bonus, as set forth below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pro-Rated Bonus (\$)</u>
Peter N. Laivins	27,395
William M. McClements	33,035
Edward J. Stewart	30,212

The Separation Agreements also include a release of claims by each such individual against us.

Pension Benefits

We do not maintain any defined benefit pension plans.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

We do not maintain any nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

401(k) Plan

We maintain a defined contribution employee retirement plan for our employees. Our 401(k) plan is intended to qualify as a tax-qualified plan under Section 401 of the Code so that contributions to our 401(k) plan, and income earned on such contributions, are not taxable to participants until withdrawn or distributed from the 401(k) plan. Our 401(k) plan provides that each participant may contribute up to 100% of his or her pre-tax compensation, up to a statutory limit, which was \$18,000 for 2016. Participants who are at least 50 years old can also make "catch-up" contributions, which in 2016 was up to an additional \$6,000 above the statutory limit. Under our 401(k) plan, each employee is fully vested in his or her deferred salary contributions. Employee contributions are held and invested by the plan's trustee. Our 401(k) plan also permits us to make discretionary contributions and matching contributions, subject to established limits and a vesting schedule. For 2016, we generally matched 50% of employee contributions up to a maximum contribution by us of 3% of the employee's deferrable income, subject to employer match limitations by the Internal Revenue Service.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**Compensation for 2016**

The following table sets forth information regarding the total compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to each of our non-employee directors during the year ended December 31, 2016 for their service on our board of directors. The compensation amounts presented in the table below are historical and are not indicative of the amounts we may pay our directors in the future. Gary L. Crocker, our Chairman of the Board, also served as our Interim President and Chief Executive Officer from October 2016 to February 2017. Mr. Crocker did not receive any compensation for his service as a director during such time. The compensation that we paid to Mr. Crocker during such time is discussed under “Executive Compensation” above. Mr. Mulroy, our President and Chief Executive Officer until October 2016, also did not receive any compensation for his service as a director. The compensation that we paid to Mr. Mulroy is discussed under “Executive Compensation” above.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash \$(1)</u>	<u>Option Awards \$(2)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Gary L. Crocker	70,633	175,928	246,561
John M. Dineen	60,000	152,826	212,826
Vivian S. Lee	55,109	152,826	207,935
John Mendelsohn	52,500	152,826	205,326
Ulrik B. Nielsen	45,000	152,826	197,826
Michael E. Porter	61,000	152,826	213,826
James H. Quigley	67,250	152,826	220,076
Russell T. Ray	57,000	152,826	209,826

(1) Fees earned or paid in cash consist of:

- for Mr. Crocker, \$52,880 as a retainer for serving as Chairman of the Board and \$17,753 as a retainer for committee membership;
- for Mr. Dineen, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$15,000 as a retainer for committee membership;
- for Dr. Lee, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$10,109 as a retainer for committee membership;
- for Dr. Mendelsohn, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$7,500 as a retainer for committee membership;
- for Dr. Nielsen, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service;
- for Dr. Porter, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$16,000 as a retainer for committee membership;
- for Mr. Quigley, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$22,250 as a retainer for committee membership; and
- for Mr. Ray, \$45,000 as a retainer for board service and \$12,000 as a retainer for committee membership.

(2) Amount reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of a stock option granted for service as a director. The grant date fair value was computed in accordance with the provisions of ASC 718 and treated for accounting purposes as employee awards. The assumptions that we used to calculate this amount are discussed in Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements appearing in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. The amounts listed in this column are calculated as of the date of grant and do not reflect any incremental fair value resulting from the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend. See “—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.

[Table of Contents](#)

As of December 31, 2016, and without regard to the equitable adjustment made following the special dividend, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock subject to each non-employee director's outstanding option awards was as follows: Mr. Crocker, 360,518; Mr. Dineen, 56,306; Dr. Lee, 63,981; Dr. Mendelsohn, 138,836; Dr. Nielsen, 1,800,951; Dr. Porter, 248,836; Mr. Quigley, 138,836; and Mr. Ray, 62,063.

Director Compensation Arrangements

Our non-employee directors were compensated for their services to our board during 2016, and will continue to be compensated for their services to our board during 2017, as follows:

- an annual retainer for board service of \$45,000 (\$70,000 for the Chairman of the Board);
- for members of the audit committee, an additional annual retainer of \$12,000 (\$22,250 for the committee chair);
- for members of the corporate governance and nominating committee, an additional annual retainer of \$5,500 (\$12,000 for the committee chair);
- for members of the organization and compensation committee, an additional annual retainer of \$7,500 (\$15,000 for the committee chair);
- for members of the executive committee, an additional annual retainer of \$4,000 (\$6,000 for the committee chair); and
- an annual stock option grant, granted in connection with each annual meeting of stockholders, with a grant date fair value of approximately \$150,000 (approximately \$172,625 for the Chairman of the Board), provided that if a non-employee director is elected to our board in between annual meetings of stockholders, such director will receive a stock option grant in connection with such election for a pro-rated portion of the annual amount.

In addition, we have reimbursed, and will continue to reimburse, our non-employee directors for their travel, lodging and other reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of our board and committees of our board.

AUDIT-RELATED MATTERS

Audit Committee Report

The audit committee of the board of directors of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has reviewed Merrimack's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 and discussed them with Merrimack's management and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Merrimack's independent registered public accounting firm.

The audit committee has received from, and discussed with, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP various communications that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is required to provide to the audit committee, including the matters required to be discussed by AS 1301, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

The audit committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with Merrimack's independent registered public accounting firm its independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to Merrimack's board of directors that the audited financial statements referred to above be included in Merrimack's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

By the audit committee of the board of directors of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Gary L. Crocker
James H. Quigley
Russell T. Ray
Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.

Audit Fees and Services

The following table summarizes the fees of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, billed to us for each of the last two fiscal years.

Fee Category	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Audit Fees (1)	660,500	632,500
Audit-Related Fees (2)	—	615,000
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees (3)	1,800	1,814
Total Fees	662,300	1,249,314

- (1) Audit Fees are fees for the audit of our 2015 and 2016 consolidated financial statements including audits of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, reviews of our interim condensed consolidated financial statements and reviews of consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference into our outstanding registration statements. Audit Fees for 2015 also include fees for audit consultations.
- (2) Audit-Related Fees are fees that principally relate to assurance services that are also provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. The increase in fees from 2015 to 2016 was due to accounting consultations related to our asset sale to Ipsen S.A.
- (3) All Other Fees for 2015 and 2016 consist of a subscription to an online accounting research tool.

[Table of Contents](#)

All such accountant services and fees were pre-approved by our audit committee in accordance with the “Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures” described below.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Our audit committee has adopted policies and procedures relating to the approval of all audit and non-audit services that are to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm. This policy generally provides that we will not engage our independent registered public accounting firm to render audit or non-audit services unless the service is specifically approved in advance by our audit committee or the engagement is entered into pursuant to a *de minimis* exception in accordance with applicable SEC rules.

MATTERS TO BE VOTED ON

Proposal 1: Election of Directors

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will vote to elect nine directors for a one year term beginning at the Annual Meeting and ending at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Our board is comprised of nine members. Our board has nominated Mr. Crocker, Mr. Dineen, Dr. Lee, Dr. Mendelsohn, Dr. Nielsen, Dr. Peters, Dr. Porter, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Ray for re-election as directors, each to hold office until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal. Each of the nominees is currently a member of our board. The persons named in the enclosed proxy card will vote to elect each of the nominees as directors, unless and to the extent authority to vote for the election of one or more of the nominees is withheld by marking the proxy to that effect. In the event that any nominee should be unable to serve, discretionary authority is reserved for the named proxy holders to vote for a substitute, or to reduce the number of directors to be elected, or both. We believe that each of our nominees will be willing and able to serve if elected.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES AS DIRECTORS.

Proposal 2: Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

We are providing our stockholders the opportunity to vote to approve, on an advisory, non-binding basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the SEC's rules. This proposal, which is commonly referred to as "say-on-pay," is required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, which added Section 14A to the Exchange Act. Consistent with the preference expressed by our stockholders at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, we have determined to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation annually.

Our executive compensation programs are designed to attract, motivate and retain our executive officers, who are critical to our success. Under these programs, our named executive officers are rewarded for the achievement of our short-term and longer-term financial and strategic goals and for driving corporate financial performance and stability. The programs contain elements of cash and equity-based compensation and are designed to align the interests of our executives with those of our stockholders.

The "Executive Compensation" section of this proxy statement, including "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," describes in detail our executive compensation programs and the decisions made by the organization and compensation committee and our board with respect to the year ended December 31, 2016. As we describe in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, our executive compensation program embodies a pay-for-performance philosophy that supports our business strategy and aligns the interests of our executives with our stockholders. Our board believes this link between compensation and the achievement of our short- and long-term business goals has helped drive our performance over time. At the same time, we believe our program does not encourage excessive risk-taking by management.

Our board is asking stockholders to approve a non-binding advisory vote on the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to Merrimack's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the compensation discussion and analysis, the compensation tables and any related material disclosed in this proxy statement, is hereby approved.

As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding. The outcome of this advisory vote does not overrule any decision by us or our board (or any committee thereof), create or imply any change to the fiduciary duties of us

[Table of Contents](#)

or our board (or any committee thereof), or create or imply any additional fiduciary duties for us or our board (or any committee thereof). However, our organization and compensation committee and our board value the opinions expressed by our stockholders in their vote on this proposal and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

Proposal 3: Ratification of Independent Auditors

The audit committee of our board of directors has selected the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. Although stockholder approval of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is not required by law or NASDAQ Listing Rules, our audit committee believes that it is advisable and has decided to give our stockholders the opportunity to ratify this selection. If this proposal is not approved at the Annual Meeting, our audit committee may reconsider this selection.

Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so. It is also expected that they will be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Proposal 4: Approval of an Amendment to Our Certificate of Incorporation to Effect a Reverse Stock Split

Background

Our board of directors has adopted and is recommending that our stockholders approve a proposed amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split (the "Reverse Split") of the Company's common stock at a ratio of one-for-[]. By voting in favor of this proposal, stockholders will be approving an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split of our issued and outstanding common stock at a ratio of one-for-[] and a proportionate reduction in the number of authorized shares of common stock. After the receipt of stockholder approval of this amendment, our board would have the ability any time prior to our 2018 annual meeting of stockholders to unilaterally decide whether or not to effect the Reverse Split.

The Reverse Split, if approved by our stockholders, would become effective upon the filing of an amendment to our certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, in the form of Appendix A hereto, or at the later time set forth in such amendment. The board reserves the right, notwithstanding stockholder approval and without further action by stockholders, to elect not to proceed with the Reverse Split if the board determines that the Reverse Split is no longer in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders.

If the proposed Reverse Split is implemented, the number of issued and outstanding shares of our common stock would be reduced at a ratio of one-for-[]. Based on the number of shares issued and outstanding as of June 16, 2017, for illustrative purposes only, if the Reverse Split were implemented on that day approximately [] shares of common stock would be issued and outstanding following the Reverse Split without giving effect to the treatment of fractional shares.

[Table of Contents](#)

The proposed Reverse Split would also proportionately reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock from 200,000,000 to []. The Reverse Split will not change the number of authorized shares of preferred stock. The Reverse Split will not change the par value of the common stock or the preferred stock.

Reasons for the Reverse Split

The board is proposing the Reverse Split in order to reduce the number of issued and outstanding shares and to increase the per share trading value of our common stock. The board believes that the Reverse Split is desirable and should be approved by stockholders for a number of reasons, including without limitation the reasons listed below.

The Reverse Split may expand our audience of potential investors by increasing the per share stock price. This is due to two main factors. The first factor is that some institutional investors have internal policies preventing the purchase of low-priced stocks. Similarly, non-solicitation rules at most broker-dealers prevent financial advisors or brokers within those firms from soliciting orders in low-priced stocks. In both cases, five dollars is a price level that is commonly set as the minimum price requirement for such institutions or broker-dealers to purchase common stock. As of closing on June 16, 2017, our stock price was trading at \$[] on the NASDAQ Global Market. The second factor is investor psychology related to low-priced stocks. While there may not be a specific price that defines a low-priced stock, stocks priced below five dollars are sometimes viewed with hesitation by some investors and their advisors. Price is frequently used as a proxy for “quality” and low-priced stocks are considered to potentially be of lower investing quality and/or less desirable relative to a company’s peers with higher share prices.

We believe that the investors who are unable to or choose not to invest in our company because of our share price and share structure are investors who are more oriented towards fundamentals and have a longer term investment horizon. We believe that a higher share price and lower outstanding share count will increase the perceived quality and appeal of our shares for investment purposes and may expand our audience of potential investors in general and increase our shareholder base of investors with longer term investment horizons specifically. In accomplishing this goal, we may also reduce share price volatility.

We also believe that the Reverse Split may help increase analyst and broker interest in our stock, as their policies can discourage them from following or recommending companies with lower stock prices. Because of the trading volatility often associated with lower-priced stocks, some brokerage houses and institutional investors have adopted internal policies and practices that either prohibit or discourage them from investing in such stocks or recommending them to their customers. Some of those policies and practices may also function to make the processing of trades in lower-priced stocks economically unattractive to brokers.

Additionally, because brokers’ commissions on transactions in lower-priced stocks generally represent a higher percentage of the stock price than commissions on higher-priced stocks, the current average price per share of our common stock can result in individual stockholders paying transaction costs representing a higher percentage of their total share value than would be the case if the share price were higher.

We also believe that maintaining the listing of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders. By potentially increasing our common stock price, the Reverse Split would reduce the risk that our common stock could be delisted from the NASDAQ Global Market which requires, among other things, that issuers maintain a closing bid price of at least \$1.00 per share. Under NASDAQ’s continued listing requirements for the NASDAQ Global Market, if the closing bid price of our common stock is under \$1.00 per share for 30 consecutive business days and does not thereafter reach \$1.00 per share or higher for a minimum of ten consecutive business days during the 180 calendar days following notification by NASDAQ, our common stock would be subject to delisting by NASDAQ. Although the price of our common stock is presently above \$1.00 per share, there is a risk that our stock price could fall below this threshold. If our common stock were delisted from the NASDAQ Global Market, our board believes such

[Table of Contents](#)

delisting would adversely affect the market liquidity of our common stock, decrease the market price of our common stock, adversely affect our ability to obtain financing for the continuation of our operations and result in the loss of confidence in our company.

In evaluating the Reverse Split, our board of directors also took into consideration negative factors associated with reverse stock splits. These factors include the negative perception of reverse stock splits held by some investors, analysts and other stock market participants, as well as the fact that the stock price of some companies that have effected reverse stock splits has subsequently declined back to pre-reverse stock split levels. The board, however, determined that these potential negative factors were significantly outweighed by the potential benefits, and believes that an increase in the per share market price of our common stock as a result of the Reverse Split may encourage greater interest in our common stock and enhance the acceptability and marketability of our common stock to the financial community and investing public.

Potential Effects of the Reverse Stock Split

The immediate effect of the Reverse Split will be to reduce the number of shares of common stock issued and outstanding, and to increase the trading price of the common stock. However, the effect of the Reverse Split upon the market price of the common stock cannot be predicted, and we cannot assure you that the trading price of the common stock after the Reverse Split will rise in exact proportion to the reduction in the number of shares of the common stock issued and outstanding as a result of the Reverse Split. Also, as stated above, we cannot assure you that the Reverse Split will lead to a sustained increase in the trading price of the common stock since the trading price of the common stock may change due to a variety of other factors, including our operating results, other factors related to our business and general market conditions.

The Reverse Split will also proportionately reduce the number of shares of common stock that our board of directors is authorized to issue under our certificate of incorporation.

Effect on Ownership by Individual Stockholders

The Reverse Split would affect all stockholders uniformly and would not alter any stockholder's percentage interest in our equity, except to the extent that the Reverse Split would result in some of our stockholders owning a fractional share as described below.

Effect on Options and Other Securities

All outstanding options and convertible notes entitling their holders to purchase shares of common stock or acquire shares of common stock upon conversion, as the case may be, will be adjusted as a result of the Reverse Split, as required by the terms of these securities. In particular, the shares to be acquired upon exercise or conversion for such securities will be reduced, and the exercise price, if applicable, will be increased, in accordance with the terms of each instrument or the applicable provisions of our certificate of incorporation. The Reverse Split would also reduce the number of shares of common stock available for issuance under our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, which is the only equity incentive compensation plan currently active from which we may make new stock awards.

Other Effects on Outstanding Shares

The Reverse Split may result in some stockholders owning "odd-lots" of less than 100 shares of common stock. Brokerage commissions and other costs of transactions in odd-lots are generally higher than the costs of transactions in "round-lots" of even multiples of 100 shares.

Our common stock is currently registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act. As a result, we are subject to the periodic reporting and other requirements of the Exchange Act. The Reverse Split will not affect the registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act.

Procedure for Effecting a Reverse Stock Split and Exchange of Stock Certificates

The Reverse Split, if approved by our stockholders, would become effective upon the filing of an amendment to our certificate of incorporation, in the form of Appendix A hereto, or at the later time set forth in such amendment. Beginning at the effective time of the Reverse Split, each certificate representing shares of common stock will be deemed for all corporate purposes to evidence ownership of the number of whole shares into which the shares previously represented by the certificate were combined pursuant to the Reverse Split.

We intend to treat stockholders holding our common stock in “street name” through a broker, bank or other nominee in the same manner as registered stockholders whose shares are registered in their names. Brokers, banks or other nominees will be instructed to effect the Reverse Split for their beneficial holders holding our common stock in “street name.” However, these brokers, banks or other nominees may have different procedures than registered stockholders for processing the Reverse Split. If you hold your shares with a broker, bank or other nominee and if you have any questions in this regard, we encourage you to contact your nominee.

Following the proposed Reverse Split, stockholders holding physical certificates would need to exchange those certificates. As we are now fully participating in the direct registration system, you will not receive a replacement physical certificate. Instead you will receive uncertificated shares and a written confirmation from our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., indicating the whole number of uncertificated shares you own after the effect of the reverse stock split and a cash payment in lieu of any fractional shares.

If the Reverse Split is implemented, our transfer agent will advise registered stockholders of the procedures to be followed to exchange certificates in a letter of transmittal to be sent to stockholders. No written confirmations will be issued to a stockholder until the stockholder has surrendered the stockholder’s outstanding certificate(s), together with the properly completed and executed letter of transmittal, to our transfer agent. Any old shares submitted for transfer, whether pursuant to a sale, other disposition or otherwise, will automatically be exchanged for new shares. **STOCKHOLDERS SHOULD NOT DESTROY ANY STOCK CERTIFICATE(S) AND SHOULD NOT SUBMIT ANY CERTIFICATE(S) UNTIL REQUESTED TO DO SO.**

Treatment of Fractional Shares

No fractional shares of common stock will be issued as a result of the Reverse Split. Stockholders who otherwise would be entitled to receive a fractional share of common stock as a consequence of the Reverse Split (because they hold a number of shares of common stock not evenly divisible by the Reverse Split ratio) will be entitled to receive a cash payment (without interest) equal to the fraction of a share of common stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled multiplied by the fair value per share of the common stock immediately prior to the effective time of the Reverse Split as determined by the board.

Accounting Consequences

The par value of our common stock will remain unchanged at \$0.01 per share after the Reverse Split. Also, the capital account of the company will remain unchanged, and we do not anticipate that any other accounting consequences will arise as a result of the Reverse Split.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Reverse Split

The following discussion is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the proposed Reverse Split to U.S. Holders of our common stock. This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, U.S. Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial decisions, and published rulings and administrative pronouncements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, which we refer to as the IRS, in each case in effect as of the date of this proxy statement. These

[Table of Contents](#)

authorities may change or be subject to differing interpretations. Any such change or differing interpretation may be applied retroactively in a manner that could adversely affect a U.S. Holder. We have not sought and will not seek any rulings from the IRS regarding the matters discussed below and there can be no assurance the IRS or a court will not take a contrary position to that discussed below regarding the tax consequences of the proposed Reverse Split.

For purposes of this discussion, a “U.S. Holder” is a beneficial owner of our common stock that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is or is treated as (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation (or any other entity or arrangement treated as a corporation) created or organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia; (iii) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or (iv) a trust if (1) its administration is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and all of its substantial decisions are subject to the control of one or more “United States persons” (within the meaning of Section 7701(a)(30) of the Code), or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

This discussion is limited to U.S. Holders who hold our common stock as a “capital asset” within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). This discussion does not address all U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to the particular circumstances of a U.S. Holder, including the impact of the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income. In addition, it does not address consequences relevant to U.S. Holders that are subject to special rules, including, without limitation, financial institutions, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, grantor trusts, tax-exempt organizations, dealers or traders in securities or currencies, stockholders who hold our common stock as part of a position in a straddle or as part of a hedging, conversion or integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, U.S. Holders that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, or U.S. Holders who actually or constructively own 10% or more of our voting stock.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is the beneficial owner of our common stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Accordingly, partnerships (and other entities treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding our common stock and the partners in such entities should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the proposed Reverse Split to them.

In addition, the following discussion does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift tax, alternative minimum tax, or state, local and non-U.S. tax law consequences of the proposed Reverse Split. Furthermore, the following discussion does not address any tax consequences of transactions effectuated before, after or at the same time as the proposed Reverse Split, whether or not they are in connection with the proposed Reverse Split.

Each stockholder should consult his, her or its own tax advisers concerning the particular U.S. federal tax consequences of the Reverse Split, as well as the consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction, including any state, local or foreign income tax consequences.

The proposed Reverse Split is intended to be treated as a “recapitalization” for U.S. federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 368(a)(1)(E) of the Code. As a result, a U.S. Holder generally should not recognize gain or loss upon the proposed Reverse Split for U.S. federal income tax purposes, except with respect to cash received in lieu of a fractional share of our common stock, as discussed below. A U.S. Holder’s aggregate adjusted tax basis in the shares of the Company’s common stock received pursuant to the proposed Reverse Split should equal the aggregate adjusted tax basis of the shares of the Company’s common stock exchanged therefor (reduced by the amount of such basis that is allocated to any fractional share of our common stock). The U.S. Holder’s holding period in the shares of the Company’s common stock received pursuant to the proposed Reverse Split should include the holding period in the shares of the Company’s common stock exchanged therefor. U.S. Treasury Regulations provide detailed rules for allocating the tax basis and holding period of

[Table of Contents](#)

shares of common stock surrendered in a recapitalization to shares received in the recapitalization. U.S. Holders of shares of our common stock acquired on different dates and at different prices should consult their tax advisors regarding the allocation of the tax basis and holding period of such shares.

A U.S. Holder that, pursuant to the proposed Reverse Split, receives cash in lieu of a fractional share of our common stock should recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash received and the portion of the U.S. Holder's aggregate adjusted tax basis in the shares of the Company's common stock surrendered that is allocated to such fractional share. Such capital gain or loss will be short term if the pre-Reverse Split shares were held for one year or less at the effective time of the Reverse Split and long term if held for more than one year. No gain or loss will be recognized by us as a result of the proposed Reverse Split.

The U.S. federal income tax discussion set forth above does not discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to a particular stockholder in light of such stockholder's circumstances and income tax situation. **Accordingly, we urge you to consult with your own tax advisor with respect to all of the potential U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences to you of the Reverse Split.**

Effectiveness of Amendment

If the proposed amendment is adopted, it will become effective upon the filing of a certificate of amendment to our certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO OUR CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO EFFECT A REVERSE STOCK SPLIT.

STOCK OWNERSHIP AND REPORTING

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of June 12, 2017 by:

- each person, or group of affiliated persons, who is known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock;
- each of our named executive officers;
- each of our current directors and director nominees; and
- all of our executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to our common stock. Shares of our common stock subject to options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days after June 12, 2017 are considered outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding the options for the purpose of calculating the percentage ownership of that person, but not for the purpose of calculating the percentage ownership of any other person. Except as otherwise noted, to our knowledge, the persons and entities in this table have sole voting and investing power with respect to all of the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by them, subject to community property laws, where applicable. The inclusion herein of any shares as beneficially owned does not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership.

The column entitled “Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned” is based on a total of 132,741,327 shares of our common stock outstanding as of June 12, 2017. Except as otherwise set forth below, the address of the beneficial owner is c/o Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Beneficial ownership representing less than one percent of our outstanding common stock as of June 12, 2017 is denoted with an “*.”

Table of Contents

The number and percentages of shares beneficially owned presented in this table are as of a date subsequent to the equitable adjustment made in June 2017 to awards outstanding at the time of the special dividend, and accordingly reflect the impact of the equitable adjustment. See “Executive Compensation—Compensation Discussion and Analysis—Equity Incentive Awards” above for further information regarding the special dividend.

<u>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</u>	<u>Number of Shares Beneficially Owned</u>	<u>Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned</u>
5% Stockholders		
FMR LLC (1)	19,442,391	14.65%
BlackRock, Inc. (2)	10,887,604	8.20%
The Vanguard Group (3)	9,194,936	6.93%
Consonance Capital Management LP (4)	9,067,998	6.83%
TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC (5)	8,922,830	6.72%
Named Executive Officers and Directors		
Robert J. Mulroy (6)	1,683,328	1.27%
Yasir B. Al-Wakeel (7)	429,513	*
Peter N. Laivins (8)	80,540	*
William M. McClements (9)	308,598	*
Edward J. Stewart (10)	247,736	*
Gary L. Crocker (11)	4,715,757	3.53%
John M. Dineen (12)	210,557	*
Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (13)	190,627	*
John Mendelsohn, M.D. (14)	277,604	*
Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D. (15)	3,762,993	2.76%
Michael E. Porter, Ph.D. (16)	1,161,139	*
James H. Quigley (17)	329,104	*
Russell T. Ray (18)	131,861	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (12 persons) (19)	11,874,496	8.53%

- (1) Based on information provided in a Schedule 13G/A filed by FMR LLC on February 14, 2017. Members of the Johnson family, including Abigail P. Johnson, a Director, the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer of FMR LLC, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR LLC, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR LLC. The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders’ voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders’ voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR LLC. FMR LLC has the ability to make decisions with respect to the voting and disposition of such shares of common stock, subject to the oversight of the board of trustees (or similar entity) of each fund. The board of trustees of each fund has enacted a policy with respect to the voting of any investment property owned thereby and shares are voted for the funds by FMR LLC in accordance with such policies. Under the terms of its management contract with each fund, FMR LLC has overall responsibility for directing the investments of the fund in accordance with the fund’s investment objective, policies and limitations. Each fund has one or more portfolio managers appointed by and serving at the pleasure of FMR LLC who make the decisions with respect to the disposition of the shares. The address of FMR LLC is 245 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210. FMR LLC reports that it holds sole voting power with respect to 3,613,333 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 19,442,391 shares.

Table of Contents

- (2) Based on information provided in a Schedule 13G/A filed by BlackRock, Inc. on January 25, 2017. The address of BlackRock, Inc. is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055. BlackRock, Inc. reports that it holds sole voting power with respect to 10,628,835 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 10,887,604 shares.
- (3) Based on information provided in a Schedule 13G/A filed by The Vanguard Group on February 10, 2017. The address of The Vanguard Group is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355. The Vanguard Group reports that it holds sole voting power with respect to 203,048 shares, shared voting power with respect to 15,300 shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 8,981,888 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 213,048 shares.
- (4) Based on information provided in a Schedule 13G filed by Consonance Capital Management LP on February 13, 2017. Consists of 8,782,298 shares (“Master Account Shares”) owned by Consonance Capital Master Account LP (“Consonance Master”) and 285,700 shares (“Managed Account Shares”) owned by a managed account managed by Consonance Capital Opportunity Fund Management LP (“Consonance Opportunity”). Consonance Capital Management LP (the “Adviser”) is the investment adviser of Consonance Master and pursuant to an investment advisory agreement, the Adviser exercises voting and investment power over the Master Account Shares held by Consonance Master. Consonance Capman GP LLC (“Capman”) is the general partner of the Adviser and Mitchell Blutt, as the Manager and Member of Capman and Chief Executive Officer of the Adviser, may be deemed to control Capman and the Adviser. Capman is the general partner of Consonance Opportunity and Mitchell Blutt, as the Manager and Member of Capman, may be deemed to control Capman and Consonance Opportunity. The address for the Adviser, Consonance Opportunity, Mitchell Blutt and Capman is 1370 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 3301, New York, NY 10019. Consonance Master reports shared voting and dispositive power with respect to the Master Account Shares. Consonance Opportunity reports shared voting and dispositive power with respect to the Managed Account Shares.
- (5) Based on information provided in a Schedule 13G filed by TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC and Teachers Advisors, LLC on February 14, 2017. TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC (“Investment Management”) is the investment adviser to the College Retirement Equities Fund, a registered investment company, and may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of 6,403,594 shares owned by College Retirement Equities Fund. Teachers Advisors, LLC is the investment adviser to three registered investment companies, TIAA-CREF Funds, TIAA-CREF Life Funds, and TIAA Separate Account VA-1, as well as one or more separately managed accounts of Teachers Advisors, LLC (collectively, the “Separate Accounts”), and may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of 2,519,236 shares owned separately by TIAA-CREF Funds, TIAA-CREF Life Funds, TIAA Separate Account VA-1 and/or the Separate Accounts. The address of TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC and Teachers Advisors, Inc. is 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017-3206. TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC reports that it holds sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 6,403,594 shares. Teachers Advisors, LLC reports that it holds sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 2,519,236 shares.
- (6) Consists of (i) 1,461,536 shares of common stock, (ii) 61,800 shares of common stock held by Jean Mulroy, Mr. Mulroy’s wife and (iii) 159,992 shares of common stock held by The Mulroy Family Irrevocable Trust. Mr. Mulroy is a trustee of The Mulroy Family Irrevocable Trust and, as such, has voting and investment control over, and may be deemed the beneficial owner of, the shares of common stock held by such trust. The share amounts reported in items (i), (ii) and (iii) are as of October 3, 2016, which was Mr. Mulroy’s last day of employment with us.
- (7) Consists of 429,513 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (8) Consists of (i) 2,000 shares of common stock and (ii) 78,540 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date. The share amount reported in item (i) is as of April 3, 2017, which was Mr. Laivin’s last day of employment with us.
- (9) Consists of (i) 14,072 shares of common stock and (ii) 294,526 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date. The share amount reported in item (i) is as of April 3, 2017, which was Mr. McClement’s last day of employment with us.

Table of Contents

- (10) Consists of (i) 51,385 shares of common stock and (ii) 196,351 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date. The share amount reported in item (i) is as of April 3, 2017, which was Mr. Stewart's last day of employment with us.
- (11) Consists of (i) 229,863 shares of common stock, (ii) 1,642,970 shares of common stock held by or jointly with Ann Crocker, Mr. Crocker's wife, (iii) 2,135,049 shares of common stock held by certain members of Mr. Crocker's family, certain trusts established for members of Mr. Crocker's family and certain entities controlled by Mr. Crocker or members of his family and (iv) 707,875 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker, certain members of Mr. Crocker's family, certain trusts established for members of Mr. Crocker's family and certain entities controlled by Mr. Crocker or members of his family are parties to a Shareholder Voting Agreement, dated December 20, 2010, or the Crocker voting agreement, pursuant to which the parties to the agreement have agreed to vote his, her or its shares as directed by Crocker Ventures, LLC. Mr. Crocker is the President, Manager and Chairman of Crocker Ventures, LLC and in connection therewith shares voting control over all of the shares subject to the Crocker voting agreement.
- (12) Consists of (i) 100,000 shares of common stock and (ii) 110,557 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (13) Consists of (i) 65,000 shares of common stock and (ii) 125,627 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (14) Consists of (i) 5,000 shares of common stock held jointly with Anne Mendelsohn, Dr. Mendelsohn's wife, and (ii) 272,604 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (15) Consists of (i) 226,811 shares of common stock and (ii) 3,536,182 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (16) Consists of (i) 839,448 shares of common stock and (ii) 321,691 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (17) Consists of (i) 56,500 shares of common stock and (ii) 272,604 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (18) Consists of (i) 10,000 shares of common stock and (ii) 121,861 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (19) Includes 6,462,124 shares of common stock underlying options that are exercisable as of June 12, 2017 or will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of our common stock to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership of our common stock and other equity securities on a Form 3 and reports of changes in such ownership on a Form 4 or Form 5. Directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of our common stock are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of our records and representations made by the persons required to file these reports, we believe that, during the year ended December 31, 2016, our directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of our common stock complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them.

OTHER MATTERS

Our board of directors does not know of any other matters that may come before the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters are properly presented to the Annual Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote, or otherwise act, in accordance with their judgment on such matters.

Solicitation of Proxies

This proxy is solicited on behalf of our board of directors. We will bear the expenses connected with this proxy solicitation. We have retained Morrow Sodali LLC to assist us in our proxy solicitation for an aggregate fee of approximately \$7,500, plus out-of-pocket expenses. We expect to pay banks, brokers and other nominees their reasonable expenses for forwarding proxy materials and annual reports to principals and obtaining their voting instructions. In addition to the use of the mails, our directors, officers and employees may, without additional remuneration, solicit proxies in person or by use of other communications media.

Householding of Annual Meeting Materials

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of “householding” proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of our proxy statement or annual report may have been sent to multiple stockholders in the same household. We will promptly deliver a separate copy of either document to any stockholder upon request submitted in writing to us at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, Attention: Corporate Secretary, or by calling (617) 441-1000. Any stockholder who wants to receive separate copies of the annual report and proxy statement in the future, or who is currently receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy for his or her household, should contact his or her bank, broker or other nominee record holder, or contact us at the above address or phone number.

Deadline for Submission of Stockholder Proposals for 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Proposals of stockholders intended to be presented at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Exchange Act must be received by us at our principal executive offices, One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, no later than [] in order to be included in the proxy statement and proxy card relating to that meeting.

If a stockholder wishes to present a proposal at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, but does not wish to have the proposal considered for inclusion in our proxy statement and proxy card, pursuant to the advance notice provision in our bylaws, such stockholder must give written notice to our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices at the address noted above. Our Corporate Secretary must receive such notice no earlier than April 13, 2018 and no later than May 13, 2018, provided that if the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is advanced by more than 20 days, or delayed by more than 60 days, from the first anniversary of the Annual Meeting, such notice must instead be received by our Corporate Secretary no earlier than the 120th day prior to the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and not later than the close of business on the later of (i) the 90th day prior to the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and (ii) the tenth day following the day on which notice of the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders was mailed or public disclosure of the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders was made, whichever occurs first.

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT TO
RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

(Pursuant to Section 242 of the
General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware)

Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the "Corporation"), a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, does hereby certify as follows:

A resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation pursuant to Section 242 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware setting forth a proposed amendment to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation and declaring said amendment to be advisable. The stockholders of the Corporation duly approved said proposed amendment in accordance with Section 242 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. The resolution setting forth the amendment is as follows:

RESOLVED: That the first paragraph of Article FOURTH of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation be and hereby is deleted in its entirety and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

"FOURTH: That, upon the filing of this Certificate of Amendment to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware (the "Effective Time"), a one-for-[] reverse stock split of the Corporation's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), shall become effective, pursuant to which each [] shares of Common Stock issued or outstanding (including treasury shares) immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be reclassified and combined into one validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of Common Stock automatically and without any action by the Corporation or the holder thereof upon the Effective Time and shall represent one share of Common Stock from and after the Effective Time (such reclassification and combination of shares, the "Reverse Stock Split"). The par value of the Common Stock following the Reverse Stock Split shall remain at \$0.01 per share. No fractional shares of Common Stock shall be issued as a result of the Reverse Stock Split and, in lieu thereof, upon surrender after the Effective Time of a certificate which formerly represented shares of Common Stock that were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time, any person who would otherwise be entitled to a fractional share of Common Stock as a result of the Reverse Stock Split, following the Effective Time, shall be entitled to receive a cash payment (without interest) equal to the fraction of a share of Common Stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled multiplied by the fair value per share of the Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time as determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Each stock certificate that, immediately prior to the Effective Time, represented shares of Common Stock that were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, from and after the Effective Time, automatically and without the necessity of presenting the same for exchange, represent that number of whole shares of Common Stock after the Effective Time into which the shares formerly represented by such certificate have been reclassified (as well as the right to receive cash in lieu of fractional shares of Common Stock as set forth above); provided, however, that each

[Table of Contents](#)

person of record holding a certificate that represented shares of Common Stock that were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall receive, upon surrender of such certificate, a new certificate evidencing and representing the number of whole shares of Common Stock after the Effective Time into which the shares of Common Stock formerly represented by such certificate shall have been reclassified.

The total number of shares of all classes of stock which the Corporation shall have the authority to issue is [] shares, consisting of (i) [] shares of Common Stock and (ii) 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share ("Preferred Stock")."

A-2

[Table of Contents](#)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Certificate of Amendment has been executed by a duly authorized officer of the Corporation on this [] day of [], 2017.

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: _____
Richard Peters
President and Chief Executive Officer



MERRIMACK
MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
 ONE KENDALL SQUARE
 SUITE B7201
 CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

VOTE BY INTERNET - www.proxyvote.com

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 p.m., Eastern time, the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS

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

VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 p.m., Eastern time, the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

VOTE BY MAIL

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

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

E30968-P95967

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR each director nominee:

1. Election of Directors

Nominees:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01) Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D. | 06) Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D. |
| 02) Gary L. Crocker | 07) Michael E. Porter, Ph.D. |
| 03) John M. Dineen | 08) James H. Quigley |
| 04) Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D. | 09) Russell T. Ray |
| 05) John Mendelsohn, M.D. | |

For All **Withhold All** **For All Except**

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

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

- | | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. To approve, on an advisory basis, our executive compensation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. To approve an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to effect a reverse stock split of our issued and outstanding common stock at a ratio of one-for-[TBD] and a proportionate reduction in the number of authorized shares of common stock, with such reverse stock split to be effected at such time and date, if at all, as determined by our board of directors in its sole discretion. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NOTE: The proxies are authorized to vote, in their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

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

 Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX] Date

 Signature (Joint Owners) Date

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:
The Notice, Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders are available at www.proxyvote.com.

E30969-P95967

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
Annual Meeting of Stockholders
August 11, 2017 10:00 AM ET
This proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors

The stockholder(s) hereby appoint(s) Richard Peters and Jeffrey A. Munsie, or either of them, as proxies, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorize(s) them to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side of this ballot, all of the shares of common stock of MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. that the stockholder(s) is/are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on August 11, 2017, at our headquarters at One Kendall Square, Suite B7201, Cambridge, MA 02139. The proxies are further authorized to vote, in their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein. If no such direction is made, this proxy will be voted in accordance with the Board of Directors' recommendations.

Continued and to be signed on reverse side