

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

**FORM 10-K**

(Mark One)

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

or

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

Commission File Number: 001-40739

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

<u>Delaware</u> (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	<u>86-3218736</u> (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
<u>3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., #322, San Diego, CA</u> (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	<u>92130</u> (Zip Code)

858-800-2543

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class:	Trading Symbol	Name of Each Exchange on which Registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	DRMA	The Nasdaq Capital Market
Warrants, exercisable for one share of Common Stock	DRMAW	The Nasdaq Capital Market

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated Filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report. ☐

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued statements. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based

compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to Section 240.10D-1(b). ☐

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, based on the closing price of the shares of common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on June 28, 2024, was approximately \$1.6 million.

As of March 11, 2025, the number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, was 5,430,648.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

None.

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**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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## CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 under Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, anticipations, assumptions, estimates, intentions and future performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may be beyond our control, and which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through our use of words such as “may,” “can,” “anticipate,” “assume,” “should,” “indicate,” “would,” “believe,” “contemplate,” “expect,” “seek,” “estimate,” “continue,” “plan,” “point to,” “project,” “predict,” “could,” “intend,” “target,” “potential” and other similar words and expressions of the future.

There are a number of important factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement made by us. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- our lack of operating history;
- the expectation that we will incur significant operating losses for the foreseeable future and will need significant additional capital;
- our current and future capital requirements to support our development and commercialization efforts for our product candidates and our ability to satisfy our capital needs;
- our dependence on our product candidates, which are still in various stages of clinical development;
- our ability to acquire sufficient quantities of raw material needed to manufacture our drug product;
- our, or that of our third-party manufacturers, ability to manufacture cGMP quantities of our product candidates as required for pre-clinical and clinical trials and, subsequently, our ability to manufacture commercial quantities of our product candidates;
- our ability to complete required clinical trials for our product candidates and obtain approval from the FDA or other regulatory agencies in different jurisdictions;
- our lack of a sales and marketing organization and our ability to commercialize our product candidates if we obtain regulatory approval;
- our dependence on third-parties to manufacture our product candidates;
- our reliance on third-party CROs to conduct our clinical trials;
- our ability to maintain or protect the validity of our intellectual property;
- our ability to internally develop new inventions and intellectual property;
- interpretations of current laws and the passages of future laws;
- Impacts of increased trade tariffs, import quotas or other trade restrictions or measures taken by the United States and other countries, including the recent and potential changes in U.S. trade policies that may be made by the Trump presidential administration;
- acceptance of our business model by investors;
- the accuracy of our estimates regarding expenses and capital requirements; and
- our ability to adequately support organizational and business growth.

The foregoing does not represent an exhaustive list of matters that may be covered by the forward-looking statements contained herein or risk factors that we are faced with that may cause our actual results to differ from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements. Please see “Part I-Item 1A-Risk Factors” for additional risks which could adversely impact our business and financial performance.

All forward-looking statements are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary notice. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report or the date of the document incorporated by reference into this report. We have no obligation, and expressly disclaim any obligation, to update, revise or correct any of the forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. We have expressed our expectations, beliefs and projections in good faith and believe they have a reasonable basis. However, we cannot assure you that our expectations, beliefs or projections will result or be achieved or accomplished.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

All references in this report to “Dermata,” the “Company,” “we,” “us,” or “our” mean Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. unless stated otherwise or the context otherwise indicates.

#### Overview

We are a late-stage medical dermatology company focused on identifying, developing, and commercializing innovative pharmaceutical product candidates for the treatment of medical skin diseases and aesthetic applications we believe represent significant market opportunities.

Dermatological diseases such as acne vulgaris (or acne), psoriasis vulgaris (or psoriasis), hyperhidrosis, and various aesthetic indications, affect millions of people worldwide each year which may negatively impact their quality of life and emotional well-being. While there are multiple current treatment options for these indications on the market, we believe that most have significant drawbacks, including underwhelming efficacy, cumbersome application regimens and varying negative side effects, all of which we believe lead to decreased patient compliance. A majority of these indications are first treated with topical therapies, however, many patients frequently switch treatments or discontinue treatment altogether due to patient dissatisfaction. This is primarily due to slow and modest response rates, early tolerability issues, once or twice daily application schedules and long duration of therapy. Given the limitations with current topical therapies, we believe there is a significant opportunity to address the needs of frustrated patients searching for topical products that satisfy their dermatological and lifestyle needs.

Our two product candidates, XYNGARI™ (formerly DMT310) and DMT410, both incorporate our proprietary, multifaceted, *Spongilla* technology to topically treat a variety of dermatological conditions. Our *Spongilla* technology is derived from a naturally grown freshwater sponge, *Spongilla lacustris* or *Spongilla*, which is processed into a powder that is mixed with a fluidizing agent immediately prior to application to form an easily applicable paste. *Spongilla* is a unique freshwater sponge that only grows in commercial quantities in select regions of the world and under specific environmental conditions, all of which give it its distinctive anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, and mechanical properties. The combination of these environmental conditions, the proprietary harvesting protocols developed with our exclusive supplier, and our post-harvest processing procedures produce a pharmaceutical product candidate that optimizes the mechanical components as well as the chemical components of the sponge to create a product candidate with multiple mechanisms of action for the treatment of inflammatory skin diseases and aesthetic applications.

We believe our *Spongilla* technology platform will enable us to develop XYNGARI™ as either a single, stand-alone agent, or used together with other dermatology products to target the topical delivery of chemical compounds into the dermis for a variety of dermatology indications. We believe the combination of *Spongilla*'s mechanical and chemical components (which we believe have demonstrated, *in-vitro*, anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties), add to the versatility of our *Spongilla* technology platform's effectiveness as a singular product, in the treatment of a wide variety of medical skin diseases like acne and psoriasis. We also believe the mechanical properties of our *Spongilla* technology allows for the intradermal delivery of a variety of large molecules, like botulinum toxins, monoclonal antibodies, or dermal fillers, to targeted treatment sites, through topical application without the need for needles.

Our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, is intended to utilize our *Spongilla* technology for the once weekly treatment of a variety of skin diseases, with our initial focus being the treatment of acne, which has a U.S. market size of approximately 30 million patients seeking treatment. In November 2024, we completed patient enrollment in the first of two planned Phase 3 clinical trials of XYNGARI™ in moderate-to-severe acne. We expect to receive top-line results from the first Phase 3 trial in March 2025. Each Phase 3 study will be double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled, and enroll over 500 patients with moderate to severe acne, age 9 years or older across sites in the United States and Latin America. The primary endpoints include absolute reduction in inflammatory and noninflammatory lesions and the improvement in investigators global assessment (IGA) of acne. Patients will be treated once a week for 12 weeks with either XYNGARI™ or placebo and will be evaluated monthly. As requested by the FDA, the second Phase 3 study will be followed by an extension study to follow patients for a 12-month total treatment period.

Previously XYNGARI™ has shown its ability to treat the multiple causes of acne in a Phase 2b study where we initially saw a 45% reduction in inflammatory lesions after four treatments, with XYNGARI™ achieving statistically significant improvements at all time points for all three primary endpoints throughout the study (reduction in inflammatory lesions, reduction in non-inflammatory lesions, and improvement in IGA). In addition, based on the multiple mechanisms of action and anti-inflammatory effect seen with the XYNGARI™ acne trial, we completed a Phase 1b proof of concept, or POC, trial in psoriasis where we saw encouraging results warranting further investigation upon our receipt of adequate funding.

XYNGARI™ consists of two grams of powder processed from the naturally grown freshwater sponge, *Spongilla lacustris*. The patient mixes the powder with a fluidizing agent (3% hydrogen peroxide) immediately prior to application to form an easy-to-apply paste. The paste is applied like a mud mask and is left on the skin for approximately ten to fifteen minutes, after which time it is washed off with water. Due to the unique combination of XYNGARI™'s mechanical components and chemical components, and based on our Phase 2 acne data, we believe patients will only need to apply XYNGARI™ once weekly to produce the desired treatment effect. The mechanical components of the *Spongilla* powder consist of many microscopic siliceous, needle-like spicules that, when massaged into the skin, penetrate the stratum corneum (the skin's outermost protective layer) and create microchannels into the dermis where pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria reside. We believe that the penetration of the spicules also leads to the opening of microchannels, which allow oxygen to enter pilosebaceous glands, helping to kill *C. acnes*, which grow in an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment (*C. acnes* are the bacteria that cause inflammatory lesions in acne patients). The spicules also cause turnover of the top layer of dead skin, thereby increasing collagen production resulting in skin rejuvenation. Additionally, we believe the newly created microchannels provide a conduit for XYNGARI™'s naturally occurring chemical compounds to be delivered to the dermis and pilosebaceous glands, helping to kill the *C. acnes* and reduce inflammation. In addition to anti-microbial compounds, XYNGARI™ also appears to have anti-inflammatory chemical compounds, as demonstrated during *in vitro* experiments, that inhibit inflammation through the reduction of *C. acnes* stimulated IL-8 production and by inhibiting IL-17A and IL-17F expression in human cell lines. Also, during *in vitro* studies of XYNGARI™'s organic compounds, we observed the inhibition of the lipogenesis of sebocytes, which may translate to a reduction in sebum (an oily and waxy substance produced by the human body's sebaceous glands) production and the oiliness of the skin in patients, which was observed by a number of clinical investigators in our Phase 2 acne studies. We believe the combination of these biological and mechanical effects could be important factors in treating multiple inflammatory skin diseases, as seen in our clinical trials.

Our second product candidate utilizing our *Spongilla* technology is DMT410. DMT410 is intended to consist of one treatment of our proprietary sponge powder followed by one topical application of botulinum toxin for delivery into the dermis. Currently, botulinum toxin is only approved to be delivered to the dermis by intradermal injections, which can be painful for the patient and time-consuming for the physician. However, we believe DMT410's ability to topically deliver botulinum toxin into the dermis could have similar levels of efficacy to existing delivery techniques, with fewer tolerability issues, and a quicker application time, possibly replacing the need for intradermal injections. We first tested DMT410 in a Phase 1 POC trial in primary axillary hyperhidrosis patients where we observed 80% of patients achieving a reduction in gravimetric sweat production greater than 50% four weeks after a single treatment. With almost 40% of the hyperhidrosis market currently being treated with intradermal injections of botulinum toxin, we believe there could be significant opportunity for DMT410 to break into this market and replace intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. Based on DMT410's ability to effectively deliver botulinum toxin to the dermis as observed in the Phase 1 axillary hyperhidrosis trial, we also conducted a Phase 1 POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions, including reduction of pore size, sebum production, and fine lines, among others. In November 2021, we announced top-line results from this trial, where we saw promising data that we believed warranted further investigation of DMT410.

On January 17, 2025, we entered into a Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement (the "Clinical Trial Agreement") with Revance Therapeutics, Inc., who recently merged with Crown Laboratories, ("Revance"), pursuant to which we in collaboration with Revance intend to conduct a multi-center Phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI™, with DAXXIFY® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), Revance's botulinum toxin type A, for the treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis (the "Trial").

#### Application of XYNGARI™



**Image 1: The *Spongilla* is processed into a fine powder and packaged into 2g pouches with a 6mL bottle of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (hydrogen peroxide). Once per week, patients mix the powder with hydrogen peroxide, and massage the mixture onto their skin; after 10-15 minutes the product is easily removed with water.**

We believe that the current medical and aesthetic dermatology landscape lacks innovative treatment options, with new treatments predominantly being the introduction of reformulations or combinations of old molecules. We believe this lack of innovation provides an ideal opportunity for us to change how patients treat their skin conditions. With our anticipated once weekly treatment schedule and product candidate derived from a natural source, we believe we can become a leader in the space that may improve patient compliance with minimal side effects and a rapid time to treatment effect, as seen in our multiple clinical trials in acne, psoriasis, hyperhidrosis and aesthetic conditions. If we can successfully develop our product candidates, receive FDA approval, develop a concentrated prescribing base of dermatologists, and utilize our management's prior experience, we believe we have the ability to build a commercial organization to develop and commercialize treatment options in our core areas of focus within the dermatology space.

#### Our Clinical Development Pipeline and Product Candidates

Our clinical development pipeline currently consists of XYNGARI™ and DMT410, each in development for multiple skin diseases and conditions. In the accompanying section we will describe each product candidate, its benefits, and our market strategy for each product candidate. The dates reflected in the below table and sections are estimates only, and there can be no assurances that the events included in the below table or sections will be completed on the anticipated timeline presented, or at all.

##### XYNGARI™

**Moderate-to-Severe Acne.** In December 2023, we began enrolling patients in the first of two Phase 3 clinical studies of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne, entitled the Spongilla Treatment of Acne Research (STAR-1) study. Each study will be double blind, randomized, placebo controlled, and enroll over 500 patients, age 9 years or older across sites in the United States and Latin America. The primary endpoints will include the absolute reduction in inflammatory and noninflammatory lesions and the improvement in investigators global assessment (IGA) of acne as were used in our XYNGARI™ Phase 2b acne study. Patients will be treated once a week for 12 weeks with either XYNGARI™ or placebo and will be evaluated monthly. In November 2024, we completed enrollment of the STAR-1 study with a total of 520 patients. The STAR-1 Phase 3 study is expected to have top-line results in the March of 2025. Previously, we completed a randomized, double-blind, multicenter, placebo-controlled Phase 2b clinical trial of XYNGARI™ for the once weekly treatment of moderate-to-severe acne. XYNGARI™ showed statistically significant improvement versus placebo for all three endpoints (inflammatory lesion counts, non-inflammatory lesion counts, and IGA), after only four topical treatments and continued to statistically separate from placebo through the end of study at week 12. We believe these results from once weekly applications may favorably position XYNGARI™ as a first-in-class product in the market for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne, if approved.

**Mild-to-Moderate Psoriasis.** In October 2021, we completed a Phase 1b POC trial of XYNGARI™ for the once weekly treatment of mild-to-moderate psoriasis. Plaque psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory skin disease that comprises approximately 80% of the psoriasis market as of 2019, according to Fortune Business Insights Market Research Report, a majority of patients have mild-to-moderate disease which makes them less likely to receive an approved biologic treatment, that are only indicated for patients with moderate to severe disease, as a first line therapy. Due to the large population of patients who suffer from mild-to-moderate psoriasis, and lack of effective topical therapies for more mild disease, we believe there is a large unmet need for an effective topical product with limited side effects. Based on the data in our Phase 1b POC trial, the in-vitro data of XYNGARI's™ reduction of IL-17A and IL-17F, and the anti-inflammatory effects we observed in its Phase 2b trial for acne, we believe XYNGARI™ may be used as a first-line therapy for patients suffering from mild-to-moderate psoriasis who are not candidates for biologic treatments. In October 2021, we announced top-line results from our Phase 1b POC trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of 30 mild-to-moderate patients with psoriatic lesions covering between 2% to 30% of their body surface area. Patients were treated with XYNGARI™ once a week for 12 weeks. Based on the efficacy, safety and tolerability profile observed in the POC trial, we initiated additional work to better inform our clinical trial design prior to moving into a larger Phase 2, placebo-controlled, clinical trial. We plan to continue development of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis upon the acquisition of additional financial resources to support such development.

## DMT410

We are developing the second product candidate from our *Spongilla* platform, DMT410, for the topical treatment of skin diseases and aesthetic conditions typically treated with multiple intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. Currently, botulinum toxin must be intradermally injected multiple times to successfully deliver enough botulinum toxin to produce the desired effect in the desired treatment area. While injections are effective for many different diseases and aesthetic conditions, they limit botulinum toxin's use for additional conditions where injections, especially intradermal injections, are difficult, painful, or otherwise not viable. Some of these conditions include hyperhidrosis, acne, acne scars, and various aesthetic indications, of which DMT410 could be a viable treatment option. DMT410's treatment regimen uses one application of our XYNGARI™ followed by one topical application of botulinum toxin. The *Spongilla* powder is mixed with a fluidizing agent and is massaged into a patient's treatment area by the treating physician to enhance spicule penetration to create microchannels into the dermis. After 10 to 15 minutes, the physician removes the *Spongilla* mask with water. The physician then expresses botulinum toxin from a syringe in precise amounts and onto the patient's skin. The botulinum toxin is then massaged into the treatment area to take advantage of the microchannels created by the *Spongilla*'s spicules, which allows the botulinum toxin to penetrate the stratum corneum and enter the dermis. We believe this treatment application will enable the topical delivery of botulinum toxin into the dermis for the treatment of a variety of medical diseases, including for the treatment of hyperhidrosis, acne, and acne scars, as well as improving the skin's luminosity, brightness, and reducing pore size and count, fine lines, and sebum production. We believe DMT410's topical delivery of botulinum toxin can greatly increase market opportunities for botulinum toxin due DMT410's needle-free application, targeted intradermal delivery, thus potentially expanding the aesthetic market for botulinum toxin.

To date, we have completed an open-label Phase 1b POC clinical trial of DMT410 for the treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis and an open-label Phase 1b POC clinical trial in multiple aesthetic skin conditions. The Phase 1b POC trial for axillary hyperhidrosis consisted of 10 patients receiving one treatment of DMT410 to each axilla. Four weeks after one treatment with DMT410, patients exhibited a reduction in sweat production. The clinical endpoints for this trial included (i) percent of patients with greater than 50% reduction in gravimetrically measured sweat production from baseline, (ii) percent of patients with gravimetric sweat production less than 50mg, and (iii) percent change in gravimetric sweat production. Four weeks after one treatment with DMT410, 80% of patients experienced a decrease in gravimetric sweat production greater than 50%, 85% of patients recorded gravimetric sweat production of less than 50mg, and patients had an average decrease in gravimetric sweat production of 75% from baseline. We believe these results demonstrate that DMT410 may aid in the topical delivery of botulinum toxin into the dermis for a treatment effect similar to multiple (estimated 15-20) intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. With DMT410, we believe botulinum toxin may be applied topically to penetrate the skin into the dermis without the need for multiple injections.

We also completed an open-label, ten (10) patient, Phase 1b POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions (pore size, Global Aesthetic Improvement, brightness, luminosity, sebum production, fine lines, glabellar lines, forehead lines, and lateral canthal lines) and announced topline results in November 2021. In our Phase 1b POC trial of DMT410, patients received one treatment of DMT410 and were evaluated every four weeks for a total duration of 16 weeks to determine DMT410's safety and tolerability profile, effectiveness, and its duration of treatment effect. We announced top-line results in November 2021, where we observed an improvement in many of the trial's endpoints. At week 8, 80% of patients had at least a 25% improvement in their Global Aesthetic and 60% of patients had a 25% improvement in pore size. Also at week 8, 90% of patients had at least a one-point improvement in luminosity and 60% of patients had at least a one-point improvement in brightness. These physicians graded results were supported by objective analysis provided by Canfield Scientific's VISIA and PRIMOS visual analysis camera systems. Based on these results, we continue to actively discuss partnership opportunities with botulinum toxin companies to continue development of DMT410 in a larger placebo-controlled Phase 2 trial where we can study multiple doses of botulinum toxin applied to the entire face. We believe these results, combined with our results in hyperhidrosis, clearly demonstrate how DMT410's combination regimen could greatly expand the potential indications for botulinum toxins for aesthetic skin conditions, as well as other dermatologic skin diseases such as hyperhidrosis, acne, or acne scars.



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In January 2025, we entered into the Clinical Trial Agreement with Revance pursuant to which we in collaboration with Revance intend to conduct a multi-center Phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI™, with DAXXIFY® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), Revance's botulinum toxin type A, for the treatment of primary axillary hyperhidrosis. Under the Clinical Trial Agreement, we intend to sponsor, conduct, and fund a Phase 2a clinical trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and preliminary efficacy of XYNGARI™ and DAXXIFY® versus XYNGARI™ and placebo in patients with moderate-to-severe axillary hyperhidrosis for 16 weeks. The axillary hyperhidrosis trial is anticipated to be randomized (1:1:1:1), double-blind, dose-ranging, placebo-controlled, and intends to enroll approximately 48 patients across sites in the United States. The endpoints are anticipated to be (i) the percent of patients with greater than 50% reduction in gravimetrically measured sweat production from baseline, (ii) the percent of patients with gravimetric sweat production less than 50mg, and (iii) the mean absolute change from baseline in gravimetrically measured sweat production. Patients are anticipated to be evaluated at four regular intervals. Under the Clinical Trial Agreement, Dermata and Revance will form a joint development committee to facilitate communications between the parties related to the Trial.

There can be no assurance that XYNGARI™ or DMT410 will receive FDA approval for any of the foregoing indications.

### **Our Strategy**

We plan on in-licensing, developing and commercializing differentiated medical and aesthetic dermatology product candidates for the treatment of various skin diseases and conditions, which we believe have significant unmet needs in the market. The key components of this strategy are as follows:

- *Complete development and regulatory approval of XYNGARI™ for acne.* We initiated the first of two STAR-1 Phase 3 clinical studies of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne in December 2023 and completed enrollment of the STAR-1 Phase 3 trial in November 2024. We expect to receive top-line results from the STAR-1 trial in March of 2025. If the results of the STAR-1 trial are positive, in 2025, we plan on initiating the second XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical trial entitled STAR-2, followed by a long-term extension study as requested by FDA. We also plan to initiate the FDA required dermal carcinogenicity studies in rats and the repeat dose dermal toxicity study in minipigs. Assuming positive results from the Phase 3 program, we plan on submitting a New Drug Application (NDA) to FDA approximately 6 months after completion of the studies.
- *Explore mutually beneficial partnership opportunities for our XYNGARI™ program.* If we receive positive results from our XYNGARI™ STAR-1 Phase 3 trial, we will look for a partner that may be interested in helping Dermata complete the development of the XYNGARI™ Phase 3 program, with the ultimate goal to commercialize XYNGARI™. If we are unable to find a mutually beneficial partner for the XYNGARI™ program, then we plan to continue the development program and prepare to file an NDA with FDA.
- *Expand on the mutually beneficial partnership with Revance for our DMT410 program in hyperhidrosis and aesthetic skin conditions.* In January 2025, we entered into a Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement with Revance to explore the use of XYNGARI™ with DAXXIFY® for the topical treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis in a Phase 2a clinical trial. If successful, we will look to expand on the partnership with Revance in other indications.
- *Complete a Phase 2 trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis.* In October 2021, we announced top-line results of our Phase 1b POC trial in patients with mild-to-moderate psoriasis. We believe the results of this POC study warrant further development of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis. If successfully developed and commercialized, we believe XYNGARI™ would be the first once weekly topical product available to treat psoriasis. The XYNGARI™ program for psoriasis is currently on hold with further advancement subject to obtaining additional financing and/or a strategic partner.

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- *Acquire or in-license additional dermatology programs to our portfolio that complement our current product candidates.* We continuously evaluate potential partnering opportunities that will bolster our current product candidate portfolio and provide substantial value to our organization. We intend to focus on early to mid-stage development product candidates to generate clinical data and potentially move to later stages of development and ultimately on to commercialization.
- *Maximize the value of our portfolio by partnering with companies who can assist with commercializing our product candidates in territories throughout the world.* We plan to explore partnerships with companies throughout the world who have established commercial organizations focused on dermatologists.
- *Further strengthen our intellectual property portfolio, path to new chemical entity, or NCE, exclusivity, raw material supply and advance our regulatory filings.* We plan to continue to strengthen our IP portfolio for XYNGARI™ and DMT410, seek NCE exclusivity for XYNGARI™, maintain our exclusive supply agreement for our raw material requirements, and continue to protect our proprietary information. We believe these activities will be our primary competitive advantages if our product candidates receive regulatory approval.

The dates reflected in the foregoing are estimates only, and there can be no assurances that the events included will be completed on the anticipated timeline presented, or at all. Further, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in the development of XYNGARI™ or DMT410, or any other product candidate we may develop in the future, or that XYNGARI™ or DMT410, or any other product candidate we may develop in the future, will receive FDA approval for any indication.

### **Dermatology Market Overview**

We are currently focused on the medical and aesthetic dermatology markets, which include multiple common and undertreated skin diseases and conditions such as acne, psoriasis, hyperhidrosis, and multiple aesthetic skin conditions, some with no currently approved products, including the reduction of fine lines, pore size, sebum production and improvement in luminosity and overall skin quality. We believe these diseases and conditions cause significant negative impacts on patients' quality of life, including physical and emotional trauma and social stigmatism, causing patients to constantly seek better treatment options to help improve their conditions. We also believe these markets have not experienced the same level of development and advances as other markets, as there have been few innovative topical products recently approved other than reformulations or combinations of existing compounds. We believe our product candidates will be well situated within the market and offer innovative solutions to the underserved medical and aesthetic dermatology markets.

The U.S. medical dermatology market has experienced significant growth in recent years based on the new treatment options and greater patient access to care. Based on current market data, the U.S. medical dermatology market was valued at over \$8.3 billion dollars in 2024 and estimated to be worth over \$9.2 billion by 2028.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons estimates that over 25 million minimally invasive cosmetic procedures were performed in the U.S. in 2023 of which about 9.5 million used botulinum toxin. There are many factors that continue to drive growth in the aesthetics dermatology market such as greater patient acceptance, including from younger patients, and the discretionary cash that patients are willing to spend on aesthetic skin care. We also believe patients have a growing willingness to pay out-of-pocket for effective skin treatments to achieve their desired personal aesthetic look, which further supports the demand and pricing in those markets.

Based on the foregoing, we believe the dermatology market, both aesthetic and medical, offer a low-cost commercialization opportunity compared to many other prescription-based specialty markets, due to the relatively small number of specialists in the dermatology field. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, in 2023 there were approximately 11,000 dermatologists in the U.S., and we plan to target a subset of these dermatologists, who are larger prescribers of competitive products and who treat a large percentage of patients with our approved indications. We believe the combination of prescription based and cash-pay based product lines is an attractive business opportunity, as it incorporates multiple aspects of the dermatology market that move independent of the greater healthcare market.

## Background of Our *Spongilla* Technology

### *Spongilla Lacustris Overview*

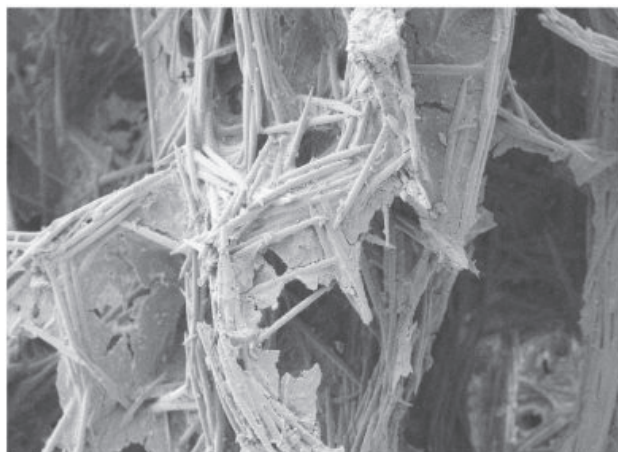
*Spongilla lacustris*, or *Spongilla*, is a freshwater sponge from the *Spongillidea* family that grows in freshwater rivers and lakes in commercial quantities in select regions of the world. It becomes dormant during the winter months and regrows each year to growth forms ranging from encrusting, to digitate, to branched, depending on its habitat's growth conditions. While it grows in many parts of the northern hemisphere, there are only certain locations where it grows in the quantities and of the quality to viably support a commercial pharmaceutical product. One such location is the Volga River in central Russia, where we have signed an exclusive supply agreement with one of the larger known suppliers of *Spongilla* raw material for XYNGARI™, which we believe provides us with a reliable source of our supply of *Spongilla* raw material for the foreseeable future. Traditionally, locals would harvest small amounts of *Spongilla* for its perceived medicinal properties and use it as a folk medicine to treat a variety of inflammatory conditions, including arthritis. Over the last 22 years, our exclusive supplier has refined its harvesting methods and procedures and is now capable of supplying a high-quality raw material that meets our release criteria, year-over-year. Our supplier has the capacity to collect and process large quantities of *Spongilla* per year. We believe our supplier will be able to supply raw material in the quantities and of the quality necessary to support our clinical and commercial needs. Since entering into the exclusive supply agreement, we have consistently been able to order and receive quantities of raw material to support our ongoing development activities and prepare batches for filing of an NDA.

The traditional use of *Spongilla* in Russia has provided a large amount of safety data. In 2003, the Russian Ministry of Health indicated that *Spongilla* had been used by over one million people per year, with few reported safety issues. In 2017, we submitted this safety information, along with various other publications and non-clinical studies, in an Investigational New Drug, or IND, application to the FDA's Division of Dermatology and Dental Products with reference to the FDA's Botanical Drug Development Guidance for Industry, or Botanical Guidance. This submission enabled the FDA to approve our IND for XYNGARI™, allowing us to proceed directly into a Phase 2 clinical trial in patients due in part to this historical human exposure. In 2023, the FDA also confirmed that XYNGARI™ would be filed under a NDA. While we are still required to complete certain non-clinical and pharmacokinetic studies prior to filing an NDA, we were able to strategically conserve resources while gathering human clinical efficacy and safety data prior to completing such work. We have since completed an End of Phase 2 Meeting with the FDA which provided us the approval to move into our first ongoing Phase 3 study and provided the framework necessary to file an NDA.

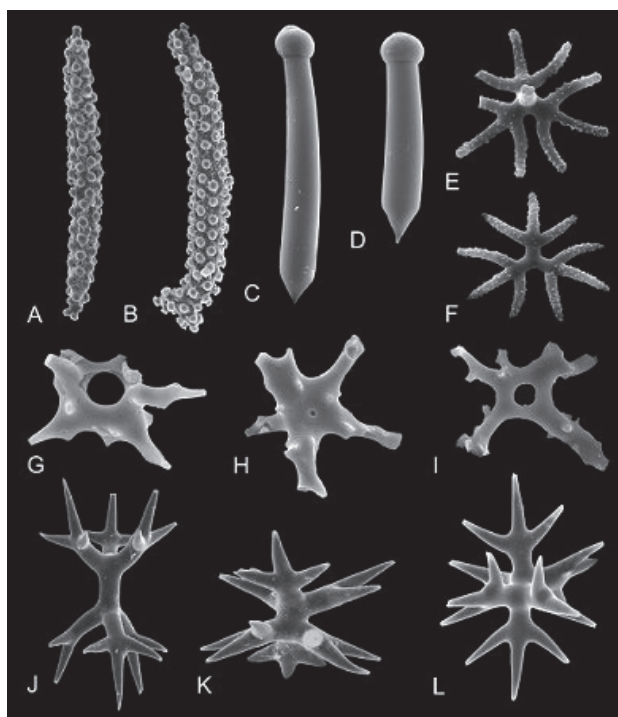
### *Spongilla's Multiple Mechanism of Actions*

The unique properties of *Spongilla lacustris* not only allows us to reference the FDA's Botanical Guidance, but also helps ensure the sustainable regrowth of sufficient supply of raw material each year. While *Spongilla* is technically a part of the animal kingdom, it grows and acts more similarly to a plant in that it can completely regenerate every year, even in harsh environmental conditions. In addition to causing a regrowth of the sponge each year, the harsh environmental conditions in which the sponge lives help contribute to our *Spongilla* technologies' multiple mechanisms of actions. Based on knowledge gained from over 22 years of harvesting *Spongilla*, our supplier can recognize the necessary environmental conditions and *Spongilla* characteristics to ensure optimal raw material harvest, maximizing the probability that the raw material contains the necessary properties for an effective pharmaceutical product. These properties include both mechanical and chemical components that are naturally occurring parts of the sponge raw material and contribute to our *Spongilla* technology's mechanisms of action in the treatment of skin diseases and conditions.

The mechanical components of XYNGARI™ come from the *Spongilla*'s skeletal structure, which is made up of siliceous spicules that are bound together by organic material, as seen in Image 2 below. These spicules are smooth, rod-like shapes which come to a point on each end, and if the *Spongilla* is harvested under our specified environmental conditions, the spicules can average between 150-300 micrometers in length and about 10-15 micrometers in diameter. While there are other species of freshwater and marine sponges, many of their spicules can be covered in barbs or hooks, as seen in Image 3, which we believe would get stuck in the skin or contain spicules that are blunt on each end, making skin penetration difficult.



**Image 2: Siliceous Spicules Present in *Spongilla***



**Image 3: Sponge Spicules**

After harvesting and further processing in the U.S., the form and size of our spicules make them the ideal mechanism to penetrate the stratum corneum, the skin's barrier, and temporarily create a micro-channel into the dermis without penetrating subcutaneous tissue, where the larger blood vessels are located. These newly created microchannels temporarily open the skin's barrier to allow for the targeted delivery of large and small chemical compounds into the dermis. Most topically applied products currently contain penetration enhancers that help force the active molecule through the stratum corneum and into the dermis, such as Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO). However, DMSO is only able to help smaller molecules penetrate and is usually unable to aid larger molecules, such as botulinum toxin, in topical delivery. These penetration enhancers can also cause unwanted side effects such as dry skin or garlic like taste, breath, and body odor. We believe our *Spongilla* technology is differentiated by enabling the delivery of both small and large molecules through topical application with less irritation and side effects than other topically applied products.

In addition to creating many microchannels in the skin, we believe the penetration of the spicules can open closed comedones, allowing oxygen into the anaerobic environment of the clogged pilosebaceous glands, where *C. acnes* and other bacteria survive. Lastly, we believe the spicules promote collagen production within the skin which accelerates the skin's rejuvenation period, thus bringing refreshed skin to the surface at a quicker rate than the skin's normal turnover cycle. Typically, the skin takes between three to four weeks to bring a new layer to the surface, while we believe our *Spongilla* technology may allow this process to complete in less than one week. We believe this decreases the time to treat inflammatory skin diseases and conditions while also enhancing the look of a patient's skin.

Our *Spongilla* technology also contains multiple active chemical compounds that we believe may aid in our product candidates' treatment of multiple dermatology skin diseases and conditions. We believe part of *Spongilla*'s natural defense mechanism is the creation of organic material to fight off natural enemies present in the water in which it grows. This organic material binds its spicules together to form the skeletal structure of the sponge. Based on multiple in-vitro studies, we believe the organic compounds within the sponge, when separated from the spicules, have both anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. We have observed anti-inflammatory activity including reduction of *C. acnes*, stimulated IL-8 production, and the downregulation of the production of IL-17A and IL-17F in human cell lines. Additionally, in our in-vitro studies, we observed

the inhibition of lipogenesis of sebocytes, which may translate to a reduction in sebum production and oiliness of the skin in patients.

While we believe each of the mechanical or chemical components of our *Spongilla* technology may be beneficial in treating various diseases, we believe the impact of each mechanism may be greatly enhanced when combined with the other. The large number spicules contained in each treatment create many microchannels through the stratum corneum, allowing for sufficient penetration and delivery of the chemical components into the treatment area to fight inflammation and kill bacteria.

#### *FDA Botanical Drug Development Guidance for Industry*

Most currently approved topical dermatology products are reviewed solely by the FDA's Office of Dermatology and Dental Products and follow a standard approval pathway. However, due to our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, being derived from a natural source, it will be reviewed by the FDA Office of Dermatology and Dental Products with input from the FDA Botanical Review Division. While *Spongilla* is not a botanical, the FDA has allowed us to reference the Botanical Guidance for raw material quality control and batch to batch consistency through development and into commercialization. We believe our ability to reference the Botanical Guidance and receive input from the Botanical Review Division on XYNGARI™ provides us with key advantages in XYNGARI's™ regulatory pathway to approval, if achieved. These advantages include being able to move into human clinical studies upon the FDA's acknowledged receipt of our IND letter and subsequent study may proceed, saving us substantial financial resources to achieve human clinical data. Additionally, while we believe that our sponge contains multiple active chemical compounds, based on our regulatory analysis of the feedback from the FDA and the Botanical Guidance, we believe we are only required to provide identifiable and quantifiable active components to show quality control and batch to batch consistency. We believe this will make it more difficult for potential competitors to replicate XYNGARI™ due to their inability to know every component of our product candidate and to show their product is similar in its composition. Thus, we believe a competitor with a similar product or product candidate would have to follow all the manufacturing, development, and regulatory steps we must complete for FDA approval. However, there can be no assurance that we successfully navigate the development of XYNGARI™ or that XYNGARI™ will receive FDA approval.

## Our Product Candidates

### XYNGARI™

Our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, is a unique, once weekly, naturally derived topical product, first being developed for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne, or acne. It is derived from freshwater *Spongilla lacustris*, or *Spongilla*, which grows under certain environmental conditions in select locations throughout the northern hemisphere. Our *Spongilla* raw material is harvested by our exclusive partner in Russia abiding by strict protocols based on our supplier's 22 years of experience and our expertise in an ideal pharmaceutical product. The result of these strict protocols is a consistent chemical structure that is reproducible year after year, which is critical in producing a material able to be used in a pharmaceutical product. After harvesting, the *Spongilla* is shipped to our manufacturing facility in the U.S. for further processing into a uniform powder before being packaged into sachets. Immediately prior to treatment the patient will mix the powder with a diluent (hydrogen peroxide) to form a paste, which the patient can then apply to the treatment area to treat the multiple facets of their disease. XYNGARI™ utilizes the *Spongilla*'s mechanical spicules to help resurface a patient's skin while also creating microchannels through the stratum corneum to allow the penetration of the *Spongilla*'s naturally created organic compounds to help treat various skin diseases. We believe these organic compounds can travel through the newly created microchannels into the dermis and sebaceous glands where both inflammatory and non-inflammatory acne lesions originate. XYNGARI™ targets treatment of the multiple facets of acne by combining the substantial mechanical and chemical activity of *Spongilla* into an easy to apply product that only needs to be applied once weekly. If approved by the FDA, we believe the combination of the mechanical and chemical properties of XYNGARI™ has the potential for a more rapid time to treatment effect with fewer treatments, less side effects, and better tolerability than other currently marketed topical acne products.

### XYNGARI™ for Treatment of Acne

*Market Opportunity.* Acne is characterized by areas of scaly red skin, non-inflammatory blackheads and whiteheads, inflammatory lesions, papules, and pustules and occasionally cysts and scarring that occur on the face, neck, chest, back, shoulders, and upper arms. It affects approximately 50 million people in the U.S., with an estimated 32.6 million diagnosed cases in the U.S. in 2023, with about 85% of teenagers in the U.S. experiencing some form of acne. The U.S. prescription acne market had approximately \$2.6 billion in prescription pharmaceutical sales in 2016 and is expected to reach approximately \$3.8 billion in 2026 according to GlobalData Inc. market data.

Most patients experience some form of acne during their teenage years and for some, their acne may diminish over time, or at least tends to decrease by age 25. There is, however, no way to predict how long it will take for acne to disappear entirely, with some individuals suffering from acne well into their 30s, 40s and beyond. While not life-threatening, acne causes significant trauma for those suffering from it due to social stigmas, substantial risk of permanent facial scarring, lowered self-esteem and social withdrawal. Therefore, we believe early and aggressive treatment with an effective, once weekly, topical product may lessen the overall long-term impact of this disease and may lead to an increase in a patient's quality of life.

Due to acne's negative impact on a patient's quality of life and negative impact on facial aesthetic, patients suffering from acne tend to be highly motivated to treat their acne and we believe willing to pay more out-of-pocket for higher priced and highly effective treatment, like XYNGARI™. It is our belief that patients seeking an easy to use and effective topical product will tolerate less favorable reimbursement rates than for other prescription products for other indications, allowing for favorable pricing if we are able to eventually obtain approval for and successfully commercialize XYNGARI™ for acne. Furthermore, if approved, we believe that XYNGARI™ natural characteristics may allow us to expand our addressable acne market to include those patients who value using naturally derived products, such as XYNGARI™.

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The acne market can be broken into three separate classes based on the severity of the acne:

- Mild Acne: characterized by few papules or pustules; typically treated with over-the-counter products or topical prescription therapies.
- Moderate Acne: characterized by multiple papules and pustules with moderate inflammation; typically treated with a combination of oral and topical prescription therapies.
- Severe Acne: characterized by substantial papules and pustules, with many nodules and/or cysts and significant inflammation; currently treated with oral and topical combination treatments and photodynamic therapy as a third-line treatment option.

*Limitations of Current Standard of Care.* While current treatment options may be effective for some patients, there are many limitations and drawbacks of current acne products which cause poor patient compliance. All currently approved topical therapies for the treatment of acne must be applied once or twice a day to allow an accumulation of the active ingredient within the skin to effectively treat the disease. This requirement to apply multiple times per day becomes very onerous and time consuming for patients, causing many patients to fail to comply with the strict application regimen and/or skip multiple treatments. Proper use and application schedules are particularly important for topical acne products and poor patient adherence may lead to reduced treatment effect and ultimately discontinuation of treatment by the patient due to the lack of effect.

Many current acne products, such as retinoids that must be applied at least once or twice-a-day, may cause significant stinging, burning, and peeling after each application. These tolerability issues, which may start occurring after the first application, and the substantial discomfort they cause, lead many patients to discontinue the necessary daily application schedule or the use of the product altogether. It is well known that benzoyl peroxide, or BPO, leads to drying of the skin and that retinoids result in many local skin reactions including erythema, burning, and peeling, after the first treatment. It has been observed in the combination study of adapalene/BPO, where more than 20% of the subjects reported moderate or severe erythema and stinging/burning.

Lastly, most topical products have an unavoidable latency period of 6-8 weeks until patients have a definite improvement in their acne lesions. This means they may have to endure 30 to 60 applications before observing that their acne is improving (assuming a daily, or twice daily regimen), all while dealing with the burning, stinging, and peeling that may accompany these topical products. We believe that teenagers, who make up the largest segment of the acne market, become impatient with the lack of rapid perceived effect leading to premature discontinuation of treatment. The lack of rapid treatment effect, side effects, and onerous application schedules all greatly contribute to patient noncompliance issues and could ultimately lead to treatment failure for current topical therapies. We believe patients are more concerned with rapid efficacy outcomes and low side effects than costs, thus we believe patients will be more willing to pay higher out of pocket costs for a product that has these attributes.

*Our Solution for Moderate-to-Severe Acne.* If approved, we believe XYNGARI's™ once weekly application regimen and apparent rapid treatment effect will increase patient compliance, potentially increasing the likelihood of improved acne results. Using our multifaceted, once weekly *Spongilla* treatment technology, we are developing XYNGARI™ to create a paradigm shift in how acne is treated by dermatologists by attempting to make XYNGARI™ the preferred treatment option for all acne patients. We have designed XYNGARI™ to treat the multiple factors of acne while also attempting to increase patient compliance through ease of use and acceptable tolerability profile.

If approved, we believe XYNGARI™ has the potential to remedy many of the negative characteristics associated with current topical therapies for moderate-to-severe acne, including cumbersome treatment regimens, negative side effects (including burning, stinging, itching or dryness, which may occur as early as the first treatment and continue daily thereafter), and delayed time to effectiveness (which may take up to eight weeks). XYNGARI™ is designed to be applied only once a week, rather than once or twice a day. We believe a once weekly schedule may be conducive to high patient compliance as it is less onerous for the patient. In addition, in our Phase 2b acne trial, on average, patients experienced an approximately 45% reduction in inflammatory acne lesions after just four treatments, with continued improvement of up to 62% reduction of inflammatory lesions at 12 weeks. Further, approximately 90% of patients had no, or mild, tolerability issues at the end of the 12-week trial and no patients experienced any severe tolerability issues.



In addition, in our Phase 2b trial we observed that XYNGARI™ started showing a statistically significant difference from placebo for all three endpoints after just four treatments while also having a rapid reduction on inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions. We believe this rapid visible response encouraged patients to continue to comply with the once weekly application schedule leading to a continued reduction in their lesions until the end of trial at week 12. Thus, we believe that a topical product that only needs to be applied once weekly with a quicker time to perceived treatment effect and fewer tolerability issues may result in greater treatment success due to improved patient compliance leading to loyal and repeat users.

*XYNGARI™ for the Treatment of Mild-to-Moderate Psoriasis*

We believe that XYNGARI™ could also be an effective treatment for mild-to-moderate psoriasis based on the clinical data received from our Phase 1b POC trial and the *in-vitro* effect XYNGARI™ has shown on the down regulation of IL-17A and IL-17F, as well as its ease of application to mild-to-moderate psoriatic lesions with smaller surface areas.

Psoriasis is characterized by “plaques,” or raised red areas of skin covered with a silver or white layer of dead skin cells referred to as “scales.” Psoriatic plaques can appear on any area of the body, but most often appear on the scalp, knees, elbows, trunk, and limbs, and the plaques are often itchy and sometimes painful. The psoriasis lesions are characterized by hyperproliferation of keratinocytes and a lymphocyte-rich infiltrate consisting primarily of T cells. In the dermis and epidermis, T lymphocytes interact with antigen-presenting cells and secrete Th1 and Th17 cytokines. These activated T cells and the inflammatory cytokines they secrete are believed to induce the skin lesions seen in psoriasis. In addition to the broad anti-inflammatory properties, we have observed in our clinical acne studies, XYNGARI’s™ ability exhibited *in-vitro* a dose dependent inhibition of both IL-17A and IL-17F, key cytokines implicated in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. Thus, XYNGARI™ may provide a method to topically deliver targeted anti-inflammatory therapy directly to psoriatic lesions with good local tolerability in an easy to apply regimen.

*Market Opportunity.* Currently patients with mild-to-moderate disease are either underdiagnosed, undertreated or untreated. This leaves patients seeking new and effective treatment options. Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory skin disorder estimated to affect up to 3.2% of the world’s population with global sales of \$14.2 billion in 2020, which is projected to increase to \$27.5 billion by 2030. Plaque-type psoriasis is the most common form of psoriasis, occurring in more than 80-90% of cases of psoriasis with approximately 80% of patients experiencing the mild disease form and 20% experiencing moderate-to-severe form of the disease. In addition to the disfigurement caused by psoriatic lesions, patients also may experience pruritus, or itching, which can be particularly common and bothersome for patients. Not only does psoriasis cause direct clinical challenges, but patients also suffer a negative impact on their quality of life. Patients can suffer substantial psychological impacts from their disease, including, social stigmas, feelings of rejections and shame, discrimination in the workplace, and reduced productivity, among many others. These patients are commonly looking for a safe and effective product to treat their disease.

*Limitations of Current Standard of Care.* Most of the available therapies target moderate-to-severe disease, meaning that mild patients are undertreated with one in five not being happy with their current treatments. The treatments for mild psoriasis patients are mostly generic but are often inadequate to control a patient’s disease. Mild psoriasis patients are first treated with topical therapies, like Vtama, Zoryve, Opzelure, and Eucrisa, due to the reduced systemic exposure. However, patients often feel that topical treatments are one of the negative aspects of psoriasis, which we believe is partly due to the limited options available like, coal tar, retinoids, calcineurin inhibitors and corticosteroids. While topical steroids are a very common treatment, drawbacks include being able to be used only for a short period of time and are associated with Hypothalamic pituitary adrena axis suppression, skin atrophy (thinning), striae (stretch marks), and telangiectasia (spider veins), among other side effects. Furthermore, some of these side effects are irreversible, persisting even after therapy is discontinued. Consequently, high-potency topical steroids are not recommended for chronic use and physicians generally will not prescribe them for treatment on the face. Also, rebound is a known challenge with steroids, where after steroid discontinuation, the psoriasis returns even worse than it was before steroid treatment was initiated.



While biologic therapies, including drugs such as Enbrel, Cosentyx, Humira, and Stelara, are available for treatment of psoriasis, their use remains highly restricted to patients with moderate-to-severe disease. In the U.S., with less than 20% of patients having moderate-to-severe psoriasis, we believe a vast majority of the psoriasis market are left without long-term effective treatment options. While additional data has caused an uptake of biologics, they remain limited due to multiple factors, including being indicated only for use in moderate-to-severe patients, high costs, consequent reimbursement and access restrictions, frequent high patient co-pays, perceived risk of side effects, and patient fear of injection. Additionally, we believe there is room for topical products that treat mild psoriasis to be priced at a premium compared to other topical products for other inflammatory skin diseases like acne. This is based on fact that when comparing the cost of biologic therapy, which can cost \$50,000 per year, an effective and safe topical product for mild psoriasis could have a large impact on the market. Therefore, we believe physicians would be more likely to prescribe a topical product for psoriasis long before biologic treatment, and patients experiencing milder psoriasis would prefer using a topical product over a systemic treatment.

Non-biologic systemic therapy options for psoriasis exist, but their use is also limited due to unfavorable side effects. Apremilast (Otezla), an oral PDE4 inhibitor, generated more than \$1 billion in sales in all indications in 2019, but has only achieved a small patient share in psoriasis due to limitations on its use to moderate-to-severe patients, its modest symptomatic improvement, and frequent adverse events. We believe there is still a great need to bring to market a product that addresses mild-to-moderate psoriasis.

Due to the shortcomings of existing topical therapies and the lack of options providing robust symptomatic improvement with chronic treatment, especially in the last 25 years, we believe there remains a need for a safe, effective, and easily applicable topical treatment for chronic disease, that has a low risk of side effects, is well tolerated, and can be easily applied on all anatomical areas.

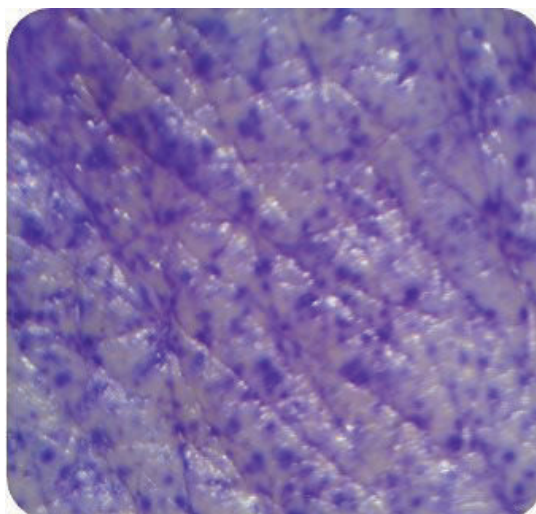
*Our solution for Mild-to-Moderate Psoriasis.* Similar to the needs of patients with acne, we believe patients suffering with psoriasis might comply better with a treatment that is easy to apply and requires less application time than current treatment options. XYNGARI™, if approved, could be used as a first line therapy for patients with mild-to-moderate psoriasis. We believe the spicules within XYNGARI™ will help break up the psoriatic lesions, while the anti-inflammatory components of XYNGARI™ assist with the healing of the lesions. Due to the historical use of *Spongilla* and the human safety data collected to date in our clinical studies, we believe XYNGARI™ may be suitable for long term treatment of chronic psoriasis due to its unique treatment effect and acceptable safety and tolerability profile.

In addition to the mechanical effects of XYNGARI™, extracts of the organic material have shown in-vitro to have a dose dependent inhibition of IL-17A and IL-17F secretion. In the dermis and epidermis, T lymphocytes interact with antigen-presenting cells and secrete Th1 and Th17 cytokines, including interferon-gamma (IFN-γ), interleukin (IL)-2, IL-17, IL-22, and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α). These activated T cells and the inflammatory cytokines they secrete are believed to induce the skin lesions seen in psoriasis and be a fundamental contributor in the disease's immune pathway. We know that there are multiple approved IL-17A inhibitors on the market, such as secukinumab (Cosentyx®, Novartis) and ixekizumab (Taltz®, Eli Lilly and Co.), but these are both biologics and only indicated for patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy. The limited patient population who are candidates for these biologic treatments is a small percentage of the overall psoriasis market. Therefore, a topical product that can inhibit the IL-17 pathway in the skin with minimal systemic exposure would be an ideal option for both physicians and patients.

Based on clinical and non-clinical data generated to date for XYNGARI™, and anecdotal evidence of XYNGARI™'s effect on psoriatic lesions, we completed a Phase 1b, open label, POC study in mild-to-moderate psoriasis patients in October 2021. This trial included once weekly treatments of XYNGARI™ for 12 weeks in 30 mild-to-moderate psoriasis patients with lesions covering 2% to 30% of their body surface area. The primary endpoints in this trial were the Physician's Global Assessment, which is a 6-point scale measuring the physician's assessment of psoriasis severity of the target lesion site, the Psoriasis Area Severity Index scale is also a 6-point scale measuring the psoriatic disease severity taking into account qualitative lesion characteristics (erythema, thickness, and scaling) and degree of surface area involvement and the Pruritus Visual Analog Scale consists of the patient's measurement of pruritus, or itch, in addition to normal tolerability and safety assessments. We announced top-line results in October 2021, and based on the efficacy, safety and tolerability profile seen in the POC trial we initiated additional work to better inform the clinical trial design prior to moving into a larger Phase 2, placebo-controlled, clinical trial upon the receipt of sufficient financial resources.

#### *DMT400 for the Topical Delivery of Macromolecules*

DMT400 is our treatment regimen that utilizes the unique mechanical features of our *Spongilla* technology to facilitate the intradermal delivery of macromolecules, such as botulinum toxin, monoclonal antibodies, dermal fillers, or vaccines, by topical application rather than with injections. These macromolecules are highly effective and approved for the treatment of multiple medical and aesthetic skin conditions and diseases, but currently are not approved in a topical form because the molecular structures are too large to penetrate the stratum corneum, the skin's outermost defense barrier. Thus, all current macromolecule treatment options for skin conditions and diseases must be injected, either intramuscularly or intradermally, sometimes requiring numerous injections. We believe that DMT400's topical application regimen may provide patients with a topical treatment option for both medical and aesthetic dermatology conditions using products previously unavailable to them in a topical treatment.



**Image 4: Siliceous Spicules Microchannels**

DMT400 works by first topically applying our proprietary sponge powder to the treatment area wherein the mechanical spicules of the sponge penetrate the skin, thereby creating microchannels into the dermis as seen in Image 4 above. Unlike a derma roller or other microneedle technology, our unique spicules remain in the skin for one to two days allowing the microchannel to remain open rather than close up, as they would after using a derma roller. With the microchannel open for a longer period a macromolecule can be applied topically to the skin and is thus able to penetrate into the dermis. We believe this topical application of a macromolecule can be massaged into the newly created microchannels thereby facilitating the delivery of the macromolecule, through the microchannel and into the dermis, without the need for injections. This targeted delivery to the dermis rather than delivery to the systemic circulation, may decrease the systemic spread of these macromolecules thus potentially reducing side effects seen with injections, while increasing targeted application to where the disease resides.

#### *DMT410 for the Treatment of Primary Axillary Hyperhidrosis*

We initially tested our DMT400 treatment with our DMT410 program, which consists of a topical application of our proprietary sponge powder followed by a topical application of botulinum toxin, a macromolecule. DMT410 was initially tested in a Phase 1b POC trial of ten (10) patients with primary axillary hyperhidrosis to determine if our sponge powder could successfully facilitate the intradermal delivery of botulinum toxin and potentially other macromolecules. Based on the results seen from this study we believe we were successful in delivering active botulinum toxin to the dermis for the treatment of primary axillary hyperhidrosis and potentially other skin conditions.

*Market Opportunity.* Hyperhidrosis is a life-altering disorder of excessive sweating out of proportion with thermoregulatory requirements. While many patients may exhibit this excessive sweating in response to specific triggers, such as emotional stress, others may exhibit symptoms spontaneously. Typically, the diagnosis of hyperhidrosis is based partly on subjective measures that measure how the excessive sweating affects a patient's quality of life. Physicians also gravimetrically measure the amount of sweat produced, though there is no standardized threshold which defines hyperhidrosis. It is believed to affect an estimated 15 million people in the U.S. alone. The U.S. prescription hyperhidrosis market had approximately \$66 million in prescription pharmaceutical sales in 2020, and is expected to reach approximately \$282 million in 2030, with almost 40% from injections of BOTOX, according to GlobalData Inc. market data. According to a 2016 update on the prevalence and severity of hyperhidrosis in the U.S., axillary (underarm) hyperhidrosis, is the most common form of the disorder. However, patients are affected by other forms like palmar (hands) and plantar (feet) hyperhidrosis, which we believe DMT410 may be able to treat and avoid the side effects seen in studies of poor administration of intradermal injections.

*Limitations of Current Standards of Care.* While the prevalence of hyperhidrosis is significant, treatment options are limited, and many come with unwanted side effects making patient acceptance low. Typical first line therapy is usually with aluminum chloride-based antiperspirants, but many have potential drawbacks. First, daily applications can be time consuming leading to poor compliance among patients. Second, many antiperspirants are irritating to the skin leading to treatment discontinuation. Lastly, topical aluminum chloride treatment has a transient duration of effect and requires frequent reapplication to maintain sweat control. More recently, topical anticholinergics have been investigated and approved, such as Botanix Inc. (formerly developed by Fresh Tracks, Inc.) and Journey Medical Corporation (formerly developed by Dermira, Inc.), but we believe they tend to have the same side effects as systemic anticholinergics which are used off-label. These side effects include dry mouth, dry eyes, blurred vision, headache, urinary retention, among others. The unwanted side effects are often so intolerable that up to one third of patients are forced to withdraw from treatment. If topical or systemic treatments fail, then patients can get intradermal injections of botulinum toxin which has been shown to have a great treatment effect, but treatment is very technique driven, requiring a trained physician to administer the toxin to the thin layer of the dermis. Many times, poor treatment response with botulinum toxin is due to incorrect or insufficient dosing or incorrect administration. Patients may also experience injection site pain or discomfort, which may be accompanied by swelling and bruising. However, for the treatment of palmar hyperhidrosis with intradermal injections of botulinum toxin, the most notable adverse event is transient hand weakness, if administered incorrectly. As a last resort, patients may also seek surgery to treat their hyperhidrosis, if less invasive treatment options fail. While there are treatment options available for hyperhidrosis patients, only about half of affected individuals seek treatment due to social embarrassment associated with the diagnosis of the disease. We believe this leaves a wide gap in the market for a product that combines the efficacy of botulinum toxin with the safety and tolerability profile of topical therapies. We believe DMT410, if successfully commercialized, could address this underserved market opportunity.

*Our Solution for Primary Axillary Hyperhidrosis.* While primary axillary hyperhidrosis is idiopathic, the mechanism is thought to be neurogenic overactivity of the eccrine (sweat) glands in the affected area. Based on the summary basis for approval of BOTOX, we know that botulinum toxin type A has a clinical effect on hyperhidrosis, which acts by disrupting sympathetic stimulation to the eccrine glands resulting in considerably reduced axillary sweating from four to 12 months. Based on the package insert for BOTOX, intradermal injections of 50 units of BOTOX saw a greater than 50% decrease in axillary sweat production in 81% and 41% of patients treated with BOTOX or placebo, respectively, at four weeks. While intradermal injections of botulinum toxin appear to be very effective, the treatment requires multiple injections into each axilla, which is time consuming for the treating physician and administration is very technique sensitive due to the thin nature of the dermis. Additionally, given the nature of the target tissue being more sensitive, and the number of injections required, it is believed that injection site pain is a major cause for the lack of compliance. Thus, we believe a topical application regimen, capable of penetrating the stratum corneum to deliver botulinum toxin into the dermis, may be able to exhibit similar efficacy with greater compliance and adoption. In a Phase 1b POC study of DMT410 for the treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis, we saw a greater than 50% decrease in axillary sweat production in 80% of patients at week four. This result supports our belief that topical application of botulinum toxin via our *Spongilla* technology to the dermis could be a viable alternative to intradermal injections. If approved, DMT410 could eliminate the need for intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. Therefore, we believe DMT410 could potentially be a favorable treatment option for patients suffering with primary axillary hyperhidrosis. Additionally, we also believe that DMT410 may be an effective treatment for palmar or plantar hyperhidrosis due to DMT410's delivery of botulinum toxin to the dermis without the risk of distance spread of toxin to the muscle as with intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. DMT410 could limit the side effects seen with intradermal injections including hand weakness and administration pain. There can be no assurance that DMT410 will receive FDA approval for hyperhidrosis.

*DMT410 for the Treatment of Aesthetic Conditions* In addition to the use of DMT410 in the treatment of hyperhidrosis and other medical dermatology conditions such as acne, based on the data from our recent Phase 1b POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions such as pore size, sebum production, fine lines, luminosity, and brightness of the skin, we believe DMT410 has an opportunity to be used for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions. Botulinum toxin is known to treat a variety of aesthetic skin conditions, but to achieve these positive effects, the botulinum toxin needs to be delivered to the dermis rather than the muscle to have the desired effect. DMT410's uniquely sized spicules create microchannels through the stratum corneum and into the dermis that are large enough for botulinum toxin to be delivered to the dermis. However, the spicules are not long enough to reach the muscle layer, which limits the potential distant spread of toxin and potential side effects. Botulinum toxin acts by blocking the release of acetylcholine into the synaptic cleft, where it binds to a cholinergic receptor, thereby inhibiting sympathetic nerve function. This ability to inhibit cholinergic transmission makes it useful to treat indications with glandular hypersecretion, like sebum production or hyperhidrosis, which are partly caused by hyperactive sympathetic nerves. For aesthetic indications, since botulinum toxin must be delivered to the dermis, intradermal injections are typically required but can require numerous injections in order to cover the larger surface area to treat these aesthetic skin conditions as compared to targeted injections to the muscle. Intradermal injections can also be difficult to effectively administer and may be painful for patients. This tends to lead to poor adoption of this therapy, which is why we believe there are currently no approved aesthetic indications utilizing intradermal injections. Additionally, no topical formulations of a botulinum toxin have been approved, likely due to the size of the molecule and its difficulty in penetrating the stratum corneum to reach the dermis. Therefore, with no currently approved intradermal injections or topical applications methods of botulinum toxin for aesthetic skin conditions, we believe there is a large market opportunity for a product that can successfully deliver botulinum toxin by topical application into the dermis to improve a patient's aesthetic appearance. If approved, we believe DMT410 can address this market.

*Limitations of Standards of Care* While injections of botulinum toxin into the muscles have been approved for many years for aesthetic treatments such as the reduction of glabellar, lateral canthal or forehead lines, there are many other aesthetic skin conditions, such as enlarged pore size, excess sebum production, fine lines, decreased luminosity, and decreased brightness that botulinum toxin has been demonstrated to improve but a botulinum toxin product, whether via intradermal injections or topical application, has yet to be approved for these indications. This may be because these aesthetic indications typically require botulinum toxin to be delivered to the dermis rather than the muscle, which due to the thin nature of the dermis, can be more difficult than injecting into the muscle. Additionally, the areas of the face requiring intradermal injections are much more sensitive and thus can be more painful for patients. These intradermal aesthetic indications typically require a wider dispersion of botulinum toxin to be delivered to the dermis rather than the few injections into the muscle needed for the deeper facial lines. Some intradermal studies have required 25-30 intradermal injections in the face to deliver sufficient quantities of botulinum toxin to the dermis. With some patients having a fear of needles, a treatment that can avoid the use of needles would be desirable for this population. Additionally, topical application of botulinum toxin has been difficult due to the size of the molecule making it difficult for the botulinum toxin to penetrate the stratum corneum, resulting in many topical applications being ineffective and discontinued. An example is Revance's RT001 product which did not achieve the primary or other secondary endpoints in a Phase 3 trial for the treatment of crow's feet and therefore, Revance does not plan to continue development of this program at this time. Another botulinum toxin company, Allergan (now part of AbbVie), purchased a company in 2016 to pursue development of a topical botulinum toxin program. However, we believe Allergan has not conducted any studies with this program. We believe most botulinum toxin companies remain interested in developing a topical means of administering botulinum toxin that is less painful, easy to apply, provides wider coverage of toxin, and limits potential distant spread of toxin, but no product has yet been successfully developed.

*Our Solution for the Treatment of Aesthetic Skin Conditions* We believe a product candidate like DMT410, which may be able to successfully deliver botulinum toxin to the dermis covering a larger facial area than injections, would provide a new treatment option for a variety of aesthetic skin conditions, such as reduction in pore size, sebum production, and fine lines, and improvement in skin luminosity and brightness, thus potentially expanding the market for uses of botulinum toxin beyond injections into the muscle for treatment of deep lines. We believe DMT410 may be able to provide patients with a topical treatment option without the pain and discomfort typically associated with injections of botulinum toxin. Additionally, we believe administration will be easier and less time consuming for dermatologist, making it an additional value driven treatment option they can offer. While current botulinum toxins are approved for injections into the facial muscles to treat deeper wrinkles such as glabellar lines, lateral canthal lines and forehead lines, there remain many other aesthetic conditions of the face which could greatly benefit from an intradermal administration of botulinum toxin, especially via topical application. Certain aesthetic indications such as reduction in fine lines, pore size, and sebum production, and improvement in luminosity and brightness are typically not treated with injections into the muscles but need botulinum toxin to be delivered to the dermis to have the proper effect. With DMT410's uniquely sized spicules, we believe it can create numerous microchannels into the dermis allowing a pathway for the topical application of botulinum toxin. Once in the dermis botulinum toxin is able to act on reducing sebum production which in turn may reduce pore size and overall oiliness of the skin. Additionally, botulinum toxin has been demonstrated to have a beneficial effect on the mean volume and depth of facial lines giving the skin a smoother appearance. Therefore, we believe there may be a need for a product, such as DMT410, that can facilitate the topical application of botulinum toxin into the dermis, to treat a variety of these aesthetic skin conditions.

If approved, we believe DMT410 has the potential to expand the market for botulinum toxins' treatment to multiple additional aesthetic skin conditions. We believe DMT410 can be an effective product at delivering bioactive botulinum toxin with a topical application for treatment of pore size, sebum production, fine lines, luminosity, brightness, overall aesthetic appearance and possibly more. We recently completed a Phase 1b POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions where we examined improvements in pore size, sebum product, luminosity, brightness, and Global Aesthetic improvement after one treatment of DMT410. We believe this POC trial produced data which demonstrated that DMT410 was able to deliver botulinum toxin to the dermis and showed a reduction in pore size, reduce sebum production, improved luminosity, improved brightness, and improved the patients' Global Aesthetics. This study also produced no adverse events and provided acceptable tolerability data with only mild tolerability effects seen fifteen (15) minutes post treatment. We believe this data warrants further development of this program and we are currently seeking a partner who has a botulinum toxin they are looking to develop for aesthetic skin conditions which require delivery of botulinum toxin to the dermis. There can be no assurance that DMT410 will receive FDA approval for any aesthetic indication or that we will be able to find a partner for development.

## Clinical Progress of our Lead Product Candidates

### *XYNGARI™ Phase 3 Clinical Trial Program for Acne*

In December 2023, we initiated the XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical program entitled Spongilla Treatment of Acne Research study (STAR). The XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical program will include two Phase 3 clinical trials to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of XYNGARI™ in patients with moderate-to-severe facial acne. Each Phase 3 trial will be randomized (2:1), double-blind, placebo-controlled, and will enroll approximately 500-600 patients with moderate-to-severe acne, ages 9 years and older in the United States and Latin America. The primary endpoints are the mean change from baseline in inflammatory and noninflammatory lesion counts and the Investigator Global Assessment (IGA) treatment response rate. IGA is measured on a 5-point scale (0-4), with a treatment response defined as at least a 2-point improvement from baseline and an IGA score of 0 (clear) or 1 (almost clear). Patients will be treated once a week for 12 weeks with either XYNGARI™ or placebo and will be evaluated monthly. STAR-1 is the first of two pivotal Phase 3 trials, with top-line results expected in March of 2025. Upon adequate financing, we intend to initiate the second Phase 3 clinical trial, STAR-2, which we expect will be followed by a long-term extension study as required by FDA. If positive, the results from the Phase 3 program will be used to support the filing of an NDA with FDA.

### *XYNGARI™ Phase 2b Clinical Results for Acne*

In June 2020, we received results from our randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, Phase 2b clinical trial of once weekly treatments for twelve weeks of XYNGARI™ for acne. We enrolled 181 moderate-to-severe acne patients at fourteen (14) sites across the U.S. Patients were required to be 12 years of age or older, have at least twenty (20) non-inflammatory lesions, twenty (20) inflammatory lesions, no more than two (2) nodules or cysts and be a moderate or severe (meaning a 3 or 4) on the IGA scale of acne. The IGA scale consists of a 5-point scale, 0-4, with 0 being clear, 1 being almost clear and 4 being severe acne as graded by the treating physician. Patients were randomly divided into two treatment groups, either to receive XYNGARI™ or placebo. Patients were required to apply the product, whether XYNGARI™ or placebo, to the entire face, once weekly for 12 weeks with the first two weeks of treatment applied in office under the supervision of trained study staff, then the remaining 10 weekly treatments were applied at home by the patient.

The primary clinical endpoints of the trial included the absolute reduction in inflammatory lesions from baseline. The secondary clinical endpoints included:

- the absolute reduction in non-inflammatory lesions from baseline;
- the IGA with a responder being a patient with a 2-grade change in IGA scale and being a 0 or 1 at study exit; and
- safety and tolerability.

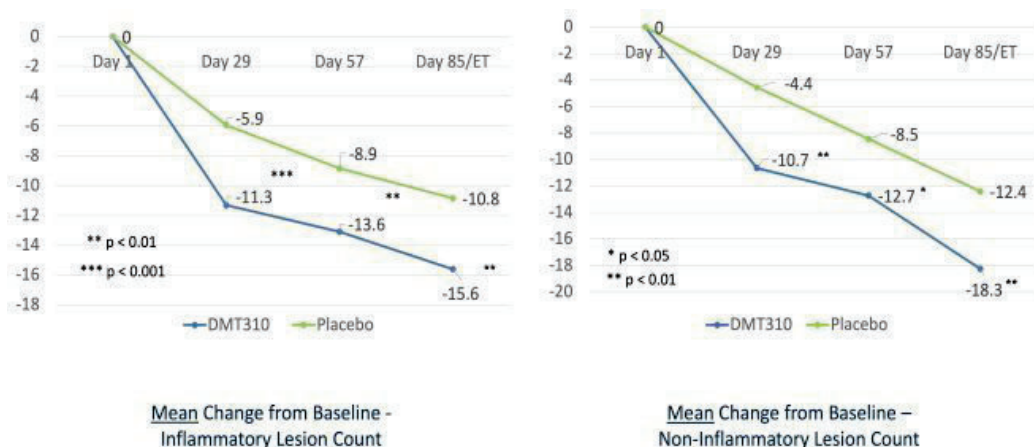
All statistical analyses and data shown for our Phase 2b study are on the intent-to-treat, or ITT, population. The ITT population included all randomized subjects in the group to which they were randomized, regardless of study drug received or if they completed the study. The ITT approach provides an unbiased comparison among the treatment groups.

The trial was completed in June 2020 and showed a statistically significant and we believe, a clinically meaningful effect for all efficacy endpoints of the trial, namely reduction in inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions and IGA responders. Notably, the treatment effect for all efficacy endpoints was statistically significant at the four-week mark, after only four treatments, and continued to be statistically significant for week eight and week 12 when compared with placebo. Patients saw a rapid and sustained therapeutics treatment effect in percentage change in inflammatory lesions with a 45% reduction in inflammatory lesions at week four and reached 62% reduction in inflammatory lesions at week 12 compared to 24% and 42% reduction of inflammatory lesions for placebo at weeks four and 12, respectively. The effect on non-inflammatory lesions were also statistically significant after four weeks, with the therapeutic effect of an approximately 36% reduction in non-inflammatory lesions at week four reaching a therapeutic effect of 58% at 12 weeks, which was statistically significant when compared with placebo. In addition, both inflammatory and non-inflammatory percent reduction in lesion counts had P-values of less than 0.001 at week four and week 12 when compared to placebo.

We also saw an early statistically significant separation in IGA with 15% of patients in the XYNGARI™ group considered responders on the IGA scale, or who had an IGA score of 0, “clear,” or 1, “almost clear,” after only 4 treatments as compared with just over 2% of patients on placebo. This statistical separation continued for the remainder of the trial where at the completion of the trial, or week 12, 44% of patients in the XYNGARI™ group, compared with 17% in the placebo group were IGA responders. This difference was statistically significant with a P-value of less than 0.001.

No reported drug-related severe adverse events were reported in the trial. The drug also appeared to be tolerable by a majority of patients with greater than 92% of patients experiencing no or mild tolerability with no severe dryness, scaling, erythema, or burning/stinging reported at week 12. Of those patients who did report tolerability issues, they also reported that the issues were usually transient and resolved quickly without intervention. Based on this data, after holding an End of Phase 2 Meeting with FDA, we initiated the Phase 3 program in moderate-to-severe acne with the same clinical endpoints and the same formulation of XYNGARI™.

The following diagrams and tables show the absolute reduction of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions from baseline until the end of study, or week 12, for both XYNGARI™ and placebo (Image 5), and percent reduction of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions from baseline until end of study, or week 12, for both XYNGARI™ and Placebo (Image 6). Although reduction in non-inflammatory lesions was a secondary endpoint of this trial, it is a required metric for the Phase 3 acne studies necessary for FDA approval.



**Image 5: Mean reduction of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions from baseline until end of study, or week 12, for both XYNGARI™ and Placebo**





Image 6. Percent reduction of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions from baseline until end of study, or week 12, for both XYNGARI™ and Placebo

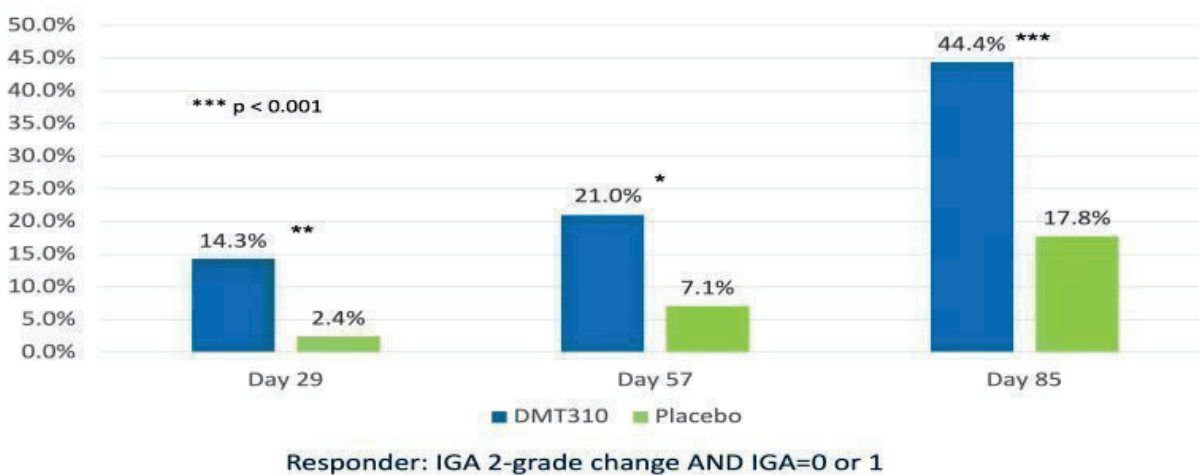


Image 7. Investigator Global Assessment response rate at Day 29, or week 4, Day 57, or week 8 and Day 85, or week 12

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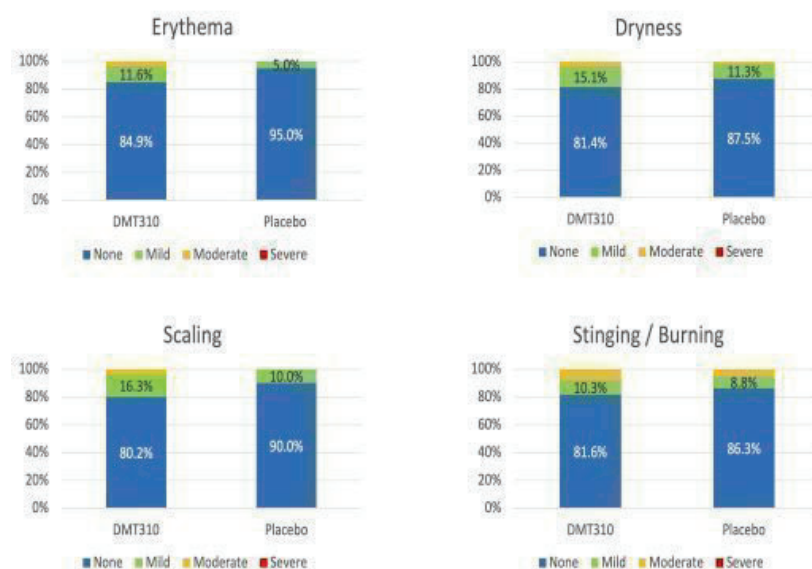
- (1) As used in the diagrams and table above, the reference to “P-value” (relative to placebo) means the probability of being wrong when asserting that a true difference exists between the results for the relevant patient group and the placebo group. For example, a “P-value” of less than 0.001 indicates that there is a less than one in 10,000 chance that the observed result in the treatment group and the observed result in the placebo group are the same. A “P-value” equal to or less than 0.05 means that a given difference is statistically significant.
- (2) “Success” is defined as an IGA score of “clear” or “almost clear” and a 2-grade change in IGA upon completion of the study.

Additionally, the safety and tolerability profile of XYNGARI™ appeared to be acceptable with a small number of patients experiencing treatment emergent adverse events as seen in Image 8 below. In this Phase 2b trial, no subject receiving treatment with XYNGARI™ experienced a severe local skin reaction at study end nor did any patient undergo a dose modification. Most tolerability issues were mild and resolved shortly after application without any rescue medication as seen in Image 8 below. Overall, XYNGARI™ was generally safe and well tolerated by patients when applied once weekly for 12 weeks.

System Organ Class Preferred Term	XYNGARI™ (N=91)	Placebo (N=90)
	N (%)	N (%)
General disorders and administration site conditions	5(5.5)	2(2.2)
Application site erythema	4(4.4)	1(1.1)
Application site pruritus	2(2.2)	2(2.2)
Application site dryness	1(1.1)	0(0.0)
Application site exfoliation	1(1.1)	0(0.0)



**Image 8. Treatment Emergent Adverse Events**

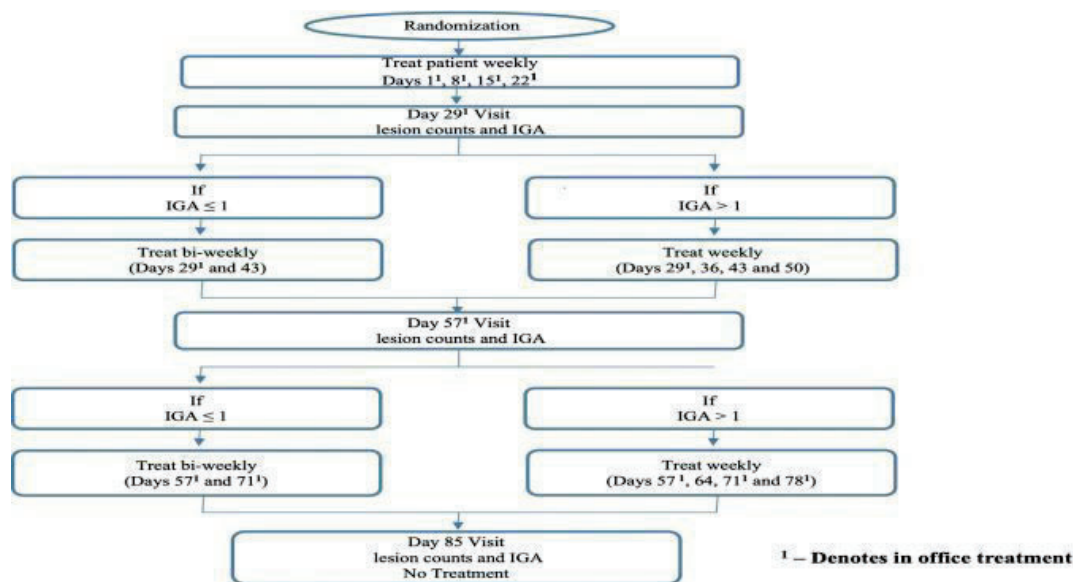


**Image 9. Local Tolerability**

#### XYNGARI™ Phase 2a Clinical Results for Acne

In 2018 we conducted the first clinical trial of XYNGARI™, a randomized, double-blind, 2x2 factorial, placebo-controlled, Phase 2a clinical trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne. We enrolled 121 patients to evaluate the tolerability, safety, and efficacy of DM XYNGARI™ T310 mixed with 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> following 12 weeks of topical administration in male and female patients with moderate-to-severe facial acne. The study employed a 2x2 factorial design to assess the contribution of each component of the investigational product (i.e., *Spongilla lacustris* topical powder and 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> USP). This Phase 2a clinical trial employed the same clinical endpoints as our Phase 2b clinical trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne, as discussed above.

Patients were randomly divided into one of four treatment groups, XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, XYNGARI™ + Water, Placebo + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, or Placebo + Water (control). The patients were required to apply the assigned study drug to their entire face up to once weekly for 12 weeks (84 days), beginning on Day 1 and through Day 78 (as applicable). During study center visits on Days 29 and 57, a determination was made for each patient, based on the Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA) score, as to whether study drug application would continue once weekly or at a lower biweekly frequency (once every 2 weeks). Specifically, patients with an IGA > 1 at the Day 29 or Day 57 visits continued with once weekly study drug applications, while patients with an IGA 1 at these same visits were instructed to subsequently apply their assigned study drug biweekly (see Image 10 below for a presentation of the study drug application frequency algorithm).



**Image 10. Application Frequency Algorithm by Study Visit**

This Phase 2a trial showed statistically significant and clinically meaningful effects for its endpoint, absolute reduction in inflammatory lesions when comparing XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and placebo + water (control) groups at both week 8 and week 12 or end of study. At week 12, XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> had a 16-lesion reduction from baseline while placebo + water had an 11 lesion reduction from baseline, with a p-value of less than 0.05. Across all the treatment groups, there was a mean decrease from baseline (i.e., improvement) in the inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesion counts at Days 15, 29, 57, and 85. However, there were no statistically significant differences between the XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> group versus the placebo + water (control) group for the mean changes from baseline in non-inflammatory lesion counts.

We did not observe a statistically significant difference between the XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> group and the placebo + water (control) group in the percentages of patients with IGA treatment success (IGA score of 1 or 0 and a 2-grade change) or patients with 1-grade or 2-grade improvements from baseline in IGA at any visit. At Day 85 in the XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, XYNGARI™ + water, placebo + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and placebo + water groups, 29.6%, 20.0%, 27.6%, and 34.5% of patients had IGA treatment responders, respectively; 66.7%, 66.7%, 65.5%, and 55.2% of subjects had a 1-grade improvement from baseline in the IGA, respectively; and 37.0%, 20.0%, 27.6%, and 34.5% of subjects had a 2-grade improvement from baseline in the IGA, respectively.

*Analysis of Placebo:* After speaking with the clinical investigators in the trial, it was determined that the higher than normal placebo response in non-inflammatory lesions may have been partially due to the stickiness of the placebo, which required patient to scrub their face, resulting in exfoliation of the skin and removal of sebaceous plugs (whiteheads and blackheads), thereby reducing non-inflammatory lesion counts. We believe this caused a placebo response rate that was much higher than the placebo response rates seen in other topical Phase 2 acne trials. As a result of the inadequate placebo, we developed a new proprietary placebo formulation for our Phase 2b clinical trial.

*Once weekly vs. Biweekly Treatment Schedule:* Due to this being the first time XYNGARI™ was studied in moderate-to-severe acne patients for 12 weeks, a conservative study design was chosen to ensure patient tolerability and safety while attempting to maintain efficacy. Therefore, we allowed IGA treatment responders (IGA score of 0 or 1) to move to a biweekly or every other week application schedule as discussed above. This resulted in 3 out of 27 patients in the XYNGARI™ + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> group and 0 out of 29 patients in the placebo + water group moving from an IGA score of 1 (treatment responder) at week 8 and regressing to an IGA score of 2 (treatment failure) at week 12. Therefore, our Phase 2b clinical trial of XYNGARI™ in moderate-to-severe acne patients incorporated only once weekly applications for 12 weeks with no biweekly option.

No statistical or clinical difference was seen between the placebo + 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the placebo + water groups, which we believe indicates that 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by itself does not have a treatment effect.

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### *XYNGARI™ next steps for acne*

After receiving positive feedback and alignment with FDA from our End of Phase 2 meeting in June of 2023 we began enrolling patients in our XYNGARI™ Phase 3 STAR-1 clinical trial in moderate-to-severe acne in December 2023.

The XYNGARI™ Phase 3 program will include two, multi-center, placebo-controlled trials with identical clinical endpoints as our recent successful Phase 2b clinical trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne, followed by a long-term extension study. Once we receive results from the Phase 3 program, assuming positive results, we plan to file an NDA with the FDA shortly thereafter. This Phase 3 program is intended to be designed to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the treatment of XYNGARI™ relative to placebo for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne. Prior to, or in parallel with our planned Phase 3 program, we intend to continue conducting and complete the additional non-clinical studies necessary to support the filing of an NDA. If XYNGARI™ is approved for the treatment of acne, we believe XYNGARI™ can eventually be an attractive prescription to over-the-counter switch, or Rx-to-OTC, target, which could provide a substantially larger sales opportunity. There can be no assurance that XYNGARI™ will receive FDA approval for the treatment of acne.

### *XYNGARI™ Phase 1a Clinical Results for Psoriasis*

We completed a Phase 1a POC trial of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of mild-to-moderate psoriasis. This was an open-label, multi-center, 12-week study in 30 mild-to-moderate psoriasis patients with psoriatic lesions covering between 2-30% of body surface area. The trial aimed at evaluating the tolerability, safety, and efficacy of once weekly treatments of XYNGARI™, which consists of 2 grams of *Spongilla* powder mixed with 6 mL of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. One mild or moderate lesion was selected, and patients were required to apply XYNGARI™ to the entire lesion, once weekly for 12 weeks with the first two weeks of treatment applied in office under the supervision of trained staff, then the remaining 10 weekly treatments were applied at home by the patient.

The endpoints in this study included:

- Physicians Global Assessment (PGA) of disease severity with success defined as absent or very mild disease, a score of 0 or 1 respectively on a 5-point scale, at the target lesion site.
- Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) at the target lesion site defined as absent or mild, a score of 0 or 1 respectively, on a 6-point scale. This required each psoriatic sign of scaling, erythema, and plaque elevation to have a score of 0 or 1 for the subject to be considered a responder.
- Pruritus Visual Analog Scale (VAS) looking at the mean change and percent change from baseline in pruritus (itch).

All efficacy analyses were performed using the As-Treated population, which consists of all enrolled patients who received at least one dose of study medication and the per protocol population, which consists of all enrolled patients with no significant protocol violations during the study that would affect the efficacy analyses.

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The trial was completed in August 2021 and showed an acceptable safety and tolerability profile that we believe is clinically meaningful and warrants further investigation of XYNGARI™ as a potential treatment for mild-to-moderate psoriasis. XYNGARI™ was able to achieve a PGA score of 0 or 1 for the target lesion in 29.6% of patients at week 8. XYNGARI™ also demonstrated a total PASI score of 0 or 1 for the target lesion in 25.9% of patients at week 8. Notably, XYNGARI™ demonstrated a 19.6% reduction from baseline in pruritus (itch) at week 8 with a peak reduction of 22.5%. We believe these findings from a POC trial are encouraging for the potential use of XYNGARI™ as an easy to apply topical treatment for mild-to-moderate psoriasis with an acceptable safety and tolerability profile.

No reported drug-related severe adverse events were reported in the trial and only two treatment emergent adverse events were reported, both being application site pruritus. Additionally, the drug also appeared to be tolerated by a majority of patients. Of those patients who did report tolerability issues, they also reported that the issues were usually transient and resolved quickly without intervention.

### *XYNGARI™ next steps for psoriasis*

We are pleased with data already seen in our Phase 1 POC trial, especially seeing a reduction in itch as that is one of the main complaints of patients suffering from psoriasis. We are in the process of designing a Phase 2 study of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis. The Phase 2 study will be a larger randomized, double-blind, placebo control study of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis. Based on the data from the Phase 1b proof of concept study we are considering adding additional arms to examine once versus twice weekly treatment, potentially enhancing the treatment effect seen in our Phase 1b trial. Additionally, due to the unique nature of psoriasis and the general thickness of psoriatic plaques, we may also examine increasing the application pressure and the length of application. We believe that the thicker psoriatic plaques may require a more intensive treatment compared to the application regimen for acne where there is no thickened skin. We believe XYNGARI™ could be a first in class treatment option for psoriasis patients. The XYNGARI™ program for psoriasis is currently on hold with further advancement subject to obtaining additional financing and/or a strategic partner. There can be no assurance that XYNGARI™ will receive FDA approval for the treatment of psoriasis.

### *DMT410 Phase 1b-Primary Axillary Hyperhidrosis*

In the first quarter of 2019, we completed a Phase 1b, open-label, POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of moderate-to-severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis. In this study we treated ten (10) patients with one application of our proprietary sponge powder followed by one topical application of BOTOX, reconstituted per label, to each axilla. Patients were followed for 4 weeks after which time their sweat production was measured and compared with baseline measurements.

The endpoints for this trial included:

- percent of patients with less than 50% reduction in gravimetrically measured sweat production from baseline,
- percent of patients with gravimetric sweat production of greater than 50 mg, and
- percentage change in gravimetric sweat production.

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After 4 weeks, 80% of patients saw a decrease in gravimetric sweat production greater than 50%, 85% of patients had gravimetric sweat production of less than 50mg, and patients had a 75% decrease in gravimetric sweat product from baseline. Based on this clinical data, we believe that we were able to deliver botulinum toxin into the dermis through topical application for the treatment of primary axillary hyperhidrosis. Treatment with DMT410 also had an acceptable safety and tolerability profile.

On January 17, 2025, we entered into the Clinical Trial Agreement with Revance Therapeutics, Inc. (Revance), who recently merged with Crown Laboratories, pursuant to which we in collaboration with Revance intend to conduct a multi-center clinical trial to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI™, with DAXXIFY®. Under the Clinical Trial Agreement, we intend to sponsor, conduct, and fund a Phase 2a clinical trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and preliminary efficacy of XYNGARI™ and DAXXIFY® versus XYNGARI™ and placebo in patients with moderate-to-severe axillary hyperhidrosis for 16 weeks. The Revance Trial is anticipated to be randomized (1:1:1:1), double-blind, placebo-controlled, and intends to enroll approximately 48 patients across sites in the United States. The endpoints are anticipated to be (i) the percent of patients with greater than 50% reduction in gravimetrically measured sweat production from baseline, (ii) the percent of patients with gravimetric sweat production less than 50mg, and (iii) the mean absolute change from baseline in gravimetrically measured sweat production. Patients are anticipated to be evaluated at four regular intervals. Under the Clinical Trial Agreement, we and Revance will form a joint development committee to facilitate communications between the parties related to the Revance Trial. If successful, we plan to explore a broader partnership with Revance to study DMT410 in additional indications. There can be no assurances that DMT410 will receive FDA approval for the treatment of hyperhidrosis.

### *DMT410 Phase 1b- Aesthetic Conditions*

In November 2020, we enrolled our first patient in a Phase 1b open-label, POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of upper facial lines along with multiple other aesthetic skin conditions that are affected by delivery of toxin to the dermis such as pore size, sebum production, brightness, luminosity, fine lines, and Global Aesthetic Improvement. Due to the fact that we do not own rights to a botulinum toxin product, we were required by the FDA to conduct this trial using an approved indication for BOTOX, upper facial lines, an approved dose for this indication (64 units of botulinum toxin) and an approved route of administration, which is typically injections into the muscle rather than the dermis. However, our primary interest was studying the clinical effect of DMT410 for the aesthetic skin conditions that require delivery of botulinum toxin to the dermis rather than the muscle. This is due to our belief that DMT410 only delivers botulinum toxin to the dermis and not the muscle, thus limiting the botulinum toxin's effect to aesthetic conditions which arise in the dermis like fine lines, pore size, sebum production, and others. With these constraints, we initiated the POC trial by enrolling ten (10) female patients, age 18 or older, each receiving one treatment of DMT410, consisting of one topical application of our proprietary sponge powder followed by one topical application for BOTOX, reconstituted per label, to the upper face. Patients were followed for sixteen (16) weeks to determine the achievement of our endpoints along with the duration of effect. We also collected safety and tolerability data. We received top-line data from this study in the November 2021, and believe that we achieved results in multiple aesthetic endpoints sufficient to warrant further investigation of DM410 for the treatment of various aesthetic skin conditions.

The endpoints for this trial were:

- Portion of patients achieving a grade of none or mild on the investigator's assessment of lateral canthal, forehead, and glabellar lines based on the Facial Wrinkle Scale (FWS), which consists of a 5-point scale with 0 being none and 1 being almost none. To be considered a responder, both the patient and physician had to agree on the score.
- Portion of patients achieving improvement on the physician's assessment of pore size improvement, based on the Global Aesthetic Improvement Scale (GAIS), which consists of a 5-point scale with 0 being no improvement, 1 being less than or equal to 25% improvement, 2 being a 26-50% improvement, 3 being a 51-75% improvement, and 4 being a 76-100% improvement.
- Mean and percent change from baseline in brightness based on the 10-point visual analog scale.
- Mean and percent change from baseline in luminosity based on the 10-point visual analog scale.
- Portion of patients achieving a two- grade improvement on the physician's assessment of FWS of fine lines under the eye.

The efficacy analysis was conducted on the ITT and Per Protocol (PP), meaning all patients completing the study without a major protocol violation, populations. In addition to the physician measured endpoints listed above, we also implemented 2-dimensional VISIA and 3-dimensional PRIMOS imaging technology from Canfield Scientific to provide objective analysis of many of the aesthetic endpoints.

Based on the assessment of forehead, lateral canthal, and glabellar lines, no patient was considered a responder in this study, while some patients did achieve at least a one-grade change throughout the course of the study. This result was not unexpected as BOTOX is only approved for injections into the muscle for these indications and we did not believe that we would see any potential distant spread of toxin outside of the dermis to the muscle. Seeing no potential distant spread of toxin was encouraging for us as it provides important safety data that while DMT410 can be applied over a larger treatment area than injections, it does not appear to travel beyond the dermis which may cause unwanted facial effects.

We believe the real potential of DMT410 lies in the aesthetic endpoints that can be affected by delivering BOTOX to the dermis rather than the muscles. These clinical endpoints include pore size, global aesthetic improvement, brightness, luminosity, and fine lines. The following table (Image 11) shows the improvements in pore size, or a decrease in overall pore size, with patients achieving at least a 25% improvement in pore size, for assessment of GAI, or the overall improvement in skin quality, the with patients achieving at least a 25% improvement in GAI, for assessment of brightness, or the skin's combined uniformity of color and texture, with patients having at least a 1-point improvement in brightness, and for assessment of luminosity, or the intensity of light area reflected off the face, with patients having at least a 1-point improvement in brightness.

Measure	Week 4 (N=10) N (%)	Week 8 (N=10) N (%)	Week 12 (N=2) N (%)	Week 16 (N=) N (%)
Physician Assessment of Pore Size	5 (50.0%)	6 (60.0%)	5 (50.0%)	4 (40%)
Global Aesthetic Improvement	7 (70.0%)	8 (80.0%)	6 (60.0%)	2 (20%)
Brightness	3 (30.0%)	6 (60.0%)	6 (60.0%)	4 (40%)
Luminosity	5 (50.0%)	9 (90.0%)	9 (90.0%)	6 (60%)

**Image 11: Aesthetic Endpoints**

In addition to the physician measured endpoints, we also utilized Canfield Scientific's 2-dimensional VISIA and 3-dimensional PRIMOS imaging technologies to gather additional objective data on some of the key endpoints. Based on the VISIA system patients saw a 14.1% reduction in pore count and a 14.3% reduction in pore area at week 4. Patients also saw a 16.5% reduction in wrinkle count and a 11.5% reduction in wrinkle area at week 4. Using the PRIMOS image analysis patients saw a percent decrease in mean line, which consist of the deeper facial lines, of 12.1% and a percent change in mean roughness, which consists of the superficial fine lines, of 6.5%. We believe the subjective effects seen by the treating physicians were further validated by the objective measures using Canfield camera systems.

No reported drug-related adverse events were reported in the trial. The drug appeared to be well tolerated by patients, with only mild stinging and erythema reported 15 minutes after treatment and no tolerability issues reported at week 4, 8, 12 or 16.

#### *DMT410 next steps for aesthetics*

We are very encouraged by the results from our Phase 1b POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions. This was designed to be a signal detection trial of DMT410 for the treatment of a variety of aesthetic skin conditions based on the clinical trial design constraints, including the limitation on the quantity of BOTOX that we were able to apply, the clinical endpoints that needed to be included, and the area of the face that could be treated. Even with these limitations we believe that we achieved results sufficient to warrant the continued development of this program as there remains no approved botulinum toxin, whether via injection or topical, to treat many of the endpoints in which we saw a treatment effect. We believe this is further supported by the fact that many of the endpoints saw an improvement by week eight (8) or twelve (12) and started to return towards baseline at week 16. This is consistent with the knowledge that BOTOX lasts for about three (3) months before the effect begins to fade. We believe that if we can conduct a larger Phase 2 clinical trial that consists of multiple doses of botulinum toxin, we will be able to find the optimal dose for the treatment of a variety of aesthetic skin conditions including pore size, sebum production, fine lines, luminosity, brightness, and overall aesthetic improvement. We know that botulinum toxin has shown efficacy of these endpoints but there has been very little research conducted on the optimal dose or administration procedure, likely due to challenges with intradermal injections and the lack of topical applications that can effectively deliver botulinum toxin to a large enough treatment area as required to treat many of these aesthetic skin conditions. We believe DMT410 can meet this need as shown by our Phase 1b data, so we continue to discuss partnership opportunities with Revance and other botulinum toxin companies that may be interested in helping us further develop our DMT410 program for multiple aesthetic skin conditions. There can be no assurances that we are able to successfully negotiate a partnership with a botulinum toxin company for aesthetic skin conditions or that DMT410 will receive FDA approval for the treatment of any aesthetic skin conditions.

## **Manufacturing**

We do not currently own or operate any manufacturing facilities and do not plan to own any in the near future. We have been relying on our third-party partners for the manufacture of our products used in pre-clinical studies and clinical trials and will likely continue to rely on these partners in the near term for the commercial manufacturing of our drug substance and drug product, if our drug product candidates are approved. Manufacturing of the active pharmaceutical ingredient, or API, for our product candidates requires a raw material that is derived from a natural source.

To date, we have obtained naturally sourced *Spongilla* raw material directly from our supplier based in Russia. In February 2020, we signed an exclusive supply agreement with this supplier of *Spongilla* raw material. Our supplier has over 22 years of experience collecting and processing *Spongilla* and has the capacity to collect and process large quantities of *Spongilla* per year. We believe our supplier is able to and will continue to be able to harvest sufficient quantities of raw material to fulfill our development and potential commercial needs, if a product candidate is approved using this raw material. We received multiple shipments of *Spongilla* raw material from our supplier during fiscal years 2023 and 2024 containing additional quantities of *Spongilla* raw material, which we believe will provide us with sufficient quantities of *Spongilla* to initiate and complete the Phase 3 program in moderate-to-severe acne, complete a Phase 2b trial of DMT410 in axillary hyperhidrosis and support the filing of an NDA for XYNGARI™ in acne in the event of successful completion of the two Phase 3 studies. However, we are exploring alternative manufacturing sources in order to ensure that we have access to sufficient manufacturing capacity to meet potential demand for any of our product candidates in a cost-efficient manner. See “Business-Material Agreements- Supply Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics LLC and Reka-Farm LLC” for more information regarding our supply of *Spongilla*.

Development and commercial quantities of any drug product candidates that we may develop will need to be harvested, manufactured in facilities, and processed in compliance with the requirements of the FDA and the regulatory agencies of other jurisdictions in which we are seeking approval. We currently employ internal resources to manage our manufacturing contractors. The relevant manufacturers of our drug product candidates have advised us that they are in compliance with both current Good Laboratory Practices, or cGLP, and cGMP.

We have relied upon our complete supply chain while supporting our Phase 2 and Phase 3 clinical supply requirements and we are confident that our manufacturers have the ability to scale our processes to support our future commercial requirements. Our suppliers and manufacturers were specifically selected based on the capabilities of their organization, their compliance to regulations, their personnel and the type and capabilities of their equipment. Testing methods for each stage of the manufacturing process from acquisition of raw materials through production of finished drug product have been developed and satisfactorily qualified per the FDA’s phase appropriate regulations relating to clinical materials for human use. Analytical methods and operational procedures related to each stage of our production operations including product release will continue to evolve and be validated as part of our overall development plan for Phase 3 clinical supplies and commercial production.

## **Commercialization**

Given our stage of development, we do not currently have any internal sales, marketing, or distribution infrastructure or capabilities. If approved, we intend to commercialize XYNGARI™, or any other product candidates that we may successfully develop, in the United States by building a specialized sales organization focused on dermatologists or partnering with a company that has an already established sales force focused on dermatologists. We believe a scientifically oriented, customer-focused team of approximately 50-60 sales representatives would allow us to reach our targeted dermatologists in the U.S. with the highest potential for prescribing XYNGARI™. In the future, we may develop and commercialize XYNGARI™ for additional geographic regions, independently or with a strategic partner. If XYNGARI™ is approved, and we are able to successfully commercialize it, we believe XYNGARI™ can eventually become an attractive Rx-to-OTC switch target, which could provide a substantially larger addressable market and an expanded sales opportunity.



## **Competition**

The medical and aesthetic pharmaceutical industries in which we plan to operate are competitive and subject to changes in practice. While we believe that our unique natural technology, knowledge, experience and resources provide us with competitive advantages, we may face competition from many different sources with respect to our current programs or any other product candidates that we may seek to develop or commercialize in the future. Possible competitors may include pharmaceutical companies, academic and medical institutions, governmental agencies and public and private research institutions. These prospective competitors have the ability to effectively commercialize, market and promote approved products, including communicating the effectiveness, safety and value of products to actual and prospective customers.

Many of our prospective competitors have substantially greater manufacturing, financial, research and development, personnel, and marketing resources than we do. Our prospective competitors may also have more experience and expertise in obtaining marketing approvals from the FDA and foreign regulatory authorities. In addition to product development, testing, approval and promotion, other competitive factors in the pharmaceutical industry include industry consolidation, product quality and price, product technology, reputation, customer service and access to technical information. As a result, our prospective competitors may be able to develop competing or superior products and compete more aggressively and sustain their competitive advantage over a longer period of time than us. Our products may be rendered obsolete or may lack economic viability in the face of competition.

The key competitive factors affecting the success of XYNGARI™, if approved, will likely be its efficacy, safety, convenience of administration and delivery, price, and the availability of reimbursement from government and other third-party payors. With respect to XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne, if approved, we will primarily be competing with therapies such as other topical products, oral products, in-office procedures, such as laser surgery, off-label drugs, over the counter medication and homeopathic remedies. With regards to XYNGARI™ for the treatment of mild-to-moderate psoriasis, if approved, we will face competition from topical therapies, oral therapies, systemic therapies, photo therapies and homeopathic treatments. However, based on our clinical trials, we believe that XYNGARI™ has multiple competitive advantages over current treatment alternatives with significantly less adverse side effects. Our main competition in these indications will be with products from Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd., Sol-Gel Technologies Ltd., Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc., Almirall S.A., Galderma S.A., Pfizer Inc. See “*Business - Clinical Progress of our Lead Product Candidates*” for the results of our completed and ongoing clinical trials. While we are unaware of any potential similar competitive topical products to XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne and psoriasis, it is possible that such potentially similar competitive products are currently being developed.

We are also in early stages of clinical development for DMT410 for treating various medical and aesthetic skin conditions and diseases, and if we obtain marketing approval in the future, we will compete with traditional therapies, such as topical products, oral products, in-office procedures, such as botulinum toxin injections, off-label drugs, over the counter medication and homeopathic remedies, as well as additional new entrants to the applicable markets.

We also expect to face competition in our efforts to identify appropriate collaborators or partners to help commercialize our product candidate portfolio in our target commercial markets.

## **Intellectual Property**

### *Overview*

Our commercial success depends in part on our ability to obtain and maintain proprietary protection for XYNGARI™, DMT400, DMT410 and any of our future product candidates, medical devices, methodologies, assays, drug development technologies, harvesting procedures, know-how; to operate without infringing on or otherwise violating the proprietary rights of others; and to prevent others from infringing or otherwise violating our proprietary rights. Our strategy is to protect our proprietary position by, among other things, filing U.S. and foreign patent applications related to our product candidate and other proprietary technologies, inventions and improvements that are important to the development and implementation of our business. We also rely on trade secrets, trademarks, know-how, continuing technological innovations, exclusivity agreements, nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements, license agreements, assignment of inventions and potential in-licensing opportunities to develop and maintain our proprietary position.



## *Patent Portfolio*

Our patent estate consists of in-licensed and solely owned patent applications. Typically, we initially file U.S. provisional patent applications and then file applications directly or under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, or PCT, which is an international patent law treaty that provides a unified procedure for filing a single initial patent application to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in any one of the designated member jurisdictions and states, including in the U.S. Although a PCT application does not issue as a patent, it allows the applicant to seek protection in any of the member states through national phase applications filed at a later date. We currently have multiple patents and patent applications in our patent portfolio and continue to pursue and seek additional patent coverage of all our product candidates.

### **XYNGARI™**

Our XYNGARI™ portfolio includes two families, one in-licensed and one owned by Dermata. The in-licensed family includes patents and patent applications in-licensed from Villani, Inc. related to therapeutic compositions and methods for treating skin conditions. The in-licensed portfolio consists of one pending non-provisional U.S. patent application, two granted U.S. patents, and granted foreign patents in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the issued foreign patent in Japan, has lapsed and is no longer in force or valid. These in-licensed patents expired between 2022 and 2023 and did not receive any patent term adjustments or extensions. Based on the anticipated timing of any potential FDA approval of XYNGARI™ for acne, the patents that expired in 2022 and 2023 are not material to our business, as we do not expect these patents to provide any protection for our product candidates and thus we have provided our licensor with a notice of abandonment for certain licensed patents. We expect our intellectual property portfolio to be protected by any potential NCE exclusivity for XYNGARI™ and our other product candidates, the maintaining of our exclusive supply agreement for our raw material requirements, and our continued efforts to protect our proprietary information. We also have an additional Dermata owned family related to XYNGARI™, with a recent patent issuance in the U.S. by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, entitled “Compositions and methods for the treatment of skin conditions” (U.S. Patent No. 12,208,123). We also have applications pending in Australia, and Canada. This family refers to specific attributes of the XYNGARI™ API and drug product as well as treatment related attributes for the treatment of acne based on the data received prior to its filing. Patents in this patent family, if granted, are expected to expire in 2041, absent any patent term adjustments or extensions.

### **DMT410**

Our DMT410 portfolio includes two families owned by Dermata. The first family consists of one issued patent in Japan, one allowed application in Australia, a pending non-provisional U.S. patent application, and six pending foreign patent applications in Canada, China, the European Patent Office, Japan, Hong Kong, and South Korea. These patents/patent applications relate to compositions for the treatment of skin diseases using our proprietary sponge powder in combination with multiple types of botulinum toxin for both medical and aesthetic skin conditions and diseases. Patents in this patent family, if granted, are expected to expire in 2039, absent any patent term adjustments or extensions. The second family is related to certain of our clinical methods related to sponge powder and botulinum toxin. This second family consists of two pending US non-provisional applications and additional applications pending in Australia, Canada, the European Patent Office, Japan, and South Korea. Patents in this patent family, if granted are expected to expire in 2041, absent any patent term adjustments or extensions.

### **DMT400**

Our DMT400 portfolio includes three families owned by Dermata. The first family consists of pending applications in the U.S., Canada, and Japan covering our sponge powder in combination with many approved and development stage monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of skin diseases. Patents in this patent family, if granted, are expected to expire in 2039, absent any patent term adjustments or extensions. The second family consists of pending applications in the U.S., Australia, Japan, and South Korea, covering compositions for the treatment of conditions by dermal fillers in combination with our proprietary sponge powder. Patents in this patent family, if granted, are expected to expire in 2040, absent any patent term adjustments or extensions. The third family consists of a pending PCT application filed in January of 2024, covering the compositions for the treatment of conditions by vaccines in combination with our proprietary sponge powder.

Although we believe our patent portfolio offers significant protection for XYNGARI™, DMT410 and DMT400 and additional combination regimens, the protection offered by our patents may be, to some extent, more limited than the protection provided by patents which claim chemical structures which were previously unknown. Accordingly, other parties may compete with us, for example, by independently developing or obtaining competing topical formulations that design around our patent claims, but which may contain the same or similar active ingredients, or by seeking to invalidate our patents.

The term of individual patents depends upon the laws of the countries in which they are obtained. In most countries in which we file, the patent term is 20 years from the earliest priority date of filing of a non-provisional patent application. However, the term of United States patents may be extended for delays incurred due to compliance with the FDA, requirements or by delays encountered during prosecution that are caused by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or the USPTO. For example, the Hatch-Waxman Act permits a patent term extension for FDA-approved drugs of up to five years beyond the expiration of the patent. The length of the patent term extension is related to the length of time the drug is under regulatory review. Patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the date of product approval, and only one patent applicable to an approved drug may be extended. Similar provisions are available in Europe and other jurisdictions to extend the term of a patent that covers an approved drug. In the future, if and when our product candidates receive FDA approval, we expect to apply for patent term extensions on patents covering those product candidates. We intend to seek patent term extensions in any jurisdiction where these are available and where we also have a patent that may be eligible; however there is no guarantee that the applicable authorities, including the United State Patent and Trademark Office and United States FDA, will agree with our assessment of whether such extensions should be granted, and even if granted, the length of such extensions.

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### *Other Intellectual Property*

In addition to patent protection, we also rely heavily on trade secrets, including unpatented know-how, technology innovation, technical specifications and assays and other proprietary information in attempting to develop and maintain our competitive advantage. We believe our ability to protect our unpatented know-how and trade secrets are as important if not more important than our patent portfolio due to the complex nature and lack of expiration associated with such information.

We seek trademark protection in the United States and in certain other jurisdictions where available and when we deem appropriate. We currently have registrations for Dermata in the United States and multiple other jurisdictions. We intend to file applications for trademark registrations in connection with our therapeutic candidates in various jurisdictions, including the United States.

### **Material Agreements**

#### *License Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics, LLC and Villani, Inc.*

On March 31, 2017, we entered into a License Agreement (or, the License Agreement) with Villani, Inc. (or, Villani), whereby Villani has granted us an exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-bearing license (or, the License) under the Licensed Patents (as defined in the License Agreement), to formulate, develop, seek regulatory approval for, make or sell products that contain *Spongilla lacustris* (alone or in combination with other active or inactive ingredients) for the treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the skin, including but not limited to acne, rosacea, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, actinic keratosis and eczema that were developed using certain licensed know-how (or, the Licensed Products). We are responsible for the development (including manufacturing, packaging, non-clinical studies, clinical trials and obtaining regulatory approval) and commercialization (including marketing, promotion, distribution, etc.) for all Licensed Products.

In partial consideration of the License, we forgave our outstanding loan to Villani in the amount of \$400,000 and agreed to make future milestone payments to Villani. The milestone payments due to Villani under the License Agreement have been amended to the amounts described below in connection with our entry into the Second License Amendment (as defined below).

The License Agreement may be terminated (i) by either party for material breach with 90 days written notice, or 30 days' notice if for material payment breach, if such material breach is not cured within such notice period, (ii) immediately upon written notice to either party if either party initiates a voluntary bankruptcy proceeding, dissolves or winds-up its business, (iii) immediately upon written notice to either party if either party becomes subject to involuntary bankruptcy proceedings, if such proceedings are not dismissed or stayed within 90 days.

The License Agreement includes customary terms relating to, among others, indemnification, intellectual property protection, confidentiality, remedies, and warranties.

On June 4, 2019, we entered into a License Amendment and Settlement Agreement (or the First License Amendment) with Villani. Pursuant to the First License Amendment, we made milestone payments to Villani in an aggregate amount of \$750,000, and in exchange for certain know-how, we issued to Villani 5,221,156 units of our Series 1c Preferred Units (which units were converted into shares of our Series 1c Preferred Stock in connection with our conversion into a Delaware corporation, which was equal to 5% of our total capitalization (on a fully-diluted basis) at the time of issuance). At the time of issuance, these units were valued at \$730,962. We subsequently cancelled the shares of Series 1c Preferred Stock issued to Villani pursuant to the Second License Amendment, as described below. Pursuant to the First License Amendment, we also agreed to make certain milestone payments to Villani, which rates were subsequently amended pursuant to the Second License Amendment, as discussed below.

On July 30, 2021, we entered into a Second Amendment to the License and Settlement Agreement (or, the Second License Amendment), whereby, for the settlement of certain disputes arising under the First License Amendment, we agreed to exchange the shares of Series 1c Preferred Stock owned by Villani for an increase of milestone payments and royalty rates due to Villani under the License Agreement. The resulting royalty rates payable pursuant to the Second License Amendment are equal to single-digit percentages of net sales of Licensed Products and HMW Combination Products (as defined in the License Agreement), subject to certain adjustments as set forth in the Second License Amendment. Royalties are payable on a country-by-country and Licensed Product-by-Licensed Product basis, for the period of time from the effective date of the License Agreement until the later of (i) the expiration of the last to expire valid claim in such country (which expired in 2023), (ii) the expiration of regulatory exclusivity for such Licensed Product in such country, and (iii) 15 years from the date of the first commercial sale of the Licensed Product in such country. Pursuant to the Second License Amendment, if we sublicense the License, we are obligated to pay to Villani a sublicense fee of between 10% and 30% of Sublicense Revenues (as defined in the License Agreement). Such future milestone payments due to Villani (all payable to Villani in cash or in equity, at the option of Villani) are in aggregate amounts of up to \$3.5 million in development milestones and \$37.0 million in sales milestones. To date, we have paid Villani a total of \$1,750,000 in connection with the License Agreement, inclusive of a \$750,000 milestone payment and \$1.0 million payment upon the closing of our initial public offering.

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### *Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement between the Company and Revance Therapeutics, Inc.*

On January 17, 2025, the Company entered into a Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement (Clinical Trial Agreement) with Revance Therapeutics, Inc. (Revance), pursuant to which the Company and Revance intend to conduct a multi-center clinical trial (Trial) to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI™, the Company's topical Spongilla powder (formerly referred to as DMT310), with DAXXIFY® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), Revance's botulinum toxin type A. Pursuant to the terms of the Clinical Trial Agreement, Revance has granted the Company a non-exclusive, worldwide, non-transferable, royalty-free license, with a right to sublicense (subject to limitations), to use certain Revance intellectual property, solely as necessary or useful for the Company to conduct the trial under the Clinical Trial Agreement. The Company has granted Revance a similar license to use XYNGARI™ and other compound(s) under the Clinical Trial Agreement. The Clinical Trial Agreement will terminate upon completion of the Trial, the delivery of the data resulting from the Trial and the completion of any statistical analyses of the data resulting from the Trial. Either party may terminate the Clinical Trial Agreement upon a material breach by the other party that remains uncured following 30 days after the date of written notice of such breach. In addition, either party may terminate the Clinical Trial Agreement immediately upon written notice if such party reasonably deems it necessary in order to protect the safety, health or welfare of subjects enrolled in the Trial. The Company has agreed to sponsor, conduct, and fund the Phase 2a clinical trial, but no financial obligations or consideration is contemplated in the Clinical Trial Agreement.

### *Supply Agreement between the Company and Reka-Farm LLC*

On February 27, 2020, we entered into an exclusive Supply Agreement (or, the Supply Agreement) with Reka-Farm, LLC (or, Reka-Farm), whereby Reka-Farm will supply us with the *Spongilla* raw materials necessary for use in the development of our product candidates. The Supply Agreement has an indefinite term unless and until terminated. For the term of the Supply Agreement, Reka-Farm is prohibited from supplying *Spongilla* for development and sale of any other product outside of the Russian Federation, other than Cosmetic Products (as defined in the Supply Agreement).

Pursuant to the Supply Agreement, we shall provide Reka-Farm with two-year rolling forecasts of our *Spongilla* raw material requirements, and such forecasts shall be provided to Reka-Farm on a semi-annual basis, beginning on January 1, 2021 (each, a Forecast). Pursuant to the Supply Agreement, Reka-Farm has guaranteed its ability to supply us with the required amounts of *Spongilla* as specified in each Forecast for the first 12 months of each Forecast. All Forecasts are non-binding on us. If Reka-Farm is unable to supply us with *Spongilla* raw material in accordance with a Forecast, all available quantities of *Spongilla* then available to Reka-Farm shall be made available to us on a first priority basis until all amounts of *Spongilla* set forth in the Forecast are supplied.

Pursuant to the Supply Agreement, we pay a pre-negotiated price per kilogram for *Spongilla* supplied by Reka-Farm, and we are required to pay to Reka-Farm a royalty payment of less than one percent of the Net Sales (as defined in the Supply Agreement) of any products we develop containing *Spongilla* raw material supplied by Reka-Farm.

The Supply Agreement may be terminated (i) by either party for material breach with 90 days written notice, if such material breach is not cured within such notice period and (ii) by us for any reason or no reason upon 90 days written notice to Reka-Farm.

The Supply Agreement includes customary terms relating to, among others, indemnification, intellectual property protection, confidentiality, remedies, warranties, as well as certain quality requirements.

### ***Government Regulation***

Our activities and products are significantly regulated by a number of governmental entities, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, in the United States and by comparable authorities in other countries. These entities regulate, among other things, the research, development, testing, safety, effectiveness, manufacturing, storage, distribution, labeling, documentation, advertising and sale of our products. We must obtain regulatory approval from the FDA and comparable authorities in other countries, as applicable, for our drug candidates before we can commercialize such drugs in the U.S. and foreign jurisdictions. Product development within this regulatory framework takes a number of years and involves the expenditure of substantial resources. Many drug candidates that initially appear promising ultimately do not reach the market because they are found to be unsafe or ineffective when tested. Our inability to commercialize a product would impair our ability to earn future revenues.

The process of obtaining regulatory approvals and the subsequent compliance with appropriate federal, state, local and foreign statutes and regulations require the expenditure of substantial time and financial resources. Failure to comply with the applicable requirements at any time during the product development process, approval process or after approval may subject an applicant to administrative or judicial sanctions. These sanctions could include the FDA's refusal to approve pending applications, withdrawal of an approval, a clinical hold, warning letters, product recalls or withdrawals from the market, product seizures, total or partial suspension of production or distribution, injunctions, fines, refusals of government contracts, restitution, disgorgement, or civil or criminal penalties. Any agency or judicial enforcement action could have a material adverse effect on us.

## **Development of Drugs in the United States**

### *Pre-Clinical Development*

Products that we may develop or acquire in the future must be approved by the FDA before they may be legally marketed in the United States. For new chemical entities, the pre-clinical development stage generally involves synthesizing the active component, developing the formulation and determining the manufacturing process, and drug stability as well as carrying out non-human toxicology, pharmacology and drug metabolism studies that support subsequent clinical testing. These pre-clinical laboratory and animal tests are often performed under the FDA's Good Laboratory Practices regulations. A drug's sponsor must submit the result of the pre-clinical tests, together with manufacturing information, analytical data and any available clinical data or literature and a proposed clinical protocol to the FDA as part of an IND application, which is a request for authorization from the FDA to administer an investigational drug or biological product to humans. Similar filings are required in other countries. Laboratory and animal tests continue to be performed after an IND is approved.

### *Clinical Trials*

The clinical stage of development can generally be divided into three sequential phases that may overlap: Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 clinical trials. In Phase 1, generally, small numbers of healthy volunteers are initially exposed to single escalating doses and then multiple escalating doses of the product candidate. The primary purpose of these studies is to assess the metabolism, pharmacologic action and general safety of the drug. Phase 2 trials typically involve studies in disease-affected patients to determine the dose required to produce the desired benefits, common short-term side effects and risks. Phase 2 studies are typically well-controlled, closely monitored, and conducted in a relatively small number of patients, usually involving no more than several hundred subjects. Phase 3 trials are intended to gather the additional information about effectiveness and safety that is needed to evaluate the overall benefit-risk relationship of the drug and to provide an adequate basis for physician labeling. Phase 3 studies usually include from several hundred to several thousand subjects and are closely controlled and monitored. In addition to these Phase 1-3 trials, other trials may be conducted to gather additional safety, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic information. Pharmaceutical products with active ingredients equal or similar to those already approved by the FDA often have more streamlined development programs than compounds entirely new to the agency, often skipping Phase 1 and 2 trials.

A clinical plan must be submitted to the FDA prior to commencement of a clinical trial. If the FDA has concerns about the clinical plan or the safety of the proposed studies, they may suspend or terminate the study at any time. Studies must be conducted in accordance with good clinical practice and reporting of study progress and any adverse experiences is required. Studies are also subject to review by independent institutional review boards responsible for overseeing studies at particular sites and protecting human research study subjects. An independent institutional review board may also suspend or terminate a study once initiated. Accordingly, we cannot be sure that submission of an IND will result in the FDA allowing clinical trials to begin, or that once begun, issues will not arise that could cause the trial to be suspended or terminated.

Post-approval studies, sometimes referred to as Phase 4 clinical trials, may be conducted after initial marketing approval. Sometimes, these studies are used to gain additional experience from the treatment of patients in the intended therapeutic condition. In certain instances, the FDA may mandate the performance of Phase 4 studies. In other situations, post-approval studies aim to gain additional indications for a medication or develop new dosage forms for a medication.

### *Chemistry, Controls and Manufacturing Development*

Concurrent with clinical trials, companies typically complete additional animal and laboratory studies, develop additional information about the chemistry and physical characteristics of the drug, determine proposed commercial formulations for the drug, and finalize a process for manufacturing the product in commercial quantities in accordance with FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practices ("cGMP") requirements. The manufacturing process must consistently produce quality batches of the drug, and, among other things, the manufacturer must develop methods for testing the identity, strength, quality and purity of the final drug. In addition, appropriate packaging must be selected and tested, and stability studies must be conducted to demonstrate the effectiveness of the packaging and that the compound does not undergo unacceptable deterioration over its shelf life.

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### *Disclosure of Clinical Trial Information*

Sponsors of clinical trials of FDA-regulated products, including biological products, are required to register and disclose certain clinical trial information on the website [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov). Information related to the product, patient population, phase of investigation, trial sites and investigators, and other aspects of a clinical trial are then made public as part of the registration. Sponsors are also obligated to disclose the results of their clinical trials after completion. Disclosure of the results of clinical trials can be delayed in certain circumstances for up to two years after the date of completion of the trial. Competitors may use this publicly available information to gain knowledge regarding the progress of clinical development programs as well as clinical trial design.

### ***Special Protocol Assessment***

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act directs the FDA to meet with sponsors, pursuant to a sponsor's written request, for the purpose of reaching agreement on the design and size of clinical trials intended to form the primary basis of an efficacy claim in a New Drug Application (NDA) or a Biologic Licensing Application (BLA). If an agreement is reached, the FDA will reduce the agreement to writing and make it part of the administrative record. This agreement is called a special protocol assessment (SPA). While the FDA's guidance on SPAs states that documented SPAs should be considered binding on the review division, the FDA has latitude to change its assessment if certain exceptions apply. Exceptions include public health concerns emerging that were unrecognized at the time of the protocol assessment, identification of a substantial scientific issue essential to the safety or efficacy testing that later comes to light, a sponsor's failure to follow the protocol agreed upon, or the FDA's reliance on data, assumptions or information that are determined to be wrong.

### ***Review and Approval in the United States***

Following pivotal or Phase 3 trial completion, data are analyzed to determine safety and efficacy. Data are then filed with the FDA in an NDA or BLA, along with proposed labeling for the product and information about the manufacturing and testing processes and facilities that will be used to ensure product quality. In the United States, FDA approval of an NDA or BLA must be obtained before marketing a pharmaceutical product. The NDA or BLA must contain proof of safety, purity, potency, and efficacy, which entails extensive pre-clinical and clinical testing.

The FDA will likely re-analyze the clinical trial data, which could result in extensive discussions between the FDA and us during the review process. The review and evaluation of applications by the FDA is extensive and time consuming and may take several years to complete. The FDA may conduct a pre-approval inspection of the manufacturing facilities for the new product to determine whether they comply with current good manufacturing practice requirements and may also audit data from clinical and pre-clinical trials.

There is no assurance that the FDA will act favorably or quickly in making such reviews and significant difficulties or costs may be encountered in our efforts to obtain FDA approvals. The FDA may require that certain contraindications, warnings or precautions be included in the product labeling, or may condition the approval of the NDA or BLA on other changes to the proposed labeling, development of adequate controls and specifications, or a commitment to conduct post-marketing testing or clinical trials and surveillance programs to monitor the safety of approved products that have been commercialized. Further, the FDA may place conditions on approvals including the requirement for a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, or REMS, to assure the safe use of the drug. If the FDA concludes a REMS is needed, the sponsor of the NDA or BLA must submit a proposed REMS; the FDA will not approve the NDA or BLA without an approved REMS, if required. A REMS could include medication guides, physician communication plans, or elements to assure safe use, such as restricted distribution methods, patient registries and other risk minimization tools. Any of these limitations on approval or marketing could restrict the commercial promotion, distribution, prescription or dispensing of products. Product approvals may be withdrawn for non-compliance with regulatory standards or if problems occur.

### ***Orphan Drug Designation***

Under the Orphan Drug Act, the FDA may grant orphan drug designation to a drug intended to treat a rare disease or condition, which is generally a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States. Orphan product designation must be requested before submitting an NDA or BLA. After the FDA grants orphan drug designation, the identity of the therapeutic agent and its potential orphan use are disclosed publicly by the FDA. Orphan product designation does not convey any advantage in or shorten the duration of regulatory review and approval process. In addition to the potential period of exclusivity, orphan designation makes a company eligible for grant funding of up to \$400,000 per year for four years to defray costs of clinical trial expenses, tax credits for clinical research expenses and potential exemption from the FDA application user fee.

If a product that has orphan designation subsequently receives the first FDA approval for the disease or condition for which it has such designation, the product is entitled to orphan drug exclusivity, which means the FDA may not approve any other applications to market the same drug for the same indication for seven years, except in limited circumstances, such as (i) the drug's orphan designation is revoked; (ii) its marketing approval is withdrawn; (iii) the orphan exclusivity holder consents to the approval of another applicant's product; (iv) the orphan exclusivity holder is unable to assure the availability of a sufficient quantity of drug; or (v) a showing of clinical superiority to the product with orphan exclusivity by a competitor product. If a drug designated as an orphan product receives marketing approval for an indication broader than what is designated, it may not be entitled to orphan drug exclusivity. There can be no assurance that we will receive orphan drug designation for our product candidates.

#### ***FDA Botanical Drug Development Guidance for Industry***

Most currently approved topical dermatology products are reviewed solely by the FDA's Office of Dermatology and Dental Products and follow a standard approval pathway. However, due to our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, being derived from a natural source, it will be reviewed by the FDA Office of Dermatology and Dental Products with input from the FDA Botanical Review Division. While *Spongilla* is not a botanical, the FDA has allowed us to reference the Botanical Guidance for raw material quality control and batch to batch consistency through development and into commercialization. We believe our ability to reference the Botanical Guidance and receive input from the Botanical Review Division on XYNGARI™ provides us with key advantages in XYNGARI's™ regulatory pathway to approval, if achieved. These advantages included being able to move into human clinical studies upon the FDA's acknowledged receipt of our IND letter and that our subsequent study may proceed without having to first complete the typical nonclinical studies often required on many dermatology products, saving us substantial financial resources to achieve human clinical data. Additionally, while we believe that our source sponge material contains multiple active chemical compounds, based on our regulatory analysis of the feedback from the FDA and the Botanical Guidance, we believe we are only required to provide identifiable and quantifiable active components to show quality control and batch to batch consistency. We believe this will make it more difficult for a potential competitor to copy XYNGARI™ and produce a similar product due to their inability to know every component of our product candidate. Thus, we believe a competitor with a similar product or product candidate would have to conduct all of the manufacturing, development, and regulatory steps we must complete for approval. However, there can be no assurance that we successfully navigate the development of XYNGARI™ or that XYNGARI™ will receive FDA approval.

#### ***Special Regulatory Procedures***

*Fast track designation* - The FDA is required to facilitate the development and expedite the review of drugs and biologics that are intended for the treatment of a serious or life-threatening disease or condition and that demonstrate the potential to address unmet medical needs. Under the fast track program, the sponsor of a new drug or biologic candidate may request the FDA to designate the product for a specific indication as a fast track product, concurrent with or after the filing of the IND for the drug candidate. A drug that receives fast track designation is eligible for some or all of the following: (i) more frequent meetings with the FDA to discuss the drug's development plan and ensure collection of appropriate data needed to support drug approval; (ii) more frequent written communication from the FDA about such things as the design of the proposed clinical trials and use of biomarkers; (iii) eligibility for accelerated approval and priority review, if relevant criteria are met; and (iv) "Rolling Review," which means that a drug company can submit completed sections of its BLA or NDA for review by the FDA, rather than waiting until every section of the NDA or BLA is completed before the entire application can be reviewed. This rolling review is available if the applicant provides and the FDA approves a schedule for the submission of the remaining information and the applicant pays applicable user fees. However, the FDA's time period goal for reviewing a fast track application does not begin until the last section of the NDA or BLA is submitted. In addition, the fast track designation may be withdrawn by the FDA if it believes that the designation is no longer supported by data emerging in the clinical trial process.

*Priority review* - Under FDA policies, a drug candidate may be eligible for priority review. The priority review program provides for expedited review or an NDA or BLA, typically within a six to eight month time frame from the time a complete application is accepted for filing. Products regulated by the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, or CDER, are eligible for priority review if they provide a significant improvement compared to marketed products in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of a disease. Products regulated by the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, or CBER, are eligible for priority review if they provide a significant improvement in the safety or effectiveness of the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of a serious or life-threatening disease. A fast track designated drug candidate could be eligible for priority review if supported by clinical data at the time of the BLA or NDA submission.

*Accelerated approval* - Under the law and the FDA's accelerated approval regulations, the FDA may approve a drug or biologic for a serious or life-threatening illness that provides meaningful therapeutic benefit to patients over existing treatments based on a surrogate endpoint that is reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit. Surrogate endpoints can often be measured more easily or more rapidly than clinical endpoints. A drug candidate approved on this basis is subject to rigorous post-marketing compliance requirements, including the completion of Phase 4 or post-approval clinical trials to confirm the effect on the clinical endpoint. Failure to conduct required post-approval studies, or confirm a clinical benefit during post-marketing studies, would allow the FDA to withdraw the drug from the market on an expedited basis. All promotional materials for drug candidates approved under accelerated regulations are subject to prior review by the FDA.

*Breakthrough therapy designation* - The FDA is also required to expedite the development and review of the application for approval of drugs that are intended to treat a serious or life-threatening disease or condition where preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the drug candidate may demonstrate substantial improvement over existing therapies on one or more clinically significant endpoints. Under the breakthrough therapy program, the sponsor of a new drug candidate may request that the FDA designate the drug candidate for a specific indication as a breakthrough therapy concurrent with, or after, the filing of the IND for the drug candidate.



*Pediatric Information*

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act of 2003, an NDA, BLA or supplement to an NDA or BLA must contain data that are adequate to assess the safety and effectiveness of the drug or biological product for the claimed indications in all relevant pediatric subpopulations, and to support dosing and administration for each pediatric subpopulation for which the product is safe and effective. The FDA may, on its own initiative or at the request of the applicant, grant deferrals for submission of some or all pediatric data until after approval of the product for use in adults, or full or partial waivers from the pediatric data requirements. Under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, or FDASIA, the FDA has additional authority to take action against manufacturers not adhering to pediatric study requirements. Unless otherwise required by regulation, the pediatric data requirements do not apply to products with orphan drug designation.

*U.S. Patent Term Restoration*

Depending upon the timing, duration, and specifics of the FDA approval of the use of our current and potential product candidates, some of our U.S. patents may be eligible for limited patent term extension under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 ("Hatch-Waxman Amendments"). The Hatch-Waxman Amendments permit a patent restoration term of up to five years as compensation for patent term lost during product development and the FDA regulatory review process. However, patent term restoration cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the product's approval date. The patent term restoration period is generally one-half the time between the effective date of an IND and the submission date of an NDA or BLA plus the time between the submission date of the NDA or BLA and the approval of that application. Only one patent applicable to an approved biological product is eligible for the extension and the application for the extension must be submitted prior to the expiration of the patent. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in consultation with the FDA, reviews and approves the application for any patent term extension or restoration.

*Drug Development in Europe*

In the European Union, our future products may also be subject to extensive regulatory requirements. Similar to the U.S., the marketing of medicinal products is subject to the granting of marketing authorizations by regulatory agencies. Also, as in the U.S., the various phases of pre-clinical and clinical research in the European Union are subject to significant regulatory controls.

*Review and Approval in the European Union*

In the European Union, approval of new medicinal products can be obtained through one of three processes: the mutual recognition procedure, the centralized procedure, and the decentralized procedure. We intend to determine which process we will follow, if any, in the future.

**Mutual Recognition Procedure:** An applicant submits an application in one European Union member state, known as the reference member state. Once the reference member state has granted the marketing authorization, the applicant may choose to submit applications in other concerned member states, requesting them to mutually recognize the marketing authorizations already granted. Under this mutual recognition process, authorities in other concerned member states have 55 days to raise objections, which must then be resolved by discussion among the concerned member states, the reference member state and the applicant within 90 days of the commencement of the mutual recognition procedure. If any disagreement remains, all considerations by authorities in the concerned member states are suspended and the disagreement is resolved through an arbitration process. The mutual recognition procedure results in separate national marketing authorizations in the reference member state.

**Centralized Procedure:** This procedure is currently mandatory for products developed by means of a biotechnological process and optional for new active substances and other "innovative medicinal products with novel characteristics." Under this procedure, an application is submitted to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medical Products. Two European Union member states are appointed to conduct an initial evaluation of each application. These countries each prepare an assessment report that is then used as the basis of a scientific opinion of the Committee on Proprietary Medical Products. If this opinion is favorable, it is sent to the European Commission, which drafts a decision. After consulting with the member states, the European Commission adopts a decision and grants a marketing authorization, which is valid throughout the European Union and confers the same rights and obligations in each of the member states as a marketing authorization granted by that member state.

**Decentralized Procedure:** The most recently introduced of the three processes for obtaining approval of new medicinal processes in the European Union, the decentralized procedure is similar to the mutual recognition procedure described above, but with differences in the timing that key documents are provided to concerned member states by the reference member state, the overall timing of the procedure and the possibility of, among other things, "clock stops" during the procedure.

### ***Post-Marketing Requirements***

Following approval of a new product, a pharmaceutical company and the approved product are subject to continuing regulation by the FDA and other federal and state regulatory authorities, including, among other things, monitoring and recordkeeping activities, reporting to applicable regulatory authorities of adverse experiences with the product, providing the regulatory authorities with updated safety and efficacy information, product sampling and distribution requirements, and complying with promotion and advertising requirements, which include, among others, standards for direct-to-consumer advertising, restrictions on promoting drugs for uses or in patient populations not described in the drug's approved labeling (known as "off-label use"), and limitations on industry-sponsored scientific and educational activities. Although physicians may prescribe legally available drugs for off-label uses, manufacturers may not market or promote such off-label uses. Modifications or enhancements to the products or labeling or changes of site of manufacture are often subject to the approval of the FDA and other regulators, which may or may not be received or may result in a lengthy review process. The FDA regulations require the products be manufactured in specific approved facilities and in accordance with current good manufacturing practices, and NDA and BLA holders must list their products and register their manufacturing establishments with the FDA. These regulations also impose certain organizational, procedural and documentation requirements with respect to manufacturing and quality assurance activities. Drug manufacturers and other entities involved in the manufacture and distribution of approved drugs are subject to periodic unannounced inspections by the FDA and certain state agencies for compliance with current good manufacturing practice and other laws. NDA and BLA holders using contract manufacturers, laboratories or packagers are responsible for the selection and monitoring of qualified firms. These firms are subject to inspections by the FDA at any time, and the discovery of violative conditions could result in enforcement actions that interrupt the operation of any such facilities or the ability to distribute products manufactured, processed or tested by them.

### ***Other Regulatory Matters***

Manufacturing, sales, promotion and other activities following product approval are also subject to regulation by numerous regulatory authorities in addition to the FDA, including, in the United States, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, other divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and state and local governments. These regulations include:

- the federal healthcare program anti-kickback law which prohibits, among other things, persons from soliciting, receiving or providing remuneration, directly or indirectly, to induce either the referral of an individual, for an item or service or the purchasing or ordering of a good or service, for which payment may be made under federal healthcare programs such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- federal false claims laws which prohibit, among other things, individuals or entities from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, claims for payment from Medicare, Medicaid, or other government reimbursement programs that are false or fraudulent. The government may assert that a claim including items or services resulting from a violation of the federal healthcare program anti-kickback law or related to off-label promotion constitutes a false or fraudulent claim for purposes of the federal false claims laws;
- the Federal Physician Payments Sunshine Act within the ACA, and its implementing regulations, require that certain manufacturers of drugs, devices, biological and medical supplies for which payment is available under Medicare, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (with certain exceptions) to report information related to certain payments or other transfers of value made or distributed to physicians and teaching hospitals, or to entities or individuals at the request of, or designated on behalf of, the physicians and teaching hospitals and to report annually certain ownership and investment interests held by physicians and their immediate family members;
- the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH, and its implementing regulations, imposes certain requirements relating to the privacy, security and transmission of individually identifiable health information. Among other things, HITECH makes HIPAA's privacy and security standards directly applicable to "business associates"-independent contractors or agents of covered entities that receive or obtain protected health information in connection with providing a service on behalf of a covered entity. HITECH also created four new tiers of civil monetary penalties, amended HIPAA to make civil and criminal penalties directly applicable to business associates and possibly other persons, and gave state attorneys general new authority to file civil actions for damages or injunctions in federal courts to enforce the federal HIPAA laws and seek attorneys' fees and costs associated with pursuing federal civil actions;
- applicable child-resistant packaging requirements under the U.S. Poison Prevention Packaging Act;
- The Lanham Act and federal antitrust laws; and
- state law equivalents of each of the above federal laws, such as anti-kickback and false claims laws, which may apply to items or services reimbursed by any third-party payer, including commercial insurers, and state laws governing the privacy and security of health information in certain circumstances, many of which differ from each other in significant ways and often are not preempted by federal laws, thus complicating compliance efforts.



Distribution of pharmaceutical products is subject to additional requirements and regulations, including extensive record-keeping, licensing, traceability, and storage and security requirements intended to prevent the unauthorized sale of pharmaceutical products. The handling of any controlled substances must comply with the U.S. Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act.

### ***Third-Party Payer Coverage and Reimbursement***

Significant uncertainty exists as to the coverage and reimbursement status of any of our drug candidates that ultimately may obtain regulatory approval. In both the United States and foreign markets, our ability to commercialize our product candidates successfully, and to attract commercialization partners for our product candidates, depends in significant part on the availability of adequate financial coverage and reimbursement from third-party payers, including, in the United States, governmental payers such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs, managed care organizations, and private health insurers. Medicare is a federally funded program managed by the CMS, through local fiscal intermediaries and carriers that administer coverage and reimbursement for certain healthcare items and services furnished to the elderly and disabled. Medicaid is an insurance program for certain categories of patients whose income and assets fall below state defined levels and who are otherwise uninsured that is both federally and state funded and managed by each state. The federal government sets general guidelines for Medicaid and each state creates specific regulations that govern its individual program. Each payer has its own process and standards for determining whether it will cover and reimburse a procedure or particular product. Private payers often rely on the lead of the governmental payers in rendering coverage and reimbursement determinations. Therefore, achieving favorable CMS coverage and reimbursement is usually a significant gating issue for successful introduction of a new product. The competitive position of some of our products will depend, in part, upon the extent of coverage and adequate reimbursement for such products and for the procedures in which such products are used. Prices at which we or our customers seek reimbursement for our product candidates can be subject to challenge, reduction or denial by the government and other payers.

The United States Congress and state legislatures may, from time to time, propose and adopt initiatives aimed at cost containment, which could impact our ability to sell our product candidates profitably. For example, under the Inflation Reduction Act, CMS is authorized to negotiate the prices that Medicare pays for certain drugs. The first round of negotiations concluded in 2024 and CMS has released a list of drugs whose prices will be negotiated in 2025.

The cost of pharmaceuticals continues to generate substantial governmental and third-party payer interest. We expect that the pharmaceutical industry will experience pricing pressures due to the trend toward managed healthcare, the increasing influence of managed care organizations and additional legislative proposals. Our results of operations could be adversely affected by current and future healthcare reforms.

### ***U.S. Patent Term Restoration and Marketing Exclusivity***

Depending upon the timing, duration and specifics of FDA approval of our future product candidates, some of our U.S. patents may be eligible for limited patent term extension under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, commonly referred to as the Hatch-Waxman Amendments. The Hatch-Waxman Amendments permit restoration of the patent term of up to five years as compensation for patent term lost during the FDA regulatory review process. Patent-term restoration, however, cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the product's approval date and only those claims covering such approved drug product, a method for using it or a method for manufacturing it may be extended. The patent-term restoration period is generally one-half the time between the effective date of an IND and the submission date of an NDA plus the time between the submission date of an NDA and the approval of that application, except that the review period is reduced by any time during which the applicant failed to exercise due diligence. Only one patent applicable to an approved drug is eligible for the extension and the application for the extension must be submitted prior to the expiration of the patent. The USPTO, in consultation with the FDA, reviews and approves the application for any patent term extension or restoration. In the future, we may apply for restoration of patent term for our currently owned or licensed patents to add patent life beyond its current expiration date, depending on the expected length of the clinical trials and other factors involved in the filing of the relevant NDA.

Marketing exclusivity provisions under the FD&C Act also can delay the submission or the approval of certain applications. The FD&C Act provides a five-year period of non-patent marketing exclusivity within the United States to the first applicant to gain approval of an NDA for a new chemical entity. A drug is a new chemical entity if the FDA has not previously approved any other new drug containing the same active moiety, which is the molecule or ion responsible for the action of the drug substance. During the exclusivity period, the FDA may not accept for review an abbreviated new drug application, or ANDA, or a 505(b)(2) NDA submitted by another company for another version of such drug where the applicant does not own or have a legal right of reference to all the data required for approval. However, an application may be submitted after four years if it contains a certification of patent invalidity or non-infringement. The FD&C Act also provides three years of marketing exclusivity for an NDA, 505(b)(2) NDA or supplement to an existing NDA if new clinical investigations, other than bioavailability studies, that were conducted or sponsored by the applicant are deemed by the FDA to be essential to the approval of the application, for example, new indications, dosages or strengths of an existing drug. This three-year exclusivity covers only the conditions of use associated with the new clinical investigations and does not prohibit the FDA from approving ANDAs for drugs containing the original active agent. Five-year and three-year exclusivity will not delay the submission or approval of a full NDA. However, an applicant submitting a full NDA would be required to conduct or obtain a right of reference to all of the preclinical studies and adequate and well-controlled clinical trials necessary to demonstrate safety and effectiveness.

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Some third-party payers also require pre-approval of coverage for new or innovative devices or drug therapies before they reimburse healthcare providers that use such therapies. While we cannot predict whether any proposed cost-containment measures will be adopted or otherwise implemented in the future, the announcement or adoption of these proposals could have a material adverse effect on our ability to obtain adequate prices for our product candidates and operate profitably.

In addition, in some foreign countries, the proposed pricing for a drug must be approved before it may be lawfully marketed. The requirements governing drug pricing vary widely from country to country. For example, the European Union provides options for its member states to restrict the range of medicinal products for which their national health insurance systems provide reimbursement and to control the prices of medicinal products for human use. A member state may approve a specific price for the medicinal product, or it may instead adopt a system of direct or indirect controls on the profitability of the company placing the medicinal product on the market. There can be no assurance that any country that has price controls or reimbursement limitations for pharmaceutical products will allow favorable reimbursement and pricing arrangements for any of our products. Historically, products launched in the European Union do not follow price structures of the United States and generally tend to be significantly lower.

### **Corporate and Other Information**

We were formed in December 2014 as a Delaware limited liability company (“LLC”) under the name Dermata Therapeutics, LLC. On March 24, 2021, we converted from an LLC to a Delaware C-corporation and changed our name to Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.

### **Human Capital Resources**

As of the date of this report, we have eight full-time employees, with three employees working in the general and administrative department, two engaged in non-clinical and clinical development, two working in the chemistry, manufacturing, and controls department, and one employee working in the regulatory affairs and quality control department.

We believe that our future success will depend, in part, on our continued ability to attract, hire and retain qualified personnel. In particular, we depend on the skills, experience and performance of our senior management and research personnel. We compete for qualified personnel with other medical pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, as well as universities and non-profit research institutions.

We provide competitive compensation and benefits programs to help meet the needs of our employees. In addition to salaries, these programs (which vary by country/region and employment classification) include incentive compensation plans, healthcare and insurance benefits, retirement investments, paid time off, and family leave, among others. We also use targeted equity-based grants with vesting conditions to facilitate retention of personnel, particularly for our key employees.

The success of our business is fundamentally connected to the well-being of our people. Accordingly, we are committed to the health and safety of our employees.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

*Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below, together with all of the other information in this report, including the consolidated financial statements, the notes thereto and the section entitled “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included elsewhere in this report before deciding whether to invest in our securities. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are unaware of or that we deem immaterial may also become important factors that adversely affect our business. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and future prospects could be materially and adversely affected. In that event, the market price of our common stock and/or Warrants could decline, and you could lose part or all of your investment.*

### Summary of Risks Associated with Our Business

Our business and an investment in our company is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including those highlighted in the section titled “Risk Factors” immediately following this summary. Some of these risks include:

- We are a pre-revenue company with a limited operating history;
- We may not be able to successfully develop or commercialize our product candidates or do so on a timely or cost-effective basis;
- Our business may be negatively affected by the impacts of public health emergencies, epidemics and pandemics;
- We depend on a limited number of product candidates and our business could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our key product candidates do not perform as well as expected and do not receive regulatory approval;
- The market for our product candidates, including XYNGARI™ and DMT 410, may not be as large as we expect;
- Our competitors and other third parties may allege that we are infringing their intellectual property, forcing us to expend substantial resources in resulting litigation, and any unfavorable outcome of such litigation could have a material adverse effect on our business;
- We may experience failures of or delays in clinical trials which could jeopardize or delay our ability to obtain regulatory approval and commence product sales;
- We face intense competition from both brand and generic companies which could limit our growth and adversely affect our financial results;
- We are subject to extensive governmental regulation and we face significant uncertainties and potentially significant costs associated with our efforts to comply with applicable regulations;
- We may not be able to develop or maintain sales capabilities or effectively market or sell any products that we may successfully commercialize;
- Manufacturing or quality control problems may damage our reputation, require costly remedial activities, or otherwise negatively impact our business;
- Our profitability will depend on coverage and reimbursement by third-party payors, and healthcare reform and other future legislation may lead to reductions in coverage or reimbursement levels;
- We currently, and may in the future need to, license certain intellectual property from third parties, and such licenses may not be available or may not be available on commercially reasonable terms;
- We may not identify relevant third-party patents or may incorrectly interpret the relevance, scope or expiration of a third-party patent, which might adversely affect our ability to develop, manufacture and market our products and product candidates;
- The raw material for our product candidates, XYNGARI™ and DMT410, is derived from naturally occurring ingredient that grow only in limited areas that need to be harvested annually. Due to unforeseen environmental conditions or circumstances, our supplier may not be able to harvest as much raw material as we require, or any at all, which may negatively impact our ability to conduct preclinical studies, clinical trials, and ultimately commercialize our product candidates;
- We currently rely on a third party for the raw materials needed for XYNGARI™ and DMT410, and if we encounter any difficulties in accessing or procuring alternative sources on acceptable terms, or at all, our business may suffer;
- Our current licensed patents covering XYNGARI™ expired between 2022 and 2023, which was prior to our anticipated date for any market launch. While we have been issued patents covering XYNGARI™ and DMT410 in certain jurisdictions, other of our current pending patents covering XYNGARI™ and DMT410 have not been issued yet and there is no guarantee they will get issued. We may not be able to obtain additional patent coverage, which could limit our market opportunity due to competition from other products;
- If we fail to comply with our obligations under any of our third-party agreements, we could lose license rights that are necessary to develop our product candidates;
- Our directors, executive officers and certain stockholders (one of which is an affiliate of our Chief Executive Officer) own a significant percentage of our common stock and, if they choose to act together, will be able to exert significant control over matters subject to stockholder approval; and
- We will need to add personnel, which will increase the size and complexity of our organization and we may experience difficulties executing growth and corporate strategies.

## **Risks Related to Our Financial Position and Need for Capital**

### ***We are a clinical stage pharmaceutical company with a limited operating history.***

We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company with a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our business and prospects. We must complete clinical studies and receive regulatory approval before commercial sales of a product can commence. The likelihood of success of our business plan must be considered in light of the problems, substantial expenses, difficulties, complications and delays frequently encountered in connection with developing and expanding early-stage businesses and the regulatory and competitive environment in which we operate. Pharmaceutical product development is a highly speculative undertaking, involves a substantial degree of risk and is a capital-intensive business.

Accordingly, you should consider our prospects in light of the costs, uncertainties, delays and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in the early stages of development, especially early stage clinical pharmaceutical companies such as ours. Potential investors should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties that a company with a limited operating history will face. In particular, potential investors should consider that we cannot assure you that we will be able to, among other things:

- successfully implement or execute our current business plan, and we cannot assure you that our business plan is sound;
- successfully complete the clinical trials, non-clinical testing and other requirements necessary to obtain regulatory approval for the marketing of our drug candidates, including XYNGARI™ and DMT410;
- successfully manufacture our clinical products and establish commercial drug supply;
- secure, maintain and, as necessary, defend our intellectual property rights;
- secure market exclusivity and/or adequate intellectual property protection for our drug candidates;
- attract and retain an experienced management and advisory team;
- secure acceptance of our drug candidates in the medical community and with third-party payors and consumers;
- launch commercial sales of our drug candidates, whether alone or in collaboration with others;
- comply with post-marketing regulatory requirements;
- raise sufficient funds in the capital markets or otherwise to effectuate our business plan; and
- utilize the funds that we have and may raise in the future to efficiently execute our business strategy.

If we cannot successfully execute any one of the foregoing, our business may fail and your investment will be adversely affected.

***We have incurred losses since inception and anticipate that we will continue to incur losses for the foreseeable future. We are not currently profitable, and we may never achieve or sustain profitability.***

We have never generated revenue from operations, are unlikely to generate revenues for several years, and are currently operating at a loss and expect our operating costs will increase significantly as we incur costs related to preclinical development, the clinical trials for our drug candidates and to operating as a public company. We expect to incur substantial expenses without corresponding revenues unless and until we are able to obtain regulatory approval and successfully commercialize any of our drug candidates. We may never be able to obtain regulatory approval for the marketing of our drug candidates in any indication in the United States or internationally. Even if we are able to commercialize our drug candidates, there can be no assurance that we will generate significant revenues or ever achieve profitability. We have incurred losses in each year since we commenced operations in December 2014. We incurred net losses of approximately \$12.3 million and approximately \$7.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, respectively. As of December 31, 2024, we had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$65.7 million. The size of our future net losses will depend, in part, on our future expenses and our ability to generate revenue, if any. Revenue from our current and potential future collaborations is uncertain because milestones or other contingent payments under our agreements may not be achieved or received.

As of December 31, 2024, we had capital resources consisting of cash and cash equivalents of \$3.2 million. We will continue to expend substantial cash resources for the foreseeable future for the clinical development of our product candidates and development of any other indications and product candidates we may choose to pursue. These expenditures will include costs associated with research and development, conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials, manufacturing and supply, as well as marketing and selling any products approved for sale. In particular, our Phase 3 clinical studies for our product candidates will require substantial funds to complete. Because the conduct and results of any clinical trial are highly uncertain, we cannot reasonably estimate the actual amounts necessary to successfully complete the development and commercialization of our current and any future product candidates.

We are uncertain when or if we will be able to achieve or sustain profitability. If we achieve profitability in the future, we may not be able to sustain profitability in subsequent periods. Failure to become and remain profitable would impair our ability to sustain operations and adversely affect the price of our securities and our ability to raise capital.

***We will require additional capital to fund our operations, and if we fail to obtain necessary financing, we may not be able to complete the development and commercialization of our product candidates.***

We believe that our existing cash, together with interest thereon, will be sufficient to fund our operations into the third quarter of 2025. We have based these estimates, however, on assumptions that may prove to be wrong, and we could spend our available capital resources much faster than we currently expect or require more capital to fund our operations than we currently expect. Our currently anticipated expenditures for the development of our product candidates, XYNGARI™ and DMT410, exceed our existing cash. We will need to raise additional capital to fund our operations and continue to support our planned development and commercialization activities.

The amount and timing of our future funding requirements will depend on many factors, including:

- the timing, rate of progress and cost of any preclinical and clinical trials and other product development activities for our current and any future product candidates that we develop, in-license or acquire;
- the results of the clinical trials for our product candidates in the United States and any foreign countries;
- the timing of, and the costs involved in, FDA approval and any foreign regulatory approval of our product candidates, if at all;
- the number and characteristics of any additional future product candidates we develop or acquire;
- our ability to establish and maintain strategic collaborations, licensing, co-promotion or other arrangements and the terms and timing of such arrangements;
- the cost of commercialization activities if our current or any future product candidates are approved for sale, including manufacturing, marketing, sales and distribution costs;
- the degree and rate of market acceptance of any approved products;
- costs under our third-party manufacturing and supply arrangements for our current and any future product candidates and any products we commercialize;
- costs and timing of completion of any additional outsourced commercial manufacturing or supply arrangements that we may establish;

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- costs of preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining, defending and enforcing any patent claims and other intellectual property rights associated with our product candidates;
- costs associated with prosecuting or defending any litigation that we are or may become involved in and any damages payable by us that result from such litigation;
- costs associated with any product recall that could occur;
- costs of operating as a public company;
- the emergence, approval, availability, perceived advantages, relative cost, relative safety and relative efficacy of alternative and competing products or treatments;
- costs associated with any acquisition or in-license of products and product candidates, technologies or businesses; and
- personnel, facilities and equipment requirements.

We cannot be certain that additional funding will be available on acceptable terms, or at all. In addition, future debt financing into which we enter may impose upon us covenants that restrict our operations, including limitations on our ability to incur liens or additional debt, pay dividends, redeem our stock, make certain investments and engage in certain merger, consolidation or asset sale transactions.

If we are unable to raise additional capital when required or on acceptable terms, we may be required to significantly delay, scale back or discontinue the development or commercialization of one or more of our product candidates, restrict our operations or obtain funds by entering into agreements on unattractive terms, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our business, stock price and our relationships with third parties with whom we have business relationships, at least until additional funding is obtained. If we do not have sufficient funds to continue operations, we could be required to seek bankruptcy protection or other alternatives that would likely result in our stockholders losing some or all of their investment in us. In addition, our ability to achieve profitability or to respond to competitive pressures would be significantly limited.

***We will need to raise additional capital which may cause dilution to our stockholders, restrict our operations or require us to relinquish rights to our technologies or product candidates, and additional capital may not be available on favorable terms or at all which may force us to delay, reduce the scope of or eliminate our research and development programs, reduce our commercialization efforts or curtail our operations.***

To develop and bring our product candidates to market, we must commit substantial resources to costly and time-consuming research, preclinical studies and clinical trials and marketing activities. Until such time, if ever, as we can generate substantial product revenue, we expect to seek additional funding to meet our operational needs and capital requirements. While we believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities will enable us to fund our operating expenses and capital expenditure requirements through the third quarter of 2025, we have based this estimate on assumptions that may prove to be wrong and we could exhaust our available capital resources sooner than we expect, including if our business or operations change in a manner that consumes available resources more rapidly than we anticipate. Our requirements for additional capital will depend on many factors including:

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- changes in direction of our research and development programs;
- the time and expense for preclinical studies and clinical trials for our product candidates;
- the time and costs involved in obtaining regulatory approval for our product candidates;
- the cost increases and other potential impacts of macroeconomic factors, including heightened inflation and rising interest rates, liquidity concerns at and failures of banks and other financial institutions, exchange rate fluctuations, tariffs, trade wars, supply chain disruptions and increases in commodity, energy and fuel prices, costs associated with protecting our intellectual property rights;
- successful commercialization of our product candidates;
- competitive and technical advances;
- patent development or regulatory changes;
- development of marketing and sales capabilities;
- payments received under current and future collaboration agreements, if any; and
- market acceptance of our products.

Our ability to continue operations after our current cash resources are exhausted depends on our ability to obtain additional financing or to achieve profitable operations, as to which no assurances can be given. Cash requirements may vary materially from those now planned because of changes in direction of our research and development programs, competitive and technical advances, patent developments, regulatory changes or other developments. If additional sources of financing are not available on favorable terms, or at all, including as a result of actions taken by central banks to counter inflation, volatility in the capital markets, liquidity concerns at and failures of banks and other financial institutions and related market uncertainty, or if we are unsuccessful in entering into partnership agreements for further development of our pipeline, management may need to curtail our development efforts and planned operations to conserve cash.



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We expect to finance our operations through a combination of equity offerings, debt financings, government or private party grants, collaborations, strategic alliances and licensing arrangements. We currently have on file with the SEC a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 which allows us to offer and sell our registered common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and or warrants from time to time pursuant to one or more offerings at prices and terms to be determined at the time of sale. On June 7, 2024, we entered into an At The Market Agreement (the “ATM Agreement”) with H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC (“Wainwright”), pursuant to which, from time to time, we may offer and sell shares of the common stock registered under the shelf registration statement pursuant to one or more “at the market” offerings. As of December 31, 2024, we have sold \$1.7 million in gross proceeds of our Common Stock pursuant to this ATM Agreement, which does not include \$0.3 million of compensation to Wainwright, auditors, lawyers, and other administration fees. While we had no remaining capacity to sell shares of common stock under the ATM Agreement as of December 31, 2024, to the extent we have any capacity in the future, any future sales of our common stock under the ATM Agreement with Wainwright could be subject to business, economic or competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which may be beyond our control, and which could cause actual results from the sale of our common stock to differ materially from expectations.

To the extent additional capital is raised through the sale and issuance of shares or other securities convertible into shares, the ownership interest of our stockholders will be diluted. Future issuances of our common stock or other equity securities, or the perception that such sales may occur, could adversely affect the trading price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital through future offerings of shares or equity securities. No prediction can be made as to the effect, if any, that future sales of common stock or the availability of common stock for future sales will have on the trading price of our common stock.

We do not currently have any other committed external sources of funds. To the extent we raise additional capital through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, our stockholders’ ownership interest will or could be diluted, and the terms of these securities may include liquidation or other preferences that adversely affect our stockholders’ rights as a common stockholder. In addition, if we obtain debt financing, a substantial portion of our operating cash flow may be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on such indebtedness, thus limiting funds available for our business activities. Debt financing and preferred equity financing, if available, may involve agreements that include covenants limiting or restricting our ability to take specific actions such as incurring additional debt, making capital expenditures or declaring dividends. If we raise additional funds through collaborations, strategic alliances or marketing, distribution or licensing arrangements with third parties, we may be required to relinquish valuable rights to our technologies, future revenue streams or product candidates, grant licenses on terms that may not be favorable to us or commit to future payment streams.

***The reports of our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 contain an explanatory paragraph regarding substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern.***

Due to the uncertainty of our ability to meet our current operating and capital expenses, in their reports on our audited annual financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2023, our independent audit firm included an explanatory paragraph regarding concerns about our ability to continue as a going concern. Substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern may materially and adversely affect the price per share of our common stock and warrants and we may have a more difficult time obtaining financing. Further, the perception that we may be unable to continue as a going concern may impede our ability to raise additional funds or operate our business due to concerns regarding our ability to discharge our contractual obligations.

***Changes in tax laws may materially adversely affect our business financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

We are subject to tax laws, regulations and policies of the jurisdictions in which we do business, which may include U.S. federal, state, and local governments and taxing authorities in foreign jurisdictions. Changes in tax laws, as well as other factors, could cause us to experience fluctuations in our tax obligations and otherwise adversely affect our tax positions and/or our tax liabilities. The income tax rules in the jurisdictions in which we operate are constantly under review by taxing authorities and other governmental bodies. Changes to tax laws (which changes may have retroactive application) could adversely affect us or our stockholders. We are unable to predict what tax proposals may be proposed or enacted in the future or what effect such changes would have on our business, but such changes, to the extent they are brought into tax legislation, regulations, policies or practices, could affect our financial position and overall effective tax rates in the future in jurisdictions where we have operations, and increase the complexity, burden and cost of tax compliance.

***We are exposed to risks related to foreign currency exchange rates.***

Some of our costs and expenses are denominated in foreign currencies. Most of our foreign expenses are associated with our supply of our raw material for our XYNGARI™ and DMT410 product candidates. When the United States dollar weakens against the Euro, the United States dollar value of the foreign currency denominated expense increases, and when the United States dollar strengthens against the Euro, the United States dollar value of the foreign currency denominated expense decreases. Consequently, changes in exchange rates, and in particular a weakening of the United States dollar, may adversely affect our results of operations.

***Disruptions in the global economy and supply chains may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Disruptions to the global economy may impede global supply chains, resulting in longer lead times and also increased critical component costs and freight expenses. We have taken and may have to take steps to minimize the impact of these disruptions in lead times and increased costs by working closely with our suppliers and other third parties on whom we rely for the conduct of our business. Despite the actions we have undertaken or may have to undertake to minimize the impacts from disruptions to the global economy, there can be no assurances that unforeseen future events in the global supply chain will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Furthermore, inflation can adversely affect us by increasing the costs of clinical trials, the research and development of our product candidates, as well as administration and other costs of doing business. We may experience increases in the prices of labor and other costs of doing business. In an inflationary environment, cost increases may outpace our expectations, causing us to use our cash and other liquid assets faster than forecasted. If this happens, we may need to raise additional capital to fund our operations, which may not be available in sufficient amounts or on reasonable terms, if at all, sooner than expected.

***Adverse global conditions, including economic uncertainty, may negatively impact our financial results.***

Global conditions, dislocations in the financial markets, any negative financial impacts affecting United States as a result of tax reform or changes to existing trade agreements or tax conventions, may adversely impact our business.

In addition, the global macroeconomic environment could be negatively affected by, among other things, public health emergencies, pandemics or epidemics, instability in global economic markets, increased U.S. trade tariffs and trade disputes with other countries and any resulting trade wars, instability in the global credit markets, supply chain weaknesses, instability in the geopolitical environment as a result of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, and other political tensions, and foreign governmental debt concerns. Such challenges have caused, and may continue to cause, uncertainty and instability in local economies and in global financial markets.

**Risks Related to Development, Regulatory Approval and Commercialization**

***Our business is dependent on the successful development, regulatory approval and commercialization of our product candidates, in particular XYNGARI™ and DMT410.***

Our portfolio of product candidates includes one late-stage product candidate, XYNGARI™, a once weekly topical, naturally derived product candidate for the treatment of acne and psoriasis, and an early-stage candidate, DMT410, a combination treatment regimen to aid in the topical delivery of botulinum toxin for the treatment of hyperhidrosis and aesthetic skin conditions. The success of our business, including our ability to finance our company and generate any revenue in the future, will primarily depend on the successful development, regulatory approval and commercialization or partnering of our product candidates. In the future, we may also become dependent on just one of our product candidates or any future product candidates that we may in-license, acquire or develop. The clinical and commercial success of our product candidates will depend on a number of factors, including the following:

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- the ability to raise additional capital on acceptable terms, or at all;
- timely completion of our clinical trials, which may be significantly slower or cost more than we currently anticipate and will depend substantially upon the performance of third-party contractors;
- whether we are required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or the FDA, or similar foreign regulatory agencies to conduct additional clinical trials beyond those planned to support the approval and commercialization of our product candidates or any future product candidates;
- acceptance of our proposed indications and primary endpoint assessments relating to the proposed indications of our product candidates by the FDA and similar foreign regulatory authorities;
- our ability to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the FDA and similar foreign regulatory authorities, the safety and efficacy of our product candidates or any future product candidates;
- our ability to develop a suitable drug product release assay;
- our ability to identify an active compound within the drug product that can be detected in a pharmacokinetics study;
- the prevalence, duration and severity of potential side effects experienced in connection with our product candidates or future approved products, if any;
- the timely receipt of necessary marketing approvals from the FDA and similar foreign regulatory authorities;
- achieving and maintaining, and, where applicable, ensuring that our third-party contractors achieve and maintain, compliance with our contractual obligations and with all regulatory requirements applicable to our product candidates or any future product candidates or approved products, if any;
- the ability of third parties with whom we contract to manufacture clinical trial and commercial supplies of our product candidates or any future product candidates, remain in good standing with regulatory agencies and develop, validate and maintain commercially viable manufacturing processes that are compliant with current good manufacturing practices, or cGMP, or good agricultural and collection practices, or GACP;
- a continued acceptable safety profile during clinical development and following approval of our product candidates or any future product candidates;
- our ability to successfully commercialize our product candidates or any future product candidates in the United States and internationally, if approved for marketing, sale and distribution in such countries and territories, whether alone or in collaboration with others;
- acceptance by physicians, patients and payors of the benefits, safety and efficacy of our product candidates or any future product candidates, if approved, including relative to alternative and competing treatments;
- our ability to comply with numerous post-approval regulatory requirements;
- our and our partners' ability to establish and enforce intellectual property rights in and to our product candidates or any future product candidates;
- our and our partners' ability to avoid third-party patent interference or intellectual property infringement claims; and
- our ability to in-license or acquire additional product candidates or commercial-stage products that we believe we can successfully develop and commercialize.

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If we are unable to achieve one or more of the above factors, many of which are beyond our control, in a timely manner or at all, we could experience significant delays and increased costs or an inability to obtain regulatory approvals or commercialize our product candidates. Even if regulatory approvals are obtained, we may never be able to successfully commercialize any of our product candidates. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that we will be able to generate sufficient revenue through the sale of our product candidates or any future product candidates to continue operations.

***Clinical drug development for our product candidates is very expensive, time-consuming and uncertain. Our clinical trials may fail to adequately demonstrate the safety and efficacy of our product candidates, which could prevent or delay regulatory approval and commercialization.***

Clinical drug development for our product candidates is very expensive, time-consuming, difficult to design and implement and its outcome is inherently uncertain. Before obtaining regulatory approval for the commercial sale of a product candidate, we must demonstrate through clinical trials that a product candidate is both safe and effective for use in the target indication, which is impossible to predict. Most product candidates that commence clinical trials are never approved by regulatory authorities for commercialization. Our product candidates are in various stages of development and a failure of one more clinical trials can occur at any stage of testing or at any time during the trial process. We expect that clinical trials for these product candidates will continue for several years, but may take significantly longer than expected to complete.

We have not completed all clinical trials for the approval of any of our product candidates. In previous communications with the FDA they had asked us to show that hydrogen peroxide was not an active ingredient in our XYNGARI™ product. While FDA did not require us to test hydrogen peroxide as a third arm in our current XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical program, they may ask for additional evidence to support our belief that hydrogen peroxide is not an active ingredient in our XYNGARI™ product. If we fail to convince the FDA that hydrogen peroxide is not an active ingredient and merely a fluidizing agent, then we may have to alter our clinical plans or reformulate our product based on FDA feedback. If we chose to reformulate our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, then we may decide to redo our Phase 2 and Phase 3 studies, which would be time consuming and expensive and there is no certainty of success.

We may experience delays in ongoing and future clinical trials for our product candidates and do not know if future clinical trials, if any, will begin on time, need to be redesigned, enroll adequate number of patients on time or be completed on schedule, if at all. In addition, we, any partner with which we currently or may in the future collaborate, the FDA, an IRB or other regulatory authorities, including state and local agencies and counterpart agencies in foreign countries, may suspend, delay, require modifications to or terminate our clinical trials at any time, for various reasons, including:

- discovery of safety or tolerability concerns, such as serious or unexpected toxicities or side effects or exposure to otherwise unacceptable health risks, experienced by study participants or other safety issues;
- lack of effectiveness of any product candidate during clinical trials or the failure of our product candidates to meet specified endpoints;
- slower than expected rates of subject recruitment and enrollment rates or inability to enroll a sufficient number of patients in clinical trials resulting from numerous factors, including the prevalence of other companies' clinical trials for their product candidates for the same indication, or clinical trials for indications for which patients do not as commonly seek treatment;
- delays or difficulties in our clinical trials due to quarantines or other restrictions resulting from public health emergencies, epidemics, and/or pandemics;
- difficulty in retaining subjects who have initiated a clinical trial but may withdraw at any time due to adverse side effects from the therapy, insufficient efficacy, fatigue with the clinical trial process or for any other reason;
- difficulty in obtaining IRB approval for studies to be conducted at each clinical trial site;
- delays in manufacturing or obtaining, or inability to manufacture or obtain, sufficient quantities of materials for use in clinical trials;
- difficulty or inability to find a partner that will allow us to test their product for our DMT410 program;
- inadequacy of or changes in our manufacturing process or the product formulation or method of delivery;

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- changes in applicable laws, regulations and regulatory policies;
- delays or failure in reaching agreement on acceptable terms in clinical trial contracts or protocols with prospective CROs, clinical trial sites and other third-party contractors;
- inability to add a sufficient number of clinical trial sites;
- uncertainty regarding proper formulation and dosing;
- failure by us, our employees, our CROs or their employees or other third-party contractors to comply with contractual and applicable regulatory requirements or to perform their services in a timely or acceptable manner;
- failure by us, our employees, our CROs or their employees or any partner with which we may collaborate or their employees to comply with applicable FDA or other regulatory requirements relating to the conduct of clinical trials or the handling, storage, security and recordkeeping for drug and biologic products;
- scheduling conflicts with participating clinicians and clinical institutions;
- failure to design appropriate clinical trial protocols;
- insufficient data to support regulatory approval;
- inability or unwillingness of medical investigators to follow our clinical protocols; or
- difficulty in maintaining contact with subjects during or after treatment, which may result in incomplete data.

In the case of our topical product candidates, we are seeking to deliver sufficient concentrations of the active pharmaceutical ingredient, or API, through the skin barrier to the targeted dermal tissue to achieve the intended therapeutic effect. As a result, safety and efficacy can be difficult to establish. The topical route of administration may involve new formulations and dosage forms, which can be difficult to develop and manufacture and may raise novel regulatory issues and result in development or review delays. For example, the API for XYNGARI™ is a milled sponge powder, and we are not aware of previous FDA approvals of sponges as a prescription drug.

We or any partner with which we may collaborate may suffer significant setbacks in our clinical trials similar to the experience of a number of other companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, even after receiving promising results in earlier trials. In the event that we or our potential partners abandon or are delayed in the clinical development efforts related to our product candidates, we may not be able to execute on our business plan effectively and our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects would be harmed.

Moreover, the development of our product candidates may be delayed by other events beyond our control. For example, action by the Trump administration to limit federal agency budgets or personnel, may result in reductions to the FDA's budget, employees, and operations, which may lead to slower response times and longer review periods, potentially affecting our ability to progress development of our product candidates or obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates.

***Our industry is subject to extensive regulatory obligations and policies that may be subject to change, including due to judicial challenges.***

The U. S. pharmaceutical industry is highly regulated and subject to frequent and substantial changes, including as a result of new judicial or governmental actions. Legislative and regulatory agendas as they relate to the pharmaceutical industry are currently uncertain. Changes in the regulatory approval process, or substantial reductions in the personnel who oversee that process, could affect our ability to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates or the timeline in which we can obtain that approval. We and/or our current and future third party collaborators may rely on government programs or agencies, such as the National Institutes for Health (“NIH”), as a source of grant funding for scientific research relevant to our product candidates. Funding from government agencies such as the NIH can fluctuate and is subject to the political process, which is often unpredictable. Reductions in NIH grants to us or our third party collaborators may adversely impact our ability to develop our existing product candidates and our ability to identify new product candidates. In addition, on June 28, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion holding that courts reviewing agency action pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act “must exercise their independent judgment” and “may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous.” The decision could have a significant impact on how lower courts evaluate challenges to agency interpretations of law, including those by the FDA and other agencies with significant oversight of the pharmaceutical industry. The new framework may increase both the frequency of such challenges and their odds of success by eliminating one way in which the government previously prevailed in such cases. As a result, significant regulatory policies could be subject to increased litigation and judicial scrutiny. We cannot predict how other future federal or state legislative or administrative changes relating to healthcare reform or the pharmaceutical industry, or the regulatory agencies that oversee the pharmaceutical industry, will affect our business.

***We face risks related to public health emergencies, epidemics and other outbreaks of communicable diseases, which could significantly disrupt our operations, including our clinical trials and preclinical studies, and adversely affect our business and results of operations.***

Public health crises, could have an adverse effect our business. Quarantines, travel restrictions and other public health and safety measures implemented in response to a pandemic, including a resurgence of COVID-19, could adversely impact our operations, and the ultimate impact is highly uncertain and cannot be predicted with confidence. Effects of a pandemic, including a resurgence of COVID-19, that may delay or otherwise adversely affect our ongoing and planned preclinical activities, our planned clinical trials as well as our business generally, include:

- delays related to disruptions at CROs and contract manufacturers, or in the supply chain;
- delays in receiving approval from regulatory authorities to initiate our planned clinical trials;
- delays or difficulties in clinical site initiation, including difficulties in recruiting clinical site investigators and clinical site staff who, as healthcare providers, may have heightened exposure;
- delays or difficulties in enrolling and retaining patients in clinical trials;
- delays in clinical sites receiving the supplies and materials needed to conduct our planned clinical trials;
- difficulties interpreting data from clinical trials;
- diversion of healthcare resources away from the conduct of clinical trials;
- interruption of key clinical trial activities, such as clinical trial site monitoring, due to limitations on travel imposed or recommended by federal or state governments, employers and others;
- interruption or delays in the operations of the FDA or other regulatory authorities, which may impact review and approval timelines; and interruptions, difficulties or delays arising in our existing operations and company culture as a result of many of our employees working remotely.

Any of these effects, and other effects of a pandemic, including a resurgence of COVID-19, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Further, uncertainty around these and related issues could lead to adverse effects on the economy of the United States, Canada, and other economies, which could impact our ability to raise the necessary capital needed to develop and commercialize our programs and product candidates.

***Changes in methods of product candidate manufacturing or formulation may result in additional costs or delay.***

As product candidates proceed through preclinical studies to late-stage clinical trials towards potential approval and commercialization, it is common that various aspects of the development program, such as manufacturing methods and formulation, are altered along the way in an effort to optimize processes and results. Such changes carry the risk that they will not achieve these intended objectives. Any of these changes could cause our product candidates to perform differently and affect the results of planned clinical trials or other future clinical trials conducted with the altered materials. Such changes may also require additional testing, FDA notification or FDA approval. This could delay completion of clinical trials, require the conduct of bridging clinical trials or the repetition of one or more clinical trials.

***Approval may be delayed or denied because we cannot satisfy FDA's Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control Requirements.***

Formulation and manufacturing of drugs is another important step in development. Our applications must include information about the chemistry and physical characteristics of our products, and we must demonstrate that we have a reliable process for manufacturing the products in commercial quantities in accordance with FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practices ("cGMP") requirements. The manufacturing process must consistently produce quality batches of the product, and, among other things, the manufacturer must develop methods for testing the identity, strength, quality, and purity of the final product. In addition, appropriate packaging must be selected and tested, and stability studies must be conducted to demonstrate the effectiveness of the packaging and that the compound does not undergo unacceptable deterioration over its shelf life. If we are unable to successfully complete any of these complex steps, approval of our product candidates may be delayed or denied.

***We may be unable to obtain regulatory approval for XYNGARD™, or our other early-stage product candidates under applicable regulatory requirements. The FDA and foreign regulatory bodies have substantial discretion in the approval process, including the ability to delay, limit or deny approval of product candidates. The delay, limitation or denial of any regulatory approval would adversely impact commercialization, our potential to generate revenue, our business and our operating results.***

We currently have no products approved for sale, and we may never obtain regulatory approval to commercialize any of our current or future product candidates. The research, testing, manufacturing, safety surveillance, efficacy, quality control, recordkeeping, labeling, packaging, storage, approval, sale, marketing, distribution, import, export, and reporting of safety and other post-market information related to our drug products are subject to extensive regulation by the FDA and other regulatory authorities in the United States and in foreign countries, and such regulations differ from country to country. We are not permitted to market any of our current product candidates in the United States until we receive approval of a new drug application, or NDA, or other applicable regulatory filing from the FDA. We are also not permitted to market any of our current product candidates in any foreign countries until we or our partners receive the requisite approval from the applicable regulatory authorities of such countries.



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To gain approval to market a new drug such as XYNGARI™ or DMT410, the FDA and/or foreign regulatory authorities must receive, among other things, preclinical and clinical data that adequately demonstrate the safety, purity, potency, efficacy and compliant manufacturing of the drug product for the intended indication applied for in an NDA, or other applicable regulatory filing. The development and approval of a product derived from a natural source and new drug products involves a long, expensive and uncertain process, and delay or failure can occur at any stage. A number of companies in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry have suffered significant setbacks in nonclinical development, clinical trials, including in Phase 3 clinical development, even after promising results in earlier preclinical studies or clinical trials. These setbacks have been caused by, among other things, findings made while clinical trials were underway and safety or efficacy observations made in clinical trials, including previously unreported adverse events. Success in clinical trials does not ensure that later clinical trials will be successful, or that nonclinical studies will be successful. The results of clinical trials by other parties may not be indicative of the results in trials we or our partners may conduct. For example, for XYNGARI™, the results of our Phase 2a and Phase 2b clinical trials may not accurately predict results of the ongoing Phase 3 clinical trials that have a larger number of patients. Nor will the human safety data collected from our Phase 2a and Phase 2b clinical trial predict the outcome of our pharmacokinetic plan.

The FDA and foreign regulatory bodies have substantial discretion in the drug approval process, including the ability to delay, limit or deny approval of product candidates for many reasons. The FDA or the applicable foreign regulatory body may:

- disagree with the design or implementation of one or more clinical trials;
- not deem a product candidate safe and effective for its proposed indication, or may deem a product candidate's safety or other perceived risks to outweigh its clinical or other benefits;
- not find the data from preclinical studies and clinical trials sufficient to support approval, or the results of clinical trials may not meet the level of statistical or clinical significance required by the FDA or the applicable foreign regulatory body for approval;
- disagree with our interpretation of data from preclinical studies or clinical trials performed by us or third parties, or with the interpretation of any partner with which we may collaborate;
- determine the data collected from clinical trials may not be sufficient to support the submission of an NDA, or other applicable regulatory filing;
- require additional preclinical studies or clinical trials;
- identify deficiencies in the formulation, quality control, labeling or specifications of our current or future product candidates;
- require clinical trials in pediatric patients in order to establish pharmacokinetics or safety for this more drug-sensitive population;
- grant approval contingent on the performance of costly additional post-approval clinical trials;
- approve our current or any future product candidates for a more limited indication or a narrower patient population than we originally requested or with strong warnings that may affect marketability;
- not approve the labeling that we believe is necessary or desirable for the successful commercialization of our product candidates;
- not approve of the manufacturing processes, controls or facilities of third-party manufacturers or testing labs with which we contract;
- consider our products a device instead of a drug requiring a different approval process and manufacturing needs;
- consider one of our products a combination product instead of a singular drug requiring additional clinical trials or increased number of patients per study, or
- change its approval policies or adopt new regulations in a manner rendering our clinical data or regulatory filings insufficient for approval.

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There have been only three products approved by the FDA under the botanical guidance. Each of these products' active ingredient was derived from the extract of a plant(s). Further, none of the products were approved for the indication of acne. While freshwater sponges, such as *Spongilla*, are technically animals, FDA has allowed us to reference the botanical guidance for raw material quality control relating to the manufacturing of the drug product. We do not know how any other regulatory authority will treat XYNGARI™ for their approval process. In addition, the FDA or other regulatory authorities may change their policies, issue additional regulations or revise existing regulations or take other actions, which may prevent or delay approval of our future products under development on a timely basis. Such policy or regulatory changes could impose additional requirements upon us that could delay our ability to obtain approvals, increase the costs of compliance or restrict our ability to maintain any marketing authorizations we may have obtained.

Any delay, limitation or denial in any applicable regulatory approval for any of our product candidates would delay or adversely impact commercialization of our product candidates and would harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

***We have completed enrollment of our first Phase 3 clinical trials for XYNGARI™, but that does not guarantee successful completion. We may be unable to successfully complete it or any future clinical trials.***

The conduct of a Phase 3 clinical program is a complicated process. Although members of our management team have conducted Phase 3 clinical trials in the past while employed at other companies, we as a company have not conducted a Phase 3 clinical trial before, and as a result may require more time and incur greater costs than we anticipate. Failure to include the correct treatment regimen, complete, or delays in, our Phase 3 clinical trials, could prevent us from or delay us in commencing future clinical trials for XYNGARI™, obtaining regulatory approval of and commercializing our product candidates, which would adversely impact our financial performance. In addition, some of our competitors are currently conducting clinical trials for product candidates that treat the same indications as XYNGARI™, and patients who are otherwise eligible for our clinical trials may instead enroll in clinical trials of our competitors' product candidates.

Patient enrollment is affected by other factors including:

- the severity of the disease under investigation;
- the eligibility criteria for the study in question;
- the perceived risks and benefits of the product candidate under study;
- the efforts to facilitate timely enrollment in clinical trials;
- the patient referral practices of physicians;
- the ability to monitor patients adequately during and after treatment;
- the proximity and availability of clinical trial sites for prospective patients; and
- factors we may not be able to control, such as potential pandemics that may limit subjects, principal investigators or staff or clinical site availability (e.g., a resurgence of COVID-19).

***Even if our current product candidates or any future product candidates obtain regulatory approval, they may fail to achieve the broad degree of physician and patient adoption and use necessary for commercial success.***

The commercial success of any of our current or future product candidates, if approved, will depend significantly on the broad adoption and use of the resulting product by physicians, patients and payors for approved indications, and may not be commercially successful. The degree and rate of adoption of our current or future product candidates, if approved, will depend on a number of factors, including:

- the clinical indications for which the product is approved and patient demand for approved products that treat those indications;
- the effectiveness of our product as compared to other available therapies;
- the availability of coverage and adequate reimbursement from managed care plans and other healthcare payors for any of our product candidates that may be approved;
- the cost of treatment with our product candidates in relation to alternative treatments and willingness to pay for the product, if approved, on the part of patients;
- acceptance by physicians, major operators of clinics and patients of the product as a safe and effective treatment;
- physician and patient willingness to adopt a new therapy, including for XYNGARI™, a sponge product, over other available therapies to treat approved indications;
- patients' perception of a product derived from a freshwater sponge as one for which will provide medical treatment;
- overcoming any biases physicians or patients may have toward particular therapies for the treatment of approved indications;
- proper training and administration of our product candidates by physicians and medical staff;
- patient satisfaction with the results and administration of our product candidates and overall treatment experience;
- the willingness of patients to pay for certain of our product candidates relative to other discretionary items, especially during economically challenging times;
- the revenue and profitability that our product candidate may offer a physician as compared to alternative therapies;
- the prevalence and severity of any side effects of our product candidates;
- limitations or warnings contained in the FDA-approved labeling for our product candidates;
- any FDA requirement to undertake a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, or REMS;
- the effectiveness of our sales, marketing and distribution efforts;
- our ability to maintain sufficient quantities of supply to meet demand;
- adverse publicity about our product candidates or favorable publicity about competitive products; and
- potential product liability claims.

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If any of our current or future product candidates are approved for use but fail to achieve the broad degree of physician and patient adoption necessary for commercial success, our operating results and financial condition will be adversely affected, which may delay, prevent or limit our ability to generate revenue and continue our business.

***We intend to seek NCE exclusivity for XYNGARI™ and future product candidates, and we may be unsuccessful in obtaining such exclusivity.***

As part of our business strategy, we intend to seek new chemical entity, or NCE, exclusivity for XYNGARI™ or future product candidates. In the United States, a pharmaceutical manufacturer may obtain five years of non-patent exclusivity upon NDA approval of an NCE which is a drug that contains an active moiety that has not been approved by the FDA in any other NDA. An “active moiety” is defined as the molecule or ion responsible for the drug substance’s physiological or pharmacologic action. During the five-year exclusivity period, the FDA cannot accept for filing any ANDA seeking approval of a generic version of that drug or any 505(b)(2) NDA for the same active moiety and that relies on the FDA’s findings regarding that drug, except that FDA may accept an application for filing after four years if the follow-on applicant makes a paragraph IV certification. This exclusivity period may be extended by an additional six months if certain requirements are met to qualify the product for pediatric exclusivity, including the receipt of a written request from the FDA that we conduct certain pediatric studies, the submission of study reports from such studies to the FDA after receipt of the written request and satisfaction of the conditions specified in the written request. We believe that XYNGARI™ constitutes an NCE and should be eligible for NCE exclusivity. However, we may be unable to successfully obtain such exclusivity, and if any of our competitors obtains FDA approval of an NDA for a similar drug product before we do, they, and not us, may be eligible for NCE exclusivity. If we do not obtain NCE exclusivity for XYNGARI™, or if a competitor obtains NCE exclusivity for a similar product before we submit and receive approval of an NDA for XYNGARI™, our ability to commence sales and generate revenue would be adversely affected.

***Our product candidates, if approved, will face significant competition and our failure to effectively compete may prevent us from achieving significant market penetration.***

The pharmaceutical industry is characterized by rapidly advancing technologies, intense competition and a strong emphasis on developing proprietary therapeutics. Numerous pharmaceutical companies, generic drug companies, biotechnology companies, cosmetic companies and academic and research institutions are engaged in the development, patenting, manufacturing and marketing of health care products competitive with those that we are developing, including but not limited to LEO Pharma, Journey Medical, VYNE Therapeutics, Galderma, Sun Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Sol-Gel, Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Arena Pharmaceuticals, Amgen, AbbVie, Bristol Meyers Squib, Pfizer, and others. Many of our competitors have greater financial resources, marketing capabilities, sales forces, manufacturing capabilities, research and development capabilities, clinical trial expertise, intellectual property portfolios, experience in obtaining patents and regulatory approvals for product candidates and other resources than us. Some of the companies that offer competing products also have a broad range of other product offerings, large direct sales forces and long-term customer relationships with our target physicians, which could inhibit our market penetration efforts. In addition, certain of our product candidates, if approved, may compete with other dermatological products, including over-the-counter treatments, for a share of some patients’ discretionary budgets and for physicians’ attention within their clinical practices.

We anticipate that, if we obtain regulatory approval of our product candidates, we will face significant competition from other approved therapies. If approved, our product candidates may also compete with unregulated, unapproved, off-label, and over the counter treatments. Certain of our product candidates, if approved, will present novel therapeutic approaches for the approved indications and will have to compete with existing therapies, some of which are widely known and accepted by physicians and patients. To compete successfully in this market, we will have to demonstrate that the relative cost, safety and efficacy of our approved products, if any, provide an attractive alternative to existing and other new therapies. Such competition could lead to reduced market share for our product candidates and contribute to downward pressure on the pricing of our product candidates, which could harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects. For more information about the competition we face, see “Business-Competition.”

Due to less stringent regulatory requirements in certain foreign countries, there are many more dermatological products and procedures available for use in those international markets than are approved for use in the United States. In certain international markets, there are also fewer limitations on the claims that our competitors can make about the effectiveness of their products and the manner in which they can market them. As a result, we expect to face more competition in these markets than in the United States.

***We expect to face generic or similar type of product competition for our product candidates, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.***

Upon the expiration or loss of any patent protection for any of our product candidates that are approved, or upon the “at-risk” launch, despite pending patent infringement litigation against the generic product or its equivalent, by a generic competitor of a generic version of any of our product candidates that are approved, which may be sold at significantly lower prices than our approved product candidates, we could lose a significant portion of sales of that product in a short period of time, which would adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

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It is unknown how the FDA or any regulatory authority will view an attempted generic version of XYNGARI™ because it is derived from a natural material that refers to principles of the botanical guidance. There are no currently approved generic versions of a natural product on the market and no FDA guidelines on the approval process for a generic version of a natural product. Therefore, it is unknown how difficult it will be for a generic version of a natural product to be approved for commercial sale in the United States. It is unclear whether the FDA will view *Spongilla lacustris* or a similar sponge species that is harvested from a different location than XYNGARI™ raw material is harvested as identical to XYNGARI™ raw material and therefore could follow the generic pathway to approval.

***Any product candidates that we commercialize, or that any partner with which we may collaborate commercializes, will be subject to ongoing and continued regulatory review.***

Even after we or our partners achieve U.S. regulatory approval for a product candidate, if any, we or our partners will be subject to continued regulatory review and compliance obligations. For example, with respect to our product candidates, the FDA may impose significant restrictions on the approved indicated uses for which the product may be marketed or on the conditions of approval. A product candidate's approval may contain requirements for potentially costly post-approval studies and surveillance, including Phase 4 clinical trials or a REMS, to monitor the safety and efficacy of the product. We will also be subject to ongoing FDA obligations and continued regulatory review with respect to, among other things, the manufacturing, processing, labeling, packaging, distribution, adverse event reporting, storage, advertising, promotion and recordkeeping for our product candidates. These requirements include submissions of safety and other post-marketing information and reports, registration, as well as continued compliance with cGMP requirements, with the FDA's good clinical practice, or GCP, or good agricultural and collections practices, or GACP, requirements and good laboratory practice, or GLP, requirements, which are regulations and guidelines enforced by the FDA for all of our product candidates in clinical and preclinical development, and for any clinical trials that we conduct post-approval. To the extent that a product candidate is approved for sale in other countries, we may be subject to similar restrictions and requirements imposed by laws and government regulators in those countries.

If we, our partners, our product candidates or the manufacturing facilities for our product candidates fail to comply with applicable regulatory requirements, a regulatory agency may:

- impose restrictions on the marketing or manufacturing of the product, suspend or withdraw product approvals or revoke necessary licenses;
- mandate modifications to promotional materials or require us to provide corrective information to healthcare practitioners;
- require us or our partners to enter into a consent decree, which can include imposition of various fines, reimbursements for inspection costs, required due dates for specific actions and penalties for noncompliance;
- issue warning letters, show cause notices or untitled letters describing alleged violations, which may be publicly available;
- commence criminal investigations and prosecutions;
- impose injunctions, suspensions or revocations of necessary approvals or other licenses;
- impose other civil or criminal penalties;
- suspend any ongoing clinical trials;
- delay or refuse to approve pending applications or supplements to approved applications filed by us or our potential partners;
- refuse to permit drugs or precursor chemicals to be imported or exported to or from the United States;
- suspend or impose restrictions on operations, including costly new manufacturing requirements; or
- seize or detain products or require us or our partners to initiate a product recall.

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The regulations, policies or guidance of the FDA and other applicable government agencies may change and new or additional statutes or government regulations may be enacted that could prevent or delay regulatory approval of our product candidates or further restrict or regulate post-approval activities. We cannot predict the likelihood, nature or extent of adverse government regulation that may arise from future legislation or administrative action, either in the United States or abroad. If we are not able to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance, we may not be permitted to market our product candidates, which would adversely affect our ability to generate revenue and achieve or maintain profitability.

***We may in the future conduct clinical trials for our product candidates outside the United States and the FDA and applicable foreign regulatory authorities may not accept data from such trials.***

We are currently and may in the future choose to conduct one or more of our clinical trials outside the United States, including in Canada, Europe and South America. Although the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority may accept data from clinical trials conducted outside the United States or the applicable jurisdiction, acceptance of such study data by the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority may be subject to certain conditions. Where data from foreign clinical trials are intended to serve as the basis for marketing approval in the United States, the FDA will not approve the application on the basis of foreign data alone unless those data are applicable to the U.S. population and U.S. medical practice; the studies were performed by clinical investigators of recognized competence; and the data are considered valid without the need for an on-site inspection by the FDA or, if the FDA considers such an inspection to be necessary, the FDA is able to validate the data through an on-site inspection or other appropriate means. Many foreign regulatory bodies have similar requirements. In addition, such foreign studies would be subject to the applicable local laws of the foreign jurisdictions where the studies are conducted. There can be no assurance the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority will accept data from trials conducted outside of the United States or the applicable jurisdiction. If the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority does not accept such data, it would likely result in the need for additional trials, which would be costly and time-consuming and delay aspects of our business plan.

***Our product candidates may cause undesirable side effects or have other unexpected properties that could delay or prevent their regulatory approval, limit the commercial profile of an approved label or result in post-approval regulatory action.***

Unforeseen side effects from any of our product candidates could arise either during clinical development or, if approved, after the approved product has been marketed. Undesirable side effects caused by product candidates could cause us, any partners with which we may collaborate or regulatory authorities to interrupt, modify, delay or halt clinical trials and could result in a more restrictive label or the delay or denial of regulatory approval by the FDA or comparable foreign authorities. Results of clinical trials could reveal a high and unacceptable severity and prevalence of side effects. In such an event, trials could be suspended or terminated and the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities could order us, or our potential partners, to cease further development of or deny approval of product candidates for any or all targeted indications. The drug-related side effects could affect patient recruitment or the ability of enrolled patients to complete the trial or result in product liability claims. Any of these occurrences may harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

Additionally, if we or others identify undesirable side effects, or other previously unknown problems, caused by our product candidates after obtaining U.S. or foreign regulatory approval or other products with the same or related active ingredients, a number of potentially negative consequences could result, including:

- regulatory authorities may withdraw their approval of the product;
- regulatory authorities may require a recall of the product or we or our potential partners may voluntarily recall a product;
- regulatory authorities may require the addition of warnings or contraindications in the product labeling, narrowing of the indication in the product label or field alerts to physicians and pharmacies;
- we may be required to create a medication guide outlining the risks of such side effects for distribution to patients or institute a REMS;
- we may have limitations on how we promote the product;
- we may be required to change the way the product is administered or modify the product in some other way; the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority may require additional clinical trials or costly post-marketing testing and surveillance to monitor the safety or efficacy of the product;
- the FDA or applicable foreign regulatory authority may require additional clinical trials or costly post-marketing testing and surveillance to monitor the safety or efficacy of the product
- sales of the product may decrease significantly;
- we could be sued and held liable for harm caused to patients; and
- our brand and reputation may suffer.

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Any of the above events resulting from undesirable side effects or other previously unknown problems could prevent us or our potential partners from achieving or maintaining market acceptance of the affected product candidate and could substantially increase the costs of commercializing our product candidates.

***We may face product liability exposure, and if successful claims are brought against us, we may incur substantial liability if our insurance coverage for those claims is inadequate.***

We face an inherent risk of product liability as a result of the clinical testing of our product candidates and will face an even greater risk if we commercialize any products. This risk exists even if a product is approved for commercial sale by the FDA and manufactured in facilities licensed and regulated by the FDA or an applicable foreign regulatory authority. Our products and product candidates are designed to affect important bodily functions and processes. Any side effects, manufacturing defects, misuse or abuse associated with our product candidates could result in injury to a patient or even death. We cannot offer any assurance that we will not face product liability suits in the future, nor can we assure you that our insurance coverage will be sufficient to cover our liability under any such cases.

In addition, a liability claim may be brought against us even if our product candidates merely appear to have caused an injury. Product liability claims may be brought against us by consumers, health care providers, pharmaceutical companies or others selling or otherwise coming into contact with our product candidates, among others. If we cannot successfully defend ourselves against product liability claims we will incur substantial liabilities and reputational harm. In addition, regardless of merit or eventual outcome, product liability claims may result in:

- withdrawal of clinical trial participants;
- termination of clinical trial sites or entire trial programs;
- inability to gain regulatory approval of our product candidates;
- the inability to commercialize our product candidates;
- decreased demand for our product candidates;
- impairment of our business reputation;
- product recall or withdrawal from the market or labeling, marketing or promotional restrictions;
- substantial costs of any related litigation or similar disputes;
- distraction of management's attention and other resources from our primary business;
- substantial monetary awards to patients or other claimants against us that may not be covered by insurance; or
- loss of revenue.



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We currently maintain product liability insurance coverage, which may not be sufficient to cover all of our product liability related expenses or losses and may not cover us for any expenses or losses we may suffer. Moreover, insurance coverage is becoming increasingly expensive, and, in the future, we may not be able to maintain insurance coverage at a reasonable cost, in sufficient amounts or upon adequate terms to protect us against losses due to product liability. We will need to increase our product liability coverage if any of our product candidates receive regulatory approval, which will be costly, and we may be unable to obtain this increased product liability insurance on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. A successful product liability claim or series of claims brought against us could cause our stock price to decline and, if judgments exceed our insurance coverage, could decrease our cash and could harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

***If any of our product candidates are approved for marketing and we are found to have improperly promoted off-label uses, or if physicians misuse our products or use our products off-label, we may become subject to prohibitions on the sale or marketing of our products, product liability claims and significant fines, penalties and sanctions, and our brand and reputation could be harmed.***

The FDA and other regulatory agencies strictly regulate the marketing and promotional claims that are made about drug and biologic products. In particular, a product may not be promoted for uses or indications that are not approved by the FDA or such other regulatory agencies as reflected in the product's approved labeling and comparative safety or efficacy claims cannot be made without direct comparative clinical data. If we are found to have promoted off-label uses of any of our product candidates, we may receive warning or untitled letters and become subject to significant liability, which would materially harm our business. Both federal and state governments have levied large civil and criminal fines against companies for alleged improper promotion and have enjoined several companies from engaging in off-label promotion. If we become the target of such an investigation or prosecution based on our marketing and promotional practices, we could face similar sanctions, which would materially harm our business. In addition, management's attention could be diverted from our business operations, significant legal expenses could be incurred and our brand and reputation could be damaged. The FDA has also requested that companies enter into consent decrees or permanent injunctions under which specified promotional conduct is changed or curtailed. If we are deemed by the FDA to have engaged in the promotion of our products for off-label use, we could be subject to FDA regulatory or enforcement actions, including the issuance of an untitled letter, a warning letter, injunction, seizure, civil fine or criminal penalties. It is also possible that other federal, state or foreign enforcement authorities might take action if they consider our business activities constitute promotion of an off-label use, which could result in significant penalties, including criminal, civil or administrative penalties, damages, fines, disgorgement, exclusion from participation in government healthcare programs and the curtailment or restructuring of our operations.

We cannot, however, prevent a physician from using our product candidates outside of those indications for use when in the physician's independent professional medical judgment he or she deems appropriate. Physicians may also misuse our product candidates or use improper techniques, potentially leading to adverse results, side effects or injury, which may lead to product liability claims. If our product candidates are misused or used with improper technique, we may become subject to costly litigation by physicians or their patients. Furthermore, the use of our product candidates for indications other than those cleared by the FDA may not effectively treat such conditions, which could harm our reputation among physicians and patients.

***We may choose not to continue developing or commercializing any of our product candidates at any time during development or after approval, which would reduce or eliminate our potential return on investment for those product candidates.***

At any time, we may decide to discontinue the development of any of our product candidates or not to continue commercializing one or more of our approved product candidates for a variety of reasons, including the appearance of new technologies that make our product obsolete, competition from a competing product or changes in or failure to comply with applicable regulatory requirements. If we terminate a program in which we have invested significant resources, we will not receive any return on our investment and we will have missed the opportunity to have allocated those resources to potentially more productive uses.

For example, on December 5, 2022, we announced topline results from our Phase 2 trial of once-weekly topical application of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe rosacea. While the data was supportive of XYNGARI™ as a treatment for inflammatory skin diseases, the rosacea study did not meet its primary endpoints. Based on the foregoing, we decided not to devote any further financial resources to development of this indication for XYNGARI™, and we determined not to pursue further development efforts regarding this indication for XYNGARI™.

***We or our current and prospective partners may be subject to product recalls in the future that could harm our brand and reputation and could negatively affect our business.***

We or our current and prospective partners may be subject to product recalls, withdrawals or seizures if any of our product candidates, if approved for marketing, fail to meet specifications or are believed to cause injury or illness or if we are alleged to have violated governmental regulations including those related to the manufacture, labeling, promotion, sale or distribution. Any recall, withdrawal or seizure in the future could materially and adversely affect consumer confidence in our brands and lead to decreased demand for our approved products. In addition, a recall, withdrawal or seizure of any of our approved products would require significant management attention, would likely result in substantial and unexpected expenditures and would harm our business, financial condition and operating results.

***If we or any partners with which we may collaborate are unable to achieve and maintain coverage and adequate levels of reimbursement for any of our product candidates for which we receive regulatory approval, or any future products we may seek to commercialize, their commercial success may be severely hindered.***

For any of our product candidates that become available only by prescription, successful sales by us or by any partners with which we may collaborate depend on the availability of coverage and adequate reimbursement from third-party payors. Patients who are prescribed medicine for the treatment of their conditions generally rely on third-party payors to reimburse all or part of the costs associated with their prescription drugs. The availability of coverage and adequate reimbursement from governmental healthcare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and private third-party payors is critical to new product acceptance. Coverage decisions may depend upon clinical and economic standards that disfavor new drug products when more established or lower cost therapeutic alternatives are already available or subsequently become available. If any of our product candidates do not demonstrate attractive efficacy profiles, they may not qualify for coverage and reimbursement. Even if we obtain coverage for a given product, the resulting reimbursement payment rates might not be adequate or may require co-payments that patients find unacceptably high. Patients are unlikely to use our products unless coverage is provided and reimbursement is adequate to cover a significant portion of the cost of our products.

In addition, the market for our product candidates will depend significantly on access to third-party payors' drug formularies, or lists of medications for which third-party payors provide coverage and reimbursement. The industry competition to be included in such formularies often leads to downward pricing pressures on pharmaceutical companies. Also, third-party payors may refuse to include a particular branded drug in their formularies or otherwise restrict patient access to a branded drug when a less costly generic equivalent or other alternative is available.

Further, third-party payors, whether foreign or domestic, or governmental or commercial, are developing increasingly sophisticated methods of controlling healthcare costs. In addition, in the United States, although private third-party payors tend to follow Medicare, no uniform policy of coverage and reimbursement for drug products exists among third-party payors. Therefore, coverage and reimbursement for drug products can differ significantly from payor to payor. As a result, the coverage determination process is often a time-consuming and costly process that will require us to provide scientific and clinical support for the use of our product candidates to each payor separately, with no assurance that coverage and adequate reimbursement will be obtained.

Further, we believe that future coverage and reimbursement will likely be subject to increased restrictions both in the United States and in international markets. Third-party coverage and reimbursement for any of our product candidates for which we may receive regulatory approval may not be available or adequate in either the United States or international markets, which could harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

***Healthcare legislative or regulatory reform measures, including government restrictions on pricing and reimbursement, may have a negative impact on our business and results of operations.***

In the United States and some foreign jurisdictions, there have been, and continue to be, several legislative and regulatory changes and proposed changes regarding the healthcare system that could prevent or delay marketing approval of product candidates, restrict or regulate post approval activities, and affect our ability to profitably sell any product candidates for which we obtain marketing approval.

Among policy makers and payors in the United States and elsewhere, there is significant interest in promoting changes in healthcare systems with the stated goals of containing healthcare costs, improving quality and/or expanding access. In the United States, the pharmaceutical industry has been a particular focus of these efforts and has been significantly affected by major legislative initiatives. For example, in the United States, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, or the ACA, substantially changed the way health care is financed by both governmental and private insurers and significantly affects the pharmaceutical industry. Many provisions of the ACA impact the biopharmaceutical industry, including that in order for a biopharmaceutical product to receive federal reimbursement under the Medicare Part B and Medicaid programs or to be sold directly to U.S. government agencies, the manufacturer must extend discounts to entities eligible to participate in the drug pricing program under the Public Health Services Act, or PHS. Since its enactment, there have been judicial and Congressional challenges and amendments to certain aspects of the ACA. There is continued uncertainty about the implementation of the ACA, including the potential for further amendments to the ACA and legal challenges to or efforts to repeal the ACA.

Additionally, there has been heightened governmental scrutiny in the United States of pharmaceutical pricing practices in light of the rising cost of prescription drugs and biologics. On September 9, 2021, the Biden Administration published a wide-ranging list of policy proposals, most of which would need to be carried out by Congress, to reduce drug prices and drug payment. The United States Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") plan includes, among other reform measures, proposals to lower prescription drug prices, including by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and disincentivizing price increases, and to support market changes that strengthen supply chains, promote biosimilars and generic drugs, and increase price transparency. These initiatives recently culminated in the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act (the "IRA") in August 2022, which, among other things, allows the HHS to negotiate the selling price of certain drugs and biologics that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") reimburses under Medicare Part B and Part D, although only high-expenditure single-source drugs that have been approved for at least 7 years (11 years for biologics) can be selected by CMS for negotiation, with the negotiated price taking effect two years after the selection year. The negotiated prices, which will first become effective in 2026, will be capped at a statutory ceiling price beginning in October 2023, penalize drug manufacturers that increase prices of Medicare Part B and Part D drugs at a rate greater than the rate of inflation. The IRA permits the Secretary of HHS to implement many of these provisions through guidance, as opposed to regulation, for the initial years. Manufacturers that fail to comply with the IRA may be subject to various penalties, including civil monetary penalties. The IRA also extends enhanced subsidies for individuals purchasing health insurance coverage in ACA marketplaces through plan year 2025. These provisions took effect progressively starting in 2023, and so far have withstood although they may be subject to legal challenges.

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Other examples of proposed changes include, but are not limited to, expanding post-approval requirements, changing the Orphan Drug Act, and restricting sales and promotional activities for pharmaceutical products.

We cannot be sure whether additional legislative changes will be enacted, or whether government regulations, guidance or interpretations will be changed, or what the impact of such changes would be on the marketing approvals, sales, pricing, or reimbursement of our drug candidates or products, if any, may be. We expect that these and other healthcare reform measures that may be adopted in the future, may result in more rigorous coverage criteria and in additional downward pressure on the price that we receive for any approved drug. Any reduction in reimbursement from Medicare or other government programs may result in a similar reduction in payments from private payors. The implementation of cost containment measures or other healthcare reforms may prevent us from being able to generate revenue, attain profitability, or commercialize our drugs.

In addition, FDA regulations and guidance may be revised or reinterpreted by the FDA in ways that may significantly affect our business and our products. Any new regulations or guidance, or revisions or reinterpretations of existing regulations or guidance, may impose additional costs or lengthen FDA review times for XYNGARI™ or any future product candidates. We cannot determine how changes in regulations, statutes, policies, or interpretations when and if issued, enacted or adopted, may affect our business in the future. Such changes could, among other things, require:

- additional clinical trials to be conducted prior to obtaining approval;
- changes to manufacturing methods;
- recalls, replacements, or discontinuance of one or more of our products; and
- additional recordkeeping.

Such changes would likely require substantial time and impose significant costs, or could reduce the potential commercial value of XYNGARI™ or other product candidates. In addition, delays in receipt of or failure to receive regulatory clearances or approvals for any other products would harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

***We may also be subject to healthcare laws, regulation and enforcement and our failure to comply with those laws could adversely affect our business, operations and financial condition.***

Certain federal and state healthcare laws and regulations pertaining to fraud and abuse and patients' rights are and will be applicable to our business. We are subject to regulation by both the federal government and the states in which we or our partners conduct our business. The laws and regulations that may affect our ability to operate include:

- the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, which prohibits, among other things, any person or entity from knowingly and willfully offering, soliciting, receiving or providing any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe or rebate), directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, to induce either the referral of an individual or in return for the purchase, lease, or order of any good, facility item or service, for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under federal healthcare programs such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- federal civil and criminal false claims laws and civil monetary penalty laws, including, for example, the federal civil False Claims Act, which impose criminal and civil penalties, including civil whistleblower or qui tam actions, against individuals or entities for, among other things, knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, to the federal government, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, claims for payment that are false or fraudulent or making a false statement to avoid, decrease or conceal an obligation to pay money to the federal government;
- the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, which created new federal criminal statutes that prohibit knowingly and willfully executing, or attempting to execute, a scheme to defraud any healthcare benefit program or obtain, by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises, any of the money or property owned by, or under the custody or control of, any healthcare benefit program, regardless of the payor (e.g., public or private), knowingly and willfully embezzling or stealing from a health care benefit program, willfully obstructing a criminal investigation of a health care offense and knowingly and willfully falsifying, concealing or covering up by any trick or device a material fact or making any materially false statements in connection with the delivery of, or payment for, healthcare benefits, items or services relating to healthcare matters;

- HIPAA, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, and their implementing regulations, which impose obligations on covered entities, including healthcare providers, health plans, and healthcare clearinghouses, as well as their respective business associates that create, receive, maintain or transmit individually identifiable health information for or on behalf of a covered entity, with respect to safeguarding the privacy, security and transmission of individually identifiable health information;
- the Physician Payments Sunshine Act requirements under the Affordable Care Act, which require manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologics and medical supplies to report annually to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services information related to payments and other transfers of value provided to physicians and teaching hospitals, and ownership and investment interests held by physicians and their immediate family members; and
- state law equivalents of each of the above federal laws, such as anti-kickback and false claims laws, which may apply to items or services reimbursed by any third-party payor, including commercial insurers; state laws that require pharmaceutical companies to comply with the pharmaceutical industry's voluntary compliance guidelines and the applicable compliance guidance promulgated by the federal government, or otherwise restrict payments that may be provided to healthcare providers and other potential referral sources; state laws that require drug manufacturers to report information related to payments and other transfers of value to healthcare providers or marketing expenditures; and state laws governing the privacy and security of health information in certain circumstances, many of which differ from each other in significant ways and may not have the same effect, thus complicating compliance efforts.

Because of the breadth of these laws and the narrowness of the statutory exceptions and safe harbors available, it is possible that some of our business activities could be subject to challenge under one or more of such laws. In addition, recent health care reform legislation has strengthened these laws. For example, the recently enacted Affordable Care Act, among other things, amended the intent requirement of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and certain criminal healthcare fraud statutes. A person or entity no longer needs to have actual knowledge of the statute or specific intent to violate it. In addition, the Affordable Care Act provided that the government may assert that a claim including items or services resulting from a violation of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute constitutes a false or fraudulent claim for purposes of the federal civil False Claims Act.

Achieving and sustaining compliance with these laws may prove costly. In addition, any action against us for violation of these laws, even if we successfully defend against it, could cause us to incur significant legal expenses and divert our management's attention from the operation of our business. If our operations are found to be in violation of any of the laws described above or any other governmental laws or regulations that apply to us, we may be subject to penalties, including administrative, civil and criminal penalties, damages, fines, disgorgement, the exclusion from participation in federal and state healthcare programs, individual imprisonment or the curtailment or restructuring of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our financial results.

***Our employees, independent contractors, principal investigators, consultants, vendors, CROs and any partners with which we may collaborate may engage in misconduct or other improper activities, including noncompliance with regulatory standards and requirements.***

We are exposed to the risk that our employees, independent contractors, principal investigators, consultants, vendors, CROs and any partners with which we may collaborate may engage in fraudulent or other illegal activity. Misconduct by these persons could include intentional, reckless or negligent conduct or unauthorized activity that violates: laws or regulations, including those laws requiring the reporting of true, complete and accurate information to the FDA or foreign regulatory authorities; manufacturing standards; federal, state and foreign healthcare fraud and abuse laws and data privacy; or laws that require the true, complete and accurate reporting of financial information or data. In particular, sales, marketing and other business arrangements in the healthcare industry are subject to extensive laws intended to prevent fraud, kickbacks, self-dealing and other abusive practices. These laws may restrict or prohibit a wide range of business activities, including research, manufacturing, distribution, pricing, discounting, marketing and promotion, sales commission, customer incentive programs and other business arrangements. Activities subject to these laws also involve the improper use of information obtained in the course of clinical trials, or illegal misappropriation of drug product, which could result in regulatory sanctions or other actions or lawsuits stemming from a failure to be in compliance with such laws or regulations, and serious harm to our reputation. In addition, federal procurement laws impose substantial penalties for misconduct in connection with government contracts and require certain contractors to maintain a code of business ethics and conduct. If any such actions are instituted against us, and we are not successful in defending ourselves or asserting our rights, those actions could have a significant impact on our business, including the imposition of civil, criminal and administrative penalties, damages, monetary fines, possible exclusion from participation in Medicare, Medicaid and other federal healthcare programs, contractual damages, reputational harm, diminished profits and future earnings, and curtailment of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our operating results.

***Our future growth depends, in part, on our ability to penetrate foreign markets, where we would be subject to additional regulatory burdens and other risks and uncertainties.***

Our future profitability will depend, in part, on our ability to commercialize our product candidates in foreign markets for which we intend to rely on collaborations with third parties. If we commercialize XYNGARI™ or our other product candidates in foreign markets, we would be subject to additional risks and uncertainties, including:

- our customers' ability to obtain market access and appropriate reimbursement for our product candidates in foreign markets;
- our inability to directly control commercial activities because we are relying on third parties;
- the burden of complying with complex and changing foreign regulatory, tax, accounting and legal requirements;
- different medical practices and customs in foreign countries affecting acceptance in the marketplace
- import or export licensing requirements;
- longer accounts receivable collection times;
- longer lead times for shipping;
- language barriers for technical training;
- reduced protection of intellectual property rights in some foreign countries;
- foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations; and
- the interpretation of contractual provisions governed by foreign laws in the event of a contract dispute.

Foreign sales of our product candidates could also be adversely affected by the imposition of governmental controls, political and economic instability, trade restrictions and changes in tariffs, any of which may adversely affect our results of operations.

***Development of test methodology for XYNGARI™ presents unique challenges due to the complex mixture of constituents in the product. Determination of appropriate assay(s) for release and quality control evaluations could require significant development time and cost to successfully complete and uncertain.***

XYNGARI™ is comprised of both inorganic and organic constituents, and unlike most pharmaceutical products, there is no single active component to characterize for purposes of assay development. In order to release the drug product and test for stability we plan to develop a cell-based bioassay to assess inhibitory effects of XYNGARI™ on pro-inflammatory cytokines known to play a role in the pathogenesis of various skin diseases. While this approach may show activity, it may not be suitable as a quality control release potency assay for XYNGARI™. Furthermore, this technique may not have sufficient sensitivity to be considered stability-indicating and detect small changes or degradation to the product. If we are not able to develop a suitable potency assay utilizing this approach, we may have to identify and develop an alternative bioassay platform or secondary approaches that may require additional orthogonal methodologies to meet our testing requirements. This could be expensive, time consuming and its success uncertain, leading to delays in filing of the NDA.

## Risks Related to Our Dependence on Third Parties

***We are dependent on one supplier for the raw material used to produce XYNGARI™ and DMT410. The termination of this contract would result in a disruption to product development and our business will be harmed.***

We currently only have one qualified source of supply for the raw material used in XYNGARI™ and DMT410. While we have an exclusive supply agreement with our supplier, our supplier may not comply with the terms of our agreement and may supply to third parties. XYNGARI™ and DMT410 contain a wild growing freshwater sponge that grows in an area of the Volga River delta in Russia that is partially protected by a Russian government entity. The Russian government entity allocates a quantity of freshwater sponge that may be harvested each harvest season and may determine in any year that no sponge or a smaller quantity of sponge than harvested in previous years may be harvested in a particular year, which could impact our ability to obtain raw material to manufacture and supply XYNGARI™ and DMT410. If we have not adequately stockpiled raw materials, or even if we do stockpile raw material, we could not have enough raw material to meet the quantity demands to conduct our non-clinical and clinical studies or to supply product for the market if approved.

The freshwater sponge contained in XYNGARI™ and DMT410 can only be harvested once per year based on the presence of certain environmental conditions. If these environmental conditions are not present during the harvest season, then our supplier may not be able to harvest the raw material required, which could impact our ability to manufacture and supply XYNGARI™ and DMT410. The ability of our supplier to harvest the sponge may also be impacted by severe weather and limit the length of time they can harvest, which could limit the amount of raw material that can be harvested, which may impact our ability to manufacture and supply XYNGARI™ and DMT410. The portion of the Volga River delta where the sponge grows could also become contaminated from pollutants, which could contaminate the sponge to be harvested by our supplier, making it unusable in humans, impacting our ability to manufacture and supply XYNGARI™ and DMT410.

Even if we are able to obtain supply, we and our supplier are exposed to a number of environmental and geopolitical risks, including:

- risk of contamination being introduced in the Volga River, thereby polluting the *Spongilla lacustris* population through environmental factors that we cannot control, which could result in new impurities or reduced supply of raw materials;
- loss of *Spongilla lacustris* habitat and other similar environmental risks to the sponge population whether due to climate change, over-development, or otherwise;
- risk of disease in the *Spongilla lacustris* geographic area where harvested;
- risk of trade issues between the U.S. and Russia;
- restrictions on trade of certain items between the U.S. and Russia;
- restriction on means of payment with Russian entities; and
- other unforeseen geopolitical factors that limit our ability access our supply of raw material.

Restrictions could be imposed on the harvesting of the raw material. Such events could have a significant impact on our cost and ability to produce XYNGARI™ and DMT410 and anticipated line extensions. The country from which we obtain the raw material could change its laws and regulations regarding the export of the natural products or impose or increase taxes or duties payable by exporters of such products. In addition, any business, global or economic challenges our existing supplier faces, whether in the ordinary course of business or not, could impair its ability to supply our needs for raw materials. Accordingly, there is a risk that supplies of our raw materials may be significantly delayed by or may become unavailable as a result of any issues affecting our supply and production of naturally sourced products. In addition, if we need a new or additional suppliers, it may take a substantial amount of time and financial resources to identify any additional supplier(s) who can supply our required raw materials in the quality and quantity required for our pre-clinical and we may not be able to negotiate new agreements with an alternate or new supplier on terms that we deem commercially reasonable or at all, and the failure by us to enter into such agreements could harm our financial condition, business, clinical trials and prospects.



***Our business may be affected by new sanctions, import restrictions, and export controls targeting Russia and other responses to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.***

As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union governments, among others, have developed coordinated sanctions, import restrictions, and export-control measure packages against Russian individuals and entities. We are currently a party to an exclusive supply agreement for the supply of the *Spongilla* raw material used in XYNGARI™ and DMT410. The counterparty to this supply agreement is a Russian entity. To date, none of these sanctions, import restrictions, or export-controls have impacted our ability to perform under our supply agreement. However, the imposition of enhanced import restrictions, export controls, or economic sanctions on transactions with Russia or Russian entities by the United States, the United Kingdom, and/or the European Union could make it challenging to process financial transactions in accordance with legal requirements and could prevent us from performing under this existing contract or any future contract we may enter or remitting payment for raw material purchased from our supplier. If there is any limitation or restriction on our ability to make timely and compliant payments to our supplier, our supplier may refuse or delay the delivery of *Spongilla* raw material which could result in production interruptions, delays in the progress of clinical trials, increased costs to source alternative suppliers, and a material adverse impact on our operations, financial condition, and results of operations. We've received multiple shipments of *Spongilla* raw material from our supplier during fiscal years 2023 and 2024 containing additional quantities of *Spongilla* raw material which we believe will provide us with sufficient quantities of *Spongilla* to complete the XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical program in moderate-to-severe acne and support filing an NDA for XYNGARI™ in acne in the event of the successful completion of the XYNGARI™ Phase 3 clinical program. Depending on the extent and breadth of new sanctions, import restrictions, or export controls that may be imposed against Russia, otherwise or as a result of the impact of the war in the Ukraine, it is possible that our business, results of operations, and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

***We have in the past relied and expect to continue to rely on third-party CROs and other third parties to conduct and oversee our clinical trials and other aspects of product development. If these third parties do not meet our requirements or otherwise conduct the trials as required, we may not be able to satisfy our contractual obligations or obtain regulatory approval for, or commercialize, our product candidates when expected or at all.***

We have in the past relied and expect to continue to rely on third-party CROs to conduct and oversee our clinical trials and other aspects of product development. We also rely upon various medical institutions, clinical investigators and contract laboratories to conduct our trials in accordance with our clinical protocols and all applicable regulatory requirements, including the FDA's regulations and GCPs, which are an international standard meant to protect the rights and health of patients and to define the roles of clinical trial sponsors, administrators and monitors, and state regulations governing the handling, storage, security and recordkeeping for drug and biologic products. These CROs and other third parties play a significant role in the conduct of these trials and the subsequent collection and analysis of data from the clinical trials. We rely heavily on these parties for the execution of our clinical trials and preclinical studies, and control only certain aspects of their activities. We and our CROs and other third-party contractors are required to comply with GCP, GLP, and GACP requirements, which are regulations and guidelines enforced by the FDA and comparable foreign regulatory authorities for products in clinical development. Regulatory authorities enforce these GCP, GLP and GACP requirements through periodic inspections of trial sponsors, principal investigators and trial sites. If we or any of these third parties fail to comply with applicable GCP, GLP and GACP requirements, the clinical data generated in our clinical trials may be deemed unreliable and the FDA or other regulatory authority may require us to perform additional clinical trials before approving our or our partners' marketing applications. We cannot assure you that upon inspection by a given regulatory authority, such regulatory authority will determine that any of our clinical or preclinical trials complies with applicable GCP and GLP requirements. In addition, our clinical trials must generally be conducted with product produced under cGMP regulations. Our failure to comply with these regulations and policies may require us to repeat clinical trials, which would delay the regulatory approval process.

Our CROs are not our employees, and we do not control whether or not they devote sufficient time and resources to our clinical trials. Our CROs may also have relationships with other commercial entities, including our competitors, for whom they may also be conducting clinical trials, or other drug development activities, which could harm our competitive position. We face the risk of potential unauthorized disclosure or misappropriation of our intellectual property by CROs, which may reduce our trade secret protection and allow our potential competitors to access and exploit our proprietary technology. If our CROs do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or obligations, fail to meet expected deadlines, or if the quality or accuracy of the clinical data they obtain is compromised due to the failure to adhere to our clinical protocols or regulatory requirements or for any other reason, our clinical trials may be extended, delayed or terminated, and we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for, or successfully commercialize any product candidate that we develop. As a result, our financial results and the commercial prospects for any product candidate that we develop would be harmed, our costs could increase, and our ability to generate revenue could be delayed.

If any of our CROs or clinical trial sites terminate their involvement in one of our clinical trials for any reason, we may not be able to enter into arrangements with alternative CROs or clinical trial sites, or do so on commercially reasonable terms. In addition, if our relationship with clinical trial sites is terminated, we may experience the loss of follow-up information on patients enrolled in our ongoing clinical trials unless we are able to transfer the care of those patients to another qualified clinical trial site. In addition, principal investigators for our clinical trials may serve as scientific advisors or consultants to us from time to time and could receive cash or equity compensation in connection with such services. If these relationships and any related compensation result in perceived or actual conflicts of interest, the integrity of the data generated at the applicable clinical trial site may be questioned by the FDA.



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***We rely completely on third-party contractors to supply, manufacture and distribute clinical drug supplies for our product candidates, including certain sole-source suppliers and manufacturers, we intend to rely on third parties for commercial supply, manufacturing and distribution if any of our product candidates receive regulatory approval and we expect to rely on third parties for supply, manufacturing and distribution of preclinical, clinical and commercial supplies of any future product candidates.***

We do not currently have, nor do we plan to acquire, the infrastructure or capability to supply, manufacture or distribute preclinical, clinical or commercial quantities of drug substances or products. Our ability to develop our product candidates depends and our ability to commercially supply our products will depend, in part, on our ability to successfully obtain the raw materials and APIs and other substances and materials used in our product candidates from third parties and to have finished products manufactured by third parties in accordance with regulatory requirements and in sufficient quantities for preclinical and clinical testing and commercialization. If we fail to develop and maintain supply relationships with these third parties, we may be unable to continue to develop or commercialize our product candidates.

We rely and will continue to rely on a certain third party as the sole source of the materials it supplies or the finished products it manufactures. Any of our existing and future suppliers or manufacturers may:

- fail to supply us with product on a timely basis or in the requested amount due to unexpected damage to or destruction of facilities or equipment or otherwise;
- fail to increase manufacturing capacity and produce drug product and components in larger quantities and at higher yields in a timely or cost-effective manner, or at all, to sufficiently meet our clinical or commercial needs;
- be unable to meet our production demands due to issues related to their reliance on sole-source suppliers and manufacturers;
- supply us with product that fails to meet regulatory requirements;
- become unavailable through business interruption or financial insolvency;
- lose regulatory status as an approved source;
- be unable or unwilling to renew current supply agreements when such agreements expire on a timely basis, on acceptable terms or at all; or
- discontinue production or manufacturing of necessary drug substances or products.

In the event of any of the foregoing, if we do not have an alternative supplier or manufacturer in place, we would be required to expend substantial management time and expense to identify, qualify and transfer processes to alternative suppliers or manufacturers. Transferring technology to other sites may require additional processes, technologies and validation studies, which are costly, may take considerable amounts of time, may not be successful and, in most cases, require review and approval by the FDA. Any need to find and qualify new suppliers or manufacturers could significantly delay production of our product candidates, adversely impact our ability to market our product candidates and adversely affect our business. Replacements may not be available to us on a timely basis, on acceptable terms or at all. Additionally, we and our manufacturers do not currently maintain significant inventory of drug substances and other materials. Any interruption in the supply of a drug substance or other material or in the manufacture of our product candidates could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

We do not have direct control over the ability of our contract suppliers and manufacturers to maintain adequate capacity and capabilities to serve our needs, including quality control, quality assurance and qualified personnel. Although we are ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements such as cGMPs and GACP, we are dependent on our contract suppliers and manufacturers for day-to-day compliance with cGMPs or GACP for production of raw materials, APIs, and finished products. Facilities used by our contract suppliers and manufacturers to produce the APIs and other substances and materials or finished products for commercial sale must pass inspection and be approved by the FDA and other relevant regulatory authorities. Our contract suppliers and manufacturers must comply with cGMP and GACP requirements enforced by the FDA through its facilities inspection program and review of submitted technical information. If the safety of any product or product candidate or component is compromised due to a failure to adhere to applicable laws or for other reasons, we may not be able to successfully commercialize or obtain regulatory approval for the affected product or product candidate, and we may be held liable for injuries sustained as a result. Any of these factors could cause a delay or termination of preclinical studies, clinical trials or regulatory submissions or approvals of our product candidates, and could entail higher costs or result in our being unable to effectively commercialize our approved products on a timely basis, or at all.

In addition, these contract manufacturers may engage with other companies to supply and manufacture materials or products for such companies, which may expose our suppliers and manufacturers to regulatory risks for the production of such materials and products. As a result, failure to meet the regulatory requirements for the production of those materials and products may also affect the regulatory clearance of a contract supplier's or manufacturer's facility. If the FDA or a comparable foreign regulatory agency does not approve these facilities for the supply or manufacture of our product candidates, or if it withdraws its approval in the future, we may need to find alternative supply or manufacturing facilities, which would negatively impact our ability to develop, obtain regulatory approval of or market our product candidates, if approved.

Our reliance on contract manufacturers and suppliers further exposes us to the possibility that they, or third parties with access to their facilities, will have access to and may misappropriate our trade secrets or other proprietary information.

In addition, the manufacturing facilities of certain of our suppliers, including our supplier of *Spongilla lacustris*, are located outside of the United States. This may give rise to difficulties in importing our products or product candidates or their components into the United States or other countries as a result of, among other things, regulatory agency approval requirements or import inspections, incomplete or inaccurate import documentation or defective packaging.

***If we are not able to establish and maintain collaborations, we may have to alter our development and commercialization plans.***

The development and potential commercialization of our product candidates will require substantial additional cash to fund expenses. In order to fund further development of our product candidates, we may collaborate with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies for the development and potential commercialization of those product candidates. We face significant competition in seeking appropriate partners. Whether we reach a definitive agreement for a collaboration will depend, among other things, upon our assessment of the partner's resources and experience, the terms and conditions of the proposed collaboration and the proposed partner's evaluation of a number of factors. Those factors may include the design or results of clinical trials; the likelihood of approval by the FDA or other regulatory authorities; the potential market for the subject product candidate; the costs and complexities of manufacturing and delivering such product candidate to patients; the potential of competing products; any uncertainty with respect to our ownership of our intellectual property; and industry and market conditions generally. The partner may also consider alternative product candidates or technologies for similar indications that may be available for collaboration and whether such a collaboration could be more attractive than the one with us for our product candidate. We may also be restricted under future license agreements from entering into agreements on certain terms with potential partners. Collaborations are complex and time-consuming to negotiate and document. In addition, there have been a significant number of recent business combinations among large pharmaceutical companies that have resulted in a reduced number of potential future partners.

Future collaborations we may enter into may involve the following risks:

- collaborators may have significant discretion in determining the efforts and resources that they will apply to these collaborations;
- collaborators may not perform their obligations as expected;
- changes in the collaborators' strategic focus or available funding, or external factors, such as an acquisition, may divert resources or create competing priorities;
- collaborators may delay discovery and preclinical development, provide insufficient funding for product development of targets selected by us, stop or abandon discovery and preclinical development for a product candidate, repeat or conduct new discovery and preclinical development for a product candidate;
- collaborators could independently develop, or develop with third parties, products that compete directly or indirectly with our products or product candidates if the collaborators believe that competitive products are more likely to be successfully developed than ours;
- product candidates discovered in collaboration with us may be viewed by our collaborators as competitive with their own product candidates or products, which may cause collaborators to cease to devote resources to the development of our product candidates;
- disagreements with collaborators, including disagreements over proprietary rights, contract interpretation or the preferred course of development, might cause delays or termination of the discovery, preclinical development or commercialization of product candidates, might lead to additional responsibilities for us with respect to product candidates, or might result in litigation or arbitration, any of which would be time-consuming and expensive;
- collaborators may not properly maintain or defend our intellectual property rights or intellectual property rights licensed to us or may use our proprietary information in such a way as to invite litigation that could jeopardize or invalidate our intellectual property or proprietary information or expose us to potential litigation;
- collaborators may infringe the intellectual property rights of third parties, which may expose us to litigation and potential liability; and
- collaborations may be terminated for the convenience of the collaborator and, if terminated, we could be required to raise additional capital to pursue further development or commercialization of the applicable product candidates.

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Collaborations typically impose detailed obligations on each party. If we were to breach our obligations, we may face substantial consequences, including potential termination of the collaboration, and our rights to our partners' product candidates, in which we have invested substantial time and money, would be lost.

We may not be able to negotiate collaborations on a timely basis, on acceptable terms or at all. If we are unable to do so, we may have to curtail the development of a product candidate, reduce or delay its development program or one or more of our other development programs, delay its potential commercialization or increase our expenditures and undertake development or commercialization activities at our own expense. If we elect to increase our expenditures to fund development or commercialization activities on our own, we may need to obtain additional capital, which may not be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. If we do not have sufficient funds, we may not be able to further develop our product candidates or bring them to market and generate product revenue.

### **Risks Related to Managing Our Growth, Our Employees and Our Operations**

*We will need to further increase the size and complexity of our organization in the future, and we may experience difficulties in executing our growth strategy and managing any growth.*

Our management, personnel, systems and facilities currently in place are not adequate to support our business plan and near-term future growth. We will need to further expand our chemistry and manufacturing team, clinical team, managerial, operational, financial, and other resources to support our planned research, development and commercialization activities.

To manage our operations, growth and various projects effectively requires that we:

- continue to improve our operational, financial, management and regulatory compliance controls and reporting systems and procedures;
- attract and retain sufficient numbers of talented employees;
- develop a marketing, sales and distribution capability;
- manage our commercialization activities for our product candidates effectively and in a cost-effective manner;
- establish and maintain relationships with development and commercialization partners;
- manage our preclinical and clinical trials effectively;
- manage our third-party supply and manufacturing operations effectively and in a cost-effective manner, while increasing production capabilities for our current product candidates to commercial levels; and
- manage our development efforts effectively while carrying out our contractual obligations to partners and other third parties.

In addition, historically, we have utilized and continue to utilize the services of part-time outside consultants to perform a number of tasks for us, including tasks related to preclinical and clinical testing. Our growth strategy may also entail expanding our use of consultants to implement these and other tasks going forward. We rely on consultants for certain functions of our business and will need to effectively manage these consultants to ensure that they successfully carry out their contractual obligations and meet expected deadlines. There can be no assurance that we will be able to manage our existing consultants or find other competent outside consultants, as needed, on economically reasonable terms, or at all. If we are not able to effectively manage our growth and expand our organization by hiring new employees and expanding our use of consultants, we might be unable to implement successfully the tasks necessary to execute effectively on our planned research, development and commercialization activities and, accordingly, might not achieve our research, development and commercialization goals.

***If we fail to attract and retain management and other key personnel, we may be unable to continue to successfully develop or commercialize our product candidates or otherwise implement our business plan.***

Our ability to compete in the highly competitive pharmaceuticals industry depends upon our ability to attract and retain highly qualified managerial, scientific, medical, sales and marketing and other personnel. We are highly dependent on our management and scientific personnel, including: Gerald T. Proehl, our Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of our board of directors (the “Board”); Kyri K. Van Hoose, C.P.A., M.B.A., our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer; Christopher J. Nardo, M.P.H., Ph.D. our Chief Development Officer; and Maria Bedoya Toro Munera, Ph.D. M.B.A., our Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance. The loss of the services of any of these individuals could impede, delay or prevent the successful development of our product pipeline, completion of our planned clinical trials, commercialization of our product candidates or in-licensing or acquisition of new assets and could negatively impact our ability to successfully implement our business plan. If we lose the services of any of these individuals, we might not be able to find suitable replacements on a timely basis or at all, and our business could be harmed as a result. We do not maintain “key man” insurance policies on the lives of these individuals or the lives of any of our other employees. In order to retain valuable employees at our company, in addition to salary and cash incentives, we provide stock options that vest over time. The value to employees of stock options that vest over time will be significantly affected by movements in our stock price that are beyond our control and may at any time be insufficient to counteract offers from other companies.

We might not be able to attract or retain qualified management and other key personnel in the future due to the intense competition for qualified personnel among biotechnology, pharmaceutical and other businesses, particularly in the San Diego area where we are headquartered. We could have difficulty attracting experienced personnel to our company and may be required to expend significant financial resources in our employee recruitment and retention efforts. Many of the other pharmaceutical companies with whom we compete for qualified personnel have greater financial and other resources, different risk profiles and longer histories in the industry than we do. They also may provide more diverse opportunities and better chances for career advancement. If we are not able to attract and retain the necessary personnel to accomplish our business objectives, we may experience constraints that will harm our ability to implement our business strategy and achieve our business objectives.

In addition, we have scientific and clinical advisors who assist us in formulating our development and clinical strategies. These advisors are not our employees and may have commitments to, or consulting or advisory contracts with, other entities that may limit their availability to us. In addition, our advisors may have arrangements with other companies to assist those companies in developing products or technologies that may compete with ours.

***We currently have limited marketing capabilities and no outside sales organization. If we are unable to establish sales and marketing capabilities on our own or through third parties, we will be unable to successfully commercialize our product candidates, if approved, or generate product revenue.***

We currently have limited marketing capabilities and no sales organization. To commercialize our product candidates, if approved, in the United States, Canada, the European Union and other jurisdictions we seek to enter, we must build our marketing, sales, distribution, managerial and other non-technical capabilities or make arrangements with third parties to perform these services, and we may not be successful in doing so. Although our management team has experience in the marketing, sale and distribution of pharmaceutical products from prior employment at other companies, we as a company have no prior experience in the marketing, sale and distribution of pharmaceutical products and there are significant risks involved in building and managing a sales organization, including our ability to hire, retain and incentivize qualified individuals, generate sufficient sales leads, provide adequate training to sales and marketing personnel and effectively manage a geographically dispersed sales and marketing team. Any failure or delay in the development of our internal sales, marketing and distribution capabilities would adversely impact the commercialization of these products. We may choose to collaborate with additional third parties that have direct sales forces and established distribution systems, either to augment our own sales force and distribution systems or in lieu of our own sales force and distribution systems. If we are unable to enter into such arrangements on acceptable terms or at all, we may not be able to successfully commercialize our product candidates. If we are unable to successfully commercialize our product candidates, either on our own or through collaborations with one or more third parties, our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects would suffer.

***Our failure to successfully in-license, acquire, develop, and market additional product candidates or approved products would impair our ability to grow our business.***

We intend to in-license, acquire, develop, and market additional products and product candidates and we may in-license or acquire commercial-stage products or engage in other strategic transactions. Because our internal research and development capabilities are limited, we may be dependent upon pharmaceutical companies, academic scientists, and other researchers to sell or license products or technology to us. The success of this strategy depends partly upon our ability to identify and select promising pharmaceutical product candidates and products, negotiate licensing or acquisition agreements with their current owners and finance these arrangements.

The process of proposing, negotiating, and implementing a license or acquisition of a product candidate or approved product is lengthy and complex. Other companies, including some with substantially greater financial, marketing, sales, and other resources, may compete with us for the license or acquisition of product candidates and approved products. We have limited resources to identify and execute the acquisition or in-licensing of third-party products, businesses and technologies and integrate them into our current infrastructure. Moreover, we may devote resources to potential acquisitions or licensing opportunities that are never completed, or we may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of such efforts. We may not be able to acquire the rights to additional product candidates on terms that we find acceptable, or at all.

Further, any product candidate that we acquire may require additional development efforts prior to commercial sale, including preclinical or clinical testing and approval by the FDA and applicable foreign regulatory authorities. All product candidates are prone to risks of failure typical of pharmaceutical product development, including the possibility that a product candidate will not be shown to be sufficiently safe and effective for approval by regulatory authorities. In addition, we cannot provide assurance that any approved products that we acquire will be manufactured or sold profitably or achieve market acceptance.

Additional potential transactions that we may consider include a variety of different business arrangements, including spin-offs, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, restructurings, divestitures, business combinations and investments. Any such transaction may require us to incur non-recurring or other charges, may increase our near- and long-term expenditures and may pose significant integration challenges or disrupt our management or business, which could adversely affect our operations and financial results. For example, these transactions entail numerous potential operational and financial risks, including:

- exposure to unknown liabilities;
- disruption of our business and diversion of our management's time and attention in order to develop acquired products, product candidates or technologies;
- incurrence of substantial debt or dilutive issuances of equity securities to pay for acquisitions;
- substantial acquisition and integration costs;
- write-downs of assets or impairment charges;
- increased amortization expenses;
- difficulty and cost in combining the operations and personnel of any acquired businesses with our operations and personnel;
- impairment of relationships with key suppliers, partners or customers of any acquired businesses due to changes in management and ownership; and
- inability to retain our key employees or those of any acquired businesses.

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Accordingly, there can be no assurance that we will undertake or successfully complete any transactions of the nature described above, and any transaction that we do complete could harm our business, financial condition, operating results, and prospects.

***Manufacturing and supply of the APIs and other substances and materials used in our product candidates is a complex and technically challenging undertaking, and there is potential for failure at many points in the manufacturing, testing, quality assurance and distribution supply chain, as well as the potential for latent defects after products have been manufactured and distributed.***

Manufacturing and supply of APIs, other substances and materials and finished drug products is technically challenging. Changes beyond our direct control can impact the quality, volume, price, and successful delivery of our product candidates and can impede, delay, limit or prevent the successful development and commercialization of our product candidates. Mistakes and mishandling are not uncommon and can affect successful production and supply. Some of these risks include:

- failure of our manufacturers to follow cGMP or GACP requirements or mishandling of product while in production or in preparation for transit;
- inability of our contract suppliers and manufacturers to efficiently and cost-effectively increase and maintain high yields and batch quality, consistency and stability;
- our inability to develop an FDA approved bioassay for release of any future product;
- difficulty in establishing optimal drug delivery substances and techniques, production and storage methods and packaging and shipment processes;
- transportation and import/export risk, particularly given the global nature of our supply chain;
- delays in analytical results or failure of analytical techniques that we depend on for quality control and release of any future product;
- natural disasters, pandemics, labor disputes, financial distress, lack of raw material supply, issues with facilities and equipment or other forms of disruption to business operations of our contract manufacturers and suppliers; and
- latent defects that may become apparent after the product has been released and which may result in recall and destruction of product.

Any of these factors could result in delays or higher costs in connection with our clinical trials, regulatory submissions, required approvals or commercialization of our product candidates, which could harm our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

***Our operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our future operating results difficult to predict and could cause our operating results to fall below expectations.***

Our operations to date have been primarily limited to researching and developing our product candidates and undertaking preclinical studies and clinical trials of our product candidates. We have not yet obtained regulatory approvals for any of our product candidates. Consequently, any predictions you make about our future success or viability may not be as accurate as they could be if we had a longer operating history or approved products on the market. Furthermore, our operating results may fluctuate due to a variety of other factors, many of which are outside of our control and may be difficult to predict, including the following:

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- delays in the commencement, enrollment and the timing of clinical testing for our product candidates;
- the timing and success or failure of clinical trials for our product candidates or competing product candidates, or any other change in the competitive landscape of our industry, including consolidation among our competitors or partners;
- any delays in regulatory review and approval of product candidates in clinical development;
- the timing and cost of, and level of investment in, research and development activities relating to our product candidates, which may change from time to time;
- the cost of manufacturing our product candidates, which may vary depending on FDA guidelines and requirements, and the quantity of production;
- our ability to obtain additional funding to develop our product candidates;
- expenditures that we will or may incur to acquire or develop additional product candidates and technologies;
- the level of demand for our product candidates, should they receive approval, which may vary significantly;
- potential side effects of our product candidates that could delay or prevent commercialization or cause an approved drug to be taken off the market;
- the ability of patients or healthcare providers to obtain coverage of or sufficient reimbursement for our product candidates, if approved;
- our dependency on third-party manufacturers to supply or manufacture our product candidates;
- our ability to establish an effective sales, marketing and distribution infrastructure in a timely manner;
- market acceptance of our product candidates, if approved, and our ability to forecast demand for those product candidates;
- our ability to receive approval and commercialize our product candidates outside of the United States;
- our ability to establish and maintain collaborations, licensing or other arrangements;
- our ability and third parties' abilities to protect intellectual property rights;
- costs related to and outcomes of potential litigation or other disputes;
- our ability to adequately support future growth;
- our ability to attract and retain key personnel to manage our business effectively;
- potential liabilities associated with hazardous materials;
- our ability to maintain adequate insurance policies; and
- future accounting pronouncements or changes in our accounting policies.



***Our operating results and liquidity needs could be negatively affected by market fluctuations and economic downturn.***

Our operating results and liquidity could be negatively affected by economic conditions generally, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. The market for discretionary medical products and procedures may be particularly vulnerable to unfavorable economic conditions. Some patients may consider certain of our product candidates to be discretionary, and if full reimbursement for such products is not available, demand for these products may be tied to the discretionary spending levels of our targeted patient populations. Domestic and international equity and debt markets have experienced and may continue to experience heightened volatility and turmoil based on domestic and international economic conditions and concerns. In the event these economic conditions and concerns continue or worsen and the markets continue to remain volatile, our operating results and liquidity could be adversely affected by those factors in many ways, including weakening demand for certain of our products and making it more difficult for us to raise funds if necessary, and our stock price may decline. Additionally, although we plan to market our products primarily in the United States, our partners have extensive global operations, indirectly exposing us to risk.

***Our business and operations would suffer in the event of failures in our internal computer systems.***

Despite the implementation of security measures, our internal computer systems, and those of our current and any future partners, contractors and consultants are vulnerable to damage from computer viruses, unauthorized access, natural disasters, terrorism, war and telecommunication and electrical failures. While we have not experienced any such material system failure, accident, or security breach to date, if such an event were to occur and cause interruptions in our operations, it could result in a material disruption of our manufacturing activities, development programs and our business operations. For example, the loss of manufacturing records or clinical trial data from completed or future clinical trials could result in delays in our regulatory approval efforts and significantly increase our costs to recover or reproduce the data. To the extent that any disruption or security breach were to result in a loss of, or damage to, our data or applications, or inappropriate disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, we could incur liability and the further commercialization and development of our products and product candidates could be delayed.

***We are increasingly dependent on information technology, and our systems and infrastructure face certain risks, including cybersecurity and data leakage risks.***

Significant disruptions to our information technology systems or breaches of information security could adversely affect our business. In the ordinary course of business, we may collect, store, and transmit confidential information and data, and it is critical that we do so in a secure manner to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of such confidential information. The size and complexity of our information technology systems, and those of our third-party vendors with whom we contract, make such systems potentially vulnerable to service interruptions and security breaches from inadvertent or intentional actions by our employees, partners, or vendors, from attacks by malicious third parties, or from intentional or accidental physical damage to our systems infrastructure maintained by us or by third parties. Maintaining the secrecy of this confidential, proprietary, or trade secret information is important to our competitive business position. While we have taken steps to protect such information and invested in information technology, there can be no assurance that our efforts will prevent service interruptions or security breaches in our systems or the unauthorized or inadvertent wrongful use or disclosure of confidential information that could adversely affect our business operations or result in the loss, dissemination, or misuse of critical or sensitive information. A breach of our security measures or the accidental loss, inadvertent disclosure, unapproved dissemination, misappropriation or misuse of trade secrets, proprietary information, or other confidential information, whether as a result of theft, hacking, fraud, trickery or other forms of deception, or for any other reason, could enable others to produce competing products, use our proprietary technology or information, or adversely affect our business or financial condition. Further, any such interruption, security breach, loss or disclosure of confidential information, could result in financial, legal, business, and reputational harm to us and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or cash flow.

## Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property

***We may not be able to obtain or enforce patent rights or other intellectual property rights that cover our product candidates and technologies that are of sufficient breadth to prevent third parties from competing against us.***

Our success with respect to our product candidates and technologies will depend in part on our ability to obtain and maintain patent protection in both the United States and other countries, to preserve our trade secrets and to prevent third parties from infringing upon our proprietary rights. Our ability to protect any of our product candidates from unauthorized or infringing use by third parties depends in substantial part on our ability to obtain and maintain valid and enforceable patents or enforce confidentiality contracts.

Our patents include licensed patents and patent applications in the United States and foreign jurisdictions where we believe there is a market opportunity for our products. The covered technology and the scope of coverage vary from country to country. For those countries where we do not have granted patents, we may not have any ability to prevent the unauthorized use of our technologies. Any patents that we may obtain may be narrow in scope and thus easily circumvented by competitors. Further, in countries where we do not have granted patents, third parties may be able to make, use, or sell products identical to, or substantially similar to, our product candidates.

The patent application process, also known as patent prosecution, is expensive and time-consuming, and we and our current or future licensors and licensees may not be able to prepare, file and prosecute all necessary or desirable patent applications at a reasonable cost or in a timely manner. It is also possible that we or our current licensors, or any future licensors or licensees, will fail to identify patentable aspects of inventions made in the course of development and commercialization activities before it is too late to obtain patent protection on them. Therefore, these and any of our patents and applications may not be prosecuted and enforced in a manner consistent with the best interests of our business. It is possible that defects of form in the preparation or filing of our patents or patent applications may exist, or may arise in the future, such as with respect to proper priority claims, inventorship, claim scope or patent term adjustments. If our current licensors, or any future licensors or licensees, are not fully cooperative or disagree with us as to the prosecution, maintenance or enforcement of any patent rights, such patent rights could be compromised and we might not be able to prevent third parties from making, using and selling competing products. If there are material defects in the form or preparation of our patents or patent applications, such patents or applications may be invalid and unenforceable. Moreover, our competitors may independently develop equivalent knowledge, methods and know-how. Any of these outcomes could impair our ability to prevent competition from third parties, which may have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and operating results.

Due to legal standards relating to patentability, validity, enforceability and claim scope of patents covering pharmaceutical inventions, our ability to obtain, maintain and enforce patents is uncertain and involves complex legal and factual questions. Accordingly, rights under any existing patents or any patents we might obtain or license may not cover our product candidates, or may not provide us with sufficient protection for our product candidates to afford a commercial advantage against competitive products or processes, including those from branded and generic pharmaceutical companies. In addition, we cannot guarantee that any patents will issue from any pending or future patent applications owned by or licensed to us. Even if patents have issued or will issue, we cannot guarantee that the claims of these patents are or will be held valid or enforceable by the courts or will provide us with any significant protection against competitive products or otherwise be commercially valuable to us.

Competitors in the field of dermatologic therapeutics have created a substantial amount of prior art, including scientific publications, patents, and patent applications. Our ability to obtain and maintain valid and enforceable patents depends on whether the differences between our technology and the prior art allow our technology to be patentable over the prior art. Although we believe that our technology includes certain inventions that are unique and not duplicative of any prior art, we do not have outstanding issued patents covering all of the recent developments in our technology and we are unsure of the patent protection that we will be successful in obtaining, if any. Even if the patents do successfully issue, third parties may design around or challenge the validity, enforceability or scope of such issued patents or any other issued patents we own or license, which may result in such patents being narrowed, invalidated, or held unenforceable. If the breadth or strength of protection provided by the patents we hold or pursue with respect to our product candidates is challenged, it could dissuade companies from collaborating with us to develop, or threaten our ability to commercialize, our product candidates.

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The laws of some foreign jurisdictions do not provide intellectual property rights to the same extent as in the United States and many companies have encountered significant difficulties in protecting and defending such rights in foreign jurisdictions. If we encounter such difficulties in protecting or are otherwise precluded from effectively protecting our intellectual property in foreign jurisdictions, our business prospects could be substantially harmed. The patent positions of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. Changes in either the patent laws or in the interpretations of patent laws in the United States and other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property. Accordingly, we cannot predict the breadth of claims that may be allowed or enforced in our patents or in third-party patents.

The degree of future protection of our proprietary rights is uncertain. Patent protection may be unavailable or severely limited in some cases and may not adequately protect our rights or permit us to gain or keep our competitive advantage. For example:

- we might not have been the first to invent or the first to file the inventions covered by each of our pending patent applications and issued patents;
- others may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate any of our technologies;
- the patents of others may have an adverse effect on our business;
- any patents we obtain or our licensors' issued patents may not encompass commercially viable products, may not provide us with any competitive advantages or may be challenged by third parties;
- any patents we obtain on our in-licensed issued patents may not be valid or enforceable; and
- we may not develop additional proprietary technologies that are patentable.

Patents have a limited lifespan. In the United States, the natural expiration of a patent is generally 20 years from its earliest non-provisional priority application filing date. Various extensions may be available; however, the life of a patent, and the protection it affords, is limited. Without patent protection for our product candidates, we may be open to competition from generic versions of our product candidates. Further, the extensive period of time between patent filing and regulatory approval for a product candidate limits the time during which we can market a product candidate under patent protection, which may particularly affect the profitability of our early-stage product candidates. The licensed U.S. patents relating to XYNGARI™ expired in 2022 and 2023 or we have abandoned and will not be eligible for patent term extension if approval occurs after patent expiration.

Proprietary trade secrets and unpatented know-how are also very important to our business. Although we have taken steps to protect our trade secrets and unpatented know-how by entering into confidentiality agreements with third parties, and intellectual property protection agreements with certain employees, consultants and advisors, third parties may still obtain this information, or we may be unable to protect our rights. We also have limited control over the protection of trade secrets used by our suppliers, manufacturers and other third parties. There can be no assurance that binding agreements will not be breached, that we would have adequate remedies for any breach or that our trade secrets and unpatented know-how will not otherwise become known or be independently discovered by our competitors. If trade secrets are independently discovered, we would not be able to prevent their use. Enforcing a claim that a third party illegally obtained and is using our trade secrets or unpatented know-how is expensive and time-consuming, and the outcome is unpredictable. In addition, courts outside the United States may be less willing to protect trade secret information.

***Recent patent reform legislation could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our patent applications and the enforcement or defense of our future patents.***

Our ability to obtain patents is highly uncertain because, to date, some legal principles remain unresolved, there has not been a consistent policy regarding the breadth or interpretation of claims allowed in patents in the United States and the specific content of patents and patent applications that are necessary to support and interpret patent claims is highly uncertain due to the complex nature of the relevant legal, scientific, and factual issues. Changes in either patent laws or interpretations of patent laws in the United States and other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property or narrow the scope of our patent protection.

For example, on September 16, 2011, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, or the Leahy-Smith Act, was signed into law. The Leahy-Smith Act includes a number of significant changes to United States patent law. These include provisions that affect the way patent applications will be prosecuted and may also affect patent litigation. The United States Patent and Trademark Office, or USPTO, has developed new and untested regulations and procedures to govern the full implementation of the Leahy-Smith Act, and many of the substantive changes to patent law associated with the Leahy-Smith Act, and in particular, the first to file provisions, only became effective in March 2013. The Leahy-Smith Act has also introduced procedures making it easier for third parties to challenge issued patents, as well as to intervene in the prosecution of patent applications. Finally, the Leahy-Smith Act contains new statutory provisions that require the USPTO to issue new regulations for their implementation, and it may take the courts years to interpret the provisions of the new statute. It is too early to tell what, if any, impact the Leahy-Smith Act will have on the operation of our business and the protection and enforcement of our intellectual property. However, the Leahy-Smith Act and its implementation could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our patent applications and the enforcement or defense of our future patents. Further, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on several patent cases in recent years, either narrowing the scope of patent protection available in certain circumstances or weakening the rights of patent owners in certain situations. In addition to increasing uncertainty with regard to our ability to obtain patents in the future, this combination of events has created uncertainty with respect to the value of patents, once obtained. Depending on actions by the U.S. Congress, the federal courts, and the USPTO, the laws and regulations governing patents could change in unpredictable ways that would weaken our ability to obtain new patents or to enforce patents that we have owned or licensed or that we might obtain in the future. An inability to obtain, enforce, and defend patents covering our proprietary technologies would materially and adversely affect our business prospects and financial condition.

Similarly, changes in patent laws and regulations in other countries or jurisdictions or changes in the governmental bodies that enforce them or changes in how the relevant governmental authority enforces patent laws or regulations may weaken our ability to obtain new patents or to enforce patents that we may obtain in the future. Further, the laws of some foreign countries do not protect proprietary rights to the same extent or in the same manner as the laws of the United States. As a result, we may encounter significant problems in protecting and defending our intellectual property both in the United States and abroad. For example, if the issuance to us, in a given country, of a patent covering an invention is not followed by the issuance, in other countries, of patents covering the same invention, or if any judicial interpretation of the validity, enforceability, or scope of the claims, or the written description or enablement, in a patent issued in one country is not similar to the interpretation given to the corresponding patent issued in another country, our ability to protect our intellectual property in those countries may be limited. Changes in either patent laws or in interpretations of patent laws in the United States and other countries may materially diminish the value of our intellectual property or narrow the scope of our patent protection.

***We may not be able to protect our intellectual property rights throughout the world.***

Filing, prosecuting, and defending patents on our product candidates in all countries throughout the world would be prohibitively expensive. The requirements for patentability may differ in certain countries, particularly developing countries. In addition, the laws of some foreign countries do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as laws in the United States. Consequently, we may not be able to prevent third parties from practicing our inventions in all countries outside the United States. Competitors may use our technologies in jurisdictions where we have not obtained patent protection to develop their own products and, further, may export otherwise infringing products to territories where we have patent protection, but enforcement on infringing activities is inadequate. These products may compete with our products, and our patents or other intellectual property rights may not be effective or sufficient to prevent them from competing.

Many companies have encountered significant problems in protecting and defending intellectual property rights in foreign jurisdictions. The legal systems of certain countries, particularly certain developing countries, do not favor the enforcement of patents and other intellectual property protection, particularly those relating to pharmaceuticals, which could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement of our patents or marketing of competing products in violation of our proprietary rights generally. Proceedings to enforce our patent rights in foreign jurisdictions could result in substantial costs and divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business, could put our patents at risk of being invalidated or interpreted narrowly and our patent applications at risk of not issuing, and could provoke third parties to assert claims against us. We may not prevail in any lawsuits that we initiate, and the damages or other remedies awarded, if any, may not be commercially meaningful. In addition, certain countries in Europe and certain developing countries have compulsory licensing laws under which a patent owner may be compelled to grant licenses to third parties. In those countries, we may have limited remedies if our patents are infringed or if we are compelled to grant a license to our patents to a third party, which could materially diminish the value of those patents. This could limit our potential revenue opportunities. Accordingly, our efforts to enforce our intellectual property rights around the world may be inadequate to obtain a significant commercial advantage from the intellectual property that we own or license. Finally, our ability to protect and enforce our intellectual property rights may be adversely affected by unforeseen changes in foreign intellectual property laws.

***Obtaining and maintaining our patent protection depends on compliance with various procedural, document submission, fee payment and other requirements imposed by governmental patent agencies, and our patent protection could be reduced or eliminated for non-compliance with these requirements.***

Periodic maintenance and annuity fees on any issued patent are due to be paid to the USPTO and foreign patent agencies in several stages over the lifetime of the patent. The USPTO and various foreign governmental patent agencies require compliance with a number of procedural, documentary, fee payment and other similar provisions during the patent application process. While an inadvertent lapse can in many cases be cured by payment of a late fee or by other means in accordance with the applicable rules, there are situations in which noncompliance can result in abandonment or lapse of the patent or patent application, resulting in partial or complete loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction. Non-compliance events that could result in abandonment or lapse of a patent or patent application include failure to respond to official actions within prescribed time limits, non-payment of fees and failure to properly legalize and submit formal documents. If we or our licensors fail to maintain the patents and patent applications covering our product candidates, our competitors might be able to enter the market, which would have an adverse effect on our business.

***The complexity and uncertainty of European laws have increased in recent years.***

In Europe, a new unitary patent system was launched on June 1, 2023, which significantly impacted European patents, including those granted before the introduction of such a system. Under the unitary patent system, European applications now have the option, upon grant of a patent, of becoming a Unitary Patent which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Unitary Patent Court (UPC). As the UPC is a new court system, there is no precedent for the court, increasing the uncertainty of litigation. Patents granted before the implementation of the UPC have the option of opting out of the jurisdiction of the UPC and remaining as national patents in the UPC countries. Patents that remain under the jurisdiction of the UPC will be potentially vulnerable to a single UPC-based revocation challenge that, if successful, could invalidate the patent in all countries who are signatories to the UPC. We cannot predict with certainty the long-term effects of any potential changes.

***If we fail to comply with our obligations under our intellectual property license agreements, we could lose license rights that are important to our business.***

We are a party to certain license agreements that impose various diligence, milestone, royalty, insurance and other obligations on us. If we fail to comply with these obligations, the respective licensors may have the right to terminate the license, in which event we may not be able to develop or market the affected product candidate. The loss of such rights could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects. For more information about these license arrangements, see “Business-Material Agreements.”

***If we are sued for infringing intellectual property rights of third parties, it will be costly and time-consuming, and an unfavorable outcome in that litigation could have a material adverse effect on our business.***

Our commercial success depends upon our ability to develop, manufacture, market and sell our product candidates and use our proprietary technologies without infringing the proprietary rights of third parties. We cannot guarantee that marketing and selling such candidates and using such technologies will not infringe existing or future patents. Numerous U.S. and foreign issued patents and pending patent applications owned by third parties exist in the fields relating to our product candidates. As the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries expand and more patents are issued, the risk increases that others may assert that our product candidates, technologies or methods of delivery or use infringe their patent rights. Moreover, it is not always clear to industry participants, including us, which patents cover various drugs, biologics, drug delivery systems or their methods of use, and which of these patents may be valid and enforceable. Thus, because of the large number of patents issued and patent applications filed in our fields, there may be a risk that third parties may allege they have patent rights encompassing our product candidates, technologies or methods.

In addition, there may be issued patents of third parties that are infringed or are alleged to be infringed by our product candidates or proprietary technologies. Because some patent applications in the United States may be maintained in secrecy until the patents are issued, because patent applications in the United States and many foreign jurisdictions are typically not published until eighteen months after filing and because publications in the scientific literature often lag behind actual discoveries, we cannot be certain that others have not filed patent applications for technology covered by our own and in-licensed issued patents or our pending applications. Our competitors may have filed, and may in the future file, patent applications covering our product candidates or technology similar to ours. Any such patent application may have priority over our own and in-licensed patent applications or patents, which could further require us to obtain rights to issued patents covering such technologies. If another party has filed a U.S. patent application on inventions similar to those owned or in-licensed to us, we or, in the case of in-licensed technology, the licensor may have to participate, in the United States, in an interference proceeding to determine priority of invention.

We may be exposed to, or threatened with, future litigation by third parties having patent or other intellectual property rights alleging that our product candidates or proprietary technologies infringe such third parties’ intellectual property rights, including litigation resulting from filing under Paragraph IV of the Hatch-Waxman Act. These lawsuits could claim that there are existing patent rights for such drug and this type of litigation can be costly and could adversely affect our operating results and divert the attention of managerial and technical personnel, even if we do not infringe such patents or the patents asserted against us are ultimately established as invalid. There is a risk that a court would decide that we are infringing the third party’s patents and would order us to stop the activities covered by the patents. In addition, there is a risk that a court will order us to pay the other party damages for having violated the other party’s patents.

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As a result of patent infringement claims, or to avoid potential claims, we may choose or be required to seek licenses from third parties. These licenses may not be available on commercially acceptable terms, or at all. Even if we are able to obtain a license, the license would likely obligate us to pay license fees or royalties or both, and the rights granted to us might be nonexclusive, which could result in our competitors gaining access to the same intellectual property, or such rights might be restrictive and limit our present and future activities. Ultimately, we or a licensee could be prevented from commercializing a product or forced to cease some aspect of our business operations, if, as a result of actual or threatened patent infringement claims, we are unable to enter into licenses on acceptable terms.

In addition to possible infringement claims against us, we may become a party to other patent litigation and other proceedings, including interference, derivation, re-examination or other post-grant proceedings declared or granted by the USPTO, and similar proceedings in foreign countries, regarding intellectual property rights with respect to our current or of our other products.

There is a substantial amount of litigation involving patent and other intellectual property rights in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries generally. To date, no litigation asserting infringement claims has ever been brought against us. If a third-party claims that we infringe its intellectual property rights, we may face a number of issues, including:

- infringement and other intellectual property claims which, regardless of merit, may be expensive and time-consuming to litigate and may divert our management's attention from our core business;
- substantial damages for infringement, which we may have to pay if a court decides that the product or technology at issue infringes or violates the third party's rights, and if the court finds that the infringement was willful, we could be ordered to pay treble damages and the patent owner's attorneys' fees;
- a court prohibiting us from selling or licensing the product or using the technology unless the third party licenses its intellectual property rights to us, which it is not required to do;
- if a license is available from a third party, we may have to pay substantial royalties or upfront fees or grant cross-licenses to intellectual property rights for our products or technologies; and
- redesigning our products or processes so they do not infringe, which may not be possible or may require substantial monetary expenditures and time.

Some of our competitors may be able to sustain the costs of complex patent litigation more effectively than we can because they have substantially greater resources. In addition, any uncertainties resulting from the initiation and continuation of any litigation could harm our ability to raise additional funds or otherwise adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results, and prospects.

Because we rely on certain third-party licensors and partners, and will continue to do so in the future, if one of our licensors or partners is sued for infringing a third party's intellectual property rights, our business, financial condition, operating results, and prospects could suffer in the same manner as if we were sued directly. In addition to facing litigation risks, we have agreed to indemnify certain third-party licensors and partners against claims of infringement caused by our proprietary technologies, and we have entered or may enter into cost-sharing agreements with some of our licensors and partners that could require us to pay some of the costs of patent litigation brought against those third parties whether or not the alleged infringement is caused by our proprietary technologies. In certain instances, these cost-sharing agreements could also require us to assume greater responsibility for infringement damages than would be assumed just on the basis of our technology.

The occurrence of any of the foregoing could adversely affect our business, financial condition, or operating results.



***We may become involved in lawsuits to protect or enforce our patents or other intellectual property or the patents of our licensors, which could be expensive and time-consuming.***

Competitors may infringe our intellectual property, including our patents or the patents of our licensors. As a result, we may be required to file infringement claims to stop third-party infringement or unauthorized use. This can be expensive and time-consuming, particularly for a company of our size. In addition, in an infringement proceeding, a court may decide that a patent of ours is not valid or is unenforceable, or may refuse to stop the other party from using the technology at issue on the grounds that our patent claims do not cover its technology or that the factors necessary to grant an injunction against an infringer are not satisfied. An adverse determination of any litigation or other proceedings could put one or more of our patents at risk of being invalidated, interpreted narrowly or amended such that they do not cover our product candidates. Moreover, such adverse determinations could put our patent applications at risk of not issuing, or issuing with limited and potentially inadequate scope to cover our product candidates or to prevent others from marketing similar products.

Interference, derivation, or other proceedings brought at the USPTO may be necessary to determine the priority or patentability of inventions with respect to our patent applications or those of our licensors or potential partners. Litigation or USPTO proceedings brought by us may fail or may be invoked against us by third parties. Even if we are successful, domestic, or foreign litigation or USPTO or foreign patent office proceedings may result in substantial costs and distraction to our management. We may not be able, alone or with our licensors or potential partners, to prevent misappropriation of our proprietary rights, particularly in countries where the laws may not protect such rights as fully as in the United States.

Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation or other proceedings, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during this type of litigation or other proceedings. In addition, during the course of this kind of litigation or proceedings, there could be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions or other interim proceedings or developments or public access to related documents. If investors perceive these results to be negative, the market price for our common stock or Warrants could be significantly harmed.

***Our reliance on third parties requires us to share our trade secrets, which increases the possibility that our trade secrets will be misappropriated or disclosed, and confidentiality agreements with employees and third parties may not adequately prevent disclosure of trade secrets and protect other proprietary information.***

We consider proprietary trade secrets or confidential know-how and unpatented know-how to be important to our business. We may rely on trade secrets or confidential know-how to protect our technology, especially where patent protection is believed by us to be of limited value.

To protect this type of information against disclosure or appropriation by competitors, our policy is to require our employees, consultants, collaborators, contractors, and advisors to enter into confidentiality agreements and, if applicable, material transfer agreements, consulting agreements or other similar agreements with us prior to beginning research or disclosing proprietary information. These agreements typically limit the rights of the third parties to use or disclose our confidential information, including our trade secrets. However, current or former employees, consultants, collaborators, contractors and advisors may unintentionally or willfully disclose our confidential information to competitors, and confidentiality agreements may not provide an adequate remedy in the event of unauthorized disclosure of confidential information. The need to share trade secrets and other confidential information increases the risk that such trade secrets become known by our competitors, are inadvertently incorporated into the technology of others, or are disclosed or used in violation of these agreements. Given that our proprietary position is based, in part, on our know-how and trade secrets, a competitor's discovery of our trade secrets or other unauthorized use or disclosure would impair our competitive position and may have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Enforcing a claim that a third party obtained illegally and is using trade secrets or confidential know-how is expensive, time consuming and unpredictable. The enforceability of confidentiality agreements may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

In addition, these agreements typically restrict the ability of our employees, consultants, collaborators, contractors and advisors to publish data potentially relating to our trade secrets, although our agreements may contain certain limited publication rights. Despite our efforts to protect our trade secrets, our competitors may discover our trade secrets, either through breach of our agreements with third parties, independent development or publication of information by any of our third-party collaborators. A competitor's discovery of our trade secrets would impair our competitive position and have an adverse impact on our business.

***We may be subject to claims that our employees, consultants, or independent contractors have wrongfully used or disclosed to us alleged trade secrets of their former employers or their former or current customers.***

As is common in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, certain of our employees were formerly employed by other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies, including our competitors or potential competitors. Moreover, we engage the services of consultants to assist us in the development of our products and product candidates, many of whom were previously employed at or may have previously been or are currently providing consulting services to, other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies, including our competitors or potential competitors. We may be subject to claims that these employees and consultants or we have inadvertently or otherwise used or disclosed trade secrets or other proprietary information of their former employers or their former or current customers. Although we have no knowledge of any such claims being alleged to date, if such claims were to arise, litigation may be necessary to defend against any such claims. Even if we are successful in defending against any such claims, any such litigation could be protracted, expensive, a distraction to our management team, not viewed favorably by investors and other third parties and may potentially result in an unfavorable outcome.

***If our patent term expires before or soon after our products are approved, or if manufacturers of generic or biosimilar drugs successfully challenge our patents, our business may be materially harmed.***

Patents have a limited duration. In the United States, if all maintenance fees are timely paid, the natural expiration of a patent is generally 20 years from its earliest U.S. non-provisional filing date. Various extensions may be available, but the life of a patent, and the protection it affords, is limited. Even if patents covering our product candidates, their manufacture, or use are obtained, once the patent life has expired, we may be open to competition from competitive medications, including generic or biosimilar medications.

Depending upon the timing, duration, and conditions of FDA marketing approval of our product candidates, one or more of our United States patents may be eligible for limited patent term extension under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, referred to as the Hatch-Waxman Act, and similar legislation in the European Union. The Hatch-Waxman Act permits a patent term extension of up to five years for a patent covering an approved product as compensation for effective patent term lost during product development and the FDA regulatory review process. The patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the date of product approval, and only one patent applicable to an approved drug may be extended. However, we may not receive an extension if we fail to apply within applicable deadlines, fail to apply prior to expiration of relevant patents or otherwise fail to satisfy applicable requirements. Moreover, the length of the extension could be less than we request. If we are unable to obtain patent term extension or the term of any such extension is less than we request, the period during which we can enforce our patent rights for that product will be shortened and our competitors may obtain approval to market competing products sooner than we expect. Also, the scope of our right to exclude during any patent term extension period may be limited or may not cover a competitor's product or product use. As a result, our revenue from applicable products could be reduced, possibly materially.

Given the amount of time required for the development, testing and regulatory review of new drug candidates, patents protecting such drug candidates might expire before or shortly after such drug candidates are commercialized. As a result, our patents and patent applications may not provide us with sufficient rights to exclude others from commercializing products similar or identical to ours. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position, business, financial conditions, results of operations and prospects.

Manufacturers of generic or biosimilar drugs may challenge the scope, validity, or enforceability of our patents in court or before a patent office, and we may not be successful in enforcing or defending those intellectual property rights and, as a result, may not be able to develop or market the relevant product exclusively, which would have a material adverse effect on any potential sales of that product. Upon the expiration of our issued patents or patents that may issue from our pending patent applications, we will not be able to assert such patent rights against potential competitors and our business and results of operations may be adversely affected.

***If our trademarks and trade names are not adequately protected, then we may not be able to build name recognition in our markets of interest and our business may be adversely affected.***

Our unregistered trademarks or trade names may be challenged, infringed, circumvented, or declared generic or determined to be infringing on other marks. We may not be able to protect our rights to these trademarks and trade names, which we need to build name recognition among potential collaborators or customers in our markets of interest. At times, competitors may adopt trade names or trademarks similar to ours, thereby impeding our ability to build brand identity and possibly leading to market confusion. In addition, there could be potential trade name or trademark infringement claims brought by owners of other registered trademarks or trademarks that incorporate variations of our unregistered trademarks or trade names. Over the long term, if we are unable to successfully register our trademarks and trade names and establish name recognition based on our trademarks and trade names, then we may not be able to compete effectively, and our business may be adversely affected. Our efforts to enforce or protect our proprietary rights related to trademarks, trade secrets, domain names, copyrights or other intellectual property may be ineffective and could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could adversely impact our financial condition or results of operations.

***Our proprietary information may be lost, or we may suffer security breaches.***

In the ordinary course of our business, we collect and store sensitive data, including intellectual property, clinical trial data, proprietary business information, personal data and personally identifiable information of our clinical trial subjects and employees, in our data centers and on our networks. The secure processing, maintenance and transmission of this information is critical to our operations. Despite our security measures, our information technology and infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other disruptions. Although, to our knowledge, we have not experienced any such material security breach to date, any such breach could compromise our networks and the information stored there could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. Any such access, disclosure or other loss of information could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability under laws that protect the privacy of personal information, significant regulatory penalties, disrupt our operations, damage our reputation and cause a loss of confidence in us and our ability to conduct clinical trials, which could adversely affect our reputation and delay our clinical development of our product candidates.

#### **Risks Related to the Securities Markets and Ownership of Our Common Stock and Warrants**

***The market price of our common stock and Warrants have been volatile and can fluctuate substantially, which could result in substantial losses for holders of our securities.***

The market price of our common stock and Warrants have been highly volatile. The market price for our common stock and Warrants may be volatile and subject to wide fluctuations in response to factors including the following:

- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly or annual operating results;
- actual or anticipated changes in the pace of our corporate achievements or our growth rate relative to our competitors;
- failure to meet or exceed financial estimates and projections of the investment community or that we provide to the public;
- issuance of new or updated research or reports by securities analysts;
- share price and volume fluctuations attributable to inconsistent trading volume levels of our common stock or Warrants;
- additions or departures of key management or other personnel;

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- disputes or other developments related to proprietary rights, including patents, litigation matters, and our ability to obtain patent protection for our technologies;
- announcement or expectation of additional debt or equity financing efforts;
- sales of our common stock or Warrants by us, our insiders or our other stockholders; and
- general economic, market or political conditions in the United States or elsewhere.

In particular, the market prices of clinical-stage companies like ours have been highly volatile due to factors, including, but not limited to:

- any delay or failure in a clinical trial for our product candidates or receive approval from the FDA and other regulatory agents;
- developments or disputes concerning our product candidate's intellectual property rights;
- our or our competitors' technological innovations;
- fluctuations in the valuation of companies perceived by investors to be comparable to us;
- announcements by us or our competitors of significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, capital commitments, new technologies or patents;
- failure to complete significant transactions or collaborate with vendors in manufacturing our product; and
- proposals for legislation that would place restrictions on the price of medical therapies.

These and other market and industry factors may cause the market price and demand for our common stock and Warrants to fluctuate substantially, regardless of our actual operating performance, which may limit or prevent investors from readily selling their shares of common stock or Warrants and may otherwise negatively affect the liquidity of our common stock and Warrants. In addition, the stock market in general, and Nasdaq Capital Markets and emerging growth companies in particular, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. In the past, when the market price of a security has been volatile, holders of that security have instituted securities class action litigation against the company that issued the security. If any of our stockholders brought a lawsuit against us, we could incur substantial costs defending the lawsuit. Such a lawsuit could also divert the time and attention of our management.

### ***Our Warrants may not have any value.***

There can be no assurance that the market price of our common stock will ever equal or exceed the exercise price of our outstanding Warrants. In the event that our common stock price does not exceed the exercise price of the Warrants during the period when the Warrants are exercisable, the Warrants may not have any value.

### ***A Warrant does not entitle the holder to any rights as common stockholders until the holder exercises the Warrant for a share of our common stock.***

Until you acquire shares of our common stock upon exercise of your Warrants, your Warrants will not provide you any rights as a common stockholder. Upon exercise of your Warrants, you will be entitled to exercise the rights of a common stockholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the exercise date.

***We are an “emerging growth company,” and will be able take advantage of reduced disclosure requirements applicable to “emerging growth companies,” which could make our common stock and Warrants less attractive to investors.***

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the JOBS Act and, for as long as we continue to be an “emerging growth company,” we intend to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to other public companies but not to “emerging growth companies,” including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We could be an “emerging growth company” for up to five years, or until the earliest of (i) the last day of the first fiscal year in which our annual gross revenues exceed \$1.235 billion, (ii) the date that we become a “large accelerated filer” as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act, which would occur if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter, or (iii) the date on which we have issued more than \$1 billion in non-convertible debt during the preceding three year period.

We intend to take advantage of these reporting exemptions described above until we are no longer an “emerging growth company.” Under the JOBS Act, “emerging growth companies” can also delay adopting new or revised accounting standards until such time as those standards apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected not to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, we will be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not “emerging growth companies.”

We cannot predict if investors will find our common stock or Warrants less attractive if we choose to rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock or Warrants less attractive as a result of any choices to reduce future disclosure, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and Warrants and the price of our common stock and Warrants may be more volatile.

***There may be limitations on the effectiveness of our internal controls, and a failure of our control systems to prevent error or fraud may materially harm our company. If we fail to remediate a material weakness, or if we experience material weaknesses in the future or otherwise fail to maintain an effective system of internal controls in the future, we may not be able to accurately or timely report our financial condition or results of operations, which may adversely affect investor confidence in us and, as a result, the value of our common stock and Warrants.***

Prior to the completion of our initial public offering in August 2021, we had been a private company with limited accounting personnel to adequately execute our accounting processes and limited supervisory resources with which to address our internal control over financial reporting. As a public company, we have designed a control environment as required of public companies under the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Proper systems of internal controls over financial accounting and disclosure controls and procedures are critical to the operation of a public company. We may be unable to effectively establish such systems, especially in light of the fact that we expect to operate as a publicly reporting company. This would leave us without the ability to reliably assimilate and compile financial information about our company and significantly impair our ability to prevent error and detect fraud, all of which would have a negative impact on our company from many perspectives.

Moreover, we do not expect that disclosure controls or internal control over financial reporting, even if established, will prevent all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system’s objectives will be met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected. Failure of our control systems to prevent error or fraud could materially adversely impact us.

***If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.***

The trading market for our common stock and Warrants depends in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us or our business. We do not currently have and may never obtain research coverage by securities and industry analysts. If no securities or industry analysts commence coverage of our company, the trading price for our securities would be negatively impacted. If we obtain securities or industry analyst coverage and if one or more of the analysts who covers us downgrades our securities or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price and Warrant price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of us or fails to publish reports on us regularly, demand for our securities could decrease, which could cause the price of our securities and trading volume to decline.

***Future sales of our common stock, Warrants or securities convertible into our common stock may depress our stock price.***

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock, Warrants or securities convertible into our common stock in the public market could occur at any time. These sales, or the perception in the market that the holders of a large number of shares intend to sell shares, could reduce the market price of our common stock and Warrants. If a large number of shares of our common stock, Warrants or securities convertible into our common stock are sold in the public market after they become eligible for sale, the sales could reduce the trading price of our common stock and Warrants and impede our ability to raise future capital.

***Our failure to maintain compliance with Nasdaq's continued listing requirements could result in the delisting of our common stock***

Our common stock is currently listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. Continued listing of a security on Nasdaq Capital Market is conditioned upon compliance with various continued listing standards. In the past, we have received notices from Nasdaq's Listing Qualifications Department indicating that we had not complied with certain of the Nasdaq Capital Market's continued listing standards. While we have regained compliance for each instance, there can be no assurance that we will continue to maintain compliance with the Nasdaq listing requirements. A delisting could substantially decrease trading in our common stock, adversely affect the market liquidity of our common stock as a result of the loss of market efficiencies associated with Nasdaq and the loss of federal preemption of state securities laws, adversely affect our ability to obtain financing on acceptable terms, if at all, and may result in the potential loss of confidence by investors, suppliers, and employees and lead to fewer business development opportunities. Additionally, the market price of our common stock may decline further, and stockholders may lose some or all of their investment.

In the event of a delisting, we anticipate that we would take actions to restore our compliance with the Nasdaq Capital Market or another national exchange's listing requirements, but we can provide no assurance that any such action taken by us would allow our common stock to remain listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market, stabilize our market price, improve the liquidity of our common stock, prevent our common stock from dropping below the Nasdaq Capital Market's minimum bid price requirement, or prevent future non-compliance with the Nasdaq Capital Market or another national exchange's listing requirements.

***Anti-takeover provisions contained in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as provisions of Delaware law, could impair a takeover attempt.***

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, bylaws and Delaware corporate law contain provisions which could have the effect of rendering more difficult, delaying or preventing an acquisition deemed undesirable by our Board. Our corporate governance documents include provisions:

- classifying our Board into three classes;
- authorizing "blank check" preferred stock, which could be issued by our Board without stockholder approval and may contain voting, liquidation, dividend, and other rights superior to our common stock;

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- limiting the liability of, and providing indemnification to, our directors and officers;
- limiting the ability of our stockholders to call and bring business before special meetings;
- requiring advance notice of stockholder proposals for business to be conducted at meetings of our stockholders and for nominations of candidates for election to our Board;
- controlling the procedures for the conduct and scheduling of board of directors and stockholder meetings; and
- providing our Board with the express power to postpone previously scheduled annual meetings and to cancel previously scheduled special meetings.

These provisions, alone or together, could delay or prevent hostile takeovers and changes in control or changes in our management.

As a Delaware corporation, we are also subject to provisions of Delaware law, including Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation law, which prevents some stockholders holding more than 15% of our outstanding common stock from engaging in certain business combinations without approval of the holders of substantially all of our outstanding common stock.

Any provision of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, bylaws or Delaware law that has the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control could limit the opportunity for our stockholders to receive a premium for their shares of our common stock or Warrants, and could also affect the price that some investors are willing to pay for our common stock and Warrants.

### ***Our ability to use our net operating loss carryforwards may be limited.***

As of December 31, 2024, we had net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs, of approximately \$20.3 million for federal income tax purposes and approximately \$5.0 million for state income tax purposes. Utilization of these NOLs depends on many factors, including our future income, which cannot be assured. These NOLs could expire unused and be unavailable to offset our future income tax liabilities. In addition, under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, and corresponding provisions of state law, if a corporation undergoes an “ownership change,” which is generally defined as a greater than 50% change, by value, in its equity ownership by 5% stockholders over a three-year period, the corporation’s ability to use its pre-change NOLs and other pre-change tax attributes to offset its post-change income may be limited. We may experience ownership changes in the future as a result of subsequent changes in our stock ownership, some of which may be outside of our control. Ownership changes that materially limit our use of our historical NOLs could harm our future operating results by effectively increasing our future U.S. federal income tax and U.S. state income tax obligations. We have not yet completed a Section 382 analysis, and therefore, there can be no assurances that any previously experienced ownership changes have not materially limited our utilization of affected NOLs. In addition, as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, as modified by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020, or CARES Act, federal NOLs incurred in 2018 and in future years may be carried forward indefinitely, however, the deductibility of our federal NOLs generated in such years will be limited to 80% of taxable income if utilized in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020. Federal net operating losses incurred in years beginning before January 1, 2018, are subject to a twenty-year carryforward but are not limited to 80% of taxable income.

### ***We have never paid dividends on our capital stock, and we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.***

We have never declared nor paid cash dividends on our capital stock. We currently intend to retain any future earnings to finance the operation and expansion of our business, and we do not expect to declare or pay any dividends in the foreseeable future. Consequently, stockholders must rely on sales of their common stock and Warrants after price appreciation, which may never occur, as the only way to realize any future gains on their investment.



***Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation designates the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware as the sole and exclusive forum for certain types of actions and proceedings that may be initiated by our stockholders, which could limit our stockholders' ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us or our directors, officers or other employees.***

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, be the sole and exclusive forum for each of the following:

- any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf;
- any action asserting a claim for breach of any fiduciary duty owed by any director, officer or other employee of ours to the Company or our stockholders;
- any action asserting a claim against us or any director or officer of ours arising pursuant to, or a claim against us or any of our directors or officers, with respect to the interpretation or application of any provision of, the DGCL, our certificate of incorporation or bylaws; or
- any action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine;

provided, that, if and only if the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware dismisses any of the foregoing actions for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, any such action or actions may be brought in another state court sitting in the State of Delaware.

The exclusive forum provision is limited to the extent permitted by law, and it will not apply to claims arising under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, or for any other federal securities laws which provide for exclusive federal jurisdiction.

Furthermore, Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for federal and state courts over all such Securities Act actions. Accordingly, both state and federal courts have jurisdiction to entertain such claims. To prevent having to litigate claims in multiple jurisdictions and the threat of inconsistent or contrary rulings by different courts, among other considerations, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the federal district courts of the United States of America will be the exclusive forum for resolving any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act. While the Delaware courts have determined that such choice of forum provisions are facially valid, a stockholder may nevertheless seek to bring such a claim arising under the Securities Act against us, our directors, officers, or other employees in a venue other than in the federal district courts of the United States of America. In such instance, we would expect to vigorously assert the validity and enforceability of the exclusive forum provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation.

Although we believe this provision benefits us by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, this provision may limit or discourage a stockholder's ability to bring a claim in a judicial forum that it finds favorable for disputes with us or our directors, officers or other employees, which may discourage such lawsuits against us and our directors, officers and other employees, and may result in increased costs for investors to bring a claim. Alternatively, if a court were to find the choice of forum provision contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to be inapplicable or unenforceable in an action, we may incur additional costs associated with resolving such action in other jurisdictions, which could adversely affect our business and financial condition.

We note that there is uncertainty as to whether a court would enforce the provision and that investors cannot waive compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Although we believe this provision benefits us by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, the provision may have the effect of discouraging lawsuits against our directors and officers.

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### **ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

### **ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY**

#### *Cybersecurity Risk Management and Strategy*

In the ordinary course of our business, we may use, store and process confidential information and data. To effectively prevent, detect, and respond to cybersecurity threats, we maintain a cyber risk management program, which is comprised of data segregation, physical, procedural, and technical safeguards along with some documented policies and procedures. By fully outsourcing our IT environment and placing it within expert third party software-as-a-service, human resource, and clinical providers, our primary means of minimizing cybersecurity risk is limiting the amount of sensitive data within our enterprise.

We have certain processes for assessing, identifying, and managing cybersecurity risks, which are built into our overall information technology function and are designed to help protect our information assets and operations from internal and external cyber threats, and protect employee, collaborator, and patient information from unauthorized access or attack, as well as secure our networks and systems. Such processes include physical, procedural, and technical safeguards, response plans, tests on our systems, review of our policies and procedures to identify risks and refine our practices. We engage certain external parties, including IT consultants and computer security firms, to enhance our cybersecurity oversight including by gaining valuable insights into the ever-evolving cybersecurity landscape. We consider the internal risk oversight programs of third-party service providers before engaging them in order to help protect us from any related vulnerabilities.

In an effort to deter and detect cyber threats, we regularly provide all employees with a data protection, cybersecurity, incident response, and prevention, training and compliance program, which covers timely and relevant topics, including social engineering, phishing, password protection, confidential data protection, asset use and mobile security, and educates employees on the importance of reporting all incidents immediately. We also use technology-based tools that are designed to mitigate cybersecurity risks and to bolster our employee-based cybersecurity programs.

We do not believe that there are currently any known risks from cybersecurity threats that are reasonably likely to materially affect us or our business strategy, results of operations or financial condition.

#### *Governance; Board Oversight*

Under the ultimate direction of our Chief Executive Officer, with oversight from our Board and Audit Committee (as described below), we maintain a security governance structure to evaluate and address cybersecurity risks. Our Chief Executive Officer regularly consults with our Chief Financial Officer and third-party IT consultants and computer security firms, leveraging and relying upon these consultants' cybersecurity expertise, to develop strategies that assess and address threats while aligning cybersecurity efforts with business objectives and operational requirements.

The Audit Committee of our Board provides direct oversight over cybersecurity risk and provides updates to the Board regarding such oversight on a periodic basis. The Audit Committee receives periodic updates from management regarding cybersecurity matters and is notified between such updates regarding significant new cybersecurity threats or incidents. The Audit Committee also notifies the Board of any cybersecurity incidents (suspected or actual) and provides updates on the incidents as well as cybersecurity risk mitigation activities as appropriate.

### **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

Our mailing address is 3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., #322, San Diego, California 92130. All of our employees work remotely. We believe our virtual work structure is adequate to meet our current needs, although we may seek to negotiate new leases or evaluate additional or alternate space for our operations. We believe appropriate alternative space would be readily available on commercially reasonable terms.

### **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time, we may be involved in claims that arise during the ordinary course of business. Although the results of litigation and claims cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not currently have any pending litigation to which we are a party or to which our property is subject that we believe to be material. Regardless of the outcome, litigation can be costly and time consuming, and it can divert management's attention from important business matters and initiatives, negatively impacting our overall operations.

### **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

This item is not applicable.

## PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

#### Market Information

Our Common Stock and Warrants trade on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbols "DRMA" and "DRMAW," respectively, since August 12, 2021.

#### Holders

As of March 1, 2025, there were approximately 69 stockholders of record of our Common Stock. This number does not include beneficial owners whose shares were held in street name. The actual number of holders of our Common Stock is greater than this number of record holders and includes stockholders who are beneficial owners, but whose shares are held in street name by brokers or held by other nominees.

#### Dividends

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our Common Stock. We do not intend to declare or pay cash dividends on our common stock for the foreseeable future, but currently intend to retain any future earnings to fund the development and growth of our business. The payment of cash dividends if any, on the common stock will rest solely within the discretion of our Board and will depend, among other things, upon our earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, and other relevant factors.

### ITEM 6. [RESERVED]

### ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

*You should read the following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations together with our financial statements and related notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Some of the information contained in this discussion and analysis or set forth elsewhere in this report, including information with respect to our plans and strategy for our business, includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. As a result of many factors, including those factors set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of this report, our actual results could differ materially from the results described in or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in the following discussion and analysis. References in the following discussion to "we", "our", "us", "Dermata", or "the Company", refer to Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.*

#### Overview

We are a late-stage medical dermatology company focused on identifying, developing, and commercializing innovative pharmaceutical product candidates for the treatment of medical skin diseases and aesthetic applications we believe represent significant market opportunities.

Dermatological diseases such as acne, psoriasis vulgaris (or psoriasis), hyperhidrosis, and various aesthetic indications, affect millions of people worldwide each year which may negatively impact their quality of life and emotional well-being. While there are multiple current treatment options for these indications on the market, we believe that most have significant drawbacks, including underwhelming efficacy, cumbersome application regimens and varying negative side effects, all of which we believe lead to decreased patient compliance. A majority of these indications are first treated with topical therapy; however, many patients frequently switch treatments or discontinue treatment altogether due to patient dissatisfaction. This is primarily due to slow and modest response rates, early onset of negative side effects, daily application schedules and long duration of therapy. Given the limitations with current topical therapies, we believe there is a significant opportunity to address the needs of frustrated patients searching for topical products that satisfy their dermatological and lifestyle needs.

Our two product candidates, XYNGARI™ and DMT410, both incorporate our proprietary, multifaceted, *Spongilla* technology to topically treat a variety of dermatological conditions. Our *Spongilla* technology is derived from a naturally grown freshwater sponge, *Spongilla lacustris* or *Spongilla*, which is processed into a powder that is mixed with a fluidizing agent immediately prior to application to form an easily applicable paste. *Spongilla* is a unique freshwater sponge that only grows in commercial quantities in select regions of the world and under specific environmental conditions, all of which give it its distinctive anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, and mechanical properties. The combination of these environmental conditions, the proprietary harvesting protocols developed with our exclusive supplier, and our post-harvest processing procedures produce a pharmaceutical product candidate that optimizes the mechanical components as well as the chemical components of the sponge to create a product candidate with multiple mechanisms of action for the treatment of inflammatory skin conditions and aesthetic applications.

We believe our *Spongilla* technology platform will enable us to develop and formulate singular and combination products that are able to target the topical delivery of chemical compounds into the dermis for a variety of dermatology indications. We believe the combination of *Spongilla*'s mechanical and chemical components (which we believe have demonstrated, *in-vitro*, anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties), add to the versatility of our *Spongilla* technology platform's effectiveness as a singular product, in the treatment of a wide variety of medical skin diseases like acne and psoriasis. We also believe the mechanical properties of our *Spongilla* technology allows for the intradermal delivery of a variety of large molecules, like botulinum toxins, monoclonal antibodies, or dermal fillers, to target treatment sites, through topical application without the need for needles.

Our lead product candidate, XYNGARI™, is intended to utilize our *Spongilla* technology for the once weekly treatment of a variety of skin diseases, with our initial focus being the treatment of acne, which has a U.S. market size of approximately 30 million patients seeking treatment. In November 2024, we completed patient enrollment in the first of two Phase 3 clinical trials of XYNGARI™ in moderate-to-severe acne. We expect to receive top-line results from the first Phase 3 trial in March 2025. Both Phase 3 studies will be double blinded, randomized, placebo controlled, and enroll about 550 patients, age 9 years or older across sites in the United States and Latin America. The primary endpoints include absolute reduction in inflammatory and noninflammatory lesions and the improvement in investigators global assessment (IGA) of acne. Patients will be treated once a week for 12 weeks with either XYNGARI™ or placebo and will be evaluated monthly. As requested by the FDA, the second Phase 3 study will be followed by an extension study to follow patients for a 12-month total treatment period. Previously XYNGARI™ has shown its ability to treat the multiple causes of acne in a Phase 2b study where we initially saw a 45% reduction in inflammatory lesions after four treatments, with XYNGARI™ achieving statistically significant improvements at all time points for all three primary endpoints throughout the study (reduction in inflammatory lesions, reduction in non-inflammatory lesions, and improvement in IGA). In addition, based on the multiple mechanisms of action and anti-inflammatory effect seen with the XYNGARI™ acne trial, we completed a Phase 1b proof of concept, or POC, trial in psoriasis where we saw encouraging results warranting further investigation upon receipt of adequate funds.

XYNGARI™ consists of two grams of powder processed from the naturally grown freshwater sponge, *Spongilla lacustris*. The patient mixes the powder with a fluidizing agent (3% hydrogen peroxide) immediately prior to application by the patient to form an easy-to-apply paste. The paste is applied like a mud mask and is left on the skin for approximately ten to fifteen minutes, after which time it is washed off with water. Due to the unique combination of XYNGARI™'s mechanical components and chemical components, and based on our Phase 2 acne data, we believe patients will only need to apply XYNGARI™ once weekly to produce the desired treatment effect. The mechanical components of the *Spongilla* powder consist of many microscopic siliceous, needle-like spicules that, when massaged into the skin, penetrate the stratum corneum (the skin's outermost protective layer) and create microchannels into the dermis where pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria reside. We believe that the penetration of the spicules also leads to the opening of microchannels, which allow oxygen to enter pilosebaceous glands, helping to kill *C. acnes*, which grow in an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment. *C. acnes* is the bacteria that cause inflammatory lesions in acne patients). The spicules also cause rejuvenation of the top layer of dead skin, thereby increasing collagen production. Additionally, we believe the newly created microchannels provide a conduit for XYNGARI™'s naturally occurring chemical compounds to be delivered to the dermis and pilosebaceous glands, helping to kill the *C. acnes* and fight inflammation. In addition to these anti-microbial compounds, XYNGARI™ also appears to have anti-inflammatory chemical compounds, as demonstrated in *in vitro* experiments, that inhibit inflammation through the reduction of *C. acnes* stimulated IL-8 production and by inhibiting IL-17A and IL-17F expression in human cell lines. Also, during *in vitro* studies of XYNGARI™'s organic compounds, we observed the inhibition of the lipogenesis of sebocytes, which may translate to a reduction in sebum (an oily and waxy substance produced by the human body's sebaceous glands) production and the oiliness of the skin in patients, which was observed by a number of clinical investigators in our Phase 2 acne studies. We believe the combination of these biological and mechanical effects could be important factors in treating multiple inflammatory skin diseases, as seen in our clinical trials.

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Our second product candidate utilizing our *Spongilla* technology is DMT410. DMT410 is intended to consist of one treatment of our proprietary sponge powder followed by one topical application of botulinum toxin for delivery into the dermis. Currently, botulinum toxin is only approved to be delivered to the dermis by intradermal injections, which can be painful for the patient and time-consuming for the physician. However, we believe DMT410's ability to topically deliver botulinum toxin into the dermis could have similar levels of efficacy to existing delivery techniques, with fewer tolerability issues, and a quicker application time, possibly replacing the need for intradermal injections. We first tested DMT410 in a Phase 1 POC trial of axillary hyperhidrosis patients, which saw 80% of patients achieve a reduction in gravimetric sweat production greater than 50% four weeks after a single treatment. With almost 40% of the hyperhidrosis market currently being treated with intradermal injections of botulinum toxin, we believe there could be significant opportunity for DMT410 to break into this market and replace intradermal injections of botulinum toxin. Based on DMT410's ability to effectively deliver botulinum toxin to the dermis as observed in the Phase 1 axillary hyperhidrosis trial, we also conducted a Phase 1 POC trial of DMT410 for the treatment of multiple aesthetic skin conditions, including reduction of pore size, sebum production, and fine lines, among others. In November 2021, we announced top-line results from this trial, where we saw promising data that we believe warrants further investigation of DMT410. In January 2025, we entered into the Clinical Trial Agreement with Revance pursuant to which we in collaboration with Revance intend to conduct a multi-center Phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI™, with DAXXIFY® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), Revance's botulinum toxin type A, for the treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis.

We have a limited operating history. Since our inception, our operations have focused on developing XYNGARI™ and DMT410, organizing and staffing our company, raising capital, establishing our supply chain and manufacturing processes, further characterizing the multiple mechanisms of action of our *Spongilla* technology, building an intellectual property portfolio, and conducting non-clinical and clinical trials. We do not have any product candidates approved for marketing and have not generated any revenue from product sales. We have funded our operations primarily through the sale of our equity securities and debt securities. Since inception, we have raised an aggregate of approximately \$68.8 million of gross proceeds from the sale of our debt and equity securities, including the securities sold in our initial public offering.

We have not generated any revenue to date and have incurred significant operating losses. Our net losses were \$12.3 million and \$7.8 million for years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, respectively, and as of December 31, 2024, we had an accumulated deficit of \$65.7 million. We expect to continue to incur significant expenses and operating losses for the foreseeable future. We anticipate that our expenses will increase significantly in connection with our ongoing activities, as we:

- complete development of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne, including non-clinical studies and Phase 3 clinical trials;
- prepare and file for regulatory approval of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne upon positive results from the Phase 3 clinical program;
- continue development of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of psoriasis, including a Phase 2 clinical trial and Phase 3 clinical trials, pending additional finances or strategic partner;
- sign a partnership agreement with a botulinum toxin partner for DMT410 for the treatment of aesthetic and medical skin conditions;
- prepare for commercialization of XYNGARI™, if approved, including the hiring of sales and marketing personnel;

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- manufacture our product candidates for Phase 2 and Phase 3 trials and commercial sale;
- hire additional research and development and selling, general and administrative personnel;
- maintain, expand, and protect our intellectual property portfolio; and
- incur additional costs associated with operating as a public company.

We will need additional financing to support our operations. We may seek to fund our operations through public or private equity or debt financings or other sources. Adequate additional financing may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. Our failure to raise capital when needed or on favorable terms would have a negative impact on our financial condition and our ability to pursue our business strategy. We will need to generate significant revenues to achieve profitability, and we may never do so.

### **Components of Results of Operations**

#### **Revenue**

We have not generated any revenue since inception and do not expect to generate any revenue from the sale of products in the near future until we obtain regulatory approval of, and commercialize, our product candidates.

#### **Operating Expenses**

##### *Research and Development Expenses*

Research and development activities are central to our business model. Product candidates in later stages of clinical development generally have higher development costs than those in earlier stages of clinical development, primarily due to the increased size and duration of late-stage clinical trials. We expect research and development costs to increase significantly for the foreseeable future as our pipeline of product candidates progress further into clinical trials. However, we do not believe it is possible at this time to accurately project total program-related expenses to reach commercialization based on numerous factors. In addition, there are numerous unknown expenses related to the commercialization of our product candidates including continued regulatory requirements, many of which cannot be determined with accuracy at this time.

Research and development expenses consist of expenses incurred in connection with the development of our product candidates. We expense development costs as incurred. These expenses include:

- expenses incurred under agreements with CROs, as well as investigative sites and consultants that conduct our clinical trials and preclinical studies;
- manufacturing and supply scale-up expenses and the cost of acquiring and manufacturing preclinical and clinical trial supply and commercial supply, including manufacturing validation batches; and
- outsourced laboratory services, including materials and supplies used to support our research and development activities, including payments made for license fees and milestone payments.

The successful development of our product candidates is highly uncertain. At this time, we cannot reasonably estimate or know the nature, timing and costs of the efforts that will be necessary to complete the remainder of the development of, or when, if ever, material net cash inflows may commence from our product candidates. This uncertainty is due to the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with the duration and cost of clinical trials, which vary significantly over the life of a project as a result of many factors, including:

- the number of clinical sites included in the clinical trials;

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- the length of time required to enroll suitable patients;
- the size of patient populations participating in the clinical trials;
- the number of doses a patient receives;
- the duration of patient follow-ups;
- the development state of the product candidates; and
- the efficacy and safety profile of the product candidates.

Our expenditures are subject to additional uncertainties, including the terms and timing of regulatory approvals, and the expense of filing, prosecuting, defending, and enforcing any patent claims or other intellectual property rights. We may never succeed in achieving regulatory approval for our product candidates. We may obtain unexpected results from our clinical trials. We may elect to discontinue, delay, or modify clinical trials of our product candidates. A change in the outcome of any of these variables with respect to the development of a product candidate could mean a significant change in the costs and timing associated with the development of that product candidate. For example, if the FDA or other regulatory authorities were to require us to conduct clinical trials beyond those that we currently anticipate, or if we experience significant delays in enrollment in any of our clinical trials, we could be required to expend significant additional financial resources and time on the completion of clinical development. Product commercialization will take several years and millions of dollars in development costs.

### *General and Administrative Expenses*

General and administrative expenses consist principally of salaries and related costs for personnel in executive and administrative functions, travel expenses and recruiting expenses. Other general and administrative expenses include stock-based compensation expenses, professional fees for legal, accounting and tax related services, insurance costs, as well as payments made to consultants. We expense all general and administrative expenses as incurred.

We anticipate that our general and administrative expenses will increase as a result of increased payroll, expanded infrastructure and higher consulting, legal and tax related services associated with maintaining compliance with stock exchange listing and SEC requirements, accounting and investor relations costs, and director and officer insurance premiums associated with being a public company.

### **Interest Income**

Interest income consists of interest income earned on cash equivalents from interest bearing demand accounts.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Significant Judgments and Estimates**

We have based our management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations on our financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements as well as the reported expenses during the reporting periods. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates and judgments, including those related to accrued research and development expenses and warrants. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other factors that we believe to be appropriate under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

While our significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note 2 to our audited financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we believe the following accounting policies are critical to the process of making significant judgments and estimates in the preparation of our financial statements.



## Accrued Research and Development Expenses

As part of the process of preparing our financial statements, we are required to record actual research and development expenses and to estimate accrued research and development expenses, current assets, and other current liabilities. This process involves reviewing open contracts and commitments, communicating with our personnel to identify services that have been performed for us and estimating the level of service performed and the associated cost incurred for the service when we have not yet been invoiced or otherwise notified of the actual cost. The majority of our service providers invoice us monthly in arrears for services performed or when contractual milestones are met. We make estimates of our accrued research and development expenses, current assets, and other current liabilities as of each balance sheet date in our financial statements based on facts and circumstances known to us at that time. Examples of estimated accrued research and development expenses, prepaid assets, and other current liabilities include fees paid to contract manufacturers made in connection with the manufacturing of clinical trials materials and contract research organizations made in connection the performance of clinical trials on our behalf.

We base our expenses related to clinical manufacturing and clinical trials on our estimates of the services performed pursuant to contracts with the entities performing those services on our behalf. The financial terms of these agreements are subject to negotiation, vary from contract to contract, and may result in uneven payment flows. Payments under these types of contracts depend heavily upon the successful completion of many separate tasks involved in the manufacturing of drug product and the performance of clinical trials. In the case of clinical trials, a portion of the estimated cost normally relates to the projected cost to treat a patient in the trials, and this cost is recognized based on the number of patients enrolled in the trial. Other indirect costs are generally recognized on a straight-line basis over the estimated period of the study. As actual costs become known to us, we adjust our accruals. To date, our estimates have not differed materially from the actual costs incurred. However, subsequent changes in estimates may result in a material change in our accruals, which could also materially affect our balance sheet and results of operations.

We accrue and expense clinical trial activities performed by third parties based upon estimates of the proportion of work completed over the life of the individual clinical trial and patient enrollment rates in accordance with agreements established with clinical research organizations (“CROs”) and clinical trial sites. We determine the estimates by reviewing contracts, vendor agreements and purchase orders, and through discussions with internal clinical personnel and external service providers as to the progress or stage of completion of trials or services and the agreed-upon fee to be paid for such services. However, actual costs and timing of clinical trials are highly uncertain, subject to risks and may change depending upon a number of factors, including our clinical development plan.

We make estimates of our accrued expenses as of each balance sheet date in our financial statements based on facts and circumstances known to us at that time. If the actual timing of the performance of services or the level of effort varies from the estimate, we will adjust the accrual accordingly. Nonrefundable advance payments for goods and services, including fees for process development or manufacturing and distribution of clinical supplies that will be used in future research and development activities, are deferred and recognized as expense in the period that the related goods are consumed, or services are performed.

## Warrants

We perform an assessment of warrants upon issuance to determine their proper classification in the financial statements based upon the warrant’s specific terms, in accordance with the authoritative guidance provided in Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 480, *Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity* (“ASC 480”), and ASC 815-40, *Derivatives and Hedging - Contracts in Entity’s Own Equity* (“ASC 815-40”). The assessment considers whether the warrants are freestanding financial instruments pursuant to ASC 480 and whether the warrants meet all of the requirements for equity classification under ASC 815, including whether the warrants are indexed in our own Common Stock and whether the warrant holders could potentially require cash settlement of the warrants.

For issued or modified warrants that meet all the criteria for equity classification, the warrants are required to be recorded as a component of additional paid-in capital. For issued or modified warrants that do not meet all the criteria for equity classification, the warrants are required to be liability-classified and recorded at their initial fair value on the date of issuance and remeasured at fair value at each balance sheet date thereafter. We have performed an assessment of all warrants issued and modified and determined that our warrants are equity classified.

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**Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2024, and 2023**

The following table summarizes our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, respectively:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2024	2023	Difference
Operating expenses:			
Research and development	\$ 8,203,691	\$ 4,069,766	\$ 4,133,925
General and administrative	4,309,551	3,972,140	337,411
Total operating expenses	12,513,242	8,041,906	4,471,336
Losses from operations	(12,513,242)	(8,041,906)	(4,471,336)
Other income and expenses:			
Interest income	225,781	247,216	(21,435)
Net loss	\$ (12,287,461)	\$ (7,794,690)	\$ (4,492,771)

*Research and Development Expenses*

Research and development expenses increased by approximately \$4.1 million from \$4.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, to \$8.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The increase in research and development expense was the result of \$4.9 million of increased clinical trial expenses, offset by approximately \$0.2 million of decreased non-clinical expenses and approximately \$0.6 million in decreased chemistry, manufacturing, and controls, or CMC, expenses. These increases were the result of our efforts dedicated to running the XYNGARI™ Phase 3 STAR-1 clinical trial.

*General and Administrative Expenses*

General and administrative expenses increased by approximately \$0.3 million from \$4.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, to \$4.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily attributable to \$0.3 million of increased audit related fees as a result of changing auditors in late 2023.

*Interest income*

We earn interest income via overnight deposits on our cash and cash equivalents. Interest income was approximately \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023.

*Cash Flows*

The following table summarizes our cash flows from operating and financing activities:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Statements of cash flows data:		
Total cash used in operating activities	\$ (11,162,948)	\$ (6,408,931)
Total cash provided by financing activities	\$ 6,886,383	\$ 7,605,772
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (4,276,565)	\$ 1,196,841

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### *Operating activities*

Cash used in operations of approximately \$11.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2024, was the result of the net loss of \$12.3 million and a decrease in accounts payable of \$0.1 million, offset by non-cash stock-based compensation of \$0.7 million, an increase in accrued and other current liabilities of \$0.4 million, as well as a decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets of \$0.2 million.

Cash used in operations of \$6.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, was the result of the net loss of \$7.8 million, offset by non-cash stock-based compensation of \$0.5 million, an increase in accounts payable of \$0.4 million and an increase in accrued and other current liabilities of \$0.3 million, as well as a decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets of \$0.2 million.

### *Financing activities*

Cash provided by financing activities of approximately \$6.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2024, was the result of the \$3.1 million of net proceeds from the September 2024 PIPE financing, net proceeds of \$1.4 million from the sale of our common stock through the ATM Agreement, and net proceeds of \$2.3 million from our warrant inducement financing in May 2024.

Cash provided by financing activities of \$7.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, was the result of \$4.2 million of net proceeds received from the issuance of common stock and warrants issued in offering conducted in March 2023, \$1.5 million of net proceeds received from the issuance of common stock and warrants in an offering conducted in May 2023, as well as \$2.0 million of net proceeds from a warrant inducement offering conducted in November 2023.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Since our inception, we have not generated any revenue or commercialized any products. As of December 31, 2024, our cash and cash equivalents totaled \$3.2 million, and we had an accumulated deficit of \$65.7 million. For the year ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, we used cash in operations of approximately \$11.1 million and \$6.4 million, respectively.

Historically, our principal sources of cash have included proceeds from the issuance of equity and debt. Our principal uses of cash have included cash used in operations (including clinical development of our product candidates and general and administrative expenses) and payments for license rights. We expect that the principal uses of cash in the future will be for continuing operations, funding of research and development, and general working capital requirements. We expect that as research and development expenses continue to grow for our Phase 3 development program, we will need to raise additional capital to sustain operations and fund research and development activities, including our ongoing Phase 3 STAR-1 clinical study.

### **ATM Agreement**

In June 2024, we entered into an At The Market Offering Agreement (the “ATM Agreement”) with H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC (“Wainwright”), as sales agent, pursuant to which we may offer and sell, from time to time through Wainwright, shares of our common stock for aggregate proceeds of up to \$1,662,761 (upon the terms and subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the ATM Agreement). In the twelve months ended December 31, 2024, we sold 550,024 shares of common stock under the ATM Agreement, for net proceeds of \$1.4 million, after deducting \$0.3 million of compensation to Wainwright, auditors, lawyers, and other administration fees.

## **Future Capital Requirements**

We plan to focus in the near term on the development, regulatory approval, and potential commercialization of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne and psoriasis. We anticipate we will continue to incur net losses for the next several years as we complete clinical development of XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne and psoriasis and continue research and development of DMT410 for the treatment of aesthetic and medical skin conditions. In addition, we plan to seek opportunities to identify, acquire or in license and develop additional drug candidates, potentially build commercial capabilities, and expand our corporate infrastructure. We may not be able to complete the development and initiate commercialization of these programs if, among other things, our clinical trials are not successful or if the FDA does not approve our drug candidate arising out of our current clinical trials when we expect, or at all.

Our primary uses of capital are, and we expect will continue to be, compensation and related expenses, clinical costs, external research and development services, legal and other regulatory expenses, and administrative and overhead costs. Our future funding requirements will be heavily determined by the resources needed to support development of our drug candidates.

We believe that our existing cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to fund our operating expenses and capital expenditure requirements into the third quarter of 2025. We have based this estimate of cash runway on assumptions that may prove to be wrong, and we could utilize our available capital resources sooner than we expect. We will require additional capital to conduct Phase 3 studies for XYNGARI™ for the treatment of acne, and to pursue in licenses or acquisitions of other drug candidates.

Additional funds may not be available on a timely basis, on favorable terms, or at all, and such funds, if raised, may not be sufficient to enable us to continue to implement our long-term business strategy. If we are unable to raise sufficient additional capital, we may need to substantially curtail our planned operations and the pursuit of our growth strategy.

We may raise additional capital through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities. In such an event, the terms of these securities may include liquidation or other preferences that adversely affect the rights of a holder of our common stock.

Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with research, development, and commercialization of pharmaceutical drugs, we are unable to estimate the exact amount of our working capital requirements. Our future funding requirements will depend on many factors, including:

- the number and characteristics of the drug candidates we pursue;
- the scope, progress, results, and costs of researching and developing our drug candidates, and conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials;
- the timing of, and the costs involved in, obtaining regulatory approvals for our drug candidates;
- the cost of manufacturing our drug candidates and any drugs we successfully commercialize;
- our ability to establish and maintain strategic collaborations, licensing or other arrangements and the financial terms of such agreements;
- the costs involved in preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining, defending, and enforcing patent claims, including litigation costs and the outcome of such litigation; and
- the timing, receipt and amount of sales of, or milestone payments related to or royalties on, our current or future drug candidates, if any.

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To continue to grow our business over the longer term, we plan to commit substantial resources to research and development, clinical trials of our product candidates, and other operations and potential product acquisitions and in licensing. We have evaluated and expect to continue to evaluate a wide array of strategic transactions as part of our plan to acquire or in license and develop additional products and product candidates to augment our internal development pipeline. Strategic transaction opportunities that we may pursue could materially affect our liquidity and capital resources and may require us to incur additional indebtedness, seek equity capital or both. In addition, we may pursue development, acquisition or in licensing of approved or development products in new or existing therapeutic areas or continue the expansion of our existing operations. Accordingly, we expect to continue to opportunistically seek access to additional capital to license or acquire additional products, product candidates or companies to expand our operations, or for general corporate purposes. Strategic transactions may require us to raise additional capital through one or more public or private debt or equity financings or could be structured as a collaboration or partnering arrangement. We have no arrangements, agreements, or understandings in place at the present time to enter into any acquisition, in licensing or similar strategic business transaction.

If we raise additional funds by issuing equity securities, our stockholder will experience dilution. Debt financing, if available, would result in increased fixed payment obligations and may involve agreements that include covenants limiting or restricting our ability to take specific actions, such as incurring additional debt, making capital expenditures or declaring dividends. Any debt financing or additional equity that we raise may contain terms, such as liquidation and other preferences that are not favorable to us or our stockholder. If we raise additional funds through collaboration and licensing arrangements with third parties, it may be necessary to relinquish valuable rights to our technologies, future revenue streams or product candidates or to grant licenses on terms that may not be favorable to us.

We cannot be certain that additional funding will be available on acceptable terms, or at all. In addition, future debt financing into which we enter may impose upon us covenants that restrict our operations, including limitations on our ability to incur liens or additional debt, pay dividends, redeem our stock, make certain investments and engage in certain merger, consolidation or asset sale transactions.

If we are unable to raise additional capital when required or on acceptable terms, we may be required to significantly delay, scale back or discontinue the development or commercialization of one or more of our product candidates, restrict our operations or obtain funds by entering into agreements on unattractive terms, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our business, stock price and our relationships with third parties with whom we have business relationships, at least until additional funding is obtained. If we do not have sufficient funds to continue operations, we could be required to seek bankruptcy protection or other alternatives that would likely result in our stockholders losing some or all of their investment in us. In addition, our ability to achieve profitability or to respond to competitive pressures would be significantly limited.

### **Going Concern**

Since inception we have been engaged in organizational activities, including raising capital and research and development activities. We have not generated revenues and have not yet achieved profitable operations, nor have we ever generated positive cash flow from operations. There is no assurance that profitable operations, if achieved, could be sustained on a continuing basis. We are subject to those risks associated with any late-clinical stage pharmaceutical company that has substantial expenditures for research and development. There can be no assurance that our research and development projects will be successful, that products developed will obtain necessary regulatory approval, or that any approved product will be commercially viable. In addition, we operate in an environment of rapid technological change and is largely dependent on the services of our employees and consultants. Further, our future operations are dependent on the success of the Company's efforts to raise additional capital. These uncertainties raise substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months after the issuance date of our financial statements. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments to reflect the possible future effects on the recoverability and classification of assets or the amounts and classification of liabilities that may result from the possible inability of the company to continue as a going concern, which contemplates the continuation of operations, realization of assets and liquidation of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. We incurred a net loss of \$12.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2024, and had an accumulated deficit of \$65.7 million as of December 31, 2024. We anticipate incurring additional losses until such time, if ever, that we can generate significant revenue from our product candidates currently in development. Our primary source of capital has been the issuance of debt and equity securities.

### **Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

For a discussion of recent accounting pronouncements, please see the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies in the Notes to our financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

### **JOBS Act**

On April 5, 2012, the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act, was signed into law. The JOBS Act contains provisions that, among other things, reduce certain reporting requirements for an "emerging growth company". As an "emerging growth company," we are electing to take advantage of the extended transition period afforded by the JOBS Act for the implementation of new or revised accounting standards, and as a result, we will comply with new or revised accounting standards on the relevant dates on which adoption of such standards is required for non-emerging growth companies. Section 107 of the JOBS Act provides that our decision not to take advantage of the extended transition period is irrevocable.

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Subject to certain conditions set forth in the JOBS Act, as an “emerging growth company,” we are not required to, among other things, (i) provide an auditor’s attestation report on our system of internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404, (ii) provide all of the compensation disclosure that may be required of non-emerging growth public companies under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, (iii) comply with any requirement that may be adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the auditor’s report providing additional information about the audit and the financial statements (auditor discussion and analysis), and (iv) disclose certain executive compensation-related items such as the correlation between executive compensation and performance and comparisons of the chief executive officer’s compensation to median employee compensation. These exemptions will apply until the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering, which would be August 2026, or until we no longer meet the requirements for being an “emerging growth company,” whichever occurs first.

### **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Not Applicable.

### **ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The information required by this item appears in a separate section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K beginning on page F-1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

### **ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

### **ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2024. The term “disclosure controls and procedures,” as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the Company’s management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2024, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

#### **Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over our financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and effected by our Board, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and includes those policies and procedures that:

- Pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of assets;

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- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with the authorizations of management and our Board; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding the prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework provided in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2024.

### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting identified in management's evaluation pursuant to Rules 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during the quarter and year ended December 31, 2024, that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### **Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls**

Our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, believes that our disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and are effective at the reasonable assurance level. However, our management does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of a simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

### **ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

- (a) None
- (b) During the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2024, no director or "officer" (as defined in Rule 16a-1(f) under the Exchange Act) of the Company adopted or terminated any "Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement" or "non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement," as each term is defined in Item 408(c) of Regulation S-K.

### **ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS**

None.



**PART III****ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding our current executive officers and directors, as of March 1, 2025:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position(s)</b>	<b>Serving in Position Since</b>
Gerald T. Proehl	66	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman	2014
Kyri K. Van Hoose	46	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	2021
Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D.	60	Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer	2015
		Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Quality Assurance	
Maria Bedoya Toro Munera, Ph.D.	73		2016
Brittany Bradrick	55	Director	2022
Mary Fisher	63	Director	2021
David Hale	76	Lead Director	2014
Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.	73	Director	2021
Andrew Sandler, M.D.	60	Director	2021
Kathleen Scott	56	Director	2021
Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.	77	Director	2016

***Executive Officers*****Gerald T. Proehl, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman**

Mr. Proehl became a director and our President and Chief Executive Officer in December 2014 and became our Chairman in April 2021. Mr. Proehl has more than 30 years of experience within the pharmaceutical industry and 21 years of experience as a chief executive officer. From January 2002 until January 2014, Mr. Proehl was President and CEO of Santarus, Inc., where he led the sale of Santarus, Inc. to Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for \$2.6 billion. Prior to Santarus, Inc., Mr. Proehl worked for Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc. for 14 years, where he served in various capacities, including VP of Global Marketing. While at Hoechst, he was responsible for marketing products in multiple therapeutic areas, including cardiology, allergy/respiratory, immunology, and neurology. Mr. Proehl holds a B.S. in Education from State University of New York at Cortland, an M.A. in Exercise Physiology from Wake Forest University, and an M.B.A. from Rockhurst University. Mr. Proehl currently serves as chairman of the board of one public company, Tenax Therapeutics, Inc. (NYSE: TENX). Mr. Proehl was selected as an officer and director due to his leadership experience at other companies and his history of founding and operating specialty pharmaceutical companies.

**Kyri K. Van Hoose, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer**

Ms. Van Hoose became our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in September 2021. Ms. Van Hoose is a seasoned and collaborative professional with over 20 years of experience in the life science industry. Prior to joining Dermata, from September 2020 to April 2021, Ms. Van Hoose served as Chief Financial Officer of TEGA Therapeutics, Inc., a private biotechnology company. Prior to TEGA, from November 2019 to April 2020, Ms. Van Hoose served as the head of finance for Curzion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a private, rare disease company, until its acquisition by Horizon Therapeutics plc in April 2020. Ms. Van Hoose also served as head of finance at Avelas Biosciences, Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company from December 2017 to July 2019. From September 2005 to February 2016, Ms. Van Hoose held leadership positions of increasing responsibilities at Acadia Pharmaceuticals, Inc., including Senior Director of Finance and Corporate Controller. Ms. Van Hoose began her career at Deloitte and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (California inactive). Ms. Van Hoose earned her B.S. in Accounting at the University of Southern California and M.B.A. at the University of California, Irvine.

**Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer**

Dr. Nardo became our Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer in July 2022, and previously was our Senior Vice President of Development beginning in June 2015. Dr. Nardo has more than 25 years' experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and has successfully filed more than a dozen marketing applications in the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia and Japan. His experience spans pre-clinical work through Phase 4 drug development of both small molecules and biologics for a broad range of therapeutic areas including: dermatology, ophthalmology, oncology, antiviral, urology, auto-immune and cardiology. From 2010 to 2015, Dr. Nardo was Senior Director of Clinical Development at Allergan where he had responsibility for the conduct, submission, and approval of several global drug development programs, involving multiple dermatology assets, which included several new indications for BOTOX®. From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Nardo served as Vice President of Clinical Operations at Spectrum Pharmaceuticals where he worked on developing new therapeutic opportunities in oncology and urology, including Fusilev® and Zevalin®. Prior to joining Spectrum, Dr. Nardo held several clinical development positions with increasing responsibility at CancerVax Corporation, The Immune Response Corporation, and Procter and Gamble. Dr. Nardo earned a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.P.H. from San Diego State University, and a B.S. (Biology) from Loyola Marymount University.

**Maria Bedoya Toro Munera, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Quality Assurance**

Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera became our Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance in January 2016. Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera has more than 30 years of experience in regulatory compliance, quality control and quality assurance within the pharmaceutical industry. From 2014 until its sale to Celgene in 2015, Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera served as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance at Receptos Inc. Prior to Receptos, Inc., Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera served as Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance at Santarus, Inc. from June 2007 to January 2014. She previously served as Senior Director Regulatory Affairs at Eisai Medical Research Inc., from November 2006 to May 2007, moving to Eisai from Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Inc. when Ligand divested their oncology products to Eisai in November 2006. Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera worked as Senior Director Global Regulatory Affairs and Compliance at Ligand from 2003 to 2006. From 2000 to 2003, she served as Director Global Regulatory Affairs at Baxter Hyland Immuno. From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera worked at BASF Bioresearch Corporation as Director, Regulatory Affairs/Quality, and from 1996 to 1998, she worked as Director, Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance at Amylin Pharmaceuticals. From 1988 to 1996, Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera worked at Rhone-Poulenc Rorer in a number of increasingly responsible positions in regulatory compliance, quality assurance, quality control and compliance. Dr. Bedoya Toro Munera holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in bio-analytical chemistry from Ohio University. In addition, she has a M.A. in bio-analytical chemistry and a B.S. in chemistry from Western Michigan University.

***Non-Employee Directors***

**Brittany Bradrick, Director**

Ms. Bradrick became a director in January 2022. Ms. Bradrick has served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Neurelis, Inc. since September 2022 and the Chief Financial Officer since October 2021. Prior to joining Neurelis, Ms. Bradrick was Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer at ViaCyte Inc. from June 2020 to September 2021. Prior to Viacyte, Ms. Bradrick served in strategy and corporate development positions at Insulet Corporation as Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Development from 2016 to 2020 and as Director, Business Development & Alliance Management at Abbott Laboratories (NYSE: ABT). Ms. Bradrick was appointed as a director to Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: SPPI) on May 4, 2022 and was appointed as the chairperson to the audit committee on May 25, 2022. Prior to these positions, Ms. Bradrick was an investment banker for the life science industry at Piper Jaffray, Credit Suisse, and Chase Securities from 1997 to 2007. Ms. Bradrick began her career as a Federal Reserve Bank Examiner. Ms. Bradrick holds an M.B.A. from the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Missouri. Ms. Bradrick was selected as a director due to her extensive industry and financial experience.

**Mary Fisher, Director**

Ms. Fisher became a director upon the effectiveness of our initial public offering in August 2021. Ms. Fisher currently serves as Chief Executive Officer, Chair, and a Director at Colorescence Inc., a science-based skincare company and former division of SkinMedica, Inc. While at SkinMedica, Ms. Fisher served as Chief Executive Officer from April 2008 to December 2012, where she led the successful sale of the company to Allergan, Inc. for \$350 million. Prior to joining SkinMedica, from June 2000 to July 2007, Ms. Fisher served as the Chief Operating Officer of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOR). She previously held management and leadership positions at Cephalon, Inc. from March 1994 to March 1999, Immunex Corp. from November 1990 to March 1994, and Boehringer Ingelheim from 1981 to 1990. She previously served on the Board of Directors at ZELTIQ Aesthetics, Inc. from September 2012 to April 2017, and Ovascience from June 2013 to August 2018. Ms. Fisher currently sits on the Board of AVAVA, a position she has held since December 2024. Ms. Fisher was selected as a director due to her extensive business and professional experience.

**David Hale, Lead Director**

Mr. Hale is our co-founder and has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2014, and as Lead Director since April 2021. Mr. Hale is Chairman and CEO of Hale BioPharma Ventures, LLC a private company focused on the formation and development of biotechnology, specialty pharma, diagnostic and medical device companies. Mr. Hale is a serial entrepreneur who has been involved in the formation and development of a number of successful biomedical companies. He served as the Chairman of Santarus, Inc., a specialty biopharmaceutical company, since 2004 and a member of Santarus' board since 2000, prior to its acquisition by Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. in 2014, and as Chairman of SkinMedica, Inc., prior to its sale to Allergan in 2012, Micromet, Inc., prior to its sale to Amgen Inc. in 2012, Somaxon Pharmaceuticals, Inc., prior to its sale to Pernix Therapeutics Holdings Inc. in 2013, Crisi Medical Systems, Inc., prior to its sale to Becton Dickinson & Company in 2015, and Agility Clinical, Inc. prior to its sale to Precision Medicine Inc. in 2017. Mr. Hale is a co-founder and currently serves as Chairman of Oncernal Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ: ONCT), since 2013. Mr. Hale is also a co-founder and currently serves as a director of Neurelis, Inc., a private company, and is a co-founder of Zerigo Health, Inc., Cadence, Inc., Evoke Pharma, Inc., Elevation Pharma, Inc., and Zogenix, Inc. Mr. Hale is a co-founder and serves on the Board of Directors of BIOCOT and CONNECT and is a former member of the Board of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), and the Biotechnology Institute. He has served on the Board of Rady Children's Hospital since 1986, including Chairman of the Board from 2011 to 2015, and is founder and Chairman of the Rady Children's Institute of Genomic Medicine. He is a member of the UCSD Rady School of Management Dean's Advisory Council, a member of the board of the University of San Diego, and is a former Director of the San Diego Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Hale was selected as a director due to his industry and executive business experience.

**Steven J. Mento, Ph.D., Director**

Dr. Mento became a director upon the effectiveness of our initial public offering in August 2021. Dr. Mento served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Histogen Inc. from March 2023 until September 2023. He assumed these positions in March of 2023. From November 2021 to October 2023, Dr. Mento served as Executive Chairman and Interim President and CEO of Histogen Inc. (Nasdaq: HSTO). Since July 2005, Dr. Mento has served as a director on the board of directors of Conatus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and from July 2005 to December 2012, Dr. Mento served as chairman of Conatus' board of directors. Dr. Mento was a co-founder of Conatus and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer from July 2005 until its merger with Histogen Inc. in May 2020. Dr. Mento has over 35 years of combined experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. From 1997 to 2005, Dr. Mento was President, Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors of Idun Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Dr. Mento guided Idun during its transition from a discovery focused organization to a drug development company with multiple products in or near human clinical testing. In April 2005, Idun was sold to Pfizer Inc. Previously, Dr. Mento served as President of Chiron Viagene, Inc. (subsequently Chiron Technologies, Center for Gene Therapy) from 1995 to 1997, and Vice President of Chiron Corporation from 1995 to 1997. Dr. Mento was Vice President of research and development at Viagene from 1992 to 1995. Prior to Viagene, Dr. Mento held various positions at American Cyanamid Company from 1982 to 1992, including as Director of Viral Vaccine Research and Development at Lederle-Praxis Biologicals, a business unit of American Cyanamid. Dr. Mento currently serves on the board of directors of Histogen, BIOCOT California and various academic and charitable organizations. He previously served on the boards of Biotechnology Innovation Organization, BIO Emerging Companies Section Governing Board, BIO Health Section Governing Board, and Sangamo Biosciences, Inc. Dr. Mento holds a Ph.D. and M.S., both in Microbiology, from Rutgers University, and a B.A. in Microbiology from Rutgers College. Dr. Mento was selected as a director due to his experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, including executive leadership experience at several pharmaceutical companies.

**Andrew Sandler, M.D., Director**

Dr. Sandler became a director upon the effectiveness of our initial public offering in August 2021. Dr. Sandler served as Chief Medical Officer of Alpine Immune Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: ALPN) from August 2022 until June 2024. From September 2017 until June 2022, Dr. Sandler served as Chief Medical Officer at Kiadis Pharma N.V. Prior to Kiadis, Dr. Sandler was Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs at Medivation (acquired by Pfizer) from January 2016 to June 2017. Dr. Sandler held various additional roles including Chief Medical Officer and Seattle Site Head at Dendreon Pharmaceuticals from October 2010 to April 2015. Prior to Dendreon, Dr. Sandler was Chief Medical Officer at Spectrum Pharmaceuticals from September 2008 to April 2010, and Vice President, Head of Global Medical Affairs, Oncology for Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals from February 2008 to February 2010. Dr. Sandler also held various positions at Berlex Oncology/Schering AG from October 2003 to August 2008, and Seagen, Inc. from October 1999 to June 2003. Dr. Sandler was a Fellow in Hematology/Medical Oncology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) from July 1994 to June 1996. He did his Internship, Residency, and Chief Residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, NY from July 1990 to June 1994. Dr. Sandler attended and received his MD degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai) from July 1986 to June 1990. In addition, he graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. degree in Neuroscience in 1986. Dr. Sandler was selected as a director due to his experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries as well as his leadership experience.

**Kathleen Scott, Director**

Ms. Scott became a director upon the effectiveness of our initial public offering in August 2021. Ms. Scott is currently the Chief Financial Officer of ARS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a publicly traded biotech company (Nasdaq: SPRY). Prior to ARS Pharmaceuticals, Ms. Scott was the Chief Financial Officer of Neurana Pharmaceuticals from January 2017 to March 2022, Recros Medica from August 2014 to April 2021, Adigica Health from February 2016 to March 2021, Clarify Medical from August 2014 to December 2016, Oncernal Therapeutics from March 2016 to May 2016, MDRejuvena from August 2014 to August 2016, and BioSurplus from March 2010 to November 2014. Prior to BioSurplus, Ms. Scott was a Partner at RA Capital Advisors, a San Diego private investment bank providing financial advisory services. Ms. Scott spent over 15 years with RA Capital Advisors, from December 1994 to July 2010, completing billions of dollars of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and restructurings for a broad range of corporate clients. Ms. Scott started her career as an auditor in Arthur Andersen's San Diego office, focusing on both public and private clients. Ms. Scott was the past board chair and is a current director of the YMCA of San Diego County. In September of 2023 Ms. Scott became a director of NKGen Biotech, Inc. (OTCQX: NKGX) and is currently the chair of its audit and compensation committees. Ms. Scott is a CPA and CFA charter holder and graduated magna cum laude from UCLA with a B.S. in economics/business. Ms. Scott was selected as a director due to her extensive industry and financial experience.

**Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D., Director**

Dr. Wierenga became a director in September 2016. From June 2011 to January 2014, Dr. Wierenga served as Executive Vice President, Research and Development at Santarus, Inc., a public biopharmaceutical company that was acquired by Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in January 2014. From July 2004 to May 2011, Dr. Wierenga served as Executive Vice President, Research and Development at Ambit Biosciences Corporation and Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: NBIX). Prior to Neurocrine, from August 1999 to June 2004 he served as the Chief Executive Officer for Syrrx, Inc. where he built an early-stage biotech company which was acquired by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited in 2005. From 1990 to 2000, Dr. He also was Sr. VP of Research at Parke Davis/Warner Lambert, when it was acquired by Pfizer Inc. and prior to that held various positions in research at Upjohn Pharmaceuticals from 1974-1990. Dr. Wierenga earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University and his B.A. from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Dr. Wierenga is currently the chair of the Board of Directors of Crinetics Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRNX) and is also a member of the Board of Directors of Cytokinetics, Inc. (Nasdaq: CYTK). He was most recently was on the Board of Directors for Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc. and XenoPort, Inc. prior to their sales to Pfizer Inc. and Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC, respectively. Dr. Wierenga was selected as a director due to his industry and executive business experience.

## **Classified Board of Directors**

In accordance with the terms of our Certificate of Incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws, as amended, (“**Bylaws**”) our Board is divided into three classes, Class I, Class II, and Class III, with each class serving staggered three-year terms. Upon the expiration of the term of a class of directors, directors in that class will be eligible to be elected for a new three-year term at the annual meeting of stockholders in the year in which their term expires. Our directors are divided among the three classes as follows:

- The Class I directors are Andrew Sandler, M.D., and Mary Fisher; their terms will expire at the 2025 annual meeting of stockholders.
- The Class II directors are David Hale, Brittany Bradrick, and Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.; their terms will expire at the 2026 annual meeting of stockholders.
- The Class III directors are Gerald T. Proehl, Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D., and Kathleen Scott; their terms expire at the 2027 annual meeting of stockholders.

We expect that any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the three classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class will consist of one-third of the directors. The division of our Board into three classes with staggered three-year terms may delay or prevent a change of our management or a change in control.

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that the authorized number of directors may be changed only by resolution of our Board. Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws also provide that our directors may be removed only for cause, and that any vacancy on our Board, including a vacancy resulting from an enlargement of our Board, may be filled only by vote of a majority of our directors then in office, even if less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

## **Family Relationships**

There are no family relationships among any of our directors or executive officers.

## **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

We have adopted a written code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our employees, officers and directors. A current copy of the code is posted on the Corporate Governance section of our website, which is located at [www.dermatarx.com](http://www.dermatarx.com). We intend to disclose future amendments to certain provisions of our code of business conduct and ethics, or waivers of such provisions applicable to any principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, and our directors, on our website identified above or in filings with the SEC. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is a “code of ethics,” as defined in Item 406(b) of Regulation S-K. We will make any legally required disclosures regarding amendments to, or waivers of, provisions of our code of ethics on our website. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference and is not part of this Form 10-K.

## **Insider trading arrangements and policies.**

We have adopted an insider trading policy that governs the purchase, sale, and/or other transactions of our securities by our directors, officers and employees. A copy of our insider trading policy is filed as Exhibit 19.1 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. In addition, with regard to the Company’s trading in its own securities, it is the Company’s policy to comply with the federal securities laws and the applicable exchange listing requirements in all respects.

## **Board Committees**

Our Board has established an audit committee (“[Audit Committee](#)”), a compensation committee (“[Compensation Committee](#)”), and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (“[Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee](#)”) Our Board may establish other committees to facilitate the management of our business. The composition and functions of each committee named above are described below. Members serve on these committees until their resignation or until otherwise determined by our Board. Each of these committees operate under a charter that has been approved by our Board, which are available on our website.

**Audit Committee.** Our Audit Committee consists of Kathleen Scott, Mary Fisher, and Brittany Bradrick, with Ms. Scott serving as the Chairwoman of the Audit Committee. Our Board has determined that the three directors currently serving on our Audit Committee are independent within the meaning of the Nasdaq Marketplace Rules and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. In addition, our Board has determined that Kathleen Scott qualifies as an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of SEC regulations and the Nasdaq Marketplace Rules. Each of the members of the Audit Committee meets the requirements for financial literacy under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and Nasdaq.

The Audit Committee’s responsibilities include:

- appointing, approving the compensation of, and assessing the qualifications, performance and independence of our independent registered public accounting firm, and in particular the provision of additional services to each entity covered by the Audit Committee;
- pre-approving audit and permissible non-audit services, and the terms of such services, to be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm;
- reviewing and discussing with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our annual and quarterly financial statements and related disclosures as well as critical accounting policies and practices used by us;
- monitoring the audit of our financial statements;
- setting policies for our hiring of employees or former employees of our independent registered public accounting firm;
- reviewing our significant risks or exposures and assessing the steps that management has taken or should take to monitor and minimize such risks or exposures;
- reviewing the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting, including information system controls and security;
- monitoring the effectiveness of our systems of internal control, internal audit and risk management for each entity covered by the Audit Committee;
- establishing policies and procedures for the receipt and retention of accounting-related complaints and concerns;

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- recommending, based upon the audit committee’s review and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, whether our audited financial statements shall be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K;
- monitoring our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements as they relate to our financial statements and accounting matters;
- preparing the Audit Committee report required by the rules of the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement;
- reviewing all related party transactions for potential conflict of interest situations and approving all such transactions; and
- reviewing and discussing with management and our independent registered public accounting firm our earnings releases and scripts.

Our Audit Committee operates pursuant to a charter that is available on our website at <https://ir.dermatarx.com/> under the Governance section.

**Compensation Committee.** Our Compensation Committee consists of Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D., David Hale, and Andrew Sandler, M.D., with Dr. Wierenga serving as the Chairman of the Compensation Committee. Our Board has determined that the three directors currently serving on our Compensation Committee are independent under the listing standards, are “non-employee directors” as defined in rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act and are “outside directors” as that term is defined in Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).

The Compensation Committee’s responsibilities include:

- reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our chief executive officer, the officers who report directly to the chief executive officer and all officers who are “insiders” subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act;
- evaluating the performance of our chief executive officer and such other officers in light of such corporate goals and objectives and determining and approving, or recommending to our Board for approval, the compensation of our chief executive officer and such other officers;
- appointing, compensating, and overseeing the work of any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other advisor retained by the compensation committee;
- conducting the independence assessment outlined in the listing standards of the Nasdaq Capital Market with respect to any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other advisor retained by the compensation committee;
- annually reviewing and reassessing the adequacy of the committee charter;
- reviewing and establishing our overall management compensation and our compensation philosophy and policy;
- overseeing and administering our equity compensation and other compensatory plans;
- reviewing and approving our equity and incentive policies and procedures for the grant of equity-based awards and approving the grant of such equity-based awards;
- reviewing and making recommendations to our Board with respect to non-employee director compensation; and
- producing a report, if required, on executive compensation to be included in our annual proxy statement or Annual Report on Form 10-K.



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Our Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a charter that is available on our website at <https://ir.dermatarx.com/> under the Governance section.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of David Hale, Steven Mento, Ph.D., and Andrew Sandler, M.D., with Mr. Hale serving as the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. All members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent directors as defined under the Nasdaq listing standards.

The nominating and corporate governance committee’s responsibilities include:

- establishing procedures for identifying and evaluating board of director candidates, including nominees recommended by stockholder;
- 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;
- developing and recommending to our Board a set of corporate governance principles;
- articulating to each director what is expected, including reference to the corporate governance principles and directors’ duties and responsibilities;
- reviewing and recommending to our Board practices and policies with respect to directors;
- reviewing and recommending to our Board the functions, duties and compositions of the committees of our Board;
- reviewing and assessing the adequacy of the committee charter and submitting any changes to our Board for approval;
- considering and reporting to our Board any questions of possible conflicts of interest of Board members;
- providing for new director orientation and continuing education for existing directors on a periodic basis;
- performing an evaluation of the performance of the committee; and
- overseeing the evaluation of our Board.

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee operates pursuant to a charter that is available on our website at <https://ir.dermatarx.com/> under the Governance section.

## **ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table presents information regarding the total compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer and the most highly-compensated executive officer (other than the chief executive officer and chief financial officer) who were serving as executive officers as of December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 for services rendered in all capacities to us for the years ended December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023. These individuals are our “Named Executive Officers” for 2024. We had no other named executive officers in 2024 and 2023.

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Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus	Stock Option Awards (3)	Total
Gerald T. Proehl	2024	\$ 280,000	\$ 117,600(1)	\$ 64,373	\$ 461,973
<i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2023	280,000	112,000(2)	-	392,000
Kyri K. Van Hoose	2024	328,500	110,376(1)	25,740	464,616
<i>Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer</i>	2023	315,000	100,800(2)	26,450(4)	442,250(5)
Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D.	2024	349,500	117,432(1)	25,748	492,680
<i>Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer</i>	2023	336,000	107,520(2)	26,450(4)	469,970(5)

- (1) Bonuses earned for 2024 will be paid in 2025.
- (2) Bonuses earned for 2023 were paid in January 2024.
- (3) In accordance with SEC rules, this column reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock option awards granted during 2024 and 2023. These amounts have been computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Assumptions used in the calculation of this amount are described in Note 7 to our financial statements. This amount does not reflect the actual economic value that will be realized by the executives upon the vesting of the stock options, the exercise of the stock options, or the sale of the common stock underlying such stock options.
- (4) These option awards outstanding as of December 31, 2023, were cancelled for no consideration in February 2024. The Company did not award any replacement stock options.
- (5) Includes the option awards outstanding as of December 31, 2023, that were cancelled for no consideration in February 2024.

**Employment Agreements with Our Named Executive Officers**

We are party to employment agreements with each of our Named Executive Officers listed below. Each of these Named Executive Officers are currently party to customary confidentiality and intellectual property assignment agreements with us.

*Gerald T. Proehl*

On December 6, 2021, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Proehl (the “[Proehl Agreement](#)”). Under the terms of the Proehl Agreement, Mr. Proehl holds the position of President and Chief Executive Officer and is due a base salary of \$350,000 annually. However, starting in July 2022, in an effort to preserve the Company’s cash, Mr. Proehl voluntarily agreed to a base salary of \$280,000, which the Compensation Committee approved and has not been increased since 2022. In addition, Mr. Proehl is eligible to receive an annual bonus, with a target amount equal to 50% of Mr. Proehl’s base salary. The actual amount of each annual bonus will be based upon the level of achievement of certain of our corporate objectives and Mr. Proehl’s individual objectives, in each case, as established by the Company and Mr. Proehl for the calendar year with respect to which the annual bonus relates. The determination of the level of achievement of the corporate objectives and Mr. Proehl’s individual performance objectives for a year shall be made by us in our reasonable discretion. In addition, Mr. Proehl is eligible to receive, from time to time, equity awards under our existing equity incentive plan, or any other equity incentive plan we may adopt in the future, and the terms and conditions of such awards, if any, will be determined by our board of directors or the Compensation Committee, in their discretion. Mr. Proehl will also be eligible to participate in any executive benefit plan or program we adopt.

We may terminate Mr. Proehl’s employment at any time without Cause (as that term is defined in the Proehl Agreement) upon four weeks prior written notice to Mr. Proehl. Mr. Proehl may terminate his employment for Good Reason (as that term is defined in the Proehl Agreement) upon 60 days written notice.

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If Mr. Proehl's employment is terminated without Cause or for Good Reason, Mr. Proehl will be entitled to receive (i) his earned but unpaid base salary through the final day of his employment, (ii) expenses reimbursable under the Proehl Agreement incurred on or prior to the last day of his employment, (iii) any amounts or benefits that are vested amounts or benefits that Mr. Proehl is entitled to receive under any of our equity compensation plans (clauses (i) through (iii) collectively, the Accrued Obligations), (iv) severance payments equal to 12 months of Mr. Proehl's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Mr. Proehl's termination), (v) a pro-rated payment equal to the annual bonus the Board determines is due, and (vi) if elected, we will reimburse Mr. Proehl for certain COBRA health benefits for 12 months.

Notwithstanding the above, if Mr. Proehl's employment is terminated without Cause or he resigns for Good Reason either within three months immediately preceding or within one year after a Change of Control (as defined in the 2021 Plan), Mr. Proehl will receive (i) the Accrued Obligations, (ii) severance payments equal to 18 months of Mr. Proehl's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Mr. Proehl's termination), (iii) the targeted annual bonus amount the Board determines is due to Mr. Proehl, (iv) if elected, we will reimburse Mr. Proehl for certain COBRA health benefits for 18 months, and (v) Mr. Proehl will be deemed to be fully vested in all of his outstanding equity awards as of the date of his termination.

If Mr. Proehl's employment is terminated with Cause or without Good Reason, he will be entitled to receive (i) his earned but unpaid base salary through the final day of his employment, (ii) expenses reimbursable under the employment agreement incurred on or prior to the last day of his employment, and (iii) any amounts or benefits that are vested amounts or benefits that Mr. Proehl is entitled to receive under any of our equity compensation plans.

We may terminate Mr. Proehl's employment at any time for Cause upon written notice to Mr. Proehl. Mr. Proehl may voluntarily terminate his employment at any time without Good Reason upon four weeks prior written notice.

### *Kyri K. Van Hoose*

On November 19, 2021, we entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Van Hoose, which was subsequently amended on January 1, 2022 (as amended, the "Van Hoose Agreement"). Under the terms of the Van Hoose Agreement, she holds the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and receives a base salary of \$328,500 annually. In addition, Ms. Van Hoose is eligible to receive an annual bonus, with a target amount equal to forty percent (40%) of Ms. Van Hoose's base salary. The actual amount of each annual bonus will be based upon the level of achievement of our corporate objectives and Ms. Van Hoose's individual objectives, in each case, as established by us and Ms. Van Hoose for the calendar year with respect to which the annual bonus relates. The determination of the level of achievement of the corporate objectives and Ms. Van Hoose's individual performance objectives for a year shall be made by us in our reasonable discretion. In addition, pursuant to the terms of her employment agreement, Ms. Van Hoose is eligible to receive, from time to time, equity awards under our existing equity incentive plan, or any other equity incentive plan we may adopt in the future, and the terms and conditions of such awards, if any, will be determined by our board of directors or Compensation Committee, in their discretion. Ms. Van Hoose is also eligible to participate in any executive benefit plan or program we adopt.

We may terminate Ms. Van Hoose's employment at any time without Cause (as that term is defined in the Van Hoose Agreement) upon two weeks prior written notice to Ms. Van Hoose. Ms. Van Hoose may terminate her employment for Good Reason (as that term is defined in the Van Hoose Agreement) upon 60 days written notice to us, upon which notice we have 30 days to cure the conditions that Ms. Van Hoose considers to be Good Reason, subject to certain conditions set forth in her employment agreement.

If Ms. Van Hoose's employment is terminated without Cause or for Good Reason, Ms. Van Hoose will be entitled to receive (i) the Accrued Obligations, (ii) severance payments equal to nine months of Ms. Van Hoose's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Ms. Van Hoose's termination), (iii) the targeted annual bonus amount the Board determines is due to Ms. Van Hoose, and (iv) if elected, the Company will reimburse Ms. Van Hoose for certain COBRA health benefits for nine months.

Notwithstanding the above, if Ms. Van Hoose's employment is terminated without Cause or she resigns for Good Reason either within three months immediately preceding or within one year after a Change of Control (as defined in the 2021 Plan), Ms. Van Hoose will receive (i) the Accrued Obligations, (ii) severance payments equal to 12 months of Ms. Van Hoose's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Ms. Van Hoose's termination), (iii) the targeted annual bonus amount the Board determines is due to Ms. Van Hoose, (iv) if elected, the Company will reimburse Ms. Van Hoose for certain COBRA health benefits for 12 months, and (v) Ms. Van Hoose will be deemed to be fully vested in all of her outstanding equity awards as of the date of her termination.

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If Ms. Van Hoose's employment is terminated with Cause or without Good Reason, she is entitled to receive (i) her earned but unpaid base salary through the final day of her employment, (ii) expenses reimbursable under the employment agreement incurred on or prior to the last day of her employment, and (iii) any amounts or benefits that are vested amounts or benefits that Ms. Van Hoose is entitled to receive under any of our equity compensation plans.

We may terminate Ms. Van Hoose's employment at any time for Cause upon written notice to Ms. Van Hoose. Ms. Van Hoose may voluntarily terminate her employment at any time without Good Reason upon two weeks prior written notice to us.

*Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D.*

On August 17, 2021, we entered into an employment agreement with Dr. Nardo, which was subsequently amended on December 6, 2021, January 1, 2022, and July 1, 2022 (as amended, the "Nardo Agreement"). Dr. Nardo holds the position of Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer and receives a base salary of \$349,500 annually. In addition, Dr. Nardo is eligible to receive an annual bonus, with a target amount equal to forty percent (40%) of Dr. Nardo's base salary. The actual amount of each annual bonus will be based upon the level of achievement of our corporate objectives and Dr. Nardo's individual objectives, in each case, as established by us and Dr. Nardo for the calendar year with respect to which the annual bonus relates. The determination of the level of achievement of the corporate objectives and Dr. Nardo's individual performance objectives for a year shall be made by us in our reasonable discretion. In addition, pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Dr. Nardo is eligible to receive, from time to time, equity awards under our existing equity incentive plan, or any other equity incentive plan we may adopt in the future, and the terms and conditions of such awards, if any, will be determined by our board of directors or Compensation Committee, in their discretion. Dr. Nardo is also eligible to participate in any executive benefit plan or program we adopt.

We may terminate Dr. Nardo's employment at any time without Cause (as that term is defined in the Nardo Agreement) upon two weeks prior written notice to Dr. Nardo. Dr. Nardo may terminate his employment for Good Reason (as that term is defined in the Nardo Agreement) upon 60 days written notice to us, upon which notice we have 30 days to cure the conditions that Dr. Nardo considers to be Good Reason, subject to certain conditions set forth in his employment agreement.

If Dr. Nardo's employment is terminated without Cause or for Good Reason, Dr. Nardo will be entitled to receive (i) the Accrued Obligations, (ii) severance payments equal to nine months of Dr. Nardo's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Dr. Nardo's termination), (iii) the targeted annual bonus amount the Board determines is due to Dr. Nardo, and (iv) if elected, the Company will reimburse Dr. Nardo for certain COBRA health benefits for nine months.

Notwithstanding the above, if Dr. Nardo's employment is terminated without Cause or he resigns for Good Reason either within three months immediately preceding or within one year after a Change of Control (as defined in the 2021 Plan), Dr. Nardo will receive (i) the Accrued Obligations, (ii) severance payments equal to 12 months of Dr. Nardo's base salary (to be paid in a lump sum on the next regular payroll date within 60 days of Dr. Nardo's termination), (iii) the targeted annual bonus amount the Board determines is due to Dr. Nardo, (iv) if elected, the Company will reimburse Dr. Nardo for certain COBRA health benefits for 12 months, and (v) Dr. Nardo will be deemed to be fully vested in all of his outstanding equity awards as of the date of his termination.

If Dr. Nardo's employment is terminated with Cause or without Good Reason, he is entitled to receive (i) his earned but unpaid base salary through the final day of his employment, (ii) expenses reimbursable under the employment agreement incurred on or prior to the last day of his employment, and (iii) any amounts or benefits that are vested amounts or benefits that Dr. Nardo is entitled to receive under any of our equity compensation plans.

We may terminate Dr. Nardo's employment at any time for Cause upon written notice to Dr. Nardo. Dr. Nardo may voluntarily terminate his employment at any time without Good Reason upon two weeks prior written notice to us.

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**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table summarizes, for each of the named executive officers, the number of shares of common stock underlying outstanding stock options held as of December 31, 2024.

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options		Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date	Vesting Schedule
	Exercisable	Unexercisable			
Gerry T. Proehl	-	8,333	\$ 9.1485	1/3/2034	(1)
Kyri K. Van Hoose	-	3,332	\$ 9.1485	1/3/2034	(1)
Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D.	-	3,333	\$ 9.1485	1/3/2034	(1)

(1) This stock option award was granted January 4, 2024. The shares underlying the option will vest as to 25% upon the 12-month anniversary of the grant date and will vest as to 75% in 36 equal monthly installments commencing on the 12-month anniversary of the grant date.

The outstanding options awards held by our Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2023, were cancelled for no consideration in February 2024. None of our Named Executive Officers have been granted any replacement options. We otherwise did not engage in any repricings or other modifications or cancellations to any of our named executive officers' outstanding option awards during the year ended December 31, 2024.

**Director Compensation Table - 2024**

The following table sets forth information concerning the compensation paid to our non-employee directors during 2024.

Name	Fees Earned Paid in Cash (1)	Stock Awards (2)	Stock Option Awards (3)(4)	Total
David Hale	\$ 73,000	\$ -	\$ 4,986	\$ 77,986
Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.	50,000	-	4,986	54,986
Kathleen Scott	55,000	-	4,986	59,986
Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.	44,000	-	4,986	48,986
Mary Fisher	47,500	-	4,986	52,486
Andrew Sandler, M.D.	49,000	-	4,986	53,986
Brittany Bradrick	47,500	-	4,986	52,486

- (1) Board of Director fees earned or paid in cash were for calendar year 2024, representing fees earned by our non-employee directors.
- (2) The Board of Directors did not receive stock awards in 2024. All compensation was paid in cash.
- (3) In accordance with SEC rules, this column reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock option awards granted during 2024. These amounts have been computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Assumptions used in the calculation of this amount are described in Note 7 to our financial statements. This amount does not reflect the actual economic value that will be realized by the directors upon the vesting of the stock options, the exercise of the stock options, or the sale of the common stock underlying such stock options.
- (4) In February 2024, the following options held by directors were cancelled for no consideration: (i) options exercisable for 625 shares of common stock held by David Hale; (ii) options exercisable for 1,378 shares of common stock held by Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.; (iii) options exercisable for 937 shares of common stock held by Kathleen Scott; (iv) options exercisable for 937 shares of common stock held by Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.; (v) options exercisable for 937 shares of common stock held by Mary Fisher; (vi) options exercisable for 937 shares of common stock held by Andrew Sandler, M.D.; and (vii) options exercisable for 625 shares of common stock held by Brittany Bradrick. None of our directors have been granted any replacement options.

## **Director Compensation Policy**

We have adopted a compensation policy pursuant to which our non-employee board members receive \$40,000 per year (\$60,000 for Lead Director), each member of the Audit Committee receives \$7,500 per year (\$15,000 for the Chair), each member of the Compensation Committee receives \$5,000 per year (\$10,000 for the Chair), and each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee receives \$4,000 per year (\$8,000 for the Chair). Any compensation to be paid under this policy may be made in cash or restricted stock units at the election of each board member which must be made in the prior calendar year. As part of this director compensation policy, our directors may elect to receive their annual compensation (i) 100% in restricted stock units, (ii) 50% in cash and 50% in restricted stock units, or (iii) 100% in cash. To the extent any of our directors elect to receive any of their compensation in restricted stock units, such restricted stock units will not be subject to any vesting term.

We have also adopted an equity compensation policy pursuant to which board members shall be granted stock options to purchase shares of our Common Stock upon joining the board of directors (“New Director Grants”), and at the beginning of each year, each then serving non-employee director shall be automatically granted stock options to purchase shares of our common stock (“Continuing Director Grants”). New Director Grants vest upon the third anniversary of the date of grant, and the Continuing Director Grants vest in twelve equal monthly installments commencing on the date of grant. These stock options shall have a term of ten years and shall have an exercise price equal to 100% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant. All options to be granted under this policy will be granted pursuant to our 2021 Plan.

## **The Company’s Policies and Practices Related to the Grant of Certain Equity Awards Close in Time to the Release of Material Nonpublic Information**

We do not have any formal policy that requires us to grant, or avoid granting, equity-based compensation to our executive officers at certain times. Consistent with our annual compensation cycle, the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has for several years granted annual equity awards to its executive officers and directors at the start of the new fiscal year. The timing of any equity grants to executive officers in connection with new hires, promotions, or other non-routine grants is tied to the event giving rise to the award (such as an executive officer’s commencement of employment or promotion effective date). As a result, in all cases, the timing of grants of equity awards, including stock options, occurs independent of the release of any material nonpublic information, and we do not time the disclosure of material nonpublic information for the purpose of affecting the value of equity-based compensation.

No stock options were issued to executive officers in fiscal year 2024 during any period beginning four business days before the filing of a periodic report or current report disclosing material non-public information and ending one business day after the filing or furnishing of such report with the SEC.

## **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

### **Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

On March 24, 2021, our Board and stockholders adopted the 2021 Plan which provides for the grant of incentive stock options and non-qualified stock options to purchase shares of our common stock and other types of awards. On June 29, 2021, our Board and stockholders approved an amendment to the 2021 Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of common stock available for issuance in connection with options and other awards granted under the 2021 Plan. On June 22, 2023, our Board and stockholders approved an additional amendment to the 2021 plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of common stock available for issuance in connection with options and other awards under the 2021 Plan.

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The general purpose of the 2021 Plan is to provide a means whereby eligible employees, officers, non-employee directors and other individual service providers develop a sense of proprietorship and personal involvement in our development and financial success, and to encourage them to devote their best efforts to our business, thereby advancing our interests and the interests of our stockholders. By means of the 2021 Plan, we seek to retain the services of such eligible persons and to provide incentives for such persons to exert maximum efforts for our success and the success of our subsidiaries.

The following table provides information with respect to our compensation plans under which equity compensation was authorized as of December 31, 2024.

<b>Plan category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (2)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)	52,341	\$ 6.03	26,675
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,341</b>		<b>26,675</b>

(1) The amounts shown in this row include securities under the 2021 Plan.

(2) In accordance with the “evergreen” provision in the 2021 Plan, an additional 125,888 shares were automatically made available for issuance on the first day of 2025, which represents 5% of the number of shares outstanding on December 31, 2024; these shares are excluded from this calculation.

### **Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our Common Stock as of March 1, 2025 by:

- each of our stockholders who is known by us to beneficially own 5% or more of our Common Stock;
- each of our named executive officers;
- each of our directors; and
- all of our directors and current officers as a group.



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Beneficial ownership is determined based on the rules and regulations of the SEC. A person has beneficial ownership of shares if such individual has the power to vote and/or dispose of shares. This power may be sole or shared and direct or indirect. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, shares of our common stock that are subject to options or warrants held by that person and exercisable as of, or within 60 days of March 1, 2025 are counted as outstanding. These shares, however, are not counted as outstanding for the purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person(s). Except as otherwise noted in the footnotes to the table, we believe that each person or entity named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of our Common Stock shown as beneficially owned by that person or entity (or shares such power with his or her spouse). Unless indicated below, the address of each individual listed below is c/o Dermata Therapeutics, Inc., 3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., #322, San Diego, CA 92130.

The percentage of the Common Stock beneficially owned by each person or entity named in the following table is based on 5,430,648 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of March 1, 2025 plus any shares issuable upon exercise of options or warrants that are exercisable on or within 60 days after March 1, 2025 held by such person or entity.

Beneficial ownership representing less than 1% is denoted with an asterisk (\*).

<b>Name of Beneficial Owner (1)</b>	<b>Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (2)</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned</b>
<b>5% or Greater Stockholders</b>		
Proehl Investment Ventures LLC	799,624(3)(4)	14.7%
Armistice Capital, LLC	276,422(5)	9.99%
Intracoastal Capital LLC	262,468(6)	6.7%
<b>Named Executive Officers and Directors other than 5% or Greater Stockholders</b>		
Gerald T. Proehl	803,925(3)(4)(7)	14.8%
Christopher J. Nardo, Ph.D.	1,154(8)	*
Kyri K. Van Hoose	79,796(9)	*
David Hale	83,545(10)(11)(12)	*
Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.	2,175(13)	*
Kathleen Scott	2,038(14)	*
Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.	1,916(15)	*
Mary Fisher	198,862(16)	3.7%
Andrew Sandler, M.D.	2,015(17)	*
Brittany Bradrick	2,011(18)	*
<b>All Directors and Officers as a Group (11 persons)</b>	<b>1,117,437</b>	<b>21.5%</b>

\*Less than 1%.

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- (1) Unless noted otherwise, the address of all listed stockholders is 3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., #322 San Diego, CA 92130. Each of the stockholder listed has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned by the stockholder unless noted otherwise, subject to community property laws where applicable.
- (2) We have determined beneficial ownership in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which is generally determined by voting power and/or dispositive power with respect to securities. Unless otherwise noted, the shares of Common Stock listed above are owned as of March 1, 2025, and are owned of record by each individual named as beneficial owner and such individual has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares of common stock owned by each of them.
- (3) Gerald T. Proehl, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Proehl Investment Ventures LLC. Due to Mr. Proehl's ownership of Proehl Investment Ventures LLC, he may be deemed to have sole voting and dispositive control over the shares of our Common Stock held by Proehl Investment Ventures LLC. As a result, Mr. Proehl may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our Common Stock held by Proehl Investment Ventures LLC.
- (4) Includes (i) 799,508 shares of Common Stock held by Proehl Investment Ventures LLC, and (ii) 116 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of warrants held by Proehl Investment Ventures LLC that are exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Excludes 787,402 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are not exercisable until the transaction in which they were issued is approved by the Company's stockholders.
- (5) Includes, based on the Schedule 13G/A filed on February 14, 2025, by Armistice Capital, LLC, (i) 276,422 shares of Common Stock held by Armistice Capital, LLC. Armistice Capital, LLC ("Armistice Capital") is the investment manager of Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd. (the "Master Fund"), the direct holder of the shares, and pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement, Armistice Capital exercises voting and investment power over the securities of the Issuer held by the Master Fund and thus may be deemed to beneficially own the securities of the Issuer held by the Master Fund. Mr. Boyd, as the managing member of Armistice Capital, may be deemed to beneficially own the securities of the Issuer held by the Master Fund. The Master Fund specifically disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities of the Issuer directly held by it by virtue of its inability to vote or dispose of such securities as a result of its Investment Management Agreement with Armistice Capital. Armistice Capital, LLC's address is 510 Madison Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10022.
- (6) Includes, based on the Schedule 13G filed on January 28, 2025 by Intracoastal Capital LLC ("Intracoastal"), (i) 262,478 shares of Common Stock held by Intracoastal. Mitchell P. Kopin and Daniel B. Asher, each of whom are managers of Intracoastal Capital LLC, have shared voting control and investment discretion over the securities reported herein that are held by Intracoastal. As a result, each of Mr. Kopin and Mr. Asher may be deemed to have beneficial ownership (as determined under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) of the securities reported herein that are held by Intracoastal.
- (7) Includes (i) 247 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Proehl, (ii) 2,640 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Mr. Proehl exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025, (iii) 37 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Proehl as Trustee of the Megan Proehl Wilder 2020 Irrevocable Trust, (iv) 74 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Proehl as Trustee of the Allison Taylor Proehl 2020 Irrevocable Trust, (v) 149 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Proehl as Trustee of the Sean Michael Proehl Irrevocable Trust Dated December 18, 2020, and (vi) 595 shares of Common Stock and warrants to purchase up to 595 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Proehl as Trustee of the Proehl Family Trust. Does not include 50,729 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Mr. Proehl that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.

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- (8) Includes (i) 103 shares of Common Stock held by Dr. Nardo, (ii) 1,041 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Nardo exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025, and (iii) 10 shares of Common Stock held by Dr. Nardo as Co-Trustee of the Nardo Family Trust Dated October 3, 2001. Does not include 22,292 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Nardo that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.
- (9) Includes (i) 78,741 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Van Hoose, and (ii) 1,055 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Van Hoose exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 22,277 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Van Hoose that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Excludes 78,741 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are not exercisable until the transaction in which they were issued is approved by the Company's stockholders.
- (10) David Hale, our Lead Director, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC. Due to Mr. Hale's control of Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC, he may be deemed to have sole voting and dispositive control over the shares of our Common Stock held by Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC. As a result, Mr. Hale may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of our Common Stock held by Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC.
- (11) Includes (i) 80,957 shares of Common Stock held by Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC, and (ii) 12 shares of Common Stock held by Hale BioPharma Ventures LLC issuable upon exercise of warrants exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Excludes 78,741 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are not exercisable until the transaction in which they were issued is approved by the Company's stockholders.
- (12) Includes (i) 314 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Hale, (ii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Mr. Hale exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date, (iii) 50 shares of Common Stock held by a limited partnership of which Mr. Hale serves as the General Partner and as such, has voting and dispositive control over the shares of Common Stock, and (iv) 148 shares of Common Stock and warrants to purchase up to 148 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Hale as Trustee of the Hale Family Trust. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Mr. Hale that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.

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- (13) Includes (i) 259 shares of Common Stock held by Dr. Wierenga, and (ii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Wierenga exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Wierenga that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.
- (14) Includes (i) 10 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Scott as Trustee of the Scott 2008 Trust dated 3/28/08, (ii) 112 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Scott, and (iii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Scott exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Scott that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.
- (15) Includes 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Mento exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Mento that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.
- (16) Includes (i) 196,946 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Fisher, and (ii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Fisher exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Fisher that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Excludes 196,851 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are not exercisable until the transaction in which they were issued is approved by the Company's stockholders.
- (17) Includes (i) 99 shares of Common Stock held by Dr. Sandler, and (ii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Sandler exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Dr. Sandler that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.
- (18) Includes (i) 95 shares of Common Stock held by Ms. Bradrick, and (ii) 1,916 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Bradrick exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025. Does not include 3,750 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of stock options held by Ms. Bradrick that are not exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2025.

## ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

### Transactions with Related Persons

The following is a description of transactions since January 1, 2023 to which we have been a participant in which the amount involved exceeded or will exceed \$120,000, and in which any of our directors, executive officers or holders of more than 5% of our voting securities, or any members of their immediate family, had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, other than compensation arrangements with our Named Executive Officers which are described under “Executive Compensation.”

#### *Employment Agreement with Child of Chief Executive Officer*

Sean Proehl, the son of Gerald T. Proehl, our Chief Executive Officer, is currently employed as our Associate General Counsel. Mr. Sean Proehl receives a salary of \$200,000 a year. In addition, Mr. Sean Proehl is eligible to receive, from time to time, equity awards under our existing equity incentive plan, or any other equity incentive plan we may adopt in the future, and the terms and conditions of such awards, if any, will be determined by our Board of Directors or Compensation Committee, in its discretion.

#### *Indemnification of Officers and Directors*

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and executive officers. These agreements require us to indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law against liabilities that may arise by reason of their service to us, and to advance expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified. We also intend to enter into indemnification agreements with our future directors and executive officers.

#### *January 2025 Private Placement*

On January 21, 2025, we entered into a securities purchase agreement (the “Purchase Agreement”) with certain institutional and accredited investors for the issuance and sale in a private placement (the “Private Placement”) of (i) 1,935,412 shares (the “Shares”) of our common stock, (ii) pre-funded warrants (the “Pre-Funded Warrants”) to purchase up to 72,468 shares of our common stock, at an exercise price of \$0.001 per share, and (iii) warrants (the “Warrants”) to purchase up to 2,007,880 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$1.27 per share. The purchase price per Share and accompanying Warrant was \$1.27 and the purchase price per Pre-Funded Warrant and accompanying Warrant was \$1.269. The Pre-Funded Warrants are exercisable immediately, and may be exercised at any time until all of the Pre-Funded Warrants are exercised in full. The Warrants will be exercisable beginning on the effective date of stockholder approval of the issuance of the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrants. The Warrants will expire five years from the effective date of stockholder approval. The Private Placement closed on January 23, 2025.

Certain related persons, including Gerald T. Proehl, our Chief Executive Officer and Mary Fisher, member of our Board of Directors, participated in the Private Placement. Mr. Gerald T. Proehl, through Proehl Investment Ventures LLC of which he is Managing Member, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, purchased 787,402 Shares and accompanying Warrants for a purchase price of \$1,000,000.54. Ms. Mary Fisher purchased 196,851 Shares and accompanying Warrants for a purchase price of \$250,000.77. Other related persons, including Kyri K. Van Hoose, our Chief Financial Officer, David F. Hale, member of our Board of Directors and Sean Proehl, son of Mr. Gerald T. Proehl and our Associate General Counsel, participated in the Private Placement as well, each of which purchased a number of Shares and accompanying Warrants for a purchase price less than \$120,000. The purchase price per Share and accompanying Warrant for our insiders was the same as paid by other investors in the Private Placement. The gross proceeds from the Private Placement were approximately \$2.55 million. In February 2025, the holder of the 72,468 Pre-Funded Warrants exercised their shares, resulting in a 72,468 share increase to Common Stock outstanding prior to the filing of this document. Further information regarding the Private Placement is set forth in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025.

### Policies and Procedures for Related Party Transactions:

Our Board has adopted a written related person transaction policy setting forth the policies and procedures for the review and approval or ratification of related person transactions. This policy covers, with certain exceptions set forth in Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act, any transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships, in which we were or are to be a participant, where the amount involved exceeds the lesser of \$120,000 or 1% of the average of our total assets as of December 31, 2024, and 2023, and a related person had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest, including without limitation, purchases of goods or services by or from the related person or entities in which the related person has a material interest, indebtedness, guarantees of indebtedness and employment by us of a related person. In reviewing and approving any such transactions, our audit committee is tasked to consider all relevant facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to: (i) whether the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in an arm’s length transaction with an unrelated party; (ii) the extent of the related person’s interest in the transaction; (iii) the benefits to the Company; (iv) the impact on a director’s independence in the event the related person is a director, an immediately family member of a director or an entity in which a director is a partner, stockholder or executive officer; (v) the availability of other sources for comparable products or services; (vi) the terms of the transaction; and (vii) the terms available to unrelated third parties. All related-party transactions may only be consummated if our Audit Committee has approved or ratified such transaction in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the policy. Any member of the Audit Committee who is a related person with respect to a transaction under review will not be permitted to participate in the deliberations or vote respecting approval or ratification of the transaction. However, such director may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Audit Committee that considers the transaction.

### Director Independence

The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC requires a majority of a listed company’s board of directors to be comprised of independent directors. In addition, the rules require that each member of a listed company’s audit, compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees be independent under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Audit committee members must also satisfy the independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and compensation committee members must also satisfy the independence criteria set forth in Rule 10C-1 under the Exchange Act. Under the Nasdaq Listing Rules, a director will only qualify as an “independent director” if, among other things, in the opinion of the listed company’s 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.



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In order to be considered independent for purposes of Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act, 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, accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the listed company or any of its subsidiaries or otherwise be an affiliated person of the listed company or any of its subsidiaries. In order to be considered independent for purposes of Rule 10C-1, the board must consider, for each member of a compensation committee of a listed company, 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: (1) the source of compensation of the director, including any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee paid by such company to the director; and (2) whether the director is affiliated with the company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

Our Board undertook a review of its composition, the composition of its committees and the independence of each director. Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning his or her background, employment and affiliations, including family relationships, our Board has determined that David Hale, Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D., Andrew Sandler, M.D., Mary Fisher, Steven J. Mento, Ph.D., Brittany Bradrick, and Kathleen Scott do not have 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 the Rules of Nasdaq and the SEC.

### ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

#### Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following table presents the aggregate fees billed or anticipated to be billed for professional services rendered to us by Moss Adams for our fiscal years ended December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2023:

Fee Category	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 505,409	\$ 387,188
Audit-Related Fees	-	-
Tax Fees	-	-
All Other Fees	-	-
Total Fees	\$ 505,409	\$ 387,188

- (1) Audit fees consist of fees incurred for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual financial statements, review of the quarterly financial statements, assistance with registration statements filed with the SEC, fees to cover technology and other expenses, and services that are normally provided by our independent registered public accounting firm in connection with regulatory filings or engagements.

#### Audit Fees

Represents fees, including out of pocket expenses, for professional services provided in connection with the audit of our annual audited financial statements, the review of our quarterly financial statements and for consents and comfort letters provided in connection with the offerings of our Common Stock.

#### Tax Fees

Tax fees are principally for services related to tax preparation and filing, as well as tax consulting services associated with tax preparation and filings. No such fees were incurred related to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

#### Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

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



**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

**(a)(1) Financial Statements**

The financial statements and related notes, together with the report of Moss Adams LLP, appear at pages F-1 through F-22 following the Exhibit List as required by “Part II-Item 8-Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” of the Form 10-K.

**(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules**

All schedules have been omitted because the information required to be set forth therein is not applicable or is shown in the financial statements or notes thereto.

**(a)(3) Exhibits**

The following exhibits are filed as part of, or incorporated by reference into, this Amendment.

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
<a href="#"><u>3.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3.2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc., filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on July 11, 2022 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 11, 2022).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3.3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 2 to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc., dated March 13, 2023, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Current Report file on Form 8-K filed on March 13, 2023).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3.4</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 3 to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc., dated May 14, 2024 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 14, 2024).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3.5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3.5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 to the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 23, 2022).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>4.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Specimen Certificate representing shares of common stock of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Common Stock Purchase Warrant issued in the Company’s Initial Public Offering (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Underwriter Warrant issued in the Company’s Initial Public Offering (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company’s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>

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<u>4</u>	<u>Form of Warrant Agency Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Direct Transfer, LLC entered into in connection with the Company's Initial Public Offering (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Form of Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-270195) filed on March 13, 2023).</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Form of Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 24, 2023).</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Form of Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 24, 2023).</u>
<u>4.8</u>	<u>Form of New Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 17, 2023).</u>
<u>4.9</u>	<u>Form of Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 17, 2023).</u>
<u>4.10</u>	<u>Form of May 2024 New Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 17, 2024).</u>
<u>4.11</u>	<u>Form of May 2024 Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 17, 2024).</u>
<u>4.12</u>	<u>Form of September 2024 PIPE Series A/Series B Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 17, 2024).</u>
<u>4.13</u>	<u>Form of September 2024 PIPE Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 17, 2024).</u>
<u>4.14</u>	<u>Form of January 2025 PIPE Pre-Funded Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025).</u>
<u>4.15</u>	<u>Form of January 2025 PIPE Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025).</u>
<u>4.16</u>	<u>Form of January 2025 PIPE Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025).</u>
<u>4.17</u>	<u>Description of Securities.*</u>

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<a href="#"><u>10.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Indemnification Agreement entered into by Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and its Officers and Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 to the Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.4</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 2 to the Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 3, 2023).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 3 to the Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 7, 2024). †</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.6</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Award under 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.7</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Incentive Stock Option Award under 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.8</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Employment Agreement dated December 6, 2021 by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Gerald T. Proehl (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 10, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.9</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Employment Agreement dated August 17, 2021 by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Christopher J. Nardo, M.P.H., Ph.D. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 dated December 6, 2021 to the Employment Agreement by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Christopher J. Nardo (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 10, 2021). †</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.11</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 2 dated January 1, 2022 to the Employment Agreement by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Christopher J. Nardo (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 8, 2022).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.12</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 3 dated July 1, 2022 to the Employment Agreement by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Christopher Nardo (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 15, 2022).†</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.13</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Employment Agreement dated December 6, 2021 by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Maria Bedoya Toro Munera, Ph.D., M.B.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 10, 2021).†</u></a>

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<a href="#"><u>10.14</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 dated January 1, 2022 to the Employment Agreement by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Maria Bedoya Toro Munera, Ph.D. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 8, 2022).</u></a> <sup>†</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Employment Agreement dated December 6, 2021 by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Kyri K. Van Hoose (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 10, 2021).</u></a> <sup>‡</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.16</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment No. 1 dated January 1, 2022 to the Employment Agreement by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Kyri K. Van Hoose. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-270195) filed March 16, 2023).</u></a> <sup>‡</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.17</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Supply Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics LLC and Reka-Farm LLC, dated as of February 27, 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a> <sup>#</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.18</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>License Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics LLC and Villani, Inc. dated as of March 31, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a> <sup>#</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.19</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Annex A to the License Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics LLC and Villani, Inc. dated as of March 31, 2017 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.20</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>License Amendment and Settlement Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics LLC and Villani, Inc. dated as of June 4, 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a> <sup>#</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.21</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Amendment to the License Amendment and Settlement Agreement between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and Villani, Inc., dated July 30, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on August 6, 2021).</u></a> <sup>#</sup>
<a href="#"><u>10.22</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Securities Purchase Agreement Dated April 20, 2022 between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and the Purchaser (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 25, 2022).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.23</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Registration Rights Agreement dated April 20, 2022 between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and the Purchaser (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 25, 2022).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.24</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Placement Agent Agreement dated April 20, 2022 between the Registrant and Maxim Group LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 25, 2022).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.25</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-270195) filed on March 16, 2023).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.26</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Securities Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 24, 2023).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.27</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of Inducement Letter (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 17, 2023).</u></a>

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<a href="#"><u>10.28</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of May 2024 Inducement Letter (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 17, 2024).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.29</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>ATM Agreement, dated June 7, 2024, by and between Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and H.C. Wainwright &amp; Co., LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 7, 2024).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.30</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of September 2024 PIPE Securities Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 17, 2024).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.31</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of September 2024 PIPE Registration Rights Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 17, 2024).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.32</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 21, 2025).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.33</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of January 2025 PIPE Securities Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10.34</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Form of January 2025 PIPE Registration Rights Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 23, 2025).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>16.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Letter of CBIZ CPAs P.C. (formerly Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.) to the Securities and Exchange Commission, dated August 3, 2023 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 16.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 3, 2023).</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>19.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Insider Trading Policy.*</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>23.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Moss Adams LLP.*</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>31.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a).*</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>31.2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a).*</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>32.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b).**</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>97.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Clawback Policy of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 97.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 21, 2024) †</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>101.INS*</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>XBRL Instance Document - the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>101.SCH*</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>101.CAL*</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>101.DEF*</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>101.LAB*</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>104</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibits 101)</u></a>

# Portions of this exhibit (indicated by asterisks) are omitted in accordance with the rules of the SEC.

\* Filed herewith.

\*\* Furnished, not filed.

† Indicates a management contract or compensation plan, contract or arrangement.

**ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY**

None.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

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**As of December 31, 2024, and 2023, and the  
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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Shareholders and the Board of Directors of  
Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.

***Opinion on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (the Company) as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the related statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively, referred to as the financial statements).

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Going Concern Uncertainty***

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Company will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company has suffered recurring losses from operations and has a net capital deficiency that raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. Management's plans in regard to these matters are also described in Note 1. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

***Basis for Opinion***

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures to respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ Moss Adams LLP

San Diego, California  
March 17, 2025

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2023.



**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**Balance Sheets**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,161,570	\$ 7,438,135
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	372,318	540,499
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,533,888</u>	<u>\$ 7,978,634</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 808,011	\$ 866,028
Accrued and other current liabilities	1,164,783	757,588
Total liabilities	<u>1,972,794</u>	<u>1,623,616</u>
Commitments and Contingencies (see Note 7)		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001, 250,000,000 shares authorized as of December 31, 2024, and 2023; 2,517,768 and 261,998 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2024, and 2023, respectively.	252	26
Additional paid-in capital	67,236,181	59,742,870
Accumulated deficit	(65,675,339 )	(53,387,878 )
Total stockholders' equity	<u>1,561,094</u>	<u>6,355,018</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 3,533,888</u>	<u>\$ 7,978,634</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**Statements of Operations**

	<b>For the year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Operating expenses:		
Research and development	\$ 8,203,691	\$ 4,069,766
General and administrative	4,309,551	3,972,140
Total operating expenses	<u>12,513,242</u>	<u>8,041,906</u>
Loss from operations	(12,513,242 )	(8,041,906 )
Other income and expenses:		
Interest income	225,781	247,216
Net loss	<u>\$ (12,287,461 )</u>	<u>\$ (7,794,690 )</u>
Net loss per share of common stock, basic and diluted	<u>\$ (8.03 )</u>	<u>\$ (39.99 )</u>
Weighted-average basic and diluted common shares	<u>1,529,772</u>	<u>194,928</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**Statements of Stockholder's Equity**

	<b>Common Stock</b>		<b>Additional</b>	<b>Accumulated</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Par Value</b>	<b>Paid-in</b>	<b>Deficit</b>	<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>
Balance at December 31, 2022	51,338	\$ 5	\$ 51,615,037	\$ (45,593,188 )	\$ 6,021,854
Issuance of Common Stock and warrants, net of issuance costs	36,236	4	5,651,664	-	5,651,668
Issuance of Common Stock upon exercise of pre-funded warrants	125,029	12	175	-	187
Issuance of Common Stock upon exercise of warrants, net of issuance costs	49,473	5	1,953,952	-	1,953,957
Settlement of fractional shares paid in cash	(78 )	-	(40 )	-	(40 )
Stock-based compensation	-	-	522,082	-	522,082
Net loss	-	-	-	(7,794,690 )	(7,794,690 )
Balance at December 31, 2023	261,998	\$ 26	\$ 59,742,870	\$ (53,387,878 )	\$ 6,355,018
Issuance of abeyance shares	182,000	18	(18 )	-	-
Issuance of Common Stock and warrants from May 2024 Warrant Inducement	249,336	25	2,311,513	-	2,311,538
Settlement of fractional shares paid in cash	(159 )	-	(828 )	-	(828 )
Issuance of pre-funded warrants and warrants from September 2024 PIPE	-	-	3,081,352	-	3,081,352
Issuance of Common Stock upon exercise of pre-funded warrants	1,007,569	101	908	-	1,009
Issuance of Common Stock from ATM sales, net of issuance costs	550,024	55	1,442,762	-	1,442,817
Issuance of abeyance shares from warrant inducement	267,000	27	(27 )	-	-
Stock-based compensation	-	-	657,649	-	657,649
Net loss	-	-	-	(12,287,461 )	(12,287,461 )
Balance at December 31, 2024	2,517,768	\$ 252	\$ 67,236,181	\$ (65,675,339 )	\$ 1,561,094

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**

	<b>For the year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (12,287,461 )	\$ (7,794,690 )
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Stock-based compensation	657,649	522,082
Increase (decrease) in cash resulting from changes in:		
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	168,181	162,695
Accounts payable	(108,512 )	369,326
Accrued and other current liabilities	407,195	331,656
Total adjustments to reconcile net loss to cash used in operations	1,124,513	1,385,759
Net cash used in operating activities	(11,162,948 )	(6,408,931 )
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of Common Stock, pre-funded warrants, and warrants, net of issuance costs	6,886,102	7,605,625
Proceeds from exercise of pre-funded warrants	1,109	187
Payment for fractional shares in reverse stock split	(828 )	(40 )
Net cash provided by financing activities	6,886,383	7,605,772
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(4,276,565 )	1,196,841
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	7,438,135	6,241,294
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 3,161,570</u>	<u>\$ 7,438,135</u>
Supplemental disclosure:		
Cash paid for taxes	<u>\$ 950</u>	<u>\$ 950</u>
Non-cash financing activities:		
Incremental fair value of March 2023 warrant modification	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 144,765</u>
Incremental fair value of November 2023 warrant inducement	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,995,343</u>
Issuance of abeyance shares	<u>\$ 18</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Incremental fair value of May 2024 warrant inducement	<u>\$ 1,526,232</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Issuance costs in accounts payable	<u>\$ 50,495</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

**1. Organization and Basis of Presentation**

Dermata Therapeutics, Inc., (the “Company”), was formed in December 2014 as a Delaware limited liability company (“LLC”) under the name Dermata Therapeutics, LLC. On March 24, 2021, the Company converted from an LLC to a Delaware C-corporation and changed its name to Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. On August 17, 2021, the Company completed its initial public offering. The Company’s shares of Common Stock and warrants are listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”) under the symbols “DRMA,” and “DRMAW,” respectively. The Company is a late-stage biotechnology company focused on the treatment of medical and aesthetic skin conditions and diseases.

**Reverse Stock Splits**

On March 13, 2023, the Company effected a reverse stock split of shares of the Company’s Common Stock at a ratio of 1-for-16 pursuant to an amendment to the Company’s certificate of incorporation approved by the Company’s board of directors (the “Board”), and stockholders. The par value and authorized shares were not adjusted as a result of the reverse split. All issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock and per share amounts contained in the financial statements have been retroactively adjusted to reflect this reverse stock split for all periods presented.

On May 7, 2024, the Company held its annual meeting of stockholders at which time the stockholders approved the adoption of an amendment to its Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, to effect a reverse stock split of its issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock, at a specific ratio, ranging from one-for-five to one-for-thirty, with the exact ratio determined by the Company’s board of directors without further approval or authorization of its stockholders.

On May 16, 2024, the Company effected the reverse split of its shares of Common Stock at a ratio of 1-for-15, as approved by the Company’s board of directors. The par value was not adjusted as a result of the May 2024 reverse stock split. All issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock and per share amounts contained in the financial statements have been retroactively adjusted to reflect this reverse stock split for all periods presented.

**Liquidity and Going Concern Uncertainty**

Since its inception, the Company has devoted substantially all of its resources to research and development activities and has not generated any revenue or commercialized any product candidates. As of December 31, 2024, cash and cash equivalents totaled \$3.2 million and the Company had an accumulated deficit of \$

65.7 million. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company used cash of approximately \$11.1 million in operations. In January 2025, the Company raised \$2.6 million gross proceeds from the issuance of Common Stock, warrants, and pre-funded warrants related to a private placement financing disclosed in Note 10 - Subsequent Events. The Company’s existing cash and cash equivalents are expected to fund operations into the third quarter of 2025. The Company anticipates that it will continue to incur net losses for the foreseeable future. These factors raise substantial doubt about the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern for the one-year period following the date that these financial statements were issued.

Historically, the Company’s principal sources of cash have included proceeds from the issuance of equity securities and debt. The Company’s principal uses of cash have included cash used in operations and payments for license rights. The Company expects that the principal uses of cash in the future will be for continuing operations, funding of research and development, conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials, and general working capital requirements. The Company expects that as research and development expenses continue to grow, it will need to raise additional capital to sustain operations and research and development.

## **Management's Plan to Continue as a Going Concern**

To continue as a going concern, the Company will need, among other things, to raise additional capital resources. Until the Company can generate significant cash from operations, management's plans to obtain such resources for the Company include proceeds from offerings of the Company's equity securities or debt, or transactions involving product development, technology licensing or collaboration. Management can provide no assurance that any sources of a sufficient amount of financing or collaboration agreements will be available to the Company on favorable terms, if at all. The Company's ability to raise additional capital may be adversely impacted by potential worsening of global economic conditions, potential future global pandemics or health crises, and the recent disruptions to, and volatility in, the credit and financial markets in the United States. Because of historical and expected operating losses and net operating cash flow deficits, there is substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the one-year period following the date that these financial statements are issued, which is not alleviated by management's plans. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Company will continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include any adjustments to reflect the possible future effects on the recoverability and classification of assets or the amounts and classification of liabilities that may result from the possible inability of the Company to continue as a going concern.

## ***Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP"). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

## **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Use of Estimates**

The Company's financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP. The preparation of the Company's financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that impact the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and expenses and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities in the financial statements and accompanying notes. On an ongoing basis, management evaluates these estimates and judgments, including those related to accrued research and development expenses, and the Company's bonus accrual. The Company bases its estimates on various assumptions that it believes are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

### **Segment Information**

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise about which separate discrete information is available for evaluation by the chief operating decision maker, or decision-making group, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The Company and the Company's chief operating decision maker view the Company's operations and manage its business in one operating segment, which is the business of developing and commercializing pharmaceuticals.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Company deposits its cash and cash equivalents with accredited financial institutions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), which are held in checking and cash sweep accounts. At times, deposits held may exceed the amount of insurance provided by the FDIC. The Company maintains an insured cash sweep account in which cash from its main operating checking account is invested overnight in highly liquid, short-term investments. The Company considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity date of 90 days or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents.

### **Concentrations of Credit Risk**

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to a concentration of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents. The Company is exposed to credit risk in the event of a default by the financial institutions holding the Company's cash and cash equivalents to the extent of the amounts held in excess of FDIC limits. The Company limits its credit risk by placing its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions it believes are of high quality. To date, the Company has not experienced any losses on its deposits of cash and cash equivalents.

## **Fair Value Measurement**

The Company uses a three-tier fair value hierarchy to prioritize the inputs used in the Company's fair value measurements. These tiers include Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions. The Company believes the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable and accrued expenses approximate their estimated fair values due to the short-term nature of these assets and liabilities.

## **Interest Income**

Interest income consists of interest income earned on cash and cash equivalents from interest bearing demand accounts.

## **Patent Costs**

Patent costs related to obtaining and maintaining patent protection in both the United States and other countries are expensed as incurred. Patents costs are classified as general and administrative expenses.

## **Research and Development**

Research and development costs consist of expenses incurred in connection with the development of the Company's product candidates. Such expenses include expenses incurred under agreements with contract research organizations, manufacturing and supply scale-up expenses, the cost of acquiring and manufacturing preclinical and clinical trial supply, outsourced laboratory services including materials and supplies used to support the Company's research and development activities, and payments made for license fees and milestones that have not been demonstrated to have commercial value. Such costs are expensed in the periods in which they are incurred. Upfront payments and milestone payments for licensed technology are expensed as research and development as incurred or when the milestone is achieved or is determined to be probable of being achieved. Advanced payments for goods or services to be received in the future for research and development activities are recorded as prepaid expenses and expensed as the related goods are received or services are performed.

## **Income Taxes**

The Company is a C-Corporation and accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method, which requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined on the basis of the differences between the financial statements and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

The Company recognizes net deferred tax assets to the extent that the Company believes these assets are more likely than not to be realized. In making such a determination, management considers all available positive and negative evidence, including future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, projected future taxable income, tax-planning strategies, and results of recent operations. If management determines that the Company would be able to realize its deferred tax assets in the future in excess of their net recorded amount, management would make an adjustment to the deferred tax asset valuation allowance, which would reduce the provision for income taxes.

The Company records uncertain tax positions on the basis of a two-step process whereby (1) management determines whether it is more likely than not that the tax positions will be sustained on the basis of the technical merits of the position and (2) for those tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, management recognizes the largest amount of tax benefit that is more than 50 percent likely to be realized upon ultimate settlement with the related tax authority. The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits within income tax expense. Any accrued interest and penalties are included within the related tax liability.

## **Stock-Based Compensation**

The Company measures and recognizes compensation expense for all stock-based awards made to employees, directors, and non-employees, based on estimated fair values recognized using the straight-line method over the requisite service period. The fair value of options to purchase Common Stock granted to employees is estimated on the grant date using the Black-Scholes valuation model. The calculation of stock-based compensation expense requires that the Company make certain assumptions and judgments about variables used in the Black-Scholes model, including the expected term of the stock-based award, expected volatility of the underlying Common Stock, dividend yield, and the risk-free interest rate. Forfeitures are accounted for in the period they occur.

## **Warrants**

The Company performs an assessment of warrants upon issuance to determine their proper classification in the financial statements based upon the warrant's specific terms, in accordance with the authoritative guidance provided in Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 480, *Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity* ("ASC 480"), and ASC 815-40, *Derivatives and Hedging - Contracts in Entity's Own Equity* ("ASC 815-40"). The assessment considers whether the warrants are freestanding financial instruments pursuant to ASC 480 and whether the warrants meet all of the requirements for equity classification under ASC 815, including whether the warrants are indexed in the Company's own Common Stock and whether the warrant holders could potentially require cash settlement of the warrants.

For issued or modified warrants that meet all the criteria for equity classification, the warrants are required to be recorded as a component of additional paid-in capital. For issued or modified warrants that do not meet all the criteria for equity classification, the warrants are required to be liability-classified and recorded at their initial fair value on the date of issuance and remeasured at fair value at each balance sheet date thereafter. The Company has performed an assessment of all warrants issued and modified and determined that the Company's warrants are equity-classified.

## **Comprehensive Loss**

Comprehensive loss includes net loss and other comprehensive income (loss) for the periods presented. The Company did not have other comprehensive income (loss) items such as unrealized gains and losses and so for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, comprehensive loss was equal to the net loss.

## **Net Loss Per Share of Common Stock**

Basic net loss per share is calculated by dividing net loss attributable to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of shares outstanding during the period. The weighted-average number of shares of Common Stock outstanding includes (i) pre-funded warrants because their exercise requires only nominal consideration for the delivery of shares, and (ii) shares held in abeyance because there is no consideration required for delivery of the shares, (collectively, "basic shares"), without consideration of common stock equivalents. Diluted net loss per share is calculated by adjusting basic shares outstanding for the dilutive effect of common stock equivalents outstanding for the period. For purposes of the diluted net loss per share calculation, stock options and warrants are considered to be common stock equivalents but are excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per common stock if their effect would be anti-dilutive.



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The common share equivalents that are not included in the calculation of diluted net loss per share of Common Stock but could potentially dilute basic earnings per share. The following table presents the computation of basic and diluted net loss per share:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Net loss	\$ (12,287,461 )	\$ (7,794,690 )
Basic and diluted net loss per common share	\$ (8.03 )	\$ (39.99 )
Weighted-average basic and diluted common shares	1,529,772	194,928

The common share equivalents that are not included in the calculation of diluted net loss per common share but could potentially dilute basic earnings per share in the future are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2024	2023
Common Stock Options	52,341	6,763
Common Stock Warrants	5,068,455	557,225
Total potentially dilutive securities	5,120,796	563,988

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company has reviewed recent accounting standards and identified the following as relevant to the Company.

In November 2023, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2023-07, *Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures* (“ASU 2023-07”), which requires public entities to disclose information about their reportable segments’ significant expenses and other segment items on an interim and annual basis. Public entities with a single reportable segment are required to apply the disclosure requirements in ASU 2023-07, as well as all existing segment disclosures and reconciliation requirements in ASC 280 on an interim and annual basis. ASU 2023-07 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023, and for interim reporting periods beginning January 1, 2025, with early adoption permitted. The Company adopted ASU 2023-07 for the year ended December 31, 2024, which adoption only impacted the Company’s segment reporting disclosures. See Note 9 - Segment Reporting for disclosures related to the adoption of ASU 2023-07.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09, *Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures* (“ASU 2023-09”). ASU 2023-09 requires disaggregated information about a reporting entity’s effective tax rate reconciliation as well as information on income taxes paid. ASU 2023-09 is effective for public entities with annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on its financial statements and income tax footnote.

In November 2024, the FASB issued ASU 2024-03, *Disaggregation of Income Statement Expenses* (“ASU 2024-03”). ASU 2024-03 requires additional disclosures and disaggregation of certain costs and expenses presented on the face of the income statement. ASU 2024-03 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2026, and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2027, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on its financial statements.

### 3. Balance Sheet Details

The following provides certain balance sheet details:

	As of December 31,	
	2024	2023
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		
Prepaid insurance	\$ 349,824	\$ 426,413
Prepaid research and development costs	12,600	91,232
Prepaid other	9,894	22,854
Total prepaid expenses and other current assets	<u>\$ 372,318</u>	<u>\$ 540,499</u>
Accrued and other current liabilities		
Accrued research and development costs	\$ 295,392	\$ 40,596
Accrued compensation and benefits	731,632	716,490
Accrued other	137,759	502
Total accrued and other current liabilities	<u>\$ 1,164,783</u>	<u>\$ 757,588</u>

### 4. Equity Securities

A summary of the Company's equity securities as of December 31, 2024, is as follows:

Description	Authorized	Issued	Pre-funded Warrants	Reserved	Outstanding
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001	250,000,000	2,517,768	905,000	-	2,517,768
Preferred Stock	10,000,000	-	-	-	-
Warrants (excluding pre-funded warrants)	-	5,068,455	-	-	5,068,455
2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan	79,930	53,255	-	26,675	52,341
Total equity securities	260,079,930	7,639,478	905,000	26,675	7,638,564

#### Common Stock

On September 17, 2024, the Company closed a private placement (the "September 2024 PIPE") priced at the market under Nasdaq rules, in which it sold 1,912,569 pre-funded warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,912,569 shares of Common Stock with an exercise price of \$0.001 per share (the "September 2024 Pre-Funded Warrants"), and 1,912,569 series A warrants (the "September 2024 PIPE Series A Common Warrants") to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,912,569 shares of Common Stock and 1,912,569 series B warrants (the "September 2024 PIPE Series B Common Warrants" and together with the September 2024 PIPE Series A Warrants, the "September 2024 PIPE Warrants") to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,912,569 shares of Common Stock. The September 2024 PIPE Warrants have an exercise price of \$1.58. In connection with the September 2024 PIPE, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement with the investor, pursuant to which the Company agreed to prepare and file a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") registering the resale of the shares of Common Stock underlying the securities sold in the September 2024 PIPE financing. The Company filed a Form S-3 on September 19, 2024, which was declared effective by the SEC on September 24, 2024. The Company received net cash proceeds of approximately \$3.1 million from the September 2024 PIPE after deducting underwriters' discounts and offering expenses of approximately \$0.4 million. As of December 31, 2024, 905,000 September 2024 Pre-Funded Warrants remained outstanding.

In June 2024, the Company entered into an At The Market Offering Agreement (the "ATM Agreement") with a sales agent (the "Sales Agent"), providing for the sale of up to \$1,157,761 of its shares of Common Stock as set forth in the ATM Agreement. The Sales Agent will be entitled to compensation at a fixed commission rate of 3.0% of the gross sales price of the shares of Common Stock sold pursuant to the ATM Agreement, as well as other transactional fees. During July 2024, the Company issued 355,806 shares of Common Stock under the ATM Agreement resulting in gross proceeds of \$1,157,248 before deducting issuance costs. After issuance of the 355,806 shares during July 2024, \$513 remained registered under the ATM Agreement. On August 2, 2024, the Company increased the maximum aggregate offering amount of Common Stock issuable under the ATM Agreement by \$505,000, from \$1,157,761 to \$1,662,761. During September 2024, the Company issued 194,218 shares of Common Stock under the ATM Agreement resulting in additional gross proceeds of \$504,894 before deducting issuance costs. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company issued 550,024 shares from its ATM resulting in net proceeds of \$1.4 million after deducting issuer costs and other expenses related to setting up and issuing shares from the Company's ATM. As of December 31, 2024, the Company does not have any remaining capacity under its ATM Agreement.

On May 21, 2024, the Company closed on inducement agreements (the “May 2024 Inducement”) with certain holders (the “Holders”) of certain of the Company’s existing warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 516,336 shares of the Company’s Common Stock, issued to the Holders on (i) May 26, 2023 (the “May 2023 Warrants”), having an exercise price of \$32.40 per share, and (ii) November 2023 New Warrants (as defined below), which were issued in two separate series, each having an exercise price of \$9.7665 per share (together with the May 2023 Warrants, the “May 2024 Existing Warrants”). Pursuant to the May 2024 Inducement, the Holders agreed to exercise for cash their May 2024 Existing Warrants at a reduced exercise price of \$5.16 per share in consideration for the Company’s agreement to issue in a private placement (i) new Series A Common Stock purchase warrants (the “New May 2024 Series A Warrants”) to purchase up to 601,174 shares of Common Stock, and (ii) new Series B Common Stock purchase warrants (the “New May 2024 Series B Warrants”) and together with the New May 2024 Series A Warrants, the “New May 2024 Warrants”) to purchase up to 431,498 shares of Common Stock. The Company received net proceeds of approximately \$2.3 million from the exercise of the May 2024 Existing Warrants by the Holders, after deducting placement agent fees and other offering expenses payable by the Company.

Related to the May 2024 Inducement, during July 2024, the balance of 267,000 of abeyance shares related to the May 2024 Warrant Inducement were released to the investor. Accordingly, shares outstanding increased by 267,000 during the third quarter of 2024 related to the issuance of the 267,000 abeyance shares from the May 2024 Inducement, leaving no further abeyance shares outstanding.

On November 20, 2023, the Company closed on an inducement agreement (the “November 2023 Inducement”) with a holder (the “Holder”) of certain of its existing warrants to purchase up to 231,473 shares of the Company’s Common Stock, issued to the Holder on (i) April 25, 2022 (as amended on March 20, 2023, the “April 2022 Warrants”) and (ii) March 20, 2023 (the “March 2023 Warrants” together with the April 2022 Warrants, the “November 2023 Existing Warrants”). The November 2023 Existing Warrants had an exercise price of \$42.30. Pursuant to the November 2023 Inducement, the Holder agreed to exercise for cash its November 2023 Existing Warrants at a reduced exercise price of \$9.7665 per share in consideration for the Company’s agreement to issue in a private placement (i) new series A Common Stock purchase warrants (the “November 2023 Series A Common Warrants”) to purchase 247,196 shares of Common Stock and (ii) new series B Common Stock purchase warrants (the “November 2023 Series B Common Warrants” and together with the November 2023 Series A Common Warrants, the “November 2023 New Warrants”) to purchase 215,749 shares of Common Stock. The November 2023 New Warrants were exercisable subject to stockholder approval, which the Company received at a stockholder meeting on January 12, 2024. The Company received net cash proceeds of approximately \$2.0 million from the November 2023 Inducement after deducting underwriters’ discounts and offering expenses of approximately \$0.3 million.

Related to the November 2023 Inducement, as of December 31, 2023, the Holder left 182,000 shares in abeyance at the Company’s transfer agent to be delivered to the Holder at their request, which were then delivered to the Holder on January 8, 2024. Accordingly, as of December 31, 2023, 182,000 shares were held in abeyance, which were not issued and not outstanding. Since all the abeyance shares from the November 2023 Inducement were released to the investor in January 2024, there were no remaining November 2023 Inducement shares held in abeyance as of December 31, 2024.

On May 26, 2023, the Company closed a private placement (the “May 2023 PIPE”) priced at the market under Nasdaq rules, in which it sold 30,570 shares of its Common Stock together with 22,821 pre-funded warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 53,391 shares of Common Stock with an exercise price of \$0.0001 per share (the “May 2023 Pre-Funded Warrants”), and 53,391 warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 53,391 shares of Common Stock with an exercise price of \$32.40 per share (the “May 2023 PIPE Common Warrants”) at a combined offering price of \$34.275. The May 2023 PIPE Common Warrants were set to expire on November 27, 2028. The Company received net cash proceeds of approximately \$1.5 million from the May 2023 PIPE after deducting underwriters’ discounts and offering expenses of approximately \$0.3 million. The May 2023 Pre-Funded Warrants were exercised fully during the second quarter of 2023. The May 2023 PIPE Common Warrants were exercised as part of the May 2024 Inducement.

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On March 20, 2023, the Company closed a public offering (the “March 2023 Offering”) priced at the market under Nasdaq rules, in which it sold an aggregate of (i) 5,666 shares of Common Stock, (ii) pre-funded warrants (the “March 2023 Pre-Funded Warrants”) to purchase up to an aggregate of 102,208 shares of Common Stock with an exercise price of \$0.0001 per share, (iii) Series A warrants (the “March 2023 Series A Common Warrants”) to purchase up to an aggregate of 107,874 shares of Common Stock, and (iv) Series B warrants (the “March 2023 Series B Common Warrants”) and collectively with the March 2023 Series A Common Warrants, the “March 2023 Offering Warrants”) to purchase up to an aggregate of 107,874 shares of Common Stock. The March 2023 Offering Warrants had an exercise price of \$42.30 per share. The Company received net cash proceeds of approximately \$4.2 million after deducting the underwriter’s discounts and offering expenses of approximately \$0.8 million. The March 2023 Pre-Funded Warrants were fully exercised during the first quarter of 2023, and the March 2023 Offering Warrants were exercised as part of the November 2023 Inducement.

### Preferred Stock

While the Company has 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock authorized with a par value of \$0.0001, no shares of preferred stock are outstanding as of December 31, 2024, or 2023, respectively.

### Abeysance Shares

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had 182,000 shares held in abeyance at the Company’s transfer agent which were delivered to the Holder during 2024. As of December 31, 2024, no abeyance shares are outstanding.

### Warrants

#### Summary of Warrants Outstanding

The table below lists outstanding warrants for the dates presented, excluding 905,000 pre-funded warrants with an exercise price of \$0.001 outstanding as of December 31, 2024.

The warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2024, are exercisable into 5,068,455 shares of Common Stock which had a fair value of \$1.35 per share, based on the closing trading price on December 31, 2024. The aggregate intrinsic value of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2024, is calculated as the difference between the exercise price of the warrants and the closing market price of the Company’s Common Stock on that date. The intrinsic value of warrants outstanding as of December 31, 2024, was zero.

Description	Quantity of Warrants Outstanding as of		Exercise Price	Expiration Date
	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023		
Pre-IPO Series 1a Warrants	279	279	\$ 4,920.00	11/15/2026
Pre-IPO Class B Common Warrants	-	268	1,377.60	12/31/2024
IPO Warrants	12,320	12,320	1,680.00	8/17/2026
IPO Underwriter Warrants	535	535	1,932.00	8/17/2026
March 2023 Offering Placement Agent Warrants	7,549	7,549	57.94	3/16/2028
May 2023 PIPE Common Warrants	-	53,391	32.40	11/27/2028
May 2023 PIPE Placement Agent Warrants	3,736	3,736	42.84	5/23/2028
November 2023 Series A Common Warrants	-	247,196	9.7665	11/20/2028
November 2023 Series B Common Warrants	-	215,749	9.7665	3/20/2026
November 2023 Placement Agent Warrants	16,202	16,202	12.21	11/20/2028
May 2024 Series A Common Warrants	601,174	-	4.91	11/21/2029
May 2024 Series B Common Warrants	431,498	-	4.91	5/21/2026
May 2024 Placement Agent Warrants	36,144	-	6.45	11/21/2029
September 2024 PIPE Series A Common Warrants	1,912,569	-	1.58	3/18/2030
September 2024 PIPE Series B Common Warrants	1,912,569	-	1.58	3/17/2026
September 2024 PIPE Placement Agent Warrants	133,880	-	2.29	3/18/2030
Total warrants outstanding	5,068,455	557,225		

#### *Warrant Inducements*

In May 2024, the Company completed the May 2024 Inducement with the Holders who agreed to exercise 516,336 warrants to purchase Common Stock at a reduced exercise price of \$5.16 per share in exchange for 601,174 New May 2024 Series A Warrants and 431,498 New May 2024 Series B Warrants with an exercise price of \$4.91 per share. The May 2024 Inducement, which resulted in the lowering of the exercise price of the May 2024 Existing Warrants and the issuance of the May 2024 New Warrants, is considered a modification of the May 2024 Existing Warrants under the guidance ASC 815-40. The modification is consistent with the equity issuance classification under that guidance as the reason for the modification was to induce the holders of the May 2024 Existing Warrants to cash exercise their warrants, which raised equity capital and generated net proceeds of approximately \$2.3 million. As the May 2024 Existing Warrants and the May 2024 New Warrants were classified as equity instruments before and after the exchange, and as the exchange is directly attributable to an equity offering, the Company recognized the effect of the modification of approximately \$1.5 million as an equity issuance cost.

In November 2023, the Company completed the November 2023 Inducement, in which a Holder agreed to exercise 231,472 common warrants to purchase Common Stock at a reduced exercise price of \$5.16 per share in exchange for 247,196 November 2023 Series A Warrants and 215,749 November 2023 Series B Warrants with an exercise price of \$9.7655 per share. The November 2023 New Warrants were exercisable subject to stockholder approval, which the Company received at a stockholder meeting on January 12, 2024. The November 2023 Inducement, which resulted in the lowering of the exercise price of the November 2023 Existing Warrants and the issuance of the November 2023 New Warrants, is considered a modification of the November 2023 Existing Warrants under the guidance of ASC 815-40. The modification is consistent with the equity issuance classification under that guidance as the reason for the modification was to induce the holder of the November 2023 Existing Warrants to cash exercise their warrants, which raised equity capital and generated net proceeds for the Company of approximately \$2.0 million. As the November 2023 Existing Warrants and the November 2023 New Warrants were classified as equity instruments before and after the exchange, and as the exchange is directly attributable to an equity offering, the Company recognized the effect of the modification of approximately \$3.0 million as an equity issuance cost.

#### *Warrant Modification*

In connection with the March 2023 Offering, the Company agreed to amend the terms of the April 2022 PIPE Common Warrants, which were held by the purchaser in the March 2023 Offering. The exercise price of the April 2022 PIPE Common Warrants was reduced from \$318.00 to \$42.30 per share upon closing of the March 2023 Offering. The original expiration date of the April 2022 PIPE Common Warrants was May 12, 2027, which was extended to five years after the closing of the March 2023 Offering, or March 20, 2028. The modification of the April 2022 PIPE Common Warrants was accounted for as a modification of equity-linked instruments. In accordance with ASU 2021-04, as the warrants were classified as equity instruments before and after the modification, and as the modification was directly attributable to an equity offering, the Company recognized the effect of the modification of approximately \$0.1 million as an equity issuance cost. The April 2022 PIPE Warrants were exercised as part of the November 2023 Inducement.

#### **5. Equity Incentive Plan**

Under the Company's 2021 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan as amended ("2021 Plan"), the Company may grant options to purchase shares of Common Stock, restricted stock awards, performance stock awards, incentive bonus awards, other cash-based awards or directly issue shares of Common Stock to employees, directors, and consultants of the Company. At the Company's 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on May 7, 2024, the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Company's 2021 Plan to increase the number of shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance thereunder from 41,937 shares to 79,930 shares. Further at the Company's 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Company's 2021 Plan, to increase the evergreen provision from one percent to five percent of the total number of the Company's Common Stock outstanding starting on January 1, 2025. The one percent evergreen provision resulted in an additional 2,620 and 513 shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the 2021 Plan as of January 1, 2024, and 2023, respectively.

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Stock awards may be granted at an exercise price per share of not less than 100% of the fair market value at the date of grant. Stock awards granted are exercisable over a maximum term of 10 years from the date of grant and generally vest over a period of four years for employees and one year for directors of the Company's Board and consultants.

As of December 31, 2024, there remain 26,675 shares reserved for issuance under the 2021 Plan, as amended.

### Fair Value Measurement

The Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model, which requires the use of highly subjective assumptions, to determine the fair value of stock-based awards. The fair value of each employee stock option is estimated on the grant date under the fair value method using the Black-Scholes model. The estimated fair value of each stock option is then expensed over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period. The assumptions and estimates that the Company uses in the Black-Scholes model are as follows:

- *Fair Value of Common Stock.* The fair value of Common Stock is measured as the Company's closing price of Common Stock on the date of grant.
- *Risk-Free Interest Rate.* The Company bases the risk-free interest rate used in the Black-Scholes valuation model on the implied yield available on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues with a term equivalent to that of the expected term of the options.
- *Expected Term.* The expected term represents the period that the Company's stock-based awards are expected to be outstanding, which is calculated using the simplified method for stock-based awards granted to employees, as the Company has insufficient historical information to provide a basis for an estimate. The simplified method calculates the expected term as the average of the vesting term plus the contractual life of the options. As permitted under ASC 718, the Company has elected to use the contractual term as the expected term for certain non-employee awards, on an award-by-award basis.
- *Volatility.* The Company determines the price volatility based on the historical volatilities of industry peers as it has limited trading history for its Common Stock price. Industry peers consist of several public companies in the biotechnology industry with comparable characteristics, including clinical trials progress and therapeutic indications.
- *Dividend Yield.* The expected dividend assumption is based on the Company's current expectations about its anticipated dividend policy. To date, the Company has not declared any dividends to common shareholders and, therefore, the Company has used an expected dividend yield of zero.

The following table presents the weighted-average assumptions used for stock options granted during the following periods:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Grant date fair value	\$ 4.78	\$ 63.45
Risk-free interest rate	3.9%	3.9%
Dividend yield	0.00%	0.00%
Expected life in years	7.9	6.1
Expected volatility	107%	112%

### Stock-based Compensation Expense

In general, stock-based compensation is allocated to research and development expense or general and administrative expense according to the classification of cash compensation paid to the employee, director, or consultant to whom the stock award was granted.

The following table summarizes the total stock-based compensation expense related to stock options included in the Company's statements of operations:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Research and development	\$ 251,313	\$ 193,700
General and administrative	406,336	328,382
	<u>\$ 657,649</u>	<u>\$ 522,082</u>

### Stock Option Award Activity

A summary of the Company's 2021 Plan stock option activity is as follows:

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term (in Years)
Balance at December 31, 2023	6,763	\$ 609.81	7.8
Options granted	52,325	5.61	-
Options exercised	-	-	-
Options cancelled	(6,747)	607.99	-
Balance at December 31, 2024	<u>52,341</u>	<u>\$ 6.03</u>	<u>9.3</u>
Options exercisable at December 31, 2024	10,535	\$ 6.84	9.4

In January 2024, the Board unanimously approved to provide employees and directors of the Company the opportunity to cancel outstanding, out-of-the-money, stock options without consideration, in accordance with an option cancellation agreement. Accordingly, 6,747 of the 6,763 stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2023, were cancelled in February 2024. In accordance with accounting guidance provided in ASC 718, since the stock option cancellations were not accompanied by a concurrent grant, or offer to grant, a replacement award, any unrecognized compensation cost was recognized at the cancellation date. Accordingly, the Company recognized stock-based compensation expense of \$568,372 resulting from the stock option cancellation during the first quarter of 2024.

The total fair value of stock options vested as of December 31, 2024, was \$60,263.

The aggregate intrinsic value of options outstanding and exercisable as of December 31, 2024, is calculated as the difference between the exercise price of the underlying options and the closing market price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2024, which was \$1.35 per share. The intrinsic value of options outstanding and exercisable as of December 31, 2024, was zero.

As of December 31, 2024, total unrecognized compensation cost related to stock options was approximately \$0.2 million and the weighted average period over which this cost is expected to be recognized is 2.5 years.

## 6. 401(k) Employee Benefit Plan

The Company sponsors a 401(k) savings plan for all eligible employees. The Company may make discretionary matching contributions to the plan to be allocated to employee accounts based upon employee deferrals and compensation. To date, the Company has not made any matching contributions to the savings plan.

## 7. Commitments and Contingencies

### *Clinical Trials*

During the fourth quarter of 2023, the Company initiated a Phase 3 clinical trial, STAR-1, which is expected to report data in late March 2025. The total contract amount with the clinical research organization is approximately \$ 7.0 million, and the contract will extend from the fourth quarter of 2023 to the first half of 2025, and which has a 30-day termination notice period. During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company has recognized \$5.5 million and \$0.6 million, respectively, in research and development expense for the STAR-1 trial.

### *Supplier Agreement*

As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union governments, among others, have developed coordinated sanctions and export-control measure packages against Russian individuals and entities. The Company is currently a party to an exclusive supply agreement for the supply of the *Spongilla* raw material used in XYNGARI™ and DMT410. The counterparty to this supply agreement is a Russian entity. The imposition of enhanced export controls and economic sanctions on transactions with Russia and Russian entities by the United States, the United Kingdom, and/or the European Union could prevent the Company from performing under this existing contract or any future contract it may enter or may prevent the Company from remitting payment for raw material purchased from the Company's supplier. The Company has received multiple shipments of raw material from its supplier subsequent to the implementation of export controls and sanctions, containing additional quantities of *Spongilla* raw material, which will provide the Company with sufficient quantities of *Spongilla* to initiate and complete two Phase 3 studies in moderate-to-severe acne and support filing a new drug application for XYNGARI™ in acne upon the successful completion of two Phase 3 studies. Depending on the extent and breadth of new sanctions or export controls that may be imposed against Russia, otherwise or as a result of the impact of the war in Ukraine, it is possible that the Company's ability to obtain additional supply of the *Spongilla* raw material used in XYNGARI™ and DMT410 could be negatively impacted, which could adversely affect its business, results of operations, and financial condition.

### *License Agreements*

On March 31, 2017, the Company entered into a license agreement, as amended (the "License Agreement") with Villani, Inc. whereby Villani has granted the Company an exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-bearing license (the "License") under the Licensed Patents (as defined in the License Agreement), to formulate, develop, seek regulatory approval for, make or sell products that contain *Spongilla lacustris* (alone or in combination with other active or inactive ingredients) for the treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the skin, including but not limited to acne, rosacea, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, actinic keratosis and eczema that were developed using certain licensed know-how ("Licensed Products"). The Company is responsible for the development (including manufacturing, packaging, non-clinical studies, clinical trials and obtaining regulatory approval and commercialization (including marketing, promotion, distribution, etc.)) for all Licensed Products. The original License Agreement was amended in 2019, and pursuant to the amended License Agreement, the Company was required to make future milestone payments to Villani in an aggregate amount of up to \$20.25 million upon the achievement of specified development and sales milestones, payable in cash or in equity, at the option of Villani, as well as single-digit royalty payments on net sales. On July 30, 2021, the Company further amended the License Agreement in the Second Amendment to the License and Settlement Agreement (the "Second Amendment"). Pursuant to the Second Amendment, the Company is required to make future milestone payments to Villani in an aggregate amount of up to \$40.5 million upon the achievement of specified development and sales milestones, payable in cash or in equity, at the option of Villani, as well as single-digit royalty payments on net sales. The Second Amendment includes customary terms relating to, among others, indemnification, intellectual property protection, confidentiality, remedies, and warranties. As of December 31, 2024, the Company evaluated the likelihood of the Company achieving the specified milestones and determined that the likelihood is not yet probable and as such no accrual of these payments is required as of December 31, 2024.



## Legal Proceedings

In the normal course of business, the Company may be involved in legal proceedings or threatened legal proceedings. The Company is not a party to any legal proceedings or aware of any threatened legal proceedings which are expected to have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

## Registration Rights Agreement

In connection with the September 2024 Private Placement (see Note 4), the Company entered into a Registration Rights Agreement with the purchasers, dated as of September 16, 2024, (the “Registration Rights Agreement”). The Registration Rights Agreement provides that the Company shall file a registration statement covering the resale of all of the registrable securities (as defined in the Registration Rights Agreement) with the SEC. The registration statement on Form S-3 required under the Registration Rights Agreement was filed with the SEC on September 19, 2024, and became effective on September 24, 2024.

Upon the occurrence of any Event (as defined in the Registration Rights Agreement), which, among others, prohibits the purchasers from reselling the securities for more than ten consecutive calendar days or more than an aggregate of fifteen calendar days during any 12-month period, and should the registration statement cease to remain continuously effective, the Company would be obligated to pay to each purchaser, on each monthly anniversary of each such Event, an amount in cash, as partial liquidated damages and not as a penalty, equal to the product of 2.0% multiplied by the aggregate subscription amount paid by such purchaser in the Private Placement, up to a maximum of 12% of the aggregate subscription amount. As of December 31, 2024, the Company determined that the likelihood of the Company incurring liquidated damages pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement is remote, and as such, no accrual of these payments is required as of December 31, 2024.

## 8. Income Taxes

Dermata operates as a corporation, and accordingly, the Company is taxable at the entity level for U.S. federal and state tax purposes. A reconciliation between the provision for income taxes and income taxes computed using the U.S. federal statutory corporate tax rate is as follows:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Years Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
U.S. Federal statutory income tax rate	\$ (2,580 )	\$ (1,637 )
Permanent and other differences	(65 )	55
Stock-based compensation expense	440	86
Research and development credits	(346 )	(259 )
Valuation allowance	2,551	1,755
Total tax provision	\$ -	\$ -

Significant components of the Company’s net deferred tax assets are as follows:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	As of December 31,	
	2024	2023
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 4,270	\$ 2,980
Research and development carryforwards	942	596
Capitalized research and development	2,616	1,508
Stock-based compensation expense	10	246
Intangible assets	4	5
Other, net	173	129
Gross deferred tax assets	8,015	5,464
Less: valuation allowance	(8,015 )	(5,464 )
Total deferred tax assets	\$ -	\$ -

The Company has established a full valuation allowance for its deferred tax assets due to uncertainties that preclude it from determining that it is more likely than not that the Company will be able to generate sufficient taxable income to realize such assets. Management assesses the available positive and negative evidence to estimate if sufficient future taxable income will be generated to utilize the existing deferred tax assets. A significant piece of objective negative evidence evaluated was the cumulative loss incurred since inception.

Such objective evidence limits the ability to consider other subjective evidence such as the Company's projections for future growth. Based on this evaluation, as of December 31, 2024, and 2023, a valuation allowance of \$ 8.0 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, or an increase of \$2.5 million, has been recorded against all of the Company's net deferred tax assets, as the Company has determined that none of the Company's balance of deferred tax assets is more likely than not to be realized. The amount of deferred tax assets considered realizable, however, could be adjusted in the future if objective negative evidence in the form of cumulative losses is no longer present and additional weight may be given to subjective evidence, such as estimates of future taxable income during carryforward periods and the Company's projections for growth.

As of December 31, 2024, the Company had federal net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs, available of \$20.3 million before consideration limitations under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or Section 382 of the Code, as further described below. The NOL will carryforward indefinitely and be available to offset up to 80% of future taxable income each year. The Company had state NOL carryforwards available of \$5.0 million as of December 31, 2024. The state NOL may be used to offset future taxable income and will begin to expire in 2041, unless previously utilized.

As of December 31, 2024, the Company had federal and state research and development tax credit carryforwards available of \$1.1 million and \$0.2 million, respectively. The federal credit carryforwards will begin to expire in 2041, unless previously utilized. The state research and development credits carry forward indefinitely.

Utilization of the Company's NOL and research and development credit carryforwards may be subject to substantial annual limitations in the event a cumulative ownership change has occurred, or that occur in the future, as required by Section 382 of the Code. In general, an ownership change, as defined by the Code, results from a transaction, or series of transactions over a three-year period, resulting in an ownership change of more than 50% of the outstanding common stock of a company by certain stockholders or public groups. Such an ownership change may limit the amount of NOL and research and development credit carryforwards that can be utilized annually to offset future taxable income and tax, respectively. The Company has not completed such an ownership change analysis pursuant to Section 382 of the Code and therefore has established a full valuation allowance as the realization of such deferred tax assets has not met the more likely than not threshold requirement. If ownership changes have occurred or occurs in the future, the amount of remaining tax attribute carryforwards available to offset taxable income and income tax expense in future years may be restricted or eliminated. If eliminated, the related asset would be removed from deferred tax assets with a corresponding reduction in the valuation allowance. Due to the existence of the valuation allowance, limitations created by future ownership changes, if any, will not impact the Company's effective tax rate.

The Company recognizes a tax benefit from an uncertain tax position when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities. The Company does not expect that there will be a significant change in the unrecognized tax benefits over the next twelve months. Further, due to the existence of the valuation allowance, future changes in the Company's unrecognized tax benefits will not impact the effective tax rate.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company's gross unrecognized tax benefits at the beginning and end of the periods presented:

(in thousands)	Years Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Beginning balance of unrecognized tax benefits	\$ 645	\$ 557
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	119	64
Additions for tax positions of prior years	-	24
Reductions for tax positions in prior years	-	-
Ending balance of unrecognized tax benefits	\$ 764	\$ 645

The unrecognized tax benefit amounts are reflected in the determination of the Company's deferred tax assets. If recognized, none of these amounts would affect the Company's effective tax rate, since it would be offset by an equal corresponding adjustment in the deferred tax asset valuation allowance. The Company does not foresee material changes to its liability for uncertain tax benefits within the next twelve months.

The Company's policy is to recognize interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. The Company had no accrual for interest or penalties on the Company's balance sheets as of December 31, 2024, or 2023 and has not recognized interest and/or penalties in the statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023.

The Company is subject to taxation in the United States and various states. The Company is subject to examination by tax authorities in those jurisdictions from inception. The Company is not currently under examination by any jurisdiction.

## 9. Segment Information

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise about which separate discrete information is available for evaluation by the chief operating decision maker ("CODM"), in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The Company and the Company's chief operating decision maker view the Company's operations and manage its business in one operating segment, which is the business of identifying, developing, and commercializing pharmaceutical products for the treatment of medical and aesthetic skin conditions and diseases.

The CODM, who is the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), President, and Chairman of the Board, manages and allocates resources to the operations of the Company on an entity-wide basis. The Company's measure of segment profit or loss is net loss. Managing and allocating resources on an entity-wide basis enables the CEO to assess the overall level of resources available and how to best deploy these resources across functions and research and development projects that are in line with the Company's long-term company-wide strategic goals. Consistent with this decision-making process, the CEO uses financial information for purposes of evaluating performance, forecasting future period financial results, allocating resources, and setting incentive targets. Operating expenses are used to monitor budget versus actual results. The CODM does not review assets in evaluating the results of the Company, and therefore, such information is not presented.

The following table summarizes the segment's financial information including the Company's significant segment expenses:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2024	2023
Research and development	\$	
Clinical	5,796,196	869,379
Nonclinical	515,934	1,387,359
Personnel related	1,891,561	1,813,028
Total research and development	\$ 8,203,691	\$ 4,069,766
General and administrative	4,309,551	3,972,140
Interest income	225,781	247,216
Net loss	<u>\$(12,287,461)</u>	<u>(7,794,690)</u>

## 10. Subsequent Events

As of January 1, 2025, the Company's 2021 Plan increased by 125,888 shares based upon a five percent evergreen upon 2,517,768 Common Shares outstanding of as of December 31, 2024, increasing the number of shares issuable under the 2021 Plan pool to 152,563. On January 13, 2025, the Company granted 152,500 stock option awards to employees and directors of the Company with an exercise price of \$1.38 based upon the closing stock price on that day. After the January 2025 stock option grants, the Company has 63 shares to be issued remaining in the 2021 Plan pool.

On January 17, 2025, the Company entered into a Clinical Trial Collaboration Agreement (the "Clinical Trial Agreement") with Revance Therapeutics, Inc. ("Revance"), pursuant to which the Company and Revance intend to conduct a multi-center clinical trial (the "Trial") to evaluate the topical application of XYNGARI<sup>TM</sup>, the Company's topical Spongilla powder (formerly referred to as DMT310), with Daxxify (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), Revance's botulinum toxin type A. Pursuant to the terms of the Clinical Trial Agreement, Revance has granted the Company a non-exclusive, worldwide, non-transferable, royalty-free license, with a right to sublicense (subject to limitations), to use certain Revance intellectual property, solely as necessary or useful for the Company to conduct the trial under the Clinical Trial Agreement. The Company has granted Revance a similar license to use XYNGARI<sup>TM</sup> and other compound(s) under the Clinical Trial Agreement. The Clinical Trial Agreement will terminate upon completion of the Trial, the delivery of the data resulting from the Trial and the completion of any statistical analyses of the data resulting from the Trial. Either party may terminate the Clinical Trial Agreement upon a material breach by the other party that remains uncured following 30 days after the date of written notice of such breach. In addition, either party may terminate the Clinical Trial Agreement immediately upon written notice if such party reasonably deems it necessary in order to protect the safety, health or welfare of subjects enrolled in the Trial. The Company has agreed to sponsor, conduct, and fund the Phase 2a clinical trial, but no financial obligations or consideration is contemplated in the Clinical Trial Agreement.

On January 21, 2025, the Company entered into a securities purchase agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") with certain institutional and accredited investors for the issuance and sale in a private placement (the "Private Placement") of (i) 1,935,412 shares (the "Shares") of the Company's Common Stock, (ii) pre-funded warrants ("Pre-Funded Warrants") to purchase up to 72,468 shares of Common Stock, at an exercise price of \$0.001 per share, and (iii) warrants (the "Warrants") to purchase up to 2,007,880 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$1.27 per share. The purchase price per Share and accompanying Warrant was \$1.27 and the purchase price per Pre-Funded Warrant and accompanying Warrant was \$1.269. The Pre-Funded Warrants are exercisable immediately, and may be exercised at any time until all of the Pre-Funded Warrants are exercised in full. The Warrants will be exercisable beginning on the effective date of stockholder approval of the issuance of the shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrants. The Warrants will expire five years from the effective date of stockholder approval. Company insiders, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and certain members of the Company's board of directors, participated in the Private Placement. These Company insiders purchased an aggregate of 1,220,476 Shares and Warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,220,476 shares of Common Stock, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$1,550,000. The purchase price per Share and accompanying Warrant for these Company insiders was the same as paid by other investors in the Private Placement. The net proceeds to the Company from the Private Placement were approximately \$2.4 million, after deducting placement agent fees and estimated offering expenses payable by the Company. In February 2025, the holder of the 72,468 Pre-Funded Warrants exercised their shares, resulting in a 72,468 share increase to Common Stock outstanding prior to the filing of this document.

In January 2025, the Holder of the September 2024 PIPE pre-funded warrants exercised their remaining 905,000 pre-funded warrants.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
(Registrant)

Date: March 17, 2025

/s/ Gerald T. Proehl  
Gerald T. Proehl  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: March 17, 2025

/s/ Kyri K. Van Hoose  
Kyri K. Van Hoose  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, this Annual Report on Form 10-K has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>/s/ Gerald T. Proehl</u> Gerald T. Proehl	President, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman (Principal Executive Officer)	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Kyri K. Van Hoose</u> Kyri K. Van Hoose	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ David Hale</u> David Hale	Lead Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.</u> Wendell Wierenga, Ph.D.	Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Mary Fisher</u> Mary Fisher	Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Andrew Sandler, M.D.</u> Andrew Sandler, M.D.	Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.</u> Steven J. Mento, Ph.D.	Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Kathleen Scott</u> Kathleen Scott	Director	March 17, 2025
<u>/s/ Brittany Bradrick</u> Brittany Bradrick	Director	March 17, 2025

**DESCRIPTION OF THE REGISTRANT'S SECURITIES REGISTERED****PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

The following description of our common stock is a summary and does not purport to be complete. It is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (the "Certificate of Incorporation") and our amended and restated bylaws (the "Bylaws"), each of which is incorporated herein by reference as an exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, of which this Exhibit 4.12 is a part. We encourage you to read our Certificate of Incorporation, our Bylaws and the applicable provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL") for additional information.

**Authorized Capitalization**

We have 260,000,000 shares of capital stock authorized under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, consisting of 250,000,000 shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.0001 per share and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock with a par value of \$0.0001 per share. Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded in the future.

**Common Stock**

Holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for such purpose. The shares of common stock are neither redeemable nor convertible. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or subscription rights to purchase any of our securities.

Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each such share outstanding in the holder's name. No holder of common stock is entitled to cumulate votes in voting for directors.

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive pro rata our assets, which are legally available for distribution, after payments of all debts and other liabilities. All of the outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.

**Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by our stockholders, to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series and to fix the designations, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions thereof, without further vote or action by the stockholders. These rights, preferences and privileges could include dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting, or the designation of, such class or series, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of common stock. The issuance of our preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon our liquidation. In addition, the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company or other corporate action. No shares of preferred stock are currently outstanding, and we have no present plan to issue any shares of preferred stock.

**IPO Warrants**

*The following summary of certain terms and provisions of our Common Stock Purchase Warrants ("Warrants") is not complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the Warrant Agent Agreement and form of Warrant which are filed as exhibits to this annual report of which this Exhibit 4.12 is a part. We encourage you to review the terms and provisions set forth in the Warrant Agency Agreement and form of Warrant. The Warrants are administered by Direct Transfer, LLC, as warrant agent.*

We currently have outstanding Warrants issued in connection with our initial public offering (the “IPO”). The Warrants entitle the registered holders to purchase common stock at a price equal to \$1,680.00 per share, subject to adjustment as discussed below, immediately following the issuance of such Warrants and terminating at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, five years after the closing of our IPO, or August 17, 2026.

The exercise price and number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrants may be adjusted in certain circumstances, including in the event of a stock dividend or recapitalization, reorganization, merger or consolidation. However, the Warrants will not be adjusted for issuances of shares of common stock at prices below its exercise price.

**Exercisability.** The Warrants are exercisable immediately upon issuance and at any time up to the date that is five years from the date of issuance. The Warrants will be exercisable, at the option of each holder, in whole or in part by delivering to us a duly executed exercise notice accompanied by payment in full for the number of shares of common stock purchased upon such exercise. Each Warrant entitles the holder thereof to purchase one share of common stock. Warrants are not exercisable for a fraction of a share and may only be exercised into whole numbers of shares. In lieu of fractional shares, we will pay the holder an amount in cash equal to the fractional amount multiplied by the exercise price and rounded down to the nearest whole share. Unless otherwise specified in the Warrant, the holder will not have the right to exercise the Warrants, in whole or in part, if the holder (together with its affiliates) would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% (or 9.99% at the holder’s election) of the number of our shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the exercise, as such percentage is determined in accordance with the terms of the Warrant. However, any holder may increase or decrease such percentage to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99% upon at least 61 days prior notice from the holder to us.

**Exercise Price.** The exercise price per share of common stock purchasable upon exercise of the Warrants is \$1,680.00 per share, and is subject to adjustments for stock splits, reclassifications, subdivisions, and other similar transactions. In addition to the exercise price per share of common stock, and other applicable charges and taxes are due and payable upon exercise.

**Warrant Agent; Global Certificate.** The Warrants are issued in registered form under a warrant agency agreement between a warrant agent and us. The Warrants will initially be represented only by one or more global warrants deposited with the warrant agent, as custodian on behalf of The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., a nominee of DTC, or as otherwise directed by DTC.

**Transferability.** Subject to applicable laws, the Warrants may be transferred at the option of the holders upon surrender of the Warrants to the warrant agent, together with the appropriate instruments of transfer.

**Exchange Listing.** The Warrants are listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “DRMAW.” There is no established public trading market for the Warrants, and we do not expect a market to develop. Without an active trading market, the liquidity of Warrants will be limited.

**Adjustments; Fundamental Transaction.** The exercise price and the number of shares underlying the Warrants are subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of stock splits, stock dividends on our common shares, stock combinations or similar events affecting our common shares. In addition, in the event we consummate a merger or consolidation with or into another person or other reorganization event in which our common shares are converted or exchanged for securities, cash or other property, or we sell, lease, license, assign, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets or we or another person acquire 50% or more of our outstanding common shares (each, a Fundamental Transaction), then following such Fundamental Transaction the holders of the Warrants will be entitled to receive upon exercise of the Warrants the same kind and amount of securities, cash or property which the holders would have received had they exercised the Warrants immediately prior to such Fundamental Transaction. Any successor to us or surviving entity will assume the obligations under the warrants. Additionally, as more fully described in the Warrant, in the event of certain Fundamental Transactions, the holders of the Warrants will be entitled to receive consideration in an amount equal to the Black Scholes value of the Warrants on the date of consummation of such transaction.

***Rights as a Shareholder.*** Except by virtue of such holder's ownership of our common stock, the holder of a Warrant does not have rights or privileges of a shareholder, including any voting rights, until the holder exercises such Warrant.

**Anti-Takeover Effects of Delaware law and Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws**

The provisions of Delaware law, our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, and our Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended may have the effect of delaying, deferring or discouraging another party from acquiring control of us.

***Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law***

We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, which prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date that such stockholder became an interested stockholder, with the following exceptions:

- before such date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction began, excluding for purposes of determining the voting stock outstanding (but not the outstanding voting stock owned by the interested stockholder) those shares owned (i) by persons who are directors and also officers and (ii) employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or
- on or after such date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of the stockholder, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

In general, Section 203 defines business combination to include the following:

- any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;
- any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;
- subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;
- any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock or any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or
- the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loss, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an "interested stockholder" as an entity or person who, together with the person's affiliates and associates, beneficially owns, or within three years prior to the time of determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation.



### ***Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws***

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended and Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended provide for:

- authorizing the issuance of “blank check” preferred stock, the terms of which may be established and shares of which may be issued without stockholder approval;
- limiting the removal of directors by the stockholders;
- requiring a supermajority vote of stockholders to amend our bylaws or certain provisions our certificate of incorporation;
- prohibiting stockholder action by written consent, thereby requiring all stockholder actions to be taken at a meeting of our stockholders;
- eliminating the ability of stockholders to call a special meeting of stockholders;
- establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at stockholder meetings;
- establishing Delaware as the exclusive jurisdiction for certain stockholder litigation against us; and
- a classified board of directors.

### ***Potential Effects of Authorized but Unissued Stock***

We have shares of common stock and preferred stock available for future issuance without stockholder approval. We may utilize these additional shares for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings to raise additional capital, to facilitate corporate acquisitions or payment as a dividend on the capital stock.

The existence of unissued and unreserved common stock and preferred stock may enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management or to issue preferred stock with terms that could render more difficult or discourage a third-party attempt to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, thereby protecting the continuity of our management. In addition, the board of directors has the discretion to determine designations, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption privileges and liquidation preferences of each series of preferred stock, all to the fullest extent permissible under the DGCL and subject to any limitations set forth in our certificate of incorporation. The purpose of authorizing the board of directors to issue preferred stock and to determine the rights and preferences applicable to such preferred stock is to eliminate delays associated with a stockholder vote on specific issuances. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible financings, acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third-party to acquire, or could discourage a third-party from acquiring, a majority of our outstanding voting stock.

### ***Choice of Forum***

Unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware shall be the sole and exclusive forum for any stockholder to bring (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on behalf of the Company, (ii) any action asserting a claim of breach of fiduciary duty owed by any director, officer or other employee of the Company or the Company's stockholders, creditors or constituents, (iii) any action asserting a claim against the Company or any director or officer of the Company arising pursuant to, or a claim against the Company or any director or officer of the Company, with respect to the interpretation or application of any provision of, the DGCL, our certificate of incorporation or bylaws, or (iv) any action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine, except for, in each of the aforementioned actions, any claims to which the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware determines it lacks jurisdiction. This provision will not apply to claims arising under the Exchange Act, the Securities Act or for any other federal securities laws which provide for exclusive federal jurisdiction. However, the exclusive forum provision provides that unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the federal district courts of the United States of America will be the exclusive forum for the resolution of any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act. Therefore, this provision could apply to a suit that falls within one or more of the categories enumerated in the exclusive forum provision and that asserts claims under the Securities Act, inasmuch as Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for federal and state courts over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder. There is uncertainty as to whether a court would enforce such an exclusive forum provision with respect to claims under the Securities Act.

Whether a court would enforce the provision and that investors cannot waive compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Although we believe this provision benefits us by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, the provision may have the effect of discouraging lawsuits against our directors and officers.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The name, address and telephone number of our stock transfer agent is Direct Transfer, LLC, 500 Perimeter Park Dr., Suite D, Morrisville, NC 27560, (919) 744-2722.

### **National Securities Exchange Listing**

Our common stock and Warrants are listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbols "DRMA" and "DRMAW," respectively.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on March 4, 2025.

**DERMATA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**INSIDER TRADING POLICY**

## INTRODUCTION

As a public company, one of our important ethical duties is to protect and properly use nonpublic information acquired during our service with Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, “*Dermata*” or the “*Company*”). This Insider Trading Policy (the “*Policy*”) provides detailed information on these obligations. The rules relating to insider trading are complex, and a violation of insider trading laws can carry severe consequences, including but not limited to termination of your employment and criminal prosecution resulting in imprisonment. In furtherance of the Policy’s goals, the Company will not transact in its own securities except in compliance with securities laws.

This introduction provides high level guidance on certain required and prohibited activities. However, carefully review this entire Policy before completing any transaction involving the Company’s securities or the securities of any other company.

The following activities, among others, are prohibited under this Policy and may also be illegal:

- Trading “on the basis” of material nonpublic information (see Part II below for more information about what may constitute material nonpublic information)
- “Tipping” or providing material nonpublic information to another person who then trades based on such information. This includes providing trading advice or opinions on transactions
- Making “short sales” of Dermata securities (betting that the price of securities will decline)
- Engaging in transactions involving publicly-traded options, such as puts and calls, and other derivative securities with respect to Dermata’s securities
- Placing “open orders” (such as limit orders or stop orders) with brokers which may remain outstanding for an extended period of time and, as a result, could be executed at a time when you are aware of material nonpublic information or otherwise not permitted to trade
- Trading during Trading Blackout Periods, or during any special blackout periods applicable to you
- Using Dermata securities as collateral for loans if you are subject to any Trading Blackout Periods or subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“*Section 16*”)
- Holding Dermata securities in margin accounts if you are subject to any Trading Blackout Periods or subject to Section 16
- Otherwise trading in Dermata securities without pre-clearance from the Compliance Officer

Any of the above actions will be deemed violations of this Policy and may result in severe consequences, including but not limited to termination of your employment and criminal prosecution resulting in imprisonment. Prosecutors pursue insider trading violations vigorously, even if the size of the transaction is small.

Even if a transaction is not listed above, you are ultimately responsible for ensuring that it otherwise complies with this Policy and applicable laws and regulations. You should use your best judgment at all times and consult with your personal legal and financial advisors, as needed. Share this policy with your broker or other financial advisor before engaging in any transactions involving Dermata’s securities or the securities of any other company. Please seek assistance from the Compliance Officer (as defined below) if you have any questions at all.

## **PART I**

### **PREVENTING INSIDER TRADING AND YOUR OBLIGATIONS**

#### **1. Covered Persons**

This Policy applies to all directors, officers, employees, consultants, contractors and other agents of the Company. References in this Policy to such persons, or to “*you*,” also include your immediate family members, members of your household and your economic dependents, along with any other individuals or entities whose transactions in securities you influence, direct, or control (which may be, for example, a venture or other investment fund). You are responsible for making sure that these other individuals and entities comply with this Policy.

You are expected to comply with this Policy until such time as you are no longer affiliated with the Company *and* you no longer possess any material nonpublic information subject to this Policy, as described in Part II (Material Nonpublic Information). In addition, if you are subject to a trading blackout under this Policy at the time you cease to be affiliated with the Company, you are expected to abide by the applicable trading restrictions until at least the end of the relevant Trading Blackout Period.

#### **2. Covered Activities**

Except as discussed in Part III (Limited Exceptions), this Policy applies to all transactions involving the Company’s securities or other companies’ securities on the basis of material nonpublic information obtained in connection with your service with the Company. This Policy therefore applies to:

- transactions involving the securities of the Company, whether direct or indirect (including transactions made on your behalf by money managers), including purchases, sales and other transfers of common stock, options, warrants, preferred stock and debt securities (such as debentures, bonds and notes);
- transactions involving the securities of other companies on the basis of material nonpublic information obtained in the course of your service with the Company;
- arrangements that affect economic exposure to changes in the prices of these securities, such as transactions in derivative securities (e.g., exchange-traded put or call options), hedging transactions, short sales and certain decisions with respect to participation in benefit plans;
- any disposition in the form of a gift of any securities of the Company;
- any distribution to holders of interests in an entity if the entity is subject to this Policy;
- any offers with respect to the transactions discussed above; and
- other unauthorized use or disclosure of nonpublic information.

There may be instances where you suffer financial harm or other hardship or are otherwise required to forego a planned transaction because of the restrictions imposed by this Policy. Personal financial emergency or other personal circumstances will not excuse a failure to comply with this Policy.

### **3. Insider Trading and Tipping**

*Insider Trading and Tipping.* Directors, officers, employees and other individuals who possess material nonpublic information are prohibited from the following illegal activities, which are commonly referred to as “*insider trading*”:

- Trading “on the basis” of material nonpublic information (i.e., as long as they are aware of such information). It is not a defense that the person did not “use” the material nonpublic information for purposes of the transaction.
- Disclosing material nonpublic information directly or indirectly to others who then trade based on that information, or making recommendations or expressing opinions on transactions in securities while aware of material nonpublic information (sometimes referred to as “*tipping*”). Both the person who provides the information, recommendation or opinion and the person who trades based on it may be liable.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*SEC*”) and the U.S. Department of Justice pursue insider trading violations vigorously. Cases involving trading through foreign accounts, trading by family members and friends and trading only a small number of shares have been successfully prosecuted. There are no exceptions from insider trading laws or this Policy based on the size of the transaction.

*Controlling Person Liability.* In addition, a company, as well as individual directors, officers and other supervisory personnel, may be subject to liability as “*controlling persons*” for failure to take appropriate steps to prevent insider trading by those under their supervision, influence or control.

### **4. Other Prohibited and Problematic Transactions**

The types of transactions listed below may expose you and the Company to significant risks. Even if a transaction is not listed below, you are responsible for ensuring that it otherwise complies with the applicable provisions of this Policy, including insider trading and tipping prohibitions, the pre-clearance requirements and procedures applicable to you if you are on the Pre-Clearance List (“*Pre-Clearance Requirements*”), and Trading Blackout Periods.

- *Short Sales.* You are prohibited from making short sales (i.e., the sale of a security that must be borrowed to make delivery) and “selling short against the box” (i.e., a sale with a delayed delivery) with respect to Company securities.
- *Transactions in Derivative Securities.* You are prohibited from engaging in transactions in publicly-traded options, such as puts and calls, and other derivative securities with respect to the Company’s securities. This prohibition extends to any hedging or similar transaction designed to decrease the risks associated with holding Company securities. Stock options, stock appreciation rights and other securities issued pursuant to Company benefit plans or other compensatory arrangements with the Company are not subject to this prohibition. Among other reasons for this prohibition, the application of securities laws to derivatives transactions can be complex, and persons engaging in derivatives transactions may subject themselves to an increased risk of violating SEC regulations and other applicable securities laws.
- *Using Company Securities as Collateral for Loans.* You are prohibited from pledging Company securities as collateral for loans except to the extent you have made such arrangements prior to the Company’s adoption of this Policy. If you default on the loan, the lender may sell the pledged securities as collateral in a foreclosure sale. This sale, even though not initiated at your request, would be considered a sale for your benefit and, if made at a time when you are aware of material nonpublic information or otherwise are not permitted to trade Company securities, may result in violations of this Policy or securities laws.

- *Holding Company Securities in Margin Accounts.* You are prohibited from holding Company securities in margin accounts. Under typical margin arrangements, if you fail to meet a margin call, the broker may be entitled to sell securities held in the margin account without your consent. This sale, even though not initiated at your request, would be considered a sale for your benefit and, if made at a time when you are aware of material nonpublic information or otherwise are not permitted to trade Company securities, may result in violations of this Policy or securities laws.
- *Placing Open Orders with Brokers.* Except in accordance with an approved trading plan, as discussed in Part III (Limited Exceptions), you should exercise caution when placing open orders for Company securities, such as limit orders or stop orders, with brokers, particularly where the order is likely to remain outstanding for an extended period of time. Open orders may result in the execution of a trade at a time when you are aware of material nonpublic information or otherwise are not permitted to trade in Company securities, which may result in violations of this Policy or securities laws. Additionally, you should so inform any broker with whom you place any open order about the requirements of this Policy at the time any open order is placed.

## **5. Trading Blackout Periods**

To limit the likelihood of trading at times when there is a significant risk of insider trading exposure, the Company has instituted Quarterly Blackout Periods (the “**Trading Blackout Periods**”). The Company may also institute special trading blackout periods from time to time. Whether or not you are subject to a blackout period, you remain subject to the prohibitions on trading on the basis of material nonpublic information and any other applicable restrictions in this Policy. There are no unconditional “safe harbors” for trades made at particular times, and you should exercise good judgment at all times. Even when a trading window is open, you may be restricted from trading if you possess material nonpublic information or are otherwise restricted by this Policy.

*Quarterly Blackout Periods.* Except as discussed in Part III (Limited Exceptions), all employees, consultants, contractors and other agents of the Company are subject to and must refrain from conducting transactions involving the Company’s securities during the Quarterly Blackout Periods. Quarterly Blackout Periods start 14 days prior to the end of each fiscal quarter and end at the start of the second trading day following the date the financial results for the previous fiscal quarter are publicly disclosed.

*Special Blackout Periods.* From time to time, the Company may also prohibit you from engaging in transactions involving the Company’s securities when, in the judgment of the Compliance Officer, a trading blackout is warranted. The Company will generally impose special blackout periods when there are material developments known to the Company that have not yet been disclosed to the public. However, special blackout periods may be declared for any reason. The Company will notify those persons subject to a special blackout period. Each person who has been notified that they are subject to a special blackout period may not engage in any transaction involving the Company’s securities until instructed otherwise by the Compliance Officer, and should not disclose to others the fact of such suspension of trading.

*Regulation BTR Blackouts.* Directors and officers may also be subject to trading blackouts pursuant to Regulation Blackout Trading Restriction (“**Regulation BTR**”), under U.S. federal securities laws. In general, Regulation BTR prohibits any director or officer from engaging in certain transactions involving Company securities during periods when 401(k) plan participants are prevented from purchasing, selling or otherwise acquiring or transferring an interest in certain securities held in individual account plans. Any profits realized from a transaction that violates Regulation BTR are recoverable by the Company, regardless of the intentions of the director or officer effecting the transaction. In addition, individuals who engage in such transactions are subject to sanction by the SEC as well as potential criminal liability. The Company will notify directors and officers if they are subject to a blackout trading restriction under Regulation BTR. Failure to comply with an applicable trading blackout in accordance with Regulation BTR is a violation of law and this Policy.

## **6. Pre-Clearance of Trades**

Except as discussed in Part III (Limited Exceptions), all employees, consultants, contractors and other agents of the Company must refrain from engaging in any transaction involving the Company's securities without first obtaining pre-clearance of the transaction from the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer may not engage in a transaction involving the Company's securities unless the Chief Executive Officer has pre-cleared the transaction.

Pre-clearance of a trade, however, is not a defense to a claim of insider trading and does not excuse you from otherwise complying with insider trading laws or this Policy. Further, pre-clearance of a transaction does not constitute an affirmation by the Company or the Compliance Officer that you are not in possession of material nonpublic information. The Compliance Officer is under no obligation to approve a transaction submitted for pre-clearance, and may determine not to permit the transaction.

## **7. Consequences for Violations**

*Civil and Criminal Penalties.* Potential penalties for insider trading violations, tipping or controlling person liability include criminal and civil fines and penalties, imprisonment and other consequences.

*Company Disciplinary Actions.* If the Company has a reasonable basis to conclude that you have failed to comply with this Policy, you may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal for cause, regardless of whether or not your actions result in a violation of law. It is not necessary for the Company to wait for the filing or conclusion of any civil or criminal action against you before taking disciplinary action. In addition, the Company may give stop transfer and other instructions to its transfer agent with respect to transactions that the Company considers to be in contravention of this Policy.

## **8. Personal Responsibility**

The ultimate responsibility for complying with this Policy and applicable laws and regulations rests with you. You should use your best judgment at all times and consult with your personal legal and financial advisors, as needed. We advise you to seek assistance if you have any questions at all. The rules relating to insider trading can be complex, and a violation of insider trading laws can carry severe consequences.

You should be alert to possible violations and promptly report violations or suspected violations of this Policy to the Compliance Officer. If your situation requires that your identity be kept secret, your anonymity will be preserved to the greatest extent reasonably possible. If you wish to remain anonymous, send a letter addressed to the Chief Financial Officer at 3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., #322, San Diego, CA 92130. If you make an anonymous report, please provide as much detail as possible, including any evidence that you believe may be relevant to the issue.



## **9. Compliance Officer**

Please direct any questions, requests or reports as to any of the matters discussed in this Policy to the Chief Financial Officer of the Company (the “**Compliance Officer**”). The Compliance Officer is generally responsible for the administration of this Policy. The Compliance Officer may select others to assist with the execution of his or her duties.

## **10. Additional Information**

*Delivery of Policy.* This Policy will be delivered to all directors, officers, employees and agents of the Company when they commence service with the Company. In addition, this Policy (or a summary of this Policy) will be circulated periodically. Each director, officer, employee and agent of the Company is required to acknowledge that he or she understands, and agrees to comply with, this Policy.

*Amendments.* We are committed to continuously reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. The Company therefore reserves the right to amend, alter or terminate this Policy at any time and for any reason, subject to applicable law. A current copy of the Company’s policies regarding insider trading may be obtained by contacting the Compliance Officer.

\* \* \*

*Nothing in this Insider Trading Policy creates or implies an employment contract or term of employment or a right to continued employment.*

*The policies in this Insider Trading Policy do not constitute a complete list of Company policies or a complete list of the types of conduct that can result in discipline, up to and including discharge.*

## PART II

### **MATERIAL NONPUBLIC INFORMATION: WHAT IT IS AND YOUR OBLIGATIONS**

#### **1. Definitions**

*“Material” Information.* Information should be regarded as material if there is a substantial likelihood a reasonable investor would consider it important in deciding whether to buy, hold, or sell securities or would view the information as significantly altering the total mix of information in the marketplace about the issuer of the security. Any information that could reasonably be expected to affect the market price of a security is likely to be material, regardless of whether it is positive or negative.

It is not possible to define all categories of “material” information. However, some examples of information that would often be regarded as material include information with respect to:

- Financial results, key metrics, financial condition, earnings pre-announcements, guidance, projections or forecasts, particularly if inconsistent with the Company’s guidance or the expectations of the investment community;
- Restatements of financial results, or material impairments, write-offs or restructurings;
- Changes in independent auditors, or notification that the Company may no longer rely on an audit report;
- Business plans or budgets;
- Creation of significant financial obligations, or any significant default under or acceleration of any financial obligation;
- Impending bankruptcy or financial liquidity problems;
- Significant developments involving business relationships, including execution, modification or termination of significant agreements or orders with customers, suppliers, distributors, manufacturers or other business partners;
- Significant information relating to the operation of a product or service, such as new products or services, major modifications or performance issues, defects or recalls, significant pricing changes or other announcements of a significant nature;
- Significant developments in research and development or relating to intellectual property;
- Significant legal or regulatory developments, whether positive or negative, actual or threatened, including litigation or resolving litigation;
- Major events involving the Company’s securities, including calls of securities for redemption, adoption of stock repurchase programs, option repricings, stock splits, changes in dividend policies, public or private securities offerings, modification to the rights of security holders or notice of delisting;

- Significant corporate events, such as a pending or proposed merger, joint venture or tender offer, a significant investment, the acquisition or disposition of a significant business or asset or a change in control;
- Major personnel changes, such as changes in senior management or lay-offs;
- Data breaches or other cybersecurity events;
- Updates regarding any prior material disclosure that has materially changed;
- The existence of a special blackout period; and
- Significant disruptions in the Company's operations or loss, potential loss, breach or unauthorized access of the Company's property or assets, including the Company's facilities and information technology infrastructure.

If you have any questions as to whether information should be considered "material," you should consult with the Compliance Officer. In general, it is advisable to resolve any close questions as to the materiality of any information by assuming that the information is material.

*"Nonpublic" Information.* Generally, information is considered nonpublic if the information has not been broadly disseminated to the public for a sufficient period to be reflected in the price of the security. As a general rule, information should be considered nonpublic until at least two **full trading days** have elapsed after the information is broadly distributed to the public in a press release, a public filing with the SEC, a pre-announced public webcast or another broad, non-exclusionary form of public communication. However, depending upon the form of the announcement and the nature of the information, it is possible that information may not be fully absorbed by the marketplace until a later time. Any questions as to whether information is nonpublic should be directed to the Compliance Officer.

The term **"trading day"** means a day on which national stock exchanges and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Automated Quotation System are open for trading. A **"full"** trading day has elapsed when, after the public disclosure, trading in the relevant security has opened and then closed.

## **2. Confidentiality of Nonpublic Information**

This Policy also prohibits the unauthorized use or disclosure of nonpublic information relating to the Company or other companies, including the Company's distributors, vendors, customers, collaborators, suppliers and competitors. All nonpublic information you acquire in the course of your service with the Company may only be used for legitimate Company business purposes. In addition, nonpublic information of others should be handled in accordance with the terms of any relevant nondisclosure agreements, and the use of any such nonpublic information should be limited to the purpose for which it was disclosed.

You must use all reasonable efforts to safeguard nonpublic information in the Company's possession. You may not disclose nonpublic information about the Company or any other company, unless required by law, or unless (i) disclosure is required for legitimate Company business purposes, (ii) you are authorized to disclose the information and (iii) appropriate steps have been taken to prevent misuse of that information (including entering an appropriate nondisclosure agreement that restricts the disclosure and use of the information, if applicable). This restriction also applies to internal communications within the Company and to communications with agents of the Company. In cases where disclosing nonpublic information to third parties is required, you should coordinate with the Compliance Officer, who may consult legal counsel.

### **3. No Trading on Material Nonpublic Information**

Except as discussed in in [Part III](#) (Limited Exceptions), you may not, directly or indirectly through others, engage in any transaction involving the Company's securities while aware of material nonpublic information relating to the Company. It is not an excuse that you did not "use" the information in your transaction.

Similarly, you may not engage in transactions involving the securities of any other company if you are aware of material nonpublic information affecting that company, except to the extent the transactions are analogous to those described in [Part III](#) (Limited Exceptions). For example, you may be involved in a proposed transaction involving a prospective business relationship or transaction with another company. If information about that transaction constitutes material nonpublic information for that other company, you would be prohibited from engaging in transactions involving the securities of that other company (as well as transactions involving Company securities, if that information is material to the Company). Additionally, information need not directly involve a company to be considered material to it. For example, news of a merger between two companies may be material to an, otherwise uninvolved, third company in the same sector or industry. It is important to note that "materiality" is different for different companies. Information that is not material to the Company may be material to another company.

### **4. No Disclosing Material Nonpublic Information for the Benefit of Others**

You may not disclose material nonpublic information concerning the Company or any other company to friends, family members or any other person or entity not authorized to receive such information where such person or entity may benefit by trading on the basis of such information. In addition, you may not make recommendations or express opinions on the basis of material nonpublic information as to trading in the securities of companies to which such information relates. You are prohibited from engaging in these actions whether or not you derive any profit or personal benefit from doing so. The prohibition against disclosure of material nonpublic information includes disclosure (even anonymous disclosure) via the internet, blogs, investor forums or chat rooms where companies and their prospects are discussed.

### **5. Obligation to Disclose Material Nonpublic Information to the Company**

You may not enter into any transaction, whether or not it is described in [Part III](#) (Limited Exceptions), unless you have disclosed any material nonpublic information that you become aware of in the course of your service with the Company, and that senior management is not aware of, to the Compliance Officer. If you are a member of senior management, the information must be disclosed to the Chief Executive Officer, and if you are the Chief Executive Officer or a director, you must disclose the information to the Company's board of directors ("*Board of Directors*"), before any transaction is permissible.

### **6. Responding to Outside Inquiries for Information**

If you receive an inquiry from someone outside of the Company, such as a stock analyst, for information, you should refer the inquiry to the Compliance Officer. The Company is required under Regulation FD (Fair Disclosure) of the U.S. federal securities laws to avoid the selective disclosure of material nonpublic information. In general, the regulation provides that when a public company discloses material nonpublic information, it must provide broad, non-exclusionary access to the information. Violations of this regulation can subject the Company to SEC enforcement actions, which may result in injunctions and severe monetary penalties for the Company. The Company has established procedures for releasing material information in a manner that is designed to achieve broad public dissemination of the information immediately upon its release in compliance with applicable law. Please consult the Company's Regulation FD Policy for more details.

### **7. Protected Activity Not Prohibited**

Nothing in this Policy, or any related guidelines or other documents or information provided in connection with this Policy, shall in any way limit or prohibit you from engaging in any of the protected activities set forth in the Company's Whistleblower Policy, as amended from time to time.

### **PART III**

#### **LIMITED EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY**

The following are certain limited exceptions to the restrictions imposed by the Company under this Policy. Please be aware that even if a transaction is subject to an exception to this Policy, you will need to separately assess whether the transaction complies with applicable law (for example, “short-swing” trading restrictions under Section 16, to the extent applicable). You are responsible for complying with applicable law at all times.

##### **1. Transactions Pursuant to a Trading Plan that Complies with SEC Rules**

The SEC has enacted rules that provide an affirmative defense against alleged violations of U.S. federal insider trading laws for transactions pursuant to trading plans that meet certain requirements. In general, these rules, as set forth in Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, provide for an affirmative defense if you enter into a contract, provide instructions or adopt a written plan for trading securities when you are not aware of material nonpublic information. The contract, instructions or plan must (i) specify the amount, price and date of the transaction, (ii) specify an objective method for determining the amount, price and date of the transaction and/or (iii) place any subsequent discretion for determining the amount, price and date of the transaction in another person who is not, at the time of the transaction, aware of material nonpublic information.

Transactions made pursuant to a written trading plan that (i) complies with the affirmative defense set forth in Rule 10b5-1 and (ii) is approved by the Compliance Officer are not subject to the restrictions in this Policy against trades made while aware of material nonpublic information or to the blackout periods established under this Policy. In approving a trading plan, the Compliance Officer may, in furtherance of the objectives expressed in this Policy, impose criteria in addition to those set forth in Rule 10b5-1. You should therefore confer with the Compliance Officer prior to entering into any trading plan.

The SEC rules regarding trading plans are complex and must be complied with completely to be effective. The description provided above is only a summary, and the Company strongly advises that you consult with your legal advisor if you intend to adopt a trading plan. While trading plans are subject to review and approval by the Company, the individual adopting the trading plan is ultimately responsible for compliance with Rule 10b5-1 and ensuring that the trading plan complies with this Policy.

The Company will determine which individuals may use trading plans. Trading plans must (1) be filed with the Compliance Officer, (2) comply with the requirements of Rule 10b5-1, and (3) be accompanied with an executed certificate stating that the trading plan complies with Rule 10b5-1 and any other criteria established by the Company. If the Compliance Officer is the requester, then the Company’s Chief Executive Officer must approve the written 10b5-1 trading plan. The Company may publicly disclose information regarding trading plans.

##### **2. Receipt and Vesting of Stock Options, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Stock Appreciation Rights**

The trading restrictions under this Policy do not apply to the acceptance or purchase of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units or stock appreciation rights issued or offered by the Company. The trading restrictions under this Policy also do not apply to the vesting, cancellation or forfeiture of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units or stock appreciation rights in accordance with applicable plans and agreements.

### **3. Exercise of Stock Options for Cash; Net Share Withholding**

The trading restrictions under this Policy do not apply to the exercise of stock options for cash under the Company's equity incentive plans. Likewise, the trading restrictions under this Policy do not apply to the exercise of stock options in a stock-for-stock exercise with the Company or an election to have the Company withhold securities to cover tax obligations in connection with an option exercise (x) as required by either the Company's board of directors (or a committee thereof) or the award agreement governing such equity award or (y) as you elect, if permitted by the Company, so long as that election is irrevocable and made in writing at a time when a trading blackout is not in place and the individual is not in possession of material nonpublic information. However, the trading restrictions under this Policy do apply to (i) the sale of any securities issued upon the exercise of a stock option, (ii) a cashless exercise of a stock option through a broker, since this involves selling a portion of the underlying shares to cover the costs of exercise, and (iii) any other market sale for the purpose of generating the cash needed to pay the exercise price of an option.

### **4. Purchases from an Employee Stock Purchase Plan**

The trading restrictions in this Policy do not apply to elections with respect to participation in any employee stock purchase plan that the Company adopts or to purchases of securities under such plan. However, the trading restrictions do apply to any subsequent sales of any such securities.

### **5. Certain 401(k) Plan Transactions**

The trading restrictions in this Policy do not apply to purchases of Company stock in a 401(k) plan resulting from periodic contributions to the plan based on your payroll contribution election. The trading restrictions do apply, however, to elections you make under the 401(k) plan to (i) increase or decrease the amount of your contributions under a 401(k) plan, if such increase or decrease will increase or decrease the amount of your contributions that will be allocated to a Company stock fund (ii) increase or decrease the percentage of your contributions that will be allocated to a Company stock fund, (iii) move balances into or out of a Company stock fund, (iv) borrow money against a 401(k) plan account if the loan will result in liquidation of some or all of your Company stock fund balance, and (v) pre-pay a plan loan if the pre-payment will result in the allocation of loan proceeds to a Company stock fund.

### **6. Certain Transfers by Will and for Tax Planning Purposes**

The trading restrictions in this Policy do not apply to transfers by will or the laws of descent or distribution and, provided that prior written notice is provided to the Compliance Officer, distributions or transfers (such as certain tax planning or estate planning transfers) that effect only a change in the form of beneficial interest without changing your pecuniary interest in the Company's securities.

### **7. Other Exceptions**

*Stock splits, stock dividends and similar transactions.* The trading restrictions under this Policy do not apply to a change in the number of securities held as a result of a stock split or stock dividend applying equally to all securities of a class, or similar transactions.

*Change in form of ownership.* Transactions that involve merely a change in the form in which you own securities are permissible. For example, you may transfer shares to an *inter vivos* trust of which you are the sole beneficiary during your lifetime.

*Other.* Any other exception from this Policy must be approved by the Compliance Officer, in consultation with the Board of Directors or an independent committee of the Board of Directors.

**PART IV**  
**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16**  
**OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT**

**1. Obligations Under Section 16**

Section 16 and the related rules and regulations set forth (i) reporting obligations, (ii) limitations on “short-swing” transactions and (iii) limitations on short sales and other transactions applicable to directors, officers, large shareholders and certain other persons. The Company has provided, or will provide, memoranda and other materials addressing these matters.

The Company has designated certain persons as being required to comply with Section 16 and the related rules and regulations because of their positions with the Company. The persons subject to Section 16 may change from time to time as appropriate to reflect the election of new officers or directors, any change in the responsibilities of officers or other employees and any promotions, demotions, resignations or departures.

Even if you are not designated by the Company as being required to comply with Section 16, you may be subject to Section 16 reporting obligations because of, for example, your shareholdings.

**2. Notification Requirements to Facilitate Section 16 Reporting**

To facilitate timely reporting of transactions pursuant to Section 16 requirements, each person subject to Section 16 reporting requirements must provide, or must ensure that his or her broker provides, the Company with detailed information (e.g., trade date, number of shares, exact price, etc.) regarding his or her transactions involving the Company’s securities, including gifts, transfers, pledges and transactions pursuant to a trading plan, both prior to (to confirm compliance with pre-clearance procedures, if applicable) and promptly following execution.

**3. Personal Responsibility Under Section 16**

The obligation to file Section 16 reports, and to otherwise comply with Section 16, is personal. The Company is not responsible for the failure to comply with Section 16 requirements.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I have read and understand Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.'s Statement of Company Policy on Insider Trading. I understand that, if I am an employee of the Company or one of its subsidiaries, my failure to comply in all respects with the Company's policies, including the Statement of Company Policy on Insider Trading set forth herein, is a basis for termination for cause of my employment from the Company and any subsidiary thereof to which my employment now relates or may in the future relate. I will comply with the Policy for as long as I am subject to the Policy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This document states a policy of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. and is not intended to be regarded as the rendering of legal advice. This policy statement is intended to promote compliance with existing law and is not intended to create or impose liability that would not exist in the absence of the policy statement.**



**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-3 (No. 333-268383, No. 333-275931, No. 333-280682, No. 333-282223 and No. 333-284603), and Form S-8 (No. 333-261606, No. 333-267115, No. 333-274513 and No. 333-281338), and Form S-1 (No. 333-270195 and No. 333-273170) of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Company”), of our report dated March 17, 2025, relating to the financial statements of the Company (which expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph relating to going concern uncertainty), appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2024.

/s/ Moss Adams LLP

San Diego, California  
March 17, 2025

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT  
TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Gerald T. Proehl, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2024, of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15I and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in the Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 17, 2025

/s/ Gerald T. Proehl

Gerald T. Proehl  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT  
TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Kyri K. Van Hoose, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2024, of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in the Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 17, 2025

/s/ Kyri K. Van Hoose

Kyri K. Van Hoose  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

This Certification is being filed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. This Certification is included solely for the purposes of complying with the provisions of Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and is not intended to be used for any other purpose. In connection with the accompanying Annual Report on Form 10-K of Dermata Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Company”) for the year ended December 31, 2024 (the “Annual Report”), each of Gerald T. Proehl, as Chief Executive Officer, and Kyri K. Van Hoose, as Chief Financial Officer, certifies in his or her capacity as such officer of the Company, that to such officer’s knowledge:

- 1) The Annual Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2) The information contained in the Annual Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: March 17, 2025

By: /s/ Gerald T. Proehl  
Gerald T. Proehl  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Dated: March 17, 2025

By: /s/ Kyri K. Van Hoose  
Kyri K. Van Hoose  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

This certification shall not be deemed “filed” for any purpose, nor shall it be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act.