Risk Factors Comparison 2024-03-21 to 2023-03-15 Form: 10-K

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You should carefully consider the following risk factors, together with the other information contained in this Annual Report, including our financial statements and the related notes and " Management' s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, " before making a decision to purchase or sell shares of our common stock. We cannot assure you that any of the events discussed in the risk factors below will not occur. These risks could have a material and adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition **,** and growth prospects. If that were to happen, the trading price of our common stock could decline. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business operations or financial condition. ~~In this section, we first provide a summary of the principal risks and uncertainties we face and then provide a full set of risk factors and discuss them in greater detail. Summary of Risks Related to Our Business The principal risks and uncertainties affecting our business include the following: • We have a limited operating history and none of lorundrostat or any future product candidates have been approved for commercial sale. We have a history of significant net losses since our inception and expect to continue to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. We may never generate any revenue or become profitable or, if we achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain it. • We will need substantial additional funds to pursue our business objectives, which may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all. Failure to obtain this necessary capital when needed on acceptable terms, or at all, may force us to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our product development programs, commercialization efforts or other operations. • Our future performance at this time is entirely dependent on the success of our only product candidate, lorundrostat, which is currently in clinical development and which has not completed a pivotal trial. If we are unable to advance lorundrostat in clinical development, obtain regulatory approval and ultimately commercialize lorundrostat, or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed. • Clinical and preclinical development involves a lengthy and expensive process with uncertain timelines and outcomes, and results of prior clinical trials and studies of lorundrostat are not necessarily predictive of future results. Lorundrostat may not achieve favorable results in our clinical trials or receive regulatory approval on a timely basis, if at all. • Use of lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be associated with adverse side effects, adverse events or other properties or safety risks, which could delay or preclude regulatory approval, cause us to suspend or discontinue clinical trials, abandon a product candidate, limit the commercial profile of an approved label or result in other significant negative consequences that could severely harm our business, prospects, operating results and financial condition. • We heavily rely on our exclusive license with Mitsubishi Tanabe to provide us with intellectual property rights to develop and commercialize lorundrostat. If the license is terminated, we would lose our rights to develop and commercialize lorundrostat, which in turn would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, including, but not limited to, cessation of our operations to the extent we are unable to develop other product candidates at the time of such termination. • The COVID- 19 pandemic could adversely impact our business, including the conduct of our clinical trials. • We face significant competition, and if our competitors develop and commercialize technologies or product candidates more rapidly than we do, or their technologies or product candidates are more effective, safer, or less expensive than lorundrostat and any future product candidates we develop, our business and our ability to develop and successfully commercialize products will be adversely affected. • We rely on, and intend to continue to rely on third parties to conduct, supervise and monitor our clinical trials and preclinical studies. If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties, comply with applicable regulatory requirements or meet expected deadlines, our development programs and our ability to seek or obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize lorundrostat and any future product candidates may be delayed or subject to increased costs, each of which may have an adverse effect on our business and prospects. 27 • If we are unable to obtain, maintain and enforce patent or other intellectual property protection for lorundrostat or any future product candidates or technology, or if the scope of the patent or other intellectual property protection obtained is not sufficiently broad, our competitors or other third parties could develop and commercialize products similar or identical to ours, and our ability to successfully commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates may be adversely affected. • The trading price of the shares of our common stock could be highly volatile, and purchasers of our common stock could incur substantial losses.~~ Risks Related to Our Limited Operating History, Financial Position **,** and Capital Requirements We have a limited operating history, have incurred significant operating losses since our inception **,** and expect to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. We may never generate any revenue or become profitable or, if we achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain it. Biopharmaceutical product development is a highly speculative undertaking and involves a substantial degree of risk. We are a clinical- stage biopharmaceutical company with a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our business and prospects. We commenced operations in 2019 and, to date, we have focused primarily on organizing and staffing our company, business planning, raising capital, in- licensing our product candidate, lorundrostat, establishing our intellectual property portfolio **,** and conducting research, preclinical studies, and clinical trials. We have not yet completed any pivotal clinical trials, obtained regulatory approvals, manufactured products at commercial scale ~~,~~ or arranged for a third party to do so on our behalf, or conducted sales and marketing activities necessary for successful product commercialization. Consequently, any predictions made about our future success or viability may not be as accurate as they could be if we had a history of successfully developing and commercializing biopharmaceutical products. We have incurred significant operating losses since our inception and expect to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. We do not have any products approved for sale and have not generated any revenue since our inception. If lorundrostat is not successfully developed, approved **,** and commercialized, we may never generate significant revenue, if we generate any revenue

at all. Our net losses were $ **71. 9 million and $** 29. 8 ~~million and $ 19. 4~~ million for the years ended December 31, **2023 and** 2022 ~~and 2021~~, respectively. As of December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023**, we had an accumulated deficit of $ ~~52~~ **124**. ~~8~~ **7** million. Substantially all of our losses have resulted from expenses incurred in connection with in- licensing intellectual property related to, and developing, lorundrostat and from general and administrative costs associated with our operations. ~~lorundrostat~~ **Lorundrostat** and any future product candidates will require substantial additional development time and resources before we would be able to apply for or receive regulatory approvals and begin generating revenue from product sales. We expect to continue to incur losses for the foreseeable future, and we anticipate these losses will increase substantially as we continue our development of, seek regulatory approval for **,** and potentially commercialize lorundrostat, seek to identify, assess, acquire, in- license intellectual property related to or develop additional product candidates **,** and operate as a public company. To become and remain profitable, we must succeed in developing, obtaining regulatory approvals for, and eventually commercializing products that generate significant revenue. This will require us to be successful in a range of challenging activities, including completing clinical trials and preclinical studies of lorundrostat and any future product candidates, acquiring additional product candidates, obtaining regulatory approval for lorundrostat and any future product candidates, and manufacturing, marketing, and selling any products for which we may obtain regulatory approval. We are only in the preliminary stages of most of these activities. We may never succeed in these activities and, even if we do, may never generate revenue that is significant enough to achieve profitability. In addition, we have not yet demonstrated an ability to successfully overcome many of the risks and uncertainties frequently encountered by companies in new and rapidly evolving fields, particularly in the biopharmaceutical industry. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with biopharmaceutical product development, we are unable to accurately predict the timing or amount of increased **- 31-** expenses or when, or if, we will be able to achieve profitability. Even if we do achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis. Our failure to become and remain profitable may have an adverse effect on the value of our company and could impair our ability to raise capital, expand our business, maintain our research and development efforts, diversify our product candidates, achieve our strategic objectives **,** or even continue our operations. A decline in the value of our company could also cause you to lose all or part of your investment. We will require substantial additional capital to finance our goals, and a failure to obtain this necessary capital when needed on acceptable terms, or at all, could force us to delay, limit, reduce **,** or terminate our development programs, commercialization efforts **,** or other operations. The development of biopharmaceutical product candidates is capital- intensive. We expect our expenses to substantially increase in connection with our ongoing activities, particularly as we conduct our ongoing and planned ~~- 28-~~ clinical trials for lorundrostat and potentially seek regulatory approval for lorundrostat and any future product candidates we may develop ~~and become a public company~~. In addition, if we are able to progress lorundrostat through development and commercialization, we will be required to make **commercial** milestone and royalty payments to Mitsubishi Tanabe from whom we have in- licensed intellectual property related to lorundrostat. If we obtain regulatory approval for lorundrostat or any future product candidates, we also expect to incur significant commercialization expenses related to product manufacturing, marketing, sales, and distribution. Because the outcome of any clinical trial or preclinical study is highly uncertain, we cannot reliably estimate the actual amount of financing necessary to successfully complete the development and commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates. Furthermore, we expect to incur additional costs associated with operating as a public company. Accordingly, we will need to obtain substantial additional funding in connection with our continuing operations. If we are unable to raise capital when needed or on attractive terms, we could be forced to delay, reduce **,** or eliminate our research and development programs or any future commercialization efforts. Based on our current operating plan, we believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents **,** and **investments** ~~marketable securities~~ will enable us to fund our operations for at least the next 12 months. We have based these estimates on assumptions that may prove to be wrong, and we could use our capital resources sooner than we currently expect. Our operating plans and other demands on our cash resources may change as a result of many factors currently unknown to us, and we may need to seek additional funds sooner than planned. Our existing capital may not be sufficient to complete development of lorundrostat, or any future product candidate, and we will require substantial capital in order to advance lorundrostat and any future product candidates through clinical trials, regulatory approval **,** and commercialization. Accordingly, we will need to obtain substantial additional funding in connection with our continuing operations. Our ability to raise additional funds may be adversely impacted by potential worsening global economic conditions and the disruptions to, and volatility in, the credit and financial markets in the United States and worldwide resulting from factors that include but are not limited to, inflation, ~~the~~ **geopolitical** conflict **in** ~~between Russia~~ and **around** Ukraine **, Israel,** and other ~~factors~~ **areas of the world**, diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth, increases in unemployment rates, and uncertainty about economic stability. If the equity and credit markets deteriorate, it may make any necessary debt or equity financing more difficult, more costly **,** and more dilutive. If we are unable to raise capital when needed or on attractive terms, we could be forced to delay, reduce **,** or eliminate our research and development programs or any future commercialization efforts, or even cease operations. We expect to finance our cash needs through public or private equity or debt financings or other capital sources, including potential collaborations, licenses **,** and other similar arrangements. In addition, we may seek additional capital due to favorable market conditions or strategic considerations even if we believe we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans. Attempting to secure additional financing may divert our management from our day- to- day activities, which may adversely affect our ability to develop lorundrostat and any future product candidates. **- 32-** Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including, but not limited to: • the initiation, type, number, scope, progress, expansions, results, costs **,** and timing of clinical trials and preclinical studies of lorundrostat and any future product candidates we may choose to pursue, including any modifications to clinical development plans based on feedback that we may receive from regulatory authorities; • the costs and timing of manufacturing for lorundrostat, or any future product candidate, including commercial manufacture at sufficient scale, if any product candidate is

approved, including as a result of inflation, any supply chain issues , or component shortages; • requirements of regulatory authorities in any additional jurisdictions in which we may seek approval for lorundrostat and any future product candidates and our anticipated timing for seeking approval in such jurisdictions; • the costs, timing , and outcome of regulatory meetings and reviews of lorundrostat or any future product candidates; • any delays and cost increases that may result from ~~the COVID- 19 or~~ **supply chain issues affected by** any ~~future pandemic~~ **pandemics or geopolitical conflicts** ; • the costs of obtaining, maintaining, enforcing , and protecting our patents and other intellectual property and proprietary rights; • our efforts to enhance operational systems and hire additional personnel to satisfy our obligations as a public company, including enhanced internal control over financial reporting; • the costs associated with hiring additional personnel and consultants as our business grows, including additional executive officers and clinical development, regulatory, CMC quality , and commercial personnel; ~~- 29-~~ • the timing and amount of the milestone, royalty , or other payments we must make to Mitsubishi Tanabe, from whom we have in- licensed lorundrostat, or any future licensors; • the costs and timing of establishing or securing sales and marketing capabilities if lorundrostat or any future product candidate is approved; • our ability to achieve sufficient market acceptance, coverage , and adequate reimbursement from third- party payors and adequate market share and revenue for any approved products; • our ability and strategic decision to develop future product candidates other than lorundrostat, and the timing of such development, if any; • patients' willingness to pay out- of- pocket for any approved products in the absence of coverage and / or adequate reimbursement from third- party payors; • the terms and timing of establishing and maintaining collaborations, licenses , and other similar arrangements; and • costs associated with any products or technologies that we may in- license or acquire. Conducting clinical trials and preclinical studies and potentially identifying future product candidates is a time-consuming, expensive , and uncertain process that takes years to complete, and we may never generate the necessary data or results required to obtain regulatory approval and commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates. If approved, lorundrostat and any future product candidates may not achieve commercial success. Our commercial revenue, if any, will initially be derived from sales of lorundrostat, which we do not **- 33-** expect to be commercially available for many years, if at all. Accordingly, we will need to continue to rely on additional financing to achieve our business objectives. Adequate additional financing may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. Raising additional capital may cause dilution to our stockholders , restrict our operations , or require us to relinquish rights to our technologies or product candidates. Until such time, if ever, as we can generate substantial product revenue, we expect to finance our cash needs through equity offerings, debt financings, or other capital sources, including potential collaborations, licenses , and other similar arrangements. We do not have any committed external source of funds. To the extent that we raise additional capital through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, your ownership interest may be diluted, and the terms of these securities may include liquidation or other preferences that adversely affect your rights as a common stockholder. 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. Such restrictions could adversely impact our ability to conduct our operations and execute our business plan. If we raise additional funds through future collaborations, licenses , and other similar arrangements, we may be required to relinquish valuable rights to our future revenue streams, product candidates, research programs, intellectual property or proprietary technology, or grant licenses on terms that may not be favorable to us and / or that may reduce the value of our common stock. If we are unable to raise additional funds through equity or debt financings or other arrangements when needed or on terms acceptable to us, we would be required to delay, limit, reduce, or terminate our product development or future commercialization efforts, or grant rights to develop and market product candidates that we might otherwise prefer to develop and market ourselves, or on less favorable terms than we would otherwise choose. Risks Related to the Development and Regulatory Approval of Our Product Candidates We currently depend entirely on the success of lorundrostat, which is our only product candidate. If we are unable to advance lorundrostat in clinical development, obtain regulatory approval , and ultimately commercialize lorundrostat, or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed. We currently only have one product candidate, lorundrostat, the intellectual property for which we have in- licensed and which is in ~~Phase 2~~ clinical development. Our business presently depends entirely on our ability to successfully develop, obtain regulatory approval for, and commercialize lorundrostat in a timely manner. This may make an investment in our company riskier than similar companies that have multiple product candidates in active development and may be able to better sustain the delay or failure of a lead product candidate. In addition, our assumptions about lorundrostat' s development potential are partially based on the data generated from preclinical studies and clinical trials ~~- 30-~~ conducted by our licensor , and we may observe materially and adversely different results as we continue to conduct our clinical trials. The success of lorundrostat will depend on several factors, including the following: • successful initiation and enrollment of clinical trials and completion of clinical trials with favorable results; • acceptance of regulatory submissions by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities for the conduct of preclinical studies and clinical trials of lorundrostat ~~and our~~ **, including any** proposed ~~design~~ **designs** of **any** planned clinical studies and clinical trials of lorundrostat; • the frequency and severity of adverse events in preclinical and clinical trials; • maintaining relationships with preclinical vendors to ensure successful completion of preclinical studies with favorable results, including toxicology and other studies designed to be compliant with GLPs; **- 34-** • maintaining and establishing relationships with contract research organizations (CROs) and clinical sites for the clinical development of lorundrostat, and ability of such CROs and clinical sites to comply with clinical trial protocols, current Good Clinical Practices (cGCPs) , and other applicable requirements; • demonstrating the safety and efficacy of lorundrostat to the satisfaction of applicable regulatory authorities, including by establishing a safety database of a size satisfactory to regulatory authorities; • receipt and maintenance of marketing approvals from applicable regulatory authorities for the initial and any additional indications; • maintain relationships with our third- party manufacturers and their ability to comply with cGMPs as well as making arrangements with our third- party manufacturers for, or establishing our own, commercial manufacturing capabilities at a cost and scale sufficient to support commercialization; • establishing sales,

marketing , and distribution capabilities and launching commercial sales of lorundrostat, if and when approved, whether alone or in collaboration with others; • obtaining, establishing, maintaining , and enforcing patent and any potential trade secret protection or regulatory exclusivity for lorundrostat; • maintaining an acceptable safety profile of lorundrostat following regulatory approval, if any; • maintaining and growing an organization of people who can develop and, if approved, commercialize, market , and sell lorundrostat; and • acceptance of our products, if approved, by patients, the medical community , and third- party payors. If we are unable to develop, receive marketing approval for , and successfully commercialize lorundrostat, or if we experience delays as a result of any of the above factors or otherwise, our business would be significantly harmed. Clinical and preclinical development involves a lengthy and expensive process with uncertain timelines and outcomes, and results of prior clinical trials and studies of lorundrostat are not necessarily predictive of future results. Lorundrostat may not achieve favorable results in our nonclinical studies or clinical trials or receive regulatory approval on a timely basis, if at all. Clinical and preclinical development is expensive and can take many years to complete, and its outcome is inherently uncertain. We cannot guarantee that any clinical trials or preclinical studies will be conducted as planned or completed on schedule, if at all, and failure can occur at any time during the trial or study process. Despite promising preclinical or clinical results, any product candidate can unexpectedly fail at any stage of clinical development. The historical failure rate for product candidates in our industry is high, particularly in the earlier stages of development. The results from preclinical studies or clinical trials of a product candidate or a competitor' s product candidate in the same class may not predict the results of later clinical trials of our product candidate, and interim, topline, or preliminary results of a clinical trial are not necessarily indicative of final results. Product candidates in later stages of clinical trials may fail to show the desired safety and efficacy characteristics despite having progressed through preclinical studies and initial clinical trials. For example, while we have completed the Target- HTN Phase 2 clinical trial of lorundrostat ~~,~~ with 200 patients who had either completed eight weeks of treatment ~~in,~~ or withdrew from the trial, this population represents a small sample size relative to our targeted enrollment for our **currently ongoing or** future planned clinical trials. As a ~~- 31 -~~ result, we do not know how lorundrostat will perform in **currently ongoing or** future clinical trials. It is not uncommon to observe results in **- 35-** clinical trials that are unexpected based on earlier clinical trials and preclinical studies, and many product candidates fail in clinical trials despite very promising early results. A number of companies in the biopharmaceutical and biotechnology industries have suffered significant setbacks in clinical development even after achieving promising results in earlier studies. Such setbacks have occurred and may occur for many reasons, including, but not limited to: clinical sites and investigators may deviate from clinical trial protocols, whether due to lack of training or otherwise, and we may fail to detect any such deviations in a timely manner; patients may fail to adhere to any required clinical trial procedures, including any requirements for post- treatment follow- up; our product candidates may fail to demonstrate effectiveness or safety in certain patient subpopulations, which has not been observed in earlier trials due to limited sample size, lack of analysis , or otherwise; or our clinical trials may not adequately represent the patient populations we intend to treat, whether due to limitations in our trial designs or otherwise, such as where one patient subgroup is overrepresented in the clinical trial. There can be no assurance that we will not suffer similar setbacks despite the data we observed in earlier or ongoing studies. Based ~~upon~~ **on** negative or inconclusive results, we or any future collaborator may decide, or regulators may require us, to conduct additional preclinical studies or clinical trials, which would cause us to incur additional operating expenses and delays and may not be sufficient to support regulatory approval on a timely basis or at all. As a result, we cannot be certain that our **currently** ongoing ~~and~~ **or future** planned clinical trials and preclinical studies will be successful. Any safety concerns observed in any one of our clinical trials in our targeted indications could limit the prospects for regulatory approval of lorundrostat in those and other indications, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. Any difficulties or delays in the commencement or completion, or the termination or suspension, of our current or ~~planned~~ **future** clinical trials or preclinical studies could result in increased costs to us, delay or limit our ability to generate revenue , or adversely affect our commercial prospects. Before obtaining marketing approval from regulatory authorities for the sale of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, we must conduct extensive clinical trials to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the product candidates in humans. Before we can initiate clinical trials for any future product candidates, we must submit the results of preclinical studies to the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities along with other information, including information about product candidate chemistry, manufacturing and controls , and our proposed clinical trial protocol, as part of an ~~investigational new drug application (~~ IND ~~)~~ or similar regulatory submission. The FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may require us to conduct additional preclinical studies for any product candidate before it allows us to initiate clinical trials under any IND or similar regulatory submission, which may lead to delays and increase the costs of our preclinical development programs. Moreover, even if we commence clinical trials, issues may arise that could cause regulatory authorities to suspend or terminate such clinical trials. Any such delays in the commencement or completion, or the termination or suspension, of our ongoing and planned clinical trials or preclinical studies for lorundrostat and any future product candidate could significantly affect our product development timelines and product development costs. We do not know whether our ~~planned~~ **current or future** clinical trials and preclinical studies will begin on time or be completed on schedule, if at all. The commencement, data readouts , and completion of clinical trials , and preclinical studies can be delayed for a number of reasons, including delays related to: • inability to obtain animals or materials to initiate and generate sufficient preclinical, toxicology, or other in vivo or in vitro data to support the initiation or continuation of clinical trials; • obtaining allowance from regulatory authorities to commence a trial or reaching a consensus with regulatory authorities on trial design; • the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities disagreeing as to the design or implementation of our clinical trials; **- 36-** • any failure or delay in reaching an agreement with CROs and clinical trial sites, the terms of which can be subject to extensive negotiation and may vary significantly among different CROs and trial sites; • delays in identifying, recruiting , and training suitable clinical investigators; • obtaining approval from one or more IRBs or ECs at clinical trial sites; • IRBs / ECs refusing to approve, suspending , or terminating the trial at an investigational site, precluding enrollment of

additional subjects, or withdrawing their approval of the trial; ~~- 32 -~~ • major changes or amendments to the clinical trial protocol; • clinical sites deviating from the trial protocol or dropping out of a trial; • failure by our CROs to perform in accordance with cGCP requirements or applicable regulatory guidelines in other countries; • obtaining raw materials for manufacturing sufficient quantities of lorundrostat or obtaining sufficient quantities of combination therapies or other materials needed for use in clinical trials and preclinical trials; • obtaining adequate materials for packaging clinical trial material; • expiration of the shelf life of clinical material for use in clinical trials prior to the enrollment of any of our clinical trials; • subjects failing to enroll or remain in our trials at the rate we expect, or failing to return for post- treatment follow- up, including subjects failing to remain in our trials due to movement restrictions, health reasons **,** or otherwise resulting from **any** ~~the COVID- 19~~ pandemic or ~~any future~~ public health concerns; • individuals choosing an alternative product for the indications for which we are developing lorundrostat or any future product candidates, or participating in competing clinical trials; • lack of adequate funding to continue the clinical trials, preclinical trials, manufacturing **,** or incurring greater costs than we anticipate; • subjects experiencing severe or serious unexpected drug- related adverse effects; • occurrence of serious adverse events in trials of the same class of agents conducted by other companies that could be considered similar to lorundrostat or any future product candidates; • selection of clinical endpoints that require prolonged periods of clinical observation or extended analysis of the resulting data; • transfer of manufacturing processes to larger- scale facilities operated by a contract manufacturing organization (CMO), delays or failure by our CMOs or us to make any necessary changes to such manufacturing process, or failure of our CMOs to produce clinical trial materials in accordance with cGMP regulations or other applicable requirements; and • third parties being unwilling or unable to satisfy their contractual obligations to us in a timely manner. In addition, disruptions caused by **any** ~~the COVID- 19~~ pandemic **or geopolitical conflicts** may increase the likelihood that we encounter such difficulties or delays in initiating, enrolling, conducting **,** or completing our **currently** ~~planned and~~ ongoing **or future** clinical trials. **- 37-** Clinical trials must be conducted in accordance with the FDA and other applicable regulatory authorities' legal requirements, regulations **,** or guidelines, and are subject to oversight by these governmental agencies and ECs or IRBs at the medical institutions where the clinical trials are conducted. We could also encounter delays if a clinical trial is suspended or terminated by us, by the IRBs of the institutions in which such trials are being conducted, by a data safety monitoring board for such trial **,** or by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities. Such authorities may impose such a suspension or termination due to a number of factors, including failure to conduct the clinical trial in accordance **with** GCP and other ~~with~~ regulatory requirements or our clinical protocols, inspection of the clinical trial operations or trial site by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities resulting in the imposition of a clinical hold, unforeseen safety issues or adverse side effects, failure to demonstrate a benefit from using a drug, changes in governmental regulations or administrative actions **,** or lack of adequate funding to continue the clinical trial. For example, the IRB for the lorundrostat Phase 2 clinical trial terminated one of the clinical sites due to failure to comply with the study protocol and GCP. In addition, changes in regulatory requirements and policies may occur, and we may need to amend clinical trial protocols to comply with these changes. Amendments may require us to resubmit our clinical trial protocols to IRBs for reexamination, which may impact the costs, timing **,** or successful completion of a clinical trial. Further, conducting clinical trials in foreign countries, as has been done for lorundrostat and intended to be done in the future for lorundrostat or any future product candidates, presents additional risks that may delay completion of our clinical trials. These risks include the failure of enrolled subjects in foreign countries to adhere to clinical protocols as a ~~- 33 -~~ result of differences in healthcare services or cultural customs, managing additional administrative burdens associated with foreign regulatory schemes, and political and economic risks, including war, relevant to such foreign countries. Moreover, principal investigators for our clinical trials may serve as scientific advisors or consultants to us from time to time and receive compensation in connection with such services. Under certain circumstances, we may be required to report some of these relationships to the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities. The FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authority may conclude that a financial relationship between us and a principal investigator has created a conflict of interest or otherwise affected interpretation of the study. The FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authority may therefore question the integrity of the data generated at the applicable clinical trial site and the utility of the clinical trial itself may be jeopardized. This could result in a delay in approval, or rejection, of our marketing applications by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authority, as the case may be, and may ultimately lead to the denial of marketing approval of one or more of our product candidates. In addition, many of the factors that cause, or lead to, the termination or suspension of, or a delay in the commencement or completion of, clinical trials may also ultimately lead to the denial of regulatory approval of a product candidate. We may make formulation or manufacturing changes to lorundrostat or any future product candidates, in which case we may need to conduct additional preclinical studies or clinical trials to bridge our modified product candidates to earlier versions. Any resulting delays to our clinical trials could shorten any period during which we may have the exclusive right to commercialize our product candidates. In such cases, our competitors may be able to bring products to market before we do, and the commercial viability of lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be significantly reduced. Any of these occurrences may harm our business, financial condition **,** and prospects. We may find it difficult to enroll patients in our clinical trials. If we encounter difficulties or delays enrolling patients in our clinical trials, our clinical development activities could be delayed or otherwise adversely affected. Successful and timely completion of clinical trials will require that we identify and enroll a specified number of patients for each of our clinical trials. We may not be able to initiate or continue clinical trials for lorundrostat or any future product candidates if we are unable to identify and enroll a sufficient number of eligible patients to participate in these trials as required by the FDA or similar regulatory authorities outside the **- 38-** United States. Subject enrollment, a significant factor in the timing of clinical trials, is affected by many factors, including the size and characteristics of the patient population, the proximity of patients to clinical sites, the eligibility and exclusion criteria for the trial, the design of the clinical trial, the ability to obtain and maintain informed consents, the risk that enrolled patients will not complete a clinical trial, our ability to recruit clinical trial investigators with the appropriate competencies and experience, and competing clinical trials and clinicians' and patients' perceptions as to the

potential advantages and risks of the product candidate being studied in relation to other available therapies, including any new products that may be approved for the indications we are investigating as well as any product candidates under development. We will be required to identify and enroll a sufficient number of patients for each of our clinical trials and monitor such patients adequately during and after treatment. Potential patients for any planned clinical trials may not be adequately diagnosed or identified with the diseases ~~which~~ **that** we are targeting, which could adversely impact the outcomes of our trials and could have safety concerns for the potential patients. Potential patients for any planned clinical trials may also not meet the entry criteria for such trials. Additionally, other pharmaceutical companies targeting these same diseases are recruiting clinical trial patients from these patient populations, which may make it more difficult to fully enroll our clinical trials. We may not be able to initiate or continue clinical trials if we are unable to locate a sufficient number of eligible patients to participate in the clinical trials required by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities. In addition, the process of finding and recruiting patients may prove costly. The timing of our clinical trials depends, in part, on the speed at which we can recruit patients to participate in our trials, as well as completion of required follow- up periods. The eligibility criteria of our clinical trials, once established, may further limit the pool of available trial participants. If patients are unwilling or unable to participate in our trials for any reason, including the existence of concurrent clinical trials for similar target populations, the availability of approved or authorized therapies, ~~the effects of the COVID- 19 pandemic,~~ or the fact that enrolling in our trials may prevent patients from taking a different product, or we otherwise have difficulty enrolling a sufficient number of patients, the timeline for recruiting patients, conducting trials **,** and obtaining regulatory approval of our product candidates may be delayed. Our inability to enroll a specified number of patients for any of our future clinical trials would result in significant delays or may require us to abandon one or more clinical trials altogether. In addition, we rely on, and will continue to rely on, CROs and clinical trial sites to ensure proper and timely conduct of our clinical trials and preclinical studies. Though we have entered into agreements governing their services, we will have limited influence over their actual performance. ~~- 34 -~~ We cannot assure you that our assumptions used in determining expected clinical trial timelines are correct or that we will not experience delays or difficulties in enrollment, or be required by the FDA or other regulatory ~~authority~~ **authorities** to increase our enrollment, which would result in the delay of completion of such trials beyond our expected timelines **. Use of lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be associated with adverse side effects, adverse events, or other properties or safety risks, which could delay or preclude regulatory approval, cause us to suspend or discontinue clinical trials, abandon a product candidate, limit the commercial profile of an approved label, or result in other significant negative consequences that could severely harm our business, prospects, operating results, and financial condition** . As is the case with biopharmaceuticals generally, it is likely that there may be adverse side effects associated with lorundrostat or any future product candidates' use. Results of our clinical trials could reveal a high and unacceptable severity and prevalence of expected or unexpected side effects or unexpected characteristics. Undesirable side effects caused by our product candidates when used alone or in combination with approved or investigational drugs could cause us or regulatory authorities to interrupt, delay **,** or halt clinical trials and could result in a more restrictive label, or lead to the delay or denial of regulatory approval by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities. The drug- related side effects could affect patient recruitment or the ability of enrolled patients to complete the trial or result in potential product liability claims. Any of these occurrences could severely harm our business, prospects, operating results **,** and financial condition. **- 39-** Moreover, if lorundrostat or any future product candidates are associated with undesirable side effects in clinical trials or demonstrate characteristics that are unexpected, we may elect to abandon their development or limit their development to more narrow uses or subpopulations in which the undesirable side effects or other characteristics are less prevalent, less severe **,** or more acceptable from a risk- benefit perspective, which may limit the commercial expectations for the product candidate if approved. We may also be required to modify our development and clinical trial plans based on findings in our ongoing clinical trials. Many compounds that initially showed promise in early- stage testing have later been found to cause side effects that prevented further development of the compounds. It is possible that as we test lorundrostat or any future product candidates in larger, longer **,** and more extensive clinical trials, including with different dosing regimens, or as the use of these product candidates becomes more widespread following any regulatory approval, more illnesses, injuries, discomforts **,** and other adverse events than were observed in earlier trials, as well as new conditions that did not occur or went undetected in previous trials, may be discovered. If such side effects become known later in development or upon approval, if any, such findings may harm our business, financial condition **,** and prospects significantly. In addition, if lorundrostat or any future product candidates ~~receives~~ **receive** marketing approval, and we or others later identify undesirable side effects caused by such product, a number of potentially significant negative consequences could result, including: • regulatory authorities may withdraw, suspend **,** or limit approvals of such product, or seek an injunction against its manufacture or distribution; • we may be required to recall a product or change the way such product is administered to patients; • regulatory authorities may require additional warnings on the label, such as a " black box " warning or a contraindication; • we may be required to change the way a product is distributed or administered, conduct additional clinical trials ~~or~~ **,** change the labeling of a product **,** or be required to conduct additional post- marketing studies or surveillance; • we could be sued and held liable for harm caused to patients; • sales of the product may decrease significantly or the product could become less competitive; and • our reputation may suffer. Any of these events could prevent us from achieving or maintaining market acceptance of the particular product candidate, if approved, and could significantly harm our business, results of operations **,** and prospects. ~~- 35 -~~ We may not be successful in our efforts to investigate lorundrostat in additional indications. We may expend our limited resources to pursue, acquire **,** or license a new product candidate or a particular indication for lorundrostat and fail to capitalize on product candidates or indications that may be more profitable or for which there is a greater likelihood of success. Because we have limited financial and managerial resources, we focus on specific indications for lorundrostat. We may fail to generate additional clinical development opportunities for lorundrostat for a number of reasons, including that lorundrostat may in indications we are seeking or may seek in the future, on further study, be shown to have harmful side effects, limited to no efficacy, or other characteristics that suggest

it is unlikely to receive marketing approval and achieve market acceptance in such additional potential indications. Our resource allocation and other decisions may cause us to fail to identify and capitalize on viable potential product candidates or additional indications for lorundrostat. Our spending on current and future research and development programs for new product candidates or additional indications for existing product **- 40-** candidates may not yield any commercially viable product candidates or indications. If we do not accurately evaluate the commercial potential or target market for a particular indication or product candidate, we may fail to develop such product candidate or indication, or relinquish valuable rights to that product candidate through collaborations, license agreements **,** and other similar arrangements in cases where it would have been more advantageous for us to retain sole development and commercialization rights to such indication or product candidate, or negotiate less advantageous terms for any such arrangements than is optimal. Additionally, we may pursue additional in- licenses or acquisitions of development- stage assets or programs, which entails additional risk to us. Identifying, selecting **,** and acquiring promising product candidates requires substantial technical, financial **,** and human resources expertise. Efforts to do so may not result in the actual acquisition or license of a particular product candidate, potentially resulting in a diversion of our management' s time and the expenditure of our resources with no resulting benefit. For example, if we are unable to identify programs that ultimately result in approved products, we may spend material amounts of our capital and other resources evaluating, acquiring **,** and developing products that ultimately do not provide a return on our investment. We **are conducting and** intend to conduct some of our clinical trials for lorundrostat outside of the United States. However, the FDA and other foreign equivalents may not accept data from such trials, in which case our development plans will be delayed, which could materially harm our business. We **are conducting and** intend to conduct one or more of our clinical trials for our lorundrostat product candidate outside the United States. The acceptance of study data from clinical trials conducted outside the **United States** ~~U. S.~~ or another jurisdiction by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory ~~authority~~ **authorities** may be subject to certain conditions or may not be accepted at all. In cases where data from foreign clinical trials are intended to serve as the sole basis for marketing approval in the United States, the FDA will generally not approve the application on the basis of foreign data alone unless (i) the data are applicable to the U. S. population and U. S. medical practice; (ii) the trials were performed by clinical investigators of recognized competence and pursuant to GCP regulations; and (iii) the data may be considered valid without the need for an on- site inspection by the FDA, or if the FDA considers such inspection to be necessary, the FDA is able to validate the data through an on- site inspection or other appropriate means. In addition, even where the foreign study data are not intended to serve as the sole basis for approval, the FDA will not accept the data as support for an application for marketing approval unless the study is well- designed and well- conducted in accordance with GCP requirements and the FDA is able to validate the data from the study through an onsite inspection if deemed necessary. We **are** currently **conducting and** plan to conduct part of ~~the~~ **our** future clinical program for lorundrostat in the European Union. While data from clinical trial sites in such countries will not serve as the sole basis for FDA approval, any foreign data we use as part of any NDA submission will be subject to the foregoing FDA requirements and standards. Many foreign regulatory authorities have similar approval requirements. There can be no assurance that the FDA or any comparable foreign regulatory authority will accept data from trials conducted outside of the United States or the applicable jurisdiction. If the FDA or any comparable foreign regulatory authority does not accept such data, it would result in the need for additional trials, which could be costly and time- consuming, and which may result in current or future product candidates that we may develop not receiving approval for commercialization in the applicable jurisdiction. In addition, such foreign trials would be subject to the applicable local laws of the foreign jurisdictions where the trials are conducted, which may increase costs or time required to complete the clinical trial. Conducting clinical trials outside the United States also exposes us to additional risks, including risks associated with: • additional foreign regulatory requirements; • foreign exchange fluctuations; ~~- 36-~~ • compliance with foreign manufacturing, customs, shipment **,** and storage requirements; **- 41-** • inconsistent standards for reporting and evaluating clinical data and adverse events; • ~~COVID- 19~~ **diminished protection of intellectual property in some countries; • political instability, civil unrest, war, or similar events that may jeopardize** ~~or~~ **our** ~~any other pandemic~~ **ability to commence, conduct,** or **complete a clinical trial and evaluate resulting data; and •** any future **pandemics or** public health concerns ~~; • diminished protection of intellectual property in some countries; and • political instability, civil unrest, war or similar events that may jeopardize our ability to commence, conduct or complete a clinical trial and evaluate resulting data~~ . Interim, topline **,** and preliminary data from our clinical trials and preclinical studies that we announce or publish from time to time may change as more patient data become available and are subject to audit and verification procedures that could result in material changes in the final data. From time to time, we may publicly disclose interim, topline, or preliminary data from our clinical trials and preclinical studies, which is based on a preliminary analysis of then- available data, and the results and related findings and conclusions are subject to change following a more comprehensive review of the data related to the particular study or trial. We also make assumptions, estimations, calculations **,** and conclusions as part of our analyses of data, and we may not have received or had the opportunity to fully and carefully evaluate all data. As a result, the interim, topline, or preliminary results that we report may differ from future results of the same studies or trials, or different conclusions or considerations may qualify such results, once additional data have been received and fully evaluated. Topline and preliminary data also remain subject to audit and verification procedures that may result in the final data being materially different from the topline or preliminary data we previously published. As a result, topline and preliminary data should be viewed with caution until the final data are available. Interim data from clinical trials that we may complete are further subject to the risk that one or more of the clinical outcomes may materially change as patient enrollment continues and more patient data become available. Adverse differences between interim, topline, or preliminary data and final data could significantly harm our business prospects. Further, disclosure of interim data by us or by our competitors could result in volatility in the price of our common stock. In addition, others, including regulatory authorities, may not accept or agree with our assumptions, estimates, calculations, conclusions **,** or analyses or may interpret or weigh the importance of data differently, which could impact the value of the particular program, the approvability **,** or commercialization

of the particular product candidate or product and our company in general. Moreover, the information we choose to publicly disclose regarding a particular study or clinical trial is based on what is typically extensive information, and you or others may not agree with what we determine is material or otherwise appropriate information to include in our disclosure, and any information we determine not to disclose may ultimately be deemed significant with respect to future decisions, conclusions, views, activities **,** or otherwise regarding a particular drug, product candidate **,** or our business. If the interim, topline, or preliminary data that we report differ from actual results, or if others, including regulatory authorities, disagree with the conclusions reached, our ability to obtain approval for, and commercialize, lorundrostat and any future product candidates may be harmed, which could harm our business, operating results, prospects or financial condition. Changes in methods of product candidate manufacturing or formulation may result in additional costs or ~~delay~~ **delays** . As product candidates progress through clinical trials to marketing 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 safety, efficacy, yield **,** and manufacturing batch size, minimize costs and achieve consistent quality and results. For example, the manufacturing process being used to produce clinical material for our planned clinical trials is different than that used in prior trials of lorundrostat. There can be no assurance that such changes will achieve these intended objectives. These changes and any future changes we may make to lorundrostat or any future product candidates may also cause such candidates to perform **- 42-** differently and affect the results of future clinical trials conducted with the altered materials. Such changes or related unfavorable clinical trial results could delay initiation or completion of additional clinical trials, require the conduct of bridging studies or clinical trials or the repetition of one or more studies or clinical trials, increase development costs, delay or prevent potential marketing approval **,** and jeopardize our ability to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates, if approved, and generate revenue. ~~- 37-~~ Disruptions at the FDA and other government agencies caused by funding shortages or global health concerns could hinder their ability to hire, retain **,** or deploy key leadership and other personnel, or otherwise prevent new or modified products from being developed, approved **,** or commercialized in a timely manner or at all, which could negatively impact our business. The ability of the FDA and other government agencies to review and approve new products can be affected by a variety of factors, including government budget and funding levels, statutory, regulatory **,** and policy changes, a government agency' s ability to hire and retain key personnel and accept the payment of user fees, and other events that may otherwise affect the government agency' s ability to perform routine functions. Average review times at the FDA and other government agencies have fluctuated in recent years as a result. In addition, government funding of other government agencies that fund research and development activities is subject to the political process, which is inherently fluid and unpredictable. Disruptions at the FDA and other agencies may also slow the time necessary for new drugs or modifications to approved drugs to be reviewed and / or approved by necessary government agencies, which would adversely affect our business. For example, over the last several years, the U. S. government has shut down several times and certain regulatory agencies, such as the FDA, have had to furlough critical employees and stop critical activities. Separately, in response to the COVID- 19 pandemic, the FDA postponed most inspections of domestic and foreign manufacturing facilities at various points. Even though the FDA has since resumed standard inspection operations of domestic facilities ~~where feasible~~ , the FDA has continued to monitor and implement changes to its inspectional activities to ensure the safety of its employees and those of the firms it regulates as it adapts to the evolving COVID- 19 pandemic, and any resurgence of the virus or emergence of new variants may lead to further inspectional delays. Regulatory authorities outside the United States may adopt similar restrictions or other policy measures in ~~response to~~ the **future** ~~COVID- 19 pandemic~~ . If a prolonged government shutdown occurs, or if **future** global health concerns ~~continue to~~ prevent the FDA or other regulatory authorities from conducting their regular inspections, reviews **,** or other regulatory activities, it could significantly impact the ability of the FDA or other regulatory authorities to timely review and process our regulatory submissions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business. Risks Related to Our Reliance on Third Parties We heavily rely on our exclusive **Mitsubishi** ~~license~~ **License** with Mitsubishi Tanabe to provide us with intellectual property rights to develop and commercialize lorundrostat. If ~~this~~ **the Mitsubishi** ~~license~~ **License** is terminated, we would lose our rights to develop and commercialize lorundrostat. Pursuant to ~~our~~ **the Mitsubishi** ~~license~~ **License** with Mitsubishi Tanabe ~~(the Mitsubishi License)~~ , we have, among other things, secured an exclusive, royalty- bearing license from Mitsubishi Tanabe under certain patents and know- how relating to lorundrostat to commercialize lorundrostat globally for the prevention, treatment, diagnosis, detection, monitoring **,** or predisposition testing with respect to ~~indications, diseases and conditions in humans (~~ the Field ~~)~~ . The Mitsubishi License expires on a country- by- country basis and **Lorundrostat** ~~product~~ **Product** - by- **Lorundrostat** ~~product~~ **Product** basis upon the expiration of the applicable royalty term with respect to each **Lorundrostat** ~~product~~ **Product** in each country, as applicable, or in its entirety upon the expiration of the royalty term with respect to the last **Lorundrostat** ~~product~~ **Product** commercialized in the last country, unless terminated earlier. We may terminate the Mitsubishi License in its entirety or on a **Lorundrostat** Product- by- **Lorundrostat** Product or country- by- country basis at our discretion upon (i) ninety days prior written notice to Mitsubishi Tanabe with respect to any country for which there is not a **Lorundrostat** Product approved by the ~~Regulatory~~ **regulatory** ~~Authority~~ **authority** ~~,~~ **;** and (ii) one hundred and eighty days prior written notice to Mitsubishi Tanabe with respect to any country for which there is a **Lorundrostat** Product approved by the ~~Regulatory~~ **regulatory** ~~Authority~~ **authority** . We and Mitsubishi Tanabe may terminate the Mitsubishi License in the case of the other party' s insolvency, or upon **- 43-** prior written notice within a specified time period for the other party' s material uncured breach. Mitsubishi Tanabe may terminate the Mitsubishi License in its entirety if (i) we challenge the licensed patents, or assist any third party in challenging such patents; or (ii) have not initiated regulatory consultation for the first global clinical trials of lorundrostat in at least one major market country within a specified amount of time. In addition, if any of the regulatory milestones or other cash payments become due under the terms of the Mitsubishi License, and we do not have sufficient funds available to meet our obligations, Mitsubishi Tanabe has the right to terminate the Mitsubishi License upon our uncured failure to pay Mitsubishi Tanabe. If the Mitsubishi License is terminated, we would lose our rights to develop and commercialize

lorundrostat, which in turn would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects, including, but not limited to, cessation of our operations to the extent we are unable to develop other product candidates at the time of such termination. Additionally, pursuant to the ~~license agreement with~~ Mitsubishi ~~Tanabe~~ **License** , if we elect to sublicense our rights under the Mitsubishi License to a third party with respect to exploitation of lorundrostat or any Lorundrostat Product in certain countries in Asia, we agreed to negotiate such a sublicense first, for a specified period of time, with Mitsubishi Tanabe, if Mitsubishi Tanabe notifies us that it would like to obtain such a sublicense. We also agreed not to commercialize any competing product prior to three years following the first commercial sale of the first Lorundrostat Product in any country ~~- 38 -~~ without Mitsubishi Tanabe' s prior consent. Lastly, if Mitsubishi Tanabe is interested in obtaining rights to any product or compound other than a Lorundrostat Product, in the Field, which we may develop in the future, we are obligated to negotiate with Mitsubishi Tanabe in good faith for a certain period of time to provide it a non- exclusive, royalty- bearing license under certain of our know- how and patents to exploit such product or compound on terms and conditions to be mutually agreed to by the parties in their discretion. Accordingly, we may be obligated to enter into collaborations with Mitsubishi Tanabe in the future, even if we prefer another counterparty for strategic or other reasons, we are obligated to license certain of our future product candidates (if any) even if we would prefer to retain the use of such intellectual property, and we may not commercialize competing products for a certain period of time, even if we believe this presents a commercial opportunity. For additional information on the Mitsubishi License, see " Business — License Agreement with Mitsubishi Tanabe. " We **rely on and intend to continue to rely on third parties to conduct, supervise, and monitor our clinical trials and preclinical studies. If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties, comply with applicable regulatory requirements, or meet expected deadlines, our development programs and our ability to seek or obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize lorundrostat and any future product candidates may be delayed or subject to increased costs, each of which may have an adverse effect on our business and prospects. We** are dependent on third parties to conduct our clinical trials and preclinical studies. Specifically, we rely on, and intend to continue to rely on, medical institutions, clinical investigators, CROs , and consultants to conduct preclinical studies and clinical trials, in each case in accordance with our clinical protocols and regulatory requirements. These CROs, investigators , and other third parties play a significant role in the conduct and timing of these trials and subsequent collection and analysis of data. Though we expect to carefully manage our relationships with our CROs, investigators , and other third parties, there can be no assurance that we will not encounter challenges or delays in the future or that these delays or challenges will not have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition , and prospects. Further, while we have and will have agreements governing the activities of our third- party contractors, we have limited influence over their actual performance. Nevertheless, we are responsible for ensuring that each of our clinical trials is conducted in accordance with the applicable protocol and legal, regulatory , and scientific standards and requirements, and our reliance on our CROs and other third parties does not relieve us of our regulatory responsibilities. In addition, we and our CROs are required to comply with GLP and GCP requirements, which are regulations and guidelines enforced by the FDA and comparable foreign regulatory authorities for lorundrostat and any future product candidates in clinical development. Regulatory authorities enforce these GCPs through periodic inspections of trial sponsors, principal investigators , and trial sites. If we or any of our CROs or trial sites fail to comply with applicable GLP or GCP or other requirements, the clinical data generated in our clinical trials may **- 44 -** be deemed unreliable, and the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may require us to perform additional clinical trials before approving our marketing applications. For example, the conduct of the lorundrostat Phase 2 clinical trial at one of our clinical sites was terminated by the IRB following our report to the IRB regarding such site' s failure to comply with GCP, which we observed during one of our routine clinical site inspections. Furthermore, our clinical trials must be conducted with products produced under cGMP regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations may require us to repeat clinical trials, which would delay the regulatory approval process. There is no guarantee that any of our CROs, investigators , or other third parties will devote adequate time and resources to such trials or studies or perform as contractually required. If any of these third parties fail to meet expected deadlines, adhere to our clinical protocols , or meet regulatory requirements, or otherwise perform in a substandard manner, our clinical trials may be extended, delayed , or terminated. In addition, many of the third parties with whom we contract may also have relationships with other commercial entities, including our competitors, for whom they may also be conducting clinical trials or other development activities that could harm our competitive position. In addition, principal investigators for our clinical trials are expected to serve as scientific advisors or consultants to us from time to time and may 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, or the FDA concludes that the financial relationship may have affected the interpretation of the study, the integrity of the data generated at the applicable clinical trial site may be questioned and the utility of the clinical trial itself may be jeopardized, which could result in the delay or rejection by the FDA of any NDA we submit. Any such delay or rejection could prevent us from receiving regulatory approval for, or commercializing lorundrostat and any future product candidates. Our CROs have the right to terminate their agreements with us in the event of an uncured material breach and under other specified circumstances. If any of our relationships with these third parties terminate, we may not be able to enter into arrangements with alternative third parties on commercially reasonable terms, in a timely manner or at all. Switching or adding additional CROs, investigators , and other third parties involves additional cost and requires our management' s time and focus. In addition, there is a natural transition period when a new CRO commences work. As a result, delays occur, which can materially impact our ability to meet our desired clinical development timelines. Though we ~~- 39 -~~ work to carefully manage our relationships with our CROs, investigators , and other third parties, there can be no assurance that we will not encounter challenges or delays in the future or that these delays or challenges will not have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition , and prospects. We currently rely on a third party for the manufacture of lorundrostat for clinical development and expect to continue to rely on third parties for the foreseeable future. This reliance on third parties increases the risk that we will not have sufficient quantities

of lorundrostat or such quantities at an acceptable cost, which could delay, prevent , or impair our development or potential commercialization efforts. We do not own or operate manufacturing facilities and have no plans to develop our own clinical or commercial- scale manufacturing capabilities. We rely on a third party ,~~-~~and expect to continue to rely ,~~-~~on third parties for the manufacture of lorundrostat and related raw materials for clinical development, as well as for commercial manufacture if lorundrostat or any future product candidates receive marketing approval. The facilities used by third- party manufacturers to manufacture lorundrostat must be approved by the FDA and any comparable foreign regulatory authority pursuant to inspections that will be conducted after we submit an NDA to the FDA or any comparable submission to a foreign regulatory authority. We do not control the manufacturing process of, and are completely dependent on, third- party manufacturers for compliance with cGMP requirements for manufacture of products. If these third- party manufacturers cannot successfully manufacture material that conforms to our specifications and the strict regulatory requirements of the FDA or any comparable foreign regulatory authority, they will not be able to secure and / or maintain regulatory approval for their manufacturing facilities. In addition, we have no control over the ability of third- party manufacturers to maintain adequate quality control, quality assurance , and qualified personnel. If the FDA or any comparable foreign regulatory authority does not approve these facilities for the manufacture of lorundrostat or if it **- 45-** withdraws any such approval in the future, we may need to find alternative manufacturing facilities, which would significantly impact our ability to develop, obtain regulatory approval for , or market lorundrostat, if approved. Our failure, or the failure of our third- party manufacturers, to comply with applicable regulations could result in sanctions being imposed on us, including clinical holds, fines, injunctions, civil penalties, delays, suspension , or withdrawal of approvals, seizures or recalls of lorundrostat or products, operating restrictions , and criminal prosecutions, any of which could significantly and adversely affect supplies of our products. Our or a third party' s failure to execute on our manufacturing requirements on commercially reasonable terms, in a timely manner , and in compliance with cGMP or other regulatory requirements could adversely affect our business in a number of ways, including: • an inability to initiate or continue clinical trials of lorundrostat or any future product candidates; • delay in submitting regulatory applications, or receiving marketing approvals, for lorundrostat or any future product candidates; • subjecting third- party manufacturing facilities or our potential future manufacturing facilities to additional inspections by regulatory authorities; • requirements to cease development or to recall batches of lorundrostat or any future product candidates; and • in the event of approval to market and commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates, an inability to meet commercial demands for lorundrostat or any future product candidates. In addition, we do not have any long- term commitments or supply agreements with any third- party manufacturers. We may be unable to establish any long- term supply agreements with third- party manufacturers or to do so on acceptable terms, which increases the risk of failing to timely obtain sufficient quantities of lorundrostat or such quantities at an acceptable cost. Even if we are able to establish agreements with third- party manufacturers, reliance on third- party manufacturers entails additional risks, including: • failure of third- party manufacturers to comply with regulatory requirements and maintain quality assurance; • breach of the manufacturing agreement by the third party; • failure to manufacture our product according to our specifications; • failure to obtain adequate raw materials and other materials required for manufacturing; • failure to manufacture our product according to our schedule or at all; ~~- 40-~~ • failure to successfully scale up manufacturing capacity, if required; • misappropriation of our proprietary information, including any potential trade secrets and know- how; and • termination or nonrenewal of the agreement by the third party at a time that is costly or inconvenient for us. Any performance failure on the part of our existing or future manufacturers could delay clinical development or marketing approval, or jeopardize our ability to commence or continue commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, and any related remedial measures may be costly or time **-** consuming to implement. We do not currently have arrangements in place for redundant supply or a second source for all required raw materials used in the manufacture of our product candidates. If our existing or future **- 46-** third- party manufacturers cannot perform as agreed, we may be required to replace such manufacturers and we may be unable to replace them on a timely basis or at all. Without additional suppliers of required raw materials, we may also be unable to meet the commercial needs of a commercial launch of any future product candidates. In addition, our current and anticipated future dependence upon others for the manufacture of lorundrostat and any future product candidates may adversely affect our future profit margins and our ability to commercialize any products that receive marketing approval on a timely and competitive basis. Our reliance on third parties requires us to share potential trade secrets, which increases the possibility that a competitor or other third party will discover them or that potential trade secrets will be misappropriated or disclosed. Because we currently rely on a third party to manufacture lorundrostat and to perform quality testing, we must, at times, share our proprietary technology and confidential information, including potential trade secrets, with them. We seek to protect our proprietary technology, in part, by entering into confidentiality agreements, and, if applicable, material transfer agreements, collaborative research agreements, consulting agreements , or other similar agreements with our collaborators, advisors, employees , and consultants prior to beginning research or disclosing proprietary information. These agreements typically limit the rights of the third ~~parties~~ **party** to use or disclose our confidential information, including any potential trade secrets. Despite the contractual provisions employed when working with third parties, the need to share trade secrets and other confidential information increases the risk that such trade secrets become known by our competitors or other third parties, are intentionally or 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 despite our efforts to protect any potential trade secrets, a competitor' s or other third party' s discovery of our proprietary technology and confidential information or other unauthorized use or disclosure of such technology or information would impair our competitive position and may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. We may seek to enter into collaborations, license agreements , and other similar arrangements and may not be successful in doing so, and even if we are, we may relinquish valuable rights and may not realize the benefits of such relationships, and our collaborations would be subject to other risks attendant to third party relationships, including inability to prevent or control actions taken or not taken

by such third parties which may adversely impact us. We may seek to enter into collaborations, joint ventures, license agreements , and other similar arrangements for the development or commercialization of lorundrostat and any future product candidates, due to capital costs required to develop or commercialize the product candidate or manufacturing constraints. We may not be successful in our efforts to establish or maintain such collaborations because our research and development pipeline may be insufficient, lorundrostat or any future product candidates may be deemed to be at too early of a stage of development for collaborative effort or third parties may not view our product candidates as having the requisite potential to demonstrate safety and efficacy or significant commercial opportunity. In addition, we face significant competition in seeking appropriate strategic partners, and the negotiation process can be time- consuming and complex. Even if we are successful in our efforts to establish such collaborations, the terms that we agree upon may not be favorable to us. For example, we may need to relinquish valuable rights to our future revenue streams, research programs, intellectual property , or product candidates, or grant licenses on terms that may not be favorable to us, as part of any such arrangement, and such arrangements may restrict us from entering into additional agreements with other potential collaborators. In addition, if we enter into such collaborations, we will have limited control over the amount and timing of resources that our collaborators will dedicate to the development or commercialization of our product candidates. Our ability to generate revenue from these arrangements will depend on any future collaborators' abilities to successfully perform the functions assigned to them in these arrangements. We cannot be certain that, following a collaboration, license , or strategic transaction, we will achieve an economic benefit that justifies such transaction.- ~~41-~~ **47** - Furthermore, we may not be able to maintain such collaborations if, for example, the development or approval of a product candidate is delayed, the safety of a product candidate is questioned , or the sales of an approved product candidate are unsatisfactory. Collaborations involving lorundrostat or any future product candidates would pose significant risks to us, including the following: • collaborators have significant discretion in determining the efforts and resources that they will apply to these collaborations; • collaborators may not perform their obligations as expected or at all; • we could grant exclusive rights to our collaborators that would prevent us from collaborating with others; • collaborators may not pursue development and commercialization of any product candidates that achieve regulatory approval or may elect not to continue or renew development or commercialization programs based on clinical trial results, changes in the collaborators' strategic focus or available funding, or external factors, such as an acquisition, that divert resources or create competing priorities; • collaborators may delay clinical trials, provide insufficient funding for a clinical trial program, stop a clinical trial or abandon a product candidate, repeat or conduct new clinical trials , or require a new formulation of a product candidate for clinical testing; • collaborators could independently develop, or develop with third parties, products that compete directly or indirectly with our product candidates if the collaborators believe that competitive products are more likely to be successfully developed or can be commercialized under terms that are more economically attractive than ours; • product candidates discovered in collaboration with us may be viewed by our collaborators as competitive with their own product candidates or drugs, which may cause collaborators to cease to devote resources to the commercialization of our product candidates; • a collaborator with marketing and distribution rights to any product candidate that achieves regulatory approval may not commit sufficient resources to the marketing and distribution of such products; • a collaborator' s sales and marketing activities or other operations may not be in compliance with applicable laws, resulting in civil or criminal proceedings; • disagreements with collaborators, including disagreements over proprietary rights, contract interpretation , or the preferred course of development, might cause delays in or termination of the research, 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 enforce, maintain , or defend our or their intellectual property rights or may use our or their proprietary information in such a way as to invite litigation that could jeopardize or invalidate such intellectual property or proprietary information or expose us to potential litigation; • collaborators may infringe, misappropriate , or otherwise violate the intellectual property rights of third parties, which may expose us to litigation and potential liability; **- 48-** • collaborators may not provide us with timely and accurate information regarding development, regulatory , or commercialization status or results, which could adversely impact our ability to manage our own development efforts, accurately forecast financial results , or provide timely information to our stockholders regarding our out- licensed product candidates; • we may be required to invest resources and attention into such collaboration, which could distract from other business objectives; • disputes may arise between the collaborators and us regarding ownership of or other rights in the intellectual property generated in the course of the collaborations; ~~- 42 -~~ • collaboration agreements may not lead to development or commercialization of product candidates in the most efficient manner or at all; • if a collaborator of ours were to be involved in a business combination, the continued pursuit and emphasis on our product development or commercialization program could be delayed, diminished , or terminated; and • collaborations may be terminated, including for the convenience of the collaborator, prior to or upon the expiration of the agreed - upon terms and, if terminated, we may find it more difficult to enter into future collaborations or be required to raise additional capital to pursue further development or commercialization of the applicable product candidates. Any termination of collaborations we enter into in the future, or any delay in entering into collaborations related to lorundrostat or any future product candidates, could delay the development and commercialization of our product candidates and reduce their competitiveness if they reach the market, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. Risks Related to Commercialization of Lorundrostat and any Future Product Candidates Even if we receive regulatory approval for lorundrostat or any future product candidates, we will be subject to ongoing regulatory obligations and continued regulatory review, which may result in significant additional expense. Additionally, lorundrostat and any future product candidates, if approved, could be subject to labeling and other restrictions on marketing or withdrawal from the market, and we may be subject to penalties if we fail to comply with regulatory requirements or if we experience unanticipated problems with our product candidates, when and if any of them are approved. Any regulatory approvals that we may receive for lorundrostat or any future product candidates will require the submission of reports to regulatory authorities,

subject us to surveillance to monitor the safety and efficacy of the product, may contain significant limitations related to use restrictions for specified age groups, warnings, precautions , or contraindications, and may include burdensome post- approval study or risk management requirements. For example, the FDA may require a **REMS** ~~risk evaluation and mitigation strategy~~ as a condition of approval of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, which could include requirements for a medication guide, physician communication plans , or additional elements to ensure safe use, such as restricted distribution methods, patient registries , and other risk minimization tools. In addition, if the FDA or a comparable foreign regulatory authority approves lorundrostat or any future product candidates, the manufacturing processes, labeling, packaging, distribution, adverse event reporting, storage, advertising, promotion, import, export , and recordkeeping for our products will be subject to extensive and ongoing regulatory requirements. These requirements include submissions of safety and other post- marketing information and reports, registration, as well as continued compliance with cGMPs and cGCPs requirements for any clinical trials that we conduct post- approval. Manufacturers of approved products and their facilities are subject to continual review and periodic, unannounced inspections by the FDA and other regulatory authorities for compliance with cGMP regulations and standards. Failure to comply with regulatory requirements or later discovery of previously unknown **- 49-** problems with our products, including adverse events of unanticipated severity or frequency, or with our third- party manufacturers or manufacturing processes, may result in, among other things: • restrictions on the marketing or manufacturing of our products, withdrawal of the product from the market , or voluntary or mandatory product recalls; • restrictions on product distribution or use, or requirements to conduct post- marketing studies or clinical trials; • restrictions on our ability to conduct clinical trials, including full or partial clinical holds on ongoing or planned trials; • fines, restitutions, disgorgement of profits or revenue, warning letters, untitled letters, adverse publicity requirements , or holds on clinical trials; • refusal by the FDA or other regulatory authorities to approve pending applications or supplements to approved applications submitted by us or suspension or revocation of approvals; • product seizure or detention, or refusal to permit the import or export of our products; and • ~~Injunctions~~ **injunctions** and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties. ~~- 43-~~ The occurrence of any event or penalty described above may inhibit our ability to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates and generate revenue and could require us to expend significant time and resources in response and could generate negative publicity. The FDA' s and other regulatory authorities' policies may change and additional government regulations may be promulgated that could prevent, limit , or delay marketing authorization of any product candidates we develop. We also cannot predict the likelihood, nature , or extent of government regulation that may arise from future legislation or administrative action, either in the United States or abroad. If we are slow or unable to adapt to changes in existing requirements or the adoption of new requirements or policies, or if we are not able to maintain regulatory compliance, we may be subject to enforcement action and we may not achieve or sustain profitability. The FDA and other regulatory agencies actively enforce the laws and regulations prohibiting the promotion of off- label uses. The FDA and other regulatory agencies strictly regulate the promotional claims that may be made about prescription products, such as lorundrostat or any future product candidates, if approved. In particular, a product may not be promoted for uses that are not approved by the FDA or such other regulatory agencies as reflected in the product' s approved labeling. If we receive marketing approval for lorundrostat or any future product candidate, physicians may nevertheless prescribe it to their patients in a manner that is inconsistent with the approved label. If we are found to have promoted such off- label uses, we may become subject to significant liability. The U. S. federal government has levied large civil and criminal fines against companies for alleged improper promotion of off- label use and has enjoined several companies from engaging in off- label promotion. The government has also required companies to enter into consent decrees or imposed permanent injunctions under which specified promotional conduct is changed or curtailed. If we cannot successfully manage the promotion of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, if approved, we could become subject to significant liability, which would materially adversely affect our business and financial condition. **- 50-** The commercial success of lorundrostat or any future product candidates will depend upon the degree of market acceptance of such product candidates by healthcare providers, product recipients, healthcare payors , and others in the medical community. If lorundrostat or any future product candidates fail to achieve the broad degree of adoption by the medical community 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. Lorundrostat and any future product candidates may not be commercially successful. Even if lorundrostat or any future product candidates receive regulatory approval, they may not gain market acceptance among healthcare providers, individuals within our target population, healthcare payors ~~or~~ **, and others in** the medical community. The commercial success of lorundrostat or any future product candidates will depend significantly on the broad adoption and use of the resulting product by these individuals and organizations for approved indications. The degree of market acceptance of our products will depend on a number of factors, including: • demonstration of clinical efficacy and safety, including as compared to any more- established products; • the indications for which our product candidates are approved; • the limitation of our targeted patient population and other limitations or warnings contained in any FDA- approved labeling; • acceptance of a new drug for the relevant indication by healthcare providers and their patients; • the pricing and cost- effectiveness of our products, as well as the cost of treatment with our products in relation to alternative treatments and therapies; • our ability to obtain and maintain sufficient third- party coverage and adequate reimbursement from government healthcare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, private health insurers , and other third- party payors; • the willingness of patients to pay all, or a portion of, out- of- pocket costs associated with our products in the absence of sufficient third- party coverage and adequate reimbursement; • any restrictions on the use of our products, and the prevalence and severity of any adverse effects; • potential product liability claims; ~~- 44-~~ • the timing of market introduction of our products as well as availability, safety , and efficacy of competitive drugs; • the effectiveness of our or any potential future collaborators' sales and marketing strategies; and • unfavorable publicity relating to the product. If lorundrostat or any future product candidate is approved but does not achieve an adequate level of acceptance by physicians, hospitals, healthcare payors , or patients, we may not generate sufficient revenue from that product and may not become or

remain profitable. Our efforts to educate the medical community and third- party payors regarding the benefits of our products may require significant resources and may never be successful. **- 51-** The successful commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, if approved, will depend in part on the extent to which governmental authorities and health insurers establish coverage, adequate reimbursement levels **,** and favorable pricing policies. Failure to obtain or maintain coverage and adequate reimbursement for our products could limit our ability to market those products and decrease our ability to generate revenue. The availability of coverage and the adequacy of reimbursement by governmental healthcare programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, private health insurers **,** and other third- party payors are essential for most patients to be able to afford prescription medications such as lorundrostat and any future product candidates, if approved. Our ability to achieve coverage and acceptable levels of reimbursement for our products by third- party payors will have an effect on our ability to successfully commercialize those products. Accordingly, we will need to successfully implement a coverage and reimbursement strategy for any approved product candidate. Even if we obtain coverage for a given product by a third- party payor, the resulting reimbursement payment rates may not be adequate or may require co- payments that patients find unacceptably high. If we participate in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program or other governmental pricing programs, in certain circumstances, our products would be subject to ceiling prices set by such programs, which could reduce the revenue we may generate from any such products. Participation in such programs would also expose us to the risk of significant civil monetary penalties, sanctions **,** and fines should we be found to be in violation of any applicable obligations thereunder. For products administered under the supervision of a physician, obtaining coverage and adequate reimbursement may be particularly difficult because of the higher prices often associated with such drugs. Additionally, separate reimbursement for the product itself or the treatment or procedure in which the product is used may not be available, which may impact physician utilization. We cannot be sure that coverage and reimbursement in the United States, the European Union **,** or elsewhere will be available, or at an acceptable level, for any product that we may develop, and any reimbursement that may become available may be decreased or eliminated in the future. Third- party payors increasingly are challenging prices charged for biopharmaceutical products and services, and many third- party payors may refuse to provide coverage and reimbursement for particular drugs when an equivalent generic drug or a less expensive therapy is available. It is possible that a third- party payor may consider our products as substitutable and only offer to reimburse patients for the less expensive product. Even if we are successful in demonstrating improved efficacy or improved convenience of administration with our products, pricing of existing drugs may limit the amount we will be able to charge for our products. These payors may deny or revoke the reimbursement status of a given product or establish prices for new or existing marketed products at levels that are too low to enable us to realize an appropriate return on our investment in product development. If reimbursement is not available or is available only at limited levels, we may not be able to successfully commercialize our products and may not be able to obtain a satisfactory financial return on products that we may develop. There is significant uncertainty related to third- party payor coverage and reimbursement of newly approved products. In the United States, third- party payors, including private and governmental payors, such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs, play an important role in determining the extent to which new drugs will be covered. Some third- party payors may require pre-approval of coverage for new or innovative devices or drug therapies before they will reimburse healthcare providers who use such therapies. It is difficult to predict at this time what third- party payors will decide with respect to the coverage and reimbursement for lorundrostat and any future product candidates. Obtaining and maintaining reimbursement status is time-consuming, costly **,** and uncertain. The Medicare and Medicaid programs increasingly are used as models for how private payors and other governmental payors develop their coverage and reimbursement policies for drugs. However, no uniform policy for coverage and reimbursement for products exists among third- party payors in the United States. Therefore, coverage and reimbursement for products can differ significantly from payor to payor. As a result, the coverage **- 52-** determination process is often a time- consuming and costly ~~- 45 -~~process that will require us to provide scientific and clinical support for the use of our products to each payor separately, with no assurance that coverage and adequate reimbursement will be applied consistently or obtained in the first instance. Furthermore, rules and regulations regarding reimbursement change frequently and, in some cases, at short notice, and we believe that changes in these rules and regulations are likely. Outside the United States, international operations are generally subject to extensive governmental price controls and other market regulations, and we believe the increasing emphasis on cost- containment initiatives in Europe and other countries has and will continue to put pressure on the pricing and usage of our products candidates, if approved in these jurisdictions. In many countries, the prices of medical products are subject to varying price control mechanisms as part of national health systems. Other countries allow companies to fix their own prices for medical products but monitor and control company profits. Additional foreign price controls or other changes in pricing regulation could restrict the amount that we are able to charge for our products. Accordingly, in markets outside the United States, if any, the reimbursement for our products may be reduced compared with the United States and may be insufficient to generate commercially reasonable revenue and profits. Moreover, increasing efforts by governmental and third- party payors in the United States and abroad to cap or reduce healthcare costs may cause such organizations to limit both coverage and the level of reimbursement for newly approved products and, as a result, they may not cover or provide adequate payment for our products. We expect to experience pricing pressures in connection with the sale of any of our products due to the trend toward managed healthcare, the increasing influence of health maintenance organizations **,** and additional legislative changes. The downward pressure on healthcare costs in general, and prescription drugs, surgical procedures **,** and other treatments in particular, has become very intense. As a result, increasingly high barriers are being erected to the entry of new products. **We face significant competition, and if our competitors develop and commercialize technologies or product candidates more rapidly than we do, or their technologies or product candidates are more effective, safer, or less expensive than lorundrostat and any future product candidates we develop, our business and our ability to develop and successfully commercialize products will be adversely affected.** The biopharmaceutical industry is characterized by ~~rapid~~ **rapidly** advancing technologies, intense competition **,** and a strong emphasis on proprietary and novel products and product

candidates. Our competitors have developed, are developing , or may develop products, product candidates and processes competitive with lorundrostat. Lorundrostat and any future product candidates that we successfully develop and commercialize will compete with existing therapies and new therapies that may become available in the future. Our competitors include larger and better- funded pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, biotechnological , and therapeutics companies. Moreover, we may also compete with universities and other research institutions that may be active in research in our target indications and could be in direct competition with us. We also compete with these organizations to recruit management, scientists , and clinical development personnel, and our inability to compete successfully could negatively affect our level of expertise and our ability to execute our business plan. We will also face competition in establishing clinical trial sites, enrolling subjects for clinical trials , and identifying and in- licensing intellectual property related to new product candidates, as well as entering into collaborations, joint ventures, license agreements , and other similar arrangements **. For example, Boehringer Ingelheim International and AstraZeneca have recently initiated large- scale clinical trials for the treatment of hypertension and CKD, which could impact our ability to enroll patients in our clinical trials for the same indications** . Smaller or early- stage companies may also prove to be significant competitors, particularly through collaborative arrangements with large and established companies. We believe that our current and future competition for resources and eventually for customers can be grouped into three broad categories: • companies working to develop **ASIs** ~~aldosterone synthase inhibitors~~ , including AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Damian Pharma , and ~~PhaseBio~~ **JIXING** ; **- 53-** • companies with product candidates with other mechanisms of action, **such as non- steroidal MRAs and angiotensinogen directed therapies,** including **Alnylam,** Idorsia **, IONIS, Novo Nordisk** , Quantum Genomics, **and** ~~IONIS, Alnylam,~~ Sihuan Pharmaceutical Holdings Group **, Roche** ~~and KBP BioSciences~~ ; and • companies commercializing standard- of- care antihypertensive agents, such as ACE inhibitors, ARBs, thiazide diuretics ~~and~~ , calcium channel blockers **, and MRAs** , many of which are available as generic medicines at very low prices including AstraZeneca, **Bayer,** Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Novartis , and Pfizer. Many of our competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing, marketing, sales , and supply resources or experience than we do. If we successfully obtain approval for lorundrostat or any future product candidate, we will face competition based on many different factors, including the safety and effectiveness of our products, the ease with which our products can be administered, the timing and scope of regulatory approvals for these products, the availability and cost of manufacturing, marketing and sales capabilities, price, reimbursement coverage , and patent position. ~~- 46 -~~ Competing products could present superior treatment alternatives, including by being more effective, safer, more convenient, less expensive , or marketed and sold more effectively than any products we may develop. Competing products may render lorundrostat or any future product candidates we develop obsolete or noncompetitive before we recover the expense of developing and commercializing our product candidates. If we are unable to compete effectively, our opportunity to generate revenue from the sale of ~~our~~ **the** products we may develop, if approved, could be adversely affected. We currently have no marketing and sales organization and have no experience as a company in commercializing products, and we may need to invest significant resources to develop these capabilities. If we are unable to establish marketing and sales capabilities or enter into agreements with third parties to market and sell our products, we may not be able to generate product revenue. We have no internal sales, marketing , or distribution capabilities, nor have we commercialized a product. If lorundrostat or any future product ~~candidates~~ **candidate** ultimately receives regulatory approval, we must build a marketing and sales organization with technical expertise and supporting distribution capabilities to commercialize each such product in major markets, which will be expensive and time - consuming, or collaborate with 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. We have no prior experience as a company with the marketing, sale , or distribution of biopharmaceutical products and there are significant risks involved in the building and managing of 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 not be able to enter into collaborations or hire consultants or external service providers to assist us in sales, marketing , and distribution functions on acceptable financial terms, or at all. In addition, our product revenue and our profitability, if any, may be lower if we rely on third parties for these functions than if we were to market, sell , and distribute any products that we develop ourselves. We likely will have little control over such third parties, and any of them may fail to devote the necessary resources and attention to sell and market our products effectively. If we are not successful in commercializing our products, either on our own or through arrangements with one or more third parties, we may not be able to generate any future product revenue and we would incur significant additional losses. If the market opportunities for lorundrostat and any future product candidates are smaller than we believe they are, our revenue may be adversely affected, and our business may suffer. The precise incidence and prevalence for all the conditions we aim to address with lorundrostat or any future product candidates are unknown. Our projections of both the number of people who have these diseases, as well as the subset of people with these diseases who have the potential to benefit from treatment with our product candidates, are based on a number of internal and third- party estimates. These estimates have been **- 54-** derived from a variety of sources, including the scientific literature, surveys of clinics, patient foundations , or market research, and may prove to be incorrect. Further, new trials may change the estimated incidence or prevalence of these indications. While we believe our assumptions and the data underlying our estimates are reasonable, we have not independently verified the accuracy of the third- party data on which we have based our assumptions and estimates, and these assumptions and estimates may not be correct and the conditions supporting our assumptions or estimates may change at any time, including as a result of factors outside our control, thereby reducing the predictive accuracy of these underlying factors. The total addressable market across all of the potential indications for lorundrostat and any future product candidates will ultimately depend upon, among other things, the diagnosis criteria included in the final label for each such product candidate which receives marketing approval

for these indications, the availability of alternative treatments and the safety, convenience, cost , and efficacy of such product candidates relative to such alternative treatments, acceptance by the medical community and patient access, drug pricing , and reimbursement. The number of patients in the United States and other major markets and elsewhere may turn out to be lower than expected, patients may not be otherwise amenable to treatment with our product candidates , or new patients may become increasingly difficult to identify or gain access to, all of which would adversely affect our business, financial condition , and results of operations. Our future growth may depend, in part, on our ability to operate in foreign markets, where we would be subject to additional regulatory burdens and other risks and uncertainties. Our future growth may depend, in part, on our ability to develop and commercialize lorundrostat and any future product candidates in foreign markets. We are not permitted to market or promote any product candidate before we receive regulatory approval from applicable regulatory authorities in foreign markets, and we may never receive such regulatory approvals for lorundrostat or any future product candidates. To obtain separate regulatory approval in many other countries we must comply with numerous and varying regulatory requirements regarding safety and efficacy and governing, among ~~- 47 -~~other things, clinical trials, commercial sales, pricing , and distribution of lorundrostat and any future product candidates. Approval procedures may be more onerous than those in the United States and may require that we conduct additional preclinical studies or clinical trials. If we obtain regulatory approval of product candidates and ultimately commercialize our products in foreign markets, we would be subject to additional risks and uncertainties, including: • different regulatory requirements for approval of drugs in foreign countries; • reduced protection for intellectual property rights; • the existence of additional third- party patent rights of potential relevance to our business; • unexpected changes in tariffs, trade barriers , and regulatory requirements; • economic weakness, including inflation, or political instability in particular foreign economies and markets; • compliance with export control and import laws and regulations; • compliance with tax, employment, immigration , and labor laws for employees living or traveling abroad; • foreign currency fluctuations, which could result in increased operating expenses and reduced revenue, and other obligations incident to doing business in another country; • foreign reimbursement, pricing , and insurance regimes; • workforce uncertainty in countries where labor unrest is common; • differing regulatory requirements with respect to manufacturing of products; **- 55-** • production shortages resulting from any events affecting raw material supply or manufacturing capabilities abroad; • business interruptions resulting from geopolitical actions, including war and terrorism, or natural disasters including earthquakes, typhoons, floods , and fires; and • disruptions resulting from the impact of public health pandemics ~~or~~ , epidemics ~~(including~~ , ~~for~~ **or** ~~example, the~~ **other public health concerns** ~~ongoing COVID- 19 pandemic)~~ . Risks Related to Our Business Operations and Industry 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 or any guidance we may provide. Our quarterly and annual operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes it difficult for us to predict our future operating results. These fluctuations may occur due to a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control, including, but not limited to: • the timing and cost of, and level of investment in, research, development, regulatory approval , and commercialization activities relating to lorundrostat or any future product candidates, which may change from time to time; • the timing and success or failure of preclinical studies or clinical trials for lorundrostat or any future product candidates or competing product candidates, or any other change in the competitive landscape of our industry, including consolidation among our competitors or partners; • coverage and reimbursement policies with respect to lorundrostat or any future product candidates, if approved, and potential future drugs that compete with our products; • expenditures that we may incur to acquire, develop , or commercialize additional product candidates and technologies; • the level of demand for any approved products, which may vary significantly; • future accounting pronouncements or changes in our accounting policies; ~~- 48 -~~• the timing and amount of any milestone, royalty , or other payments payable by us or due to us under any collaboration, licensing , or other similar agreement; and • changes in general market and economic conditions. The cumulative effects of these factors could result in large fluctuations and unpredictability in our quarterly and annual operating results. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period- to- period basis may not be meaningful. Investors should not rely on our past results as an indication of our future performance. This variability and unpredictability could also result in our failing to meet the expectations of industry or financial analysts or investors for any period. If our revenue or operating results fall below the expectations of analysts or investors or below any forecasts we may provide to the market, or if the forecasts we provide to the market are below the expectations of analysts or investors, the price of our common stock could decline substantially. Such a stock price decline could occur even when we have met any previously publicly stated revenue or earnings guidance we may provide. **- 56-** We are dependent on the services of our management and other clinical and scientific personnel, and if we are not able to retain these individuals or recruit additional management or clinical and scientific personnel, our business will suffer. Our success depends in part on our continued ability to attract, retain , and motivate highly qualified management, clinical , and scientific personnel. We are highly dependent upon our senior management, as well as our senior scientists and other members of our management team. The loss of services of any of these individuals could delay or prevent the successful development of lorundrostat or any future product candidates, initiation or completion of our clinical trials and preclinical studies, regulatory approvals , or the commercialization of lorundrostat or any of our product candidates. Although we have executed employment letters with each member of our senior management team, these agreements are terminable at will with or without notice and, therefore, we may not be able to retain their services as expected. We do not currently maintain " key person " life insurance on the lives of our executives or any of our employees. This lack of insurance means that we may not have adequate compensation for the loss of the services of these individuals. In addition, job candidates and existing employees often consider the value of the stock awards they receive in connection with their employment. If the perceived benefits of our stock awards decline, either because we are a public company or for other reasons, it may harm our ability to recruit and retain highly skilled employees. Our employees may be more likely to leave us if the shares they own have significantly appreciated in value relative to the original purchase prices of the shares, or if the exercise prices of the options that they hold are significantly below the market price of our common stock ~~, particularly after the~~

~~expiration of the lock- up agreements described herein~~ . We will need to expand and effectively manage our managerial, operational, financial **,** and other resources in order to successfully pursue our clinical development and commercialization efforts. We may not be successful in maintaining our unique company culture and continuing to attract or retain qualified management and scientific and clinical personnel in the future due to the intense competition for qualified personnel among biopharmaceutical, biotechnology **,** and other businesses. Our industry has experienced a high rate of turnover of management personnel in recent years. If we are not able to attract, integrate, retain **,** and motivate necessary personnel to accomplish our business objectives, we may experience constraints that will significantly impede the achievement of our development objectives, our ability to raise additional capital **,** and our ability to implement our business strategy. We will need to develop and expand our organization, and we may encounter difficulties in managing our growth and expanding our operations successfully, which could disrupt our operations. As of December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023** , we had ~~12~~ **28** full- time employees, of whom ~~eight~~ **22** were primarily engaged in research and development. As we continue development and pursue the potential commercialization of lorundrostat and any future product candidates, **and** as ~~well as~~ **we continue our** transition to ~~functioning~~ **operating** as a public company, we will need to **continue to** expand our financial, accounting, development, regulatory, manufacturing, information technology, marketing **,** and sales capabilities or contract with third parties to provide these capabilities for us. As our operations expand, we expect that we will need to manage additional relationships with various strategic partners, suppliers **,** and other third parties and we may not be successful in doing so. Our future financial performance and our ability to develop and commercialize lorundrostat and any future product candidates and to compete effectively will depend, in part, on our ability to manage any future growth effectively. ~~- 49-~~ We are subject to various U. S. federal, state **,** and foreign healthcare laws and regulations, which could increase compliance costs, and our failure to comply with these laws and regulations could harm our results of operations and financial condition. Our business operations and current and future arrangements with investigators, healthcare professionals, consultants, third- party payors, patient organizations **,** and customers expose us to broadly applicable foreign, federal **,** and state fraud and abuse and other healthcare laws and regulations. These laws may constrain the business or financial arrangements and relationships through which we conduct our operations, **- 57-** including how we research, market, sell **,** and distribute any products for which we obtain marketing approval. Such laws include: • the federal Anti- Kickback Statute, which prohibits, among other things, persons or entities from knowingly and willfully soliciting, offering, receiving **,** or providing any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe **,** or certain rebates), directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, in return for, either the referral of an individual or the purchase, lease, or order, or arranging for or recommending the purchase, lease, or order of any good, facility, item **,** or service, for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under a federal healthcare program such as Medicare and Medicaid. A person or entity does not need to have actual knowledge of the federal Anti- Kickback Statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation; • the federal false claims laws, including the civil False Claims Act, and civil monetary penalties laws, which prohibit, among other things, individuals or entities from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, to the federal government, claims for payment or approval that are false or fraudulent, knowingly making, using **,** or causing to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim, or from knowingly making or causing to be made a false statement to avoid, decrease **,** or conceal an obligation to pay money to the federal government. In addition, 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 civil False Claims Act; • the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which imposes criminal and civil liability for, among other things, knowingly and willfully executing, or attempting to execute, a scheme to defraud any healthcare benefit program, or knowingly and willfully falsifying, concealing or covering up a material fact or making any materially false statement, in connection with the delivery of, or payment for, healthcare benefits, items **,** or services. Similar to the federal Anti- Kickback Statute, a person or entity does not need to have actual knowledge of the statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation; • the federal Physician Payments Sunshine Act, which requires certain manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologics **,** and medical supplies for which payment is available under Medicare, Medicaid **,** or the Children' s Health Insurance Program (with certain exceptions) to report annually to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), information related to payments and other " transfers of value " made to physicians (defined to include doctors, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists **,** and chiropractors), certain non-physician practitioners (physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse anesthetists, anesthesiology assistants **,** and certified nurse- midwives), and teaching hospitals and other healthcare providers, as well as ownership and investment interests held by such healthcare professionals and their immediate family members; and • analogous state and foreign laws and regulations, such as state anti- kickback and false claims laws, which may apply to sales or marketing arrangements and claims involving healthcare items or services reimbursed by non- governmental third- party payors, including private insurers; some state laws require biotechnology companies to comply with the biotechnology industry' s voluntary compliance guidelines and the relevant compliance guidance promulgated by the federal government and may require drug manufacturers to report information related to payments and other transfers of value to physicians and other healthcare providers or marketing expenditures; some state laws that require biotechnology companies to report information on the pricing of certain drug products; and some state and local laws that require the registration or pharmaceutical sales representatives. **- 58-** Efforts to ensure that our current and future business arrangements with third parties will comply with applicable healthcare and privacy laws and regulations will involve ongoing substantial costs. It is possible that governmental authorities will conclude that our business practices may not comply with current or future statutes, regulations **,** or case law involving applicable fraud and abuse or other healthcare laws and regulations. If our operations are found to be in violation ~~- 50-~~ of any of these laws or any other governmental regulations that may apply to us, we may be subject to significant penalties, including civil, criminal **,** and administrative penalties, damages, fines, disgorgement, imprisonment, exclusion from participation in government- funded healthcare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, integrity oversight and reporting obligations, contractual damages,

reputational harm, diminished profits , and future earnings and the curtailment or restructuring of our operations. Defending against any such actions can be costly and time- consuming and may require significant financial and personnel resources. Therefore, even if we are successful in defending against any such actions that may be brought against us, our business may be impaired. Further, if any of the physicians or other healthcare providers or entities with whom we expect to do business are found not to be in compliance with applicable laws or regulations, they may be subject to significant criminal, civil , or administrative sanctions, including exclusions from government- funded healthcare programs. Recently enacted legislation, future legislation , and healthcare reform measures may increase the difficulty and cost for us to obtain marketing approval for and commercialize lorundrostat and any future product candidates and may affect the prices we may set. In the United States and some foreign jurisdictions, there have been, and we expect there will continue to be, a number of legislative and regulatory changes to the healthcare system, including cost- containment measures that may reduce or limit coverage and reimbursement for newly approved drugs and affect our ability to profitably sell any product candidates for which we obtain marketing approval. In particular, there have been and continue to be a number of initiatives at the U. S. federal and state levels that seek to reduce healthcare costs and improve the quality of healthcare. For example, in March 2010, the ACA was enacted in the United States. The ACA established an annual, nondeductible fee on any entity that manufactures or imports specified branded prescription drugs and biologic agents; extended manufacturers' Medicaid rebate liability to covered drugs dispensed to individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations; expanded eligibility criteria for Medicaid programs; expanded the entities eligible for discounts under the 340B drug pricing program; increased the statutory minimum rebates a manufacturer must pay under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program; established a new Patient- Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in , and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research; and establishes a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation at CMS to test innovative payment and service delivery models to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending. Since its enactment, there have been executive, judicial , and Congressional challenges to certain aspects of the ACA, and on June 17, 2021, the U. S. Supreme Court dismissed the most recent judicial challenge to the ACA brought by several states without specifically ruling on the constitutionality of the ACA. Prior to the Supreme Court' s decision, President Biden had issued an executive order to initiate a special enrollment period from February 15, 2021 through August 15, 2021 for purposes of obtaining health insurance coverage through the ACA marketplace. The executive order also instructed certain governmental agencies to review and reconsider their existing policies and rules that limit access to healthcare, including among others, reexamining Medicaid demonstration projects and waiver programs that include work requirements, and policies that create unnecessary barriers to obtaining access to health insurance coverage through Medicaid or the ACA. It is unclear how the healthcare reform measures will impact our business. In addition, other legislative changes have been proposed and adopted since the ACA was enacted. On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law, which eliminates the statutory cap on the Medicaid drug rebate, currently set at 100 % of a drug' s AMP, beginning January 1, 2024. Further, there has been heightened governmental scrutiny in the United States of pharmaceutical pricing practices in light of **- 59-** the rising cost of prescription drugs. Such scrutiny has resulted in several recent congressional inquiries and proposed and enacted federal and state legislation designed to, among other things, bring more transparency to product pricing, review the relationship between pricing and manufacturer patient assistance programs, and reform government program reimbursement methodologies for products. Most recently, the ~~Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (~~ IRA ~~)~~ included a number of significant drug pricing reforms, which include the establishment of a drug price negotiation program within ~~the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, or~~ HHS (beginning in 2026) that requires manufacturers to charge a negotiated " maximum fair price " for certain selected drugs or pay an excise tax for noncompliance, the establishment of rebate payment requirements on manufacturers under Medicare Parts B and D to penalize price increases that outpace inflation (first due in 2023), and a redesign of the Part D benefit, as part of which manufacturers are required to provide discounts on Part D drugs (beginning in 2025). The IRA permits the HHS Secretary to implement many of these provisions through guidance, as opposed to regulation, for the initial years. Additional drug pricing proposals could appear in future legislation. ~~Further, it is possible that additional governmental action is taken in response to the COVID- 19 pandemic.~~ At the state level, legislatures have increasingly passed legislation and implemented regulations designed to control pharmaceutical and biological product pricing, including price or reimbursement constraints, discounts, restrictions ~~- 51 -~~ on certain product access , and marketing cost disclosure and transparency measures, and, in some cases, designed to encourage importation from other countries and bulk purchasing. Legally mandated price controls on payment amounts by third- party payors or other restrictions could harm our business, results of operations, financial condition , and prospects. In addition, regional healthcare authorities and individual hospitals are increasingly using bidding procedures to determine what pharmaceutical products and which suppliers will be included in their prescription drug and other healthcare programs. This could reduce the ultimate demand for lorundrostat and any future product candidates, if approved, or put pressure on our product pricing, which could negatively affect our business, results of operations, financial condition , and prospects. We expect that these new laws and other healthcare reform measures that may be adopted in the future may result in additional reductions in Medicare and other healthcare funding, more rigorous coverage criteria, new payment methodologies , and additional downward pressure on the price that we receive for any approved product. 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 lorundrostat and any future product candidates, if approved. If product liability lawsuits are brought against us, we may incur substantial liabilities and may be required to limit, delay , or cease commercialization of our products. We face an inherent risk of product liability as a result of the clinical trials of lorundrostat and any future product candidates and will face an even greater risk if we commercialize our product candidates, especially if our products are prescribed for off- label uses (even if we do not promote such uses). For example, we may be sued if our product candidates allegedly cause injury or are found to be otherwise unsuitable during

product testing, manufacturing, marketing , or sale. Any such product liability claims may include allegations of defects in manufacturing, defects in design, a failure to warn of dangers inherent in the product candidate, negligence, strict liability , and a breach of warranties. Claims may be brought against us by clinical trial participants, patients , or others using, administering , or selling products that may be approved in the future. Claims could also be asserted under state consumer protection acts. If we cannot successfully defend ourselves against product liability claims, we may incur substantial liabilities or be required to limit, delay , or cease the commercialization of our products. Even a successful defense would require significant financial and management resources. Regardless of the merits or eventual outcome, liability claims may result in: • decreased demand for our products; • injury to our reputation and significant negative media attention; **- 60-** • withdrawal of clinical trial participants; • costs to defend the related litigation; • a diversion of our management' s time and our resources; • substantial monetary awards to trial participants or product recipients; • product recalls, withdrawals , or labeling, marketing , or promotional restrictions; • significant negative financial impact; • the inability to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates; and • a decline in our stock price. We currently hold approximately $ 10. 0 million in product liability insurance coverage in the aggregate. We may need to increase our insurance coverage as we expand our clinical trials or if we commence commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates. Insurance coverage is increasingly expensive. Our inability to obtain and retain sufficient product liability insurance at an acceptable cost to protect against potential product liability claims could prevent or inhibit the commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates. Although we will maintain such insurance, any claim that may be brought against us could result in a court judgment or settlement in an amount that is not covered, in whole or in part, by our insurance or that is in excess of the limits of our insurance coverage. Our insurance policies will also have various exclusions, and we may be subject to a product liability claim for which we have no coverage. We may have to pay any amounts awarded by a court or negotiated in a settlement that exceed our coverage ~~- 52-~~ limitations or that are not covered by our insurance, and we may not have, or be able to obtain, sufficient capital to pay such amounts. Our insurance policies are expensive and only protect us from some business risks, which will leave us exposed to significant uninsured liabilities. We do not carry insurance for all categories of risk that our business may encounter. Some of the policies we currently maintain include property, general liability, employment benefits liability, business automobile, workers' compensation, products liability, malicious invasion of our electronic systems, ~~and~~ directors' and officers', and employment practices insurance. We do not know, however, if we will be able to maintain insurance with adequate levels of coverage. No assurance can be given that an insurance carrier will not seek to cancel or deny coverage after a claim has occurred. Any significant uninsured liability may require us to pay substantial amounts, which would adversely affect our financial position and results of operations. We and any of our potential future collaborators will be required to report to regulatory authorities if any of our approved products cause or contribute to adverse medical events, and any failure to do so would result in sanctions that would materially harm our business. If we or any of our potential future collaborators are successful in commercializing our products, the FDA and foreign regulatory authorities would require that we and such collaborators report certain information about adverse medical events if those products may have caused or contributed to those adverse events. The timing of our obligation to report would be triggered by the date we become aware of the adverse event as well as the nature of the event. We and any of our potential future collaborators or CROs may fail to report adverse events within the prescribed timeframe. If we or any of our potential future collaborators or CROs fail to comply with such reporting obligations, the FDA or a foreign regulatory authority could take action, including criminal prosecution, the imposition of civil monetary penalties, seizure of our products , or delay in approval or clearance of future products. **- 61-** We and our service providers may be subject to a variety of privacy and data security laws and contractual obligations, which could increase compliance costs, and our actual or perceived failure to comply with such laws and obligations could subject us to potentially significant liability, fines , or penalties and otherwise harm our business. We and our service providers maintain and will maintain a large quantity of sensitive information, including confidential business and patient health information, in connection with our preclinical studies and clinical trials, and are subject to laws and regulations governing the privacy and security of such information. The global data protection landscape is rapidly evolving, and we and our service providers may be affected by or subject to new, amended , or existing laws and regulations in the future, including as our operations continue to expand or if we operate in foreign jurisdictions. These laws and regulations may be subject to differing interpretations, which adds to the complexity of processing personal data. Guidance on implementation and compliance practices is often updated or otherwise revised. This may create uncertainty in our business, affect our ability to operate in certain jurisdictions or to collect, store, transfer, use, share , and otherwise process personal information, necessitate the acceptance of more onerous obligations in our contracts, result in liability , or impose additional costs on us. The cost of compliance with these laws, regulations , and standards is high and is likely to increase in the future. Any failure or perceived failure by us to comply with federal, state , or foreign laws or regulation, our internal policies and procedures , or our contracts governing our processing of personal information could result in negative publicity, government investigations and enforcement actions, claims by third parties , and damage to our reputation, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. As our operations and business grow, we may become subject to or affected by new or additional data protection laws and regulations and face increased scrutiny or attention from regulatory authorities. In the United States, numerous federal and state laws and regulations, including health information privacy laws, data breach notification laws , and consumer protection laws (e. g., Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act), ~~that~~ govern the collection, use, storage, transfer, disclosure, protection , and other processing of health-related and other personal information could apply to our operations or the operations of our collaborators and third- party providers. In addition, we may obtain health information from third parties (including research institutions from which we obtain clinical trial data) that are subject to privacy and security requirements under HIPAA. Depending on the facts and circumstances, we could be subject to significant penalties if we violate HIPAA. In addition, certain state laws govern the privacy and security of health- related and other personal information in certain circumstances, some of which may be more

stringent, broader in scope , or offer greater individual rights with respect to protected health information than HIPAA, many of which may differ from each other, thus, complicating ~~- 53 -~~ compliance efforts. These laws are evolving rapidly and may differ from each other in significant ways and may not have the same effect, thus complicating compliance efforts. Such laws and regulations will be subject to interpretation by various courts and other governmental authorities, thus creating potentially complex compliance issues for us and our future customers and strategic partners. Failure to comply with these laws, where applicable, can result in the imposition of significant civil and / or criminal penalties and private litigation. By way of example, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which went into effect on January 1, 2020, gives California residents individual privacy rights to access and delete their personal information, opt out of certain personal information sharing, and receive detailed information about how their personal information is used. The CCPA provides for civil penalties for violations, as well as a private right of action for data breaches that are expected to increase data breach litigation. The CCPA may increase our compliance costs and potential liability and many similar laws have been proposed at the federal level and in other states. Further, the California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) was recently passed in California. The CPRA ~~will impose~~ **imposes** additional data protection obligations on covered businesses, including additional consumer rights processes, limitations on data uses, new audit requirements for higher - risk data, and opt - outs for certain uses of sensitive data. It ~~will~~ also ~~create~~ **created** a new California data protection agency authorized to issue substantive regulations and could result in increased privacy and information security enforcement. The majority of the provisions of the CPRA **went** ~~will go~~ into effect on January 1, 2023, and additional compliance investment and potential business process changes may be required. Other states are exploring their own laws, which may or may not be similar to **- 62-** the CCPA or the CPRA. In the event that we are subject to or affected by HIPAA, the CCPA, the CPRA , or other domestic privacy and data protection laws, any liability from failure to comply with the requirements of these laws could adversely affect our financial condition. There also are a wide variety of privacy laws in other countries that may impact our operations, now or in the future. For example, in Europe, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) imposes stringent requirements regarding the collection, use, disclosure, storage, transfer , or other processing of personal data of individuals within the European Economic Area (EEA), including providing information to individuals regarding data processing activities, implementing safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of personal data, providing notification of data breaches , and taking certain measures when engaging third- party processors. Companies that must comply with the GDPR face increased compliance obligations and risk, including more robust regulatory enforcement of data protection requirements and potential fines for noncompliance of up to € 20 million or 4 % of the annual global revenue of the noncompliant company, whichever is greater. The GDPR also confers a private right of action in some circumstances on data subjects and consumer associations to lodge complaints with supervisory authorities, seek judicial remedies , and obtain compensation for damages resulting from violations of the GDPR. Among other things, the GDPR requires the establishment of a lawful basis for the processing of data, imposes requirements relating to the consent of the individuals to whom the personal data relates, including detailed notices for clinical trial subjects and investigators, as well as requirements regarding the security of personal data and notification of data processing obligations to the competent national data processing authorities. In addition, the GDPR increases the scrutiny of transfers of personal data from the EEA to the United States and other jurisdictions that the European Commission does not recognize as having " adequate " data protection laws. Recent legal developments in Europe have created complexity and uncertainty regarding transfers of personal data from the EEA to the United States. For example, on July 16, 2020, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) invalidated the EU- US Privacy Shield Framework (Privacy Shield) under which personal data could be transferred from the EEA to United States entities that had self- certified under the Privacy Shield scheme. While the CJEU upheld the adequacy of the standard contractual clauses (a standard form of contract approved by the European Commission as an adequate personal data transfer mechanism, and potential alternative to the Privacy Shield), it made clear that reliance on the standard contractual clauses alone may not necessarily be sufficient in all circumstances. Use of the standard contractual clauses must now be assessed on a case- by- case basis taking into account the legal regime applicable in the destination country, in particular applicable surveillance laws and rights of individuals, and additional measures and / or contractual provisions may need to be put in place, however, the nature of these additional measures is currently uncertain. The European Commission issued revised standard contractual clauses on June 4, 2021 to account for the decision of the CJEU and recommendations made by the European Data Protection Board. The revised standard contractual clauses must be used for relevant new data transfers beginning on September 27, 2021 and existing standard contractual clauses arrangements ~~must~~ **were required to** be migrated to the revised clauses by December 27, 2022. The new standard contractual clauses apply only to the transfer of personal data outside of the EEA and not the United Kingdom; the United Kingdom' s Information Commissioner' s Office launched a public consultation on its draft revised data transfers mechanisms in August 2021 and the United Kingdom standard contractual clauses came into force in March 2022, with a two- year grace period. There is some uncertainty around whether the revised clauses can be used for all types of data transfers, particularly whether they can be relied on for data transfers to non- EEA entities subject to the GDPR. As supervisory authorities issue further guidance on personal data export mechanisms, including circumstances where the standard contractual clauses cannot be used, and / or start taking enforcement action, we could suffer additional costs, complaints , and / or regulatory investigations or fines, and / or if we are otherwise unable to transfer personal data between and among countries and regions in which we operate, it could affect ~~- 54 -~~ the manner in which we provide our services, the geographical location , or segregation of our relevant systems and operations, and could adversely affect our financial results. Further, following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the EEA and the end of the transition period, from January 1, 2021, we have to comply with the GDPR and separately the GDPR as implemented in the United Kingdom, which, together with the amended UK Data Protection Act 2018, retains the GDPR in UK national law. The UK GDPR mirrors the fines under the GDPR and has the **- 63-** ability to fine up to the greater of € 20 million / £ 17 million or 4 % of global turnover. The relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union and the EEA in relation to certain aspects of data protection law remains unclear, and it is unclear how United

Kingdom data protection laws and regulations will develop in the medium to longer term. The European Commission has adopted an adequacy decision in favor of the United Kingdom, enabling data transfers from ~~EU~~ **European Union** member states to the United Kingdom without additional safeguards. However, the UK adequacy decision will automatically expire in June 2025 unless the European Commission re- assesses and renews or extends that decision, which could have implications for our transfer of personal data. In many jurisdictions, enforcement actions and consequences for noncompliance are rising. In the United States, these include enforcement actions in response to rules and regulations promulgated under the authority of federal agencies and state attorneys general and legislatures and consumer protection agencies. In addition, privacy advocates and industry groups have regularly proposed, and may propose in the future, self- regulatory standards that may legally or contractually apply to us. If we fail to follow these security standards, even if no personal information is compromised, we may incur significant fines or experience a significant increase in costs. Many state legislatures have adopted legislation that regulates how businesses operate online, including measures relating to privacy, data security **,** and data breaches. Laws in all U. S. states require businesses to provide notice to customers whose personally identifiable information has been disclosed as a result of a data breach. The laws are not consistent, and compliance in the event of a widespread data breach is costly. Compliance with U. S. and international data protection laws and regulations could require us to take on more onerous obligations in our contracts, restrict our ability to collect, store, use, transfer, disclose **,** and otherwise process data, update our data privacy and security policies and procedures, or in some cases, impact our ability to operate in certain jurisdictions. Failure by us or our collaborators and our service providers to comply with U. S. and international data protection laws and regulations could result in government enforcement actions (which could include civil or criminal penalties), private litigation **,** and / or adverse publicity and could negatively affect our operating results and business. Moreover, clinical trial subjects about whom we or our potential collaborators obtain information, as well as the providers who share this information with us, may contractually limit our ability to use and disclose such information. Claims that we have violated individuals' privacy rights, failed to comply with data protection laws, or breached our contractual obligations, even if we are not found liable, could be expensive and time **-** consuming to defend, could result in adverse publicity and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. Should any of these events occur, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. Our internal information technology systems, or those of any of our service providers, may fail or suffer security breaches, loss or leakage of data **,** and other disruptions, which could result in a material disruption of our product development programs, comprise sensitive information related to our business or prevent us from accessing critical information, potentially exposing us to liability or otherwise adversely affecting our business. We are increasingly dependent upon information technology systems, infrastructure **,** and data to operate our business. In the ordinary course of business, we collect, store **,** and transmit confidential information (including but not limited to intellectual property, proprietary business information **,** and personal information). It is critical that we do so in a secure manner to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of such confidential information. Attacks upon information technology systems are increasing in their frequency, levels of persistence, sophistication **,** and intensity, and are being conducted by sophisticated and organized groups and individuals with a wide range of motives and expertise. These attacks can present meaningful risks to our operations, data **,** and commercial information. **We** ~~As a result of the COVID- 19 pandemic, we~~ may also face increased cybersecurity risks due to our reliance on internet technology and the number of our employees who are working remotely, which may create additional **- 64-** opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities. Furthermore, because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access to, or to sabotage, systems change frequently and often are not recognized until launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques or implement adequate preventative measures. We may also experience security breaches that may remain undetected for an extended period. Even if identified, we may be unable to adequately investigate or remediate incidents or breaches due to attackers increasingly using tools and techniques that are designed to circumvent controls, ~~to~~ avoid detection, and ~~to~~ remove or obfuscate forensic evidence. It is not possible to prevent all cybersecurity ~~- 55-~~ threats to our information technology systems and information and those of our third- party service providers, over which we exert less control, and any controls we implement to do so may prove to be ineffective. **Any** ~~If any~~ security breach or other incident, whether actual or perceived, ~~were to occur, it~~ could impact our reputation and / or operations, cause us to incur significant costs, including legal expenses, harm customer confidence, hurt our expansion into new markets, cause us to incur remediation costs, or cause us to lose existing customers. For example, the loss of clinical trial data from clinical trials could result in delays in our regulatory approval efforts and significantly increase our costs to recover or reproduce the data. We also rely on a third party to manufacture lorundrostat, and similar events relating to their computer systems could also have a material adverse effect on our business. To the extent that any actual or perceived disruption or security breach affects our systems (or those of our third- party collaborators, service providers, contractors **,** or consultants) or were to result in a loss of or accidental, unlawful **,** or unauthorized access to, use of, release of, or other processing of personally identifiable information, or damage to, our data or applications, or inappropriate disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, we could incur liability, the further development and commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be delayed, and we could be subject to significant fines, penalties **,** or liabilities for any noncompliance to certain privacy and security laws. Further, despite the implementation of security measures, our internal technology systems (including infrastructure) and those of our current and any future CROs and other contractors, consultants and collaborators are vulnerable to breakdown or other damage or interruption from service interruptions, system malfunction, computer viruses, cybersecurity threats (such as ransomware attacks, denial- of- service attacks, cyber- attacks or cyber- intrusions over the Internet, hacking, phishing and other social engineering attacks), unauthorized access or use, natural disasters, terrorism, war **,** and telecommunication and electrical failures. Such information technology systems are additionally vulnerable to security incidents from inadvertent or intentional actions by our employees, contractors, consultants **,** or other third parties. We and certain of our service providers are from time to time subject to cyberattacks and security incidents and we experienced security incidents in the past and may experience

security incidents in the future. If a significant system failure, accident , or security breach were to occur, it may cause interruptions in our operations or result in the unauthorized disclosure of or access to personally identifiable information or individually identifiable health information, and result in a material disruption of our development programs and our business operations, whether due to a loss of any potential trade secrets or other similar disruptions. Although we currently hold cybersecurity insurance, the costs related to significant security breaches or disruptions could be material and cause us to incur significant expenses. We have also outsourced elements of our information technology infrastructure, and as a result , a number of third- party vendors may or could have access to our confidential information. If our third- party vendors fail to protect their information technology systems and our confidential and proprietary information, we may be vulnerable to disruptions in service and unauthorized access to our confidential or proprietary information and we could incur liability and reputational damage. If the information technology systems of our third- party vendors and other contractors and consultants become subject to disruptions or security breaches, we may have insufficient recourse against such third parties , and we may have to expend significant resources to mitigate the impact of such an event ~~,~~ and ~~to~~ develop and implement protections to prevent future events of this nature from occurring. Some of the federal, state , and foreign government requirements include obligations of companies to notify individuals of security breaches involving particular categories of personally identifiable information, which could result from breaches experienced by us or by our vendors, contractors, or organizations with which we have formed strategic relationships. ~~Our business, operations and clinical development timelines and plans are subject to risks arising from the COVID- 19 pandemic and other epidemic diseases. The COVID- 19 worldwide pandemic has presented substantial public health and economic challenges and has affected our employees, patients, physicians and other healthcare providers, communities and business operations, as well as the U. S. and global economies and financial markets. International and U. S. governmental authorities in impacted regions have taken, and may in the future continue to take, actions in an effort to slow the spread of COVID- 19 and variants of the virus, including issuing varying forms of " stay- at- home " orders and restricting business functions outside of one' s home. To date, we have not experienced material disruptions in our business operations. However, while it is not possible at this time to estimate the impact that COVID- 19 could have on our business in the future, particularly as we advance lorundrostat through clinical development, the continued spread of COVID- 19 and the measures taken by the governmental authorities, and any future epidemic or pandemic disease outbreaks, could disrupt the supply chain and the manufacture or shipment of drug substances and finished drug products for lorundrostat for use in our clinical trials and research and preclinical studies and, delay, limit or prevent our employees and CROs from continuing research and development activities, impede our clinical trial initiation and recruitment and the ability of patients to continue in clinical trials, including due to measures taken that may limit social interaction or prevent reopening of high- transmission settings,~~ 56~~ impede testing, monitoring, data collection and analysis and other related activities, any of which could delay our preclinical studies and clinical trials and increase our development costs, and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The COVID- 19 pandemic and any future epidemic or pandemic disease outbreak could also potentially further affect the business of the FDA, EMA or other regulatory authorities, which could result in delays in meetings related to our planned clinical trials. The COVID- 19 pandemic and mitigation measures have had and may continue to have, and any future epidemic disease outbreak may have, an adverse impact on global economic conditions which could have an adverse effect on our business and financial condition, including impairing our ability to raise capital when needed. The extent to which the COVID- 19 pandemic impacts our results will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted, including new information that may emerge concerning the severity of the virus, including the identification of new variants, the rate of vaccine administration, and the actions to contain its impact.~~ Our business could be affected by litigation, government investigations , and enforcement actions. We currently operate in a number of jurisdictions in a highly regulated industry and we could be subject to litigation, government investigation , and enforcement actions on a variety of matters in the United States or foreign jurisdictions, including, without limitation, intellectual property, regulatory, product liability, environmental, whistleblower, false claims, privacy, anti- kickback, anti- bribery, securities, commercial, employment , and other claims and legal proceedings which may arise from conducting our business. Any determination that our operations or activities are not in compliance with existing laws or regulations could result in the imposition of fines, civil and criminal penalties, equitable remedies, including disgorgement, injunctive relief , and / or other sanctions against us, and remediation of any such findings could have an adverse effect on our business operations. Legal proceedings, government investigations , and enforcement actions can be expensive and time- consuming. An adverse outcome resulting from any such proceedings, investigations , or enforcement actions could result in significant damages awards, fines, penalties, exclusion from the federal healthcare programs, healthcare debarment, injunctive relief, product recalls, reputational damage , and modifications of our business practices, which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Even if such a proceeding, investigation , or enforcement action is ultimately decided in our favor, the investigation and defense thereof could require substantial financial and management resources. Our employees and independent contractors, including principal investigators, CROs, consultants , and vendors, may engage in misconduct or other improper activities, including noncompliance with regulatory standards and requirements and insider trading, which could harm our business, financial condition , and results of operations. We are exposed to the risk that our employees and independent contractors, including principal investigators, CROs, consultants , and vendors may engage in misconduct or other illegal activity. Misconduct by these parties could include intentional, reckless and / or negligent conduct , or disclosure of unauthorized activities to us that violate: (i) the laws and regulations of the FDA and other similar regulatory requirements, including those laws that require the reporting of true, complete , and accurate information to such authorities, (ii) manufacturing standards, including cGMP requirements, (iii) federal and state data privacy, security, fraud , and abuse and other healthcare laws and regulations in the United States and abroad , (iv) laws that require the true, complete , and accurate reporting of financial information or data, or (v) laws that prohibit insider trading. Activities subject to these laws also involve the improper use or misrepresentation of information obtained in the course of clinical trials, the creation of

fraudulent data in our preclinical studies or clinical trials or illegal misappropriation of drug product, which could result in regulatory sanctions and cause serious harm to our reputation. It is not always possible to identify and deter misconduct by employees and other third parties, and the precautions we take to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in controlling unknown or unmanaged risks or losses or in protecting us from governmental investigations or other actions or lawsuits stemming from a failure to be in compliance with such laws or regulations. In addition, we are subject to the risk that a person or government could allege such fraud or other misconduct, even if none occurred. 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 and financial results, including, without limitation, the imposition of significant civil, criminal **,** and administrative penalties, damages, monetary fines, disgorgements, possible exclusion from participation in Medicare, Medicaid **,** and other federal healthcare programs, imprisonment, contractual damages, reputational harm, diminished profits and future earnings, additional reporting requirements **,** and oversight if we become subject to a corporate integrity agreement or similar agreement to resolve allegations of non- compliance with these laws and curtailment of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our results of operations.- ~~57~~ **66** - We may engage in strategic transactions that could increase our capital requirements, dilute our stockholders, cause us to incur debt or assume contingent liabilities, subject us to other risks, adversely affect our liquidity, increase our expenses **,** and present significant distractions to our management. Although we currently have no agreements or commitments to complete any such transactions and are not involved in negotiations to do so, from time to time, we may consider strategic transactions, such as acquisitions of companies, asset purchases **,** and out- licensing or in- licensing of intellectual property, products **,** or technologies. Additional potential transactions that we may consider in the future include a variety of business arrangements, including spin- offs, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, restructurings, divestitures, business combinations **,** and investments. We may not be able to find suitable partners or acquisition candidates, and we may not be able to complete such transactions on favorable terms, if at all. Any future transactions could increase our near and long- term expenditures, result in potentially dilutive issuances of our equity securities, including our common stock, or the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities, amortization expenses **,** or acquired in- process research and development expenses, any of which could affect our financial condition, liquidity **,** and results of operations. Future acquisitions may also require us to obtain additional financing, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all. These transactions may never be successful and may require significant time and attention of our management. In addition, the integration of any business that we may acquire in the future may disrupt our existing business and may be a complex, risky **,** and costly endeavor for which we may never realize the full benefits. Furthermore, we may experience losses related to investments in other companies, including as a result of failure to realize expected benefits or the materialization of unexpected liabilities or risks, which could have a material negative effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Accordingly, although there can be no assurance that we will undertake or successfully complete any additional transactions of the nature described above, any additional transactions that we do complete could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition **,** and prospects. Our ability to use net operating loss carryforwards and other tax attributes may be limited. We have incurred substantial losses during our history, do not expect to become profitable in the near future and may never achieve profitability. To the extent that we continue to generate taxable losses, unused losses will carry forward to offset future taxable income, if any (subject to limitations), until such unused losses expire (if at all). As of December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023** , we had net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards of approximately $ ~~25~~ **35** . ~~7~~ **0** million for federal income tax purposes and $ ~~5~~ **8** . ~~3~~ **6** million for state income tax purposes. Our federal NOL carryforwards will not expire but may generally only be used to offset 80 % of taxable income, which may require us to pay federal income taxes in future years despite generating federal NOL carryforwards in prior years. Our state NOL carryforwards begin to expire in various amounts in 2041. In addition, our NOL carryforwards and other tax attributes are subject to review and possible adjustment by the Internal Revenue Service ~~(IRS)~~ and state tax authorities. Furthermore, in general, under Section 382 of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ~~(the Code)~~ , our federal NOL carryforwards may be or become subject to an annual limitation in the event we have had or have in the future an " ownership change. " For these purposes, an " ownership change " generally occurs if one or more stockholders or groups of stockholders who own at least 5 % of a company' s stock increase their ownership by more than 50 percentage points over their lowest ownership percentage within a rolling three- year period. Similar rules may apply under state tax laws. We have not yet determined the amount of the cumulative change in our ownership resulting from our **initial public offering that occurred on February 14, 2023 (** IPO **)** or other transactions, or any resulting limitations on our ability to utilize our NOL carryforwards and other tax attributes. However, we believe that our ability to utilize our NOL carryforwards and other tax attributes to offset future taxable income or tax liabilities may be limited as a result of ownership changes, including changes related to our IPO. If we earn taxable income, such limitations could result in increased future income tax liability to us and our future cash flows could be adversely affected. We have recorded a full valuation allowance related to our NOL carryforwards and other deferred tax assets due to the uncertainty of the ultimate realization of the future benefits of those assets. **- 67-** Inflation could adversely affect our business and results of operations. While inflation in the United States has been relatively low in recent years, ~~during 2021 and 2022,~~ the economy in the United States encountered a material level of inflation **since 2021** . The impact of ~~COVID- 19~~ **public health concerns** , geopolitical developments **,** ~~such as the Russia- Ukraine conflict~~ and global supply chain disruptions continue to increase uncertainty in the outlook of near- term and long- term economic activity, including whether inflation will continue and how long, and at what rate. Increases in inflation raise our costs for commodities, labor, materials **,** and services and other costs required to grow and operate our business, and failure to secure these on reasonable terms may adversely impact our financial condition. Additionally, increases in inflation, along with **public health concerns** ~~the uncertainties surrounding COVID- 19~~ , geopolitical developments **,** and global supply chain disruptions, have caused, and may in the future cause, global economic uncertainty and uncertainty about the interest ~~- 58-~~ rate environment, which may make it more difficult, costly **,** or dilutive for us to secure additional financing. A failure to

adequately respond to these risks could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition, results of operations , or cash flows. Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property **If we are unable to obtain, maintain, and enforce patent or other intellectual property protection for lorundrostat or any future product candidates or technology, or if the scope of the patent or other intellectual property protection obtained is not sufficiently broad, our competitors or other third parties could develop and commercialize products similar or identical to ours, and our ability to successfully commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates may be adversely affected.** We rely upon a combination of patents, trademarks, and in- licenses of intellectual property rights to protect the intellectual property related to lorundrostat and any future product candidates and technologies to prevent third parties from copying and surpassing our achievements, thus eroding our competitive position in our market. These legal measures afford only limited protection, and competitors or others may gain access to or use our intellectual property and proprietary information. Our success depends in large part on our ability to obtain, maintain, expand, enforce, and defend the scope of our intellectual property protection in the United States and other countries with respect to our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop. We generally seek to protect our proprietary position, in part, by filing patent applications in the United States and abroad relating to lorundrostat and any future product candidates, manufacturing processes, and methods of use. We have in- licensed from Mitsubishi Tanabe a number of patents and patent applications relating to lorundrostat and structurally related compounds, the manufacture of lorundrostat and structurally related compounds, and methods of use of lorundrostat. In addition to the patents and patent applications in- licensed from Mitsubishi Tanabe, our portfolio includes pending patent applications solely owned by us and pending patent applications jointly owned with Mitsubishi Tanabe. If we or Mitsubishi Tanabe are unable to obtain, maintain , or enforce patent protection, our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects could be materially harmed. Changes in either the patent laws or their interpretation in the United States and other jurisdictions may diminish our or our licensor' s ability to protect our intellectual property, obtain, maintain , and enforce our intellectual property rights and, more generally, could affect the value of our intellectual property or narrow the scope of our protection. We cannot predict whether the patent applications we currently or may in the future pursue or in- license will issue as patents in any particular jurisdiction, will provide sufficient protection against competitors or other third parties, or if these patents are challenged by our competitors, will be found to be invalid, unenforceable, or not infringed. The patent prosecution process is expensive, time- consuming, and complex, and we or our licensors may not be able to file, prosecute, maintain, enforce, or license all necessary or desirable patent applications or reissue applications at a reasonable cost or in a timely manner or in all jurisdictions. It is also possible that we will fail to identify patentable aspects of our research and development output in time to obtain patent protection before public disclosures are made. Although we enter into non- disclosure and confidentiality agreements with parties who have access to confidential or patentable aspects of our research and development output, such as our employees, third- party collaborators, CROs, contract manufacturers, consultants, advisors , and other third **- 68-** parties, any of these parties may breach the agreements and disclose such output before a patent application is filed, thereby jeopardizing our or our licensors' ability to seek patent protection. Consequently, we may not be able to prevent any third party from using any of our technology that is in the public domain to compete with lorundrostat and any future product candidates or technologies. In addition, our ability to obtain and maintain valid and enforceable patents depends on whether the differences between our inventions and the prior art allow our inventions to be patentable in light of the prior art. Furthermore, publications of discoveries in the scientific literature often lag behind the actual discoveries, and patent applications in the United States and other jurisdictions are typically not published until 18 months after filing, or in some cases not at all. Therefore, we cannot be certain that we or our licensors were the first to invent the inventions claimed in any of our licensed patents or pending patent applications, or that we or our licensors were the first to make the inventions claimed in those owned or licensed patents or pending patent applications, or that we or our licensors were the first to file for patent protection of such inventions. If a third party can establish that we or our licensors were not the first to make or the first to file for patent protection of such inventions, our owned or licensed patents and patent applications may not issue as patents and even if issued, may be challenged and invalidated or rendered unenforceable. Composition of matter patents for pharmaceutical product candidates often provide a strong form of intellectual property protection for those types of products, as such patents provide protection without regard to any method of use. We cannot be certain that the claims in our pending patent applications covering compositions of matter of our lorundrostat or any future product candidates will be considered patentable by the ~~United States Patent and Trademark Office (~~USPTO ~~)~~, or by patent offices in foreign countries, or that the claims in any of our issued or reissued patents will be considered valid and ~~- 59-~~ enforceable by courts in the United States or foreign countries. Method of use patents protect the use of a product for the specified method. This type of patent does not prevent a competitor from making and marketing a product that is identical to our product for an indication that is outside the scope of the patented method. Moreover, even if competitors do not actively promote their product for our targeted indications, physicians may prescribe these products " off- label. " Although off- label prescriptions may infringe or contribute to the infringement of method of use patents, the practice is common , and such infringement is difficult to prevent or prosecute. The patent position of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies generally is highly uncertain, involves complex legal and factual questions , and has been the subject of much litigation in recent years. As a result, the issuance, scope, validity, enforceability , and commercial value of our patent rights are highly uncertain. Our pending and future patent applications may not result in patents being issued. Any issued patents may not afford sufficient protection of our product candidates or their intended uses against competitors, nor can there be any assurance that the patents issued will not be infringed, designed around, invalidated by third parties, or effectively prevent others from commercializing competitive technologies, products or product candidates. Further, even if these patents are granted, they may be difficult to enforce. 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 if we fail to comply with these requirements. In the event we experience noncompliance events that cannot be corrected and we lose our patent rights, competitors could enter the market,

which would have a material adverse effect on our business. Further, any issued patents that we may license or own covering our lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be narrowed or found invalid or unenforceable if challenged in court or before administrative bodies in the United States or other countries, including the USPTO. Also, patent terms, including any extensions or adjustments that may or may not be available to us, may be inadequate to protect our competitive position on our product candidates for an adequate amount of time, and we may be subject to claims challenging the inventorship, validity, enforceability of our patents and / or other intellectual property. Changes in ~~United States~~ **U. S.** patent law, or laws in other countries, could diminish the value of patents in general, thereby impairing our ability to protect our product candidates. Further, if we encounter delays in our clinical trials or delays in obtaining regulatory approval, the period of time during which we could market our product candidates under patent protection would be reduced. Thus, the patents that we own and license may not afford us any meaningful competitive advantage. **- 69-** Moreover, the claim coverage in a patent application can be significantly reduced before the corresponding patent is granted. Even if our owned or in- licensed patent applications issue as patents, they may not issue in a form that will provide us with any meaningful protection, prevent competitors or other third parties from competing with us or otherwise provide us with any competitive advantage. Any patents issuing from our patent applications may be challenged, narrowed, circumvented **,** or invalidated by third parties. Our competitors or other third parties may avail themselves of safe harbors under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Hatch- Waxman Amendments) to conduct research and clinical trials. Consequently, we do not know whether lorundrostat or any of our future product candidates and other proprietary technology will be protectable or remain protected by valid and enforceable patents. Even if a patent is granted, our competitors or other third parties may be able to circumvent the patent by developing similar or alternative technologies or products in a non- infringing manner which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. In addition, given the amount of time required for the development, testing **,** and regulatory review of our future product candidates, patents protecting the product candidates might expire before or shortly after such product candidates are commercialized. As a result, our intellectual property may not provide us with sufficient rights to exclude others from commercializing products similar or identical to ours. The issuance of a patent is not conclusive as to its inventorship, scope, validity, or enforceability **,** and our patent rights may be challenged in the courts or patent offices in the United States and abroad. We may be subject to a third- party post- issuance submission of prior art to the ~~United States Patent and Trademark Office (~~ USPTO ~~)~~ challenging the validity of one or more claims of our in- licensed patents or patents we may own in the future. Such submissions may also be made prior to a patent' s issuance, precluding the granting of a patent based on one of our owned or licensed pending patent applications. A third party may also claim that our patent rights are invalid or unenforceable in ~~a~~ litigation. The outcome following legal assertions of invalidity and unenforceability is unpredictable. In addition, we may become involved in opposition, derivation, revocation, reexamination, reissue, post- grant and inter partes review **,** or interference proceedings and other similar proceedings in foreign jurisdictions challenging the validity, priority **,** or other features of patentability of our patent rights. An adverse determination in any such submission, proceeding **,** or litigation could reduce the scope of, or invalidate or render unenforceable, our patent rights, allow third parties to commercialize our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop and compete directly with us, without payment to us, or result in our inability to manufacture or commercialize our products without infringing third- party patent rights. Such adverse determinations may also require us to cease using the related technology or to attempt to license rights from the prevailing party. Such proceedings also may result in substantial cost and require significant time from our scientists and management, even if the ~~- 60-~~ eventual outcome is favorable to us. Any of the foregoing ~~,~~ could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. Moreover, some of our patent rights are, and may in the future be, co- owned with third parties, including Mitsubishi Tanabe. In the United States, each co- owner has the freedom to license and exploit the technology. If we are unable to obtain an exclusive license to any such third- party co- owners' interest in such patent rights, such co- owners may be able to license their rights to other third parties, including our competitors, and our competitors could market competing products and technology. In addition, we may need the cooperation of any such co- owners of such patent rights in order to enforce such patent rights against third parties, and such cooperation may not be provided to us. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position, business, financial conditions, results of operations, and prospects. We may not be able to protect our intellectual property and proprietary rights throughout the world. Filing, prosecuting, maintaining, enforcing **,** and defending patents on lorundrostat and any future product candidates in all countries throughout the world is expensive, and the laws of foreign countries may not protect our intellectual property rights to the same extent as ~~the~~ **U. S.** laws ~~of the United States~~. Prosecution of patent applications is often a longer process and patents may grant at a later date, and with a shorter term, than in the United States. The requirements for patentability differ in certain jurisdictions and countries. Additionally, the patent laws of some countries do not afford intellectual property protection to the same extent as ~~the~~ **U. S.** laws ~~of the United States~~. For example, **- 70-** unlike patent law in the United States, patent law in most European countries and many other jurisdictions precludes the patentability of methods of treatment and diagnosis of the human body. Other countries may impose substantial restrictions on the scope of claims, limiting patent protection to specifically disclosed embodiments. Consequently, we may not be able to prevent third parties from practicing our or our licensors' inventions in all countries outside the United States, or from selling or importing products made using our intellectual property in and into the United States or other jurisdictions. Competitors may use our or our licensors' intellectual property in jurisdictions where we or our licensors have not pursued and obtained patent protection to develop their own products and, further, may export otherwise infringing products to territories where we have patent protection but enforcement is not as strong as that in the United States. These products may compete with our products, and our owned and in- licensed 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, trade secrets **,** and other intellectual property protection,

particularly those relating to biotechnology products, which could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement of our patents or marketing of competing products in violation of our intellectual property and proprietary rights generally. In addition, some jurisdictions, such as Europe, Japan **,** and China, may have a higher standard for patentability than in the United States, including, for example, the requirement of claims having literal support in the original patent filing and the limitation on using supporting data that is not in the original patent filing. Under those heightened patentability requirements, we may not be able to obtain sufficient patent protection in certain jurisdictions even though the same or similar patent protection can be secured in the United States and other jurisdictions. Proceedings to enforce our intellectual property and proprietary 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, could put our patent applications at risk of not issuing and could provoke third parties to assert claims against us. We or our licensors may not prevail in any lawsuits that we or our licensors initiate, and the damages or other remedies awarded, if any, may not be commercially meaningful. Accordingly, our efforts to enforce our intellectual property and proprietary rights around the world may be inadequate to obtain a significant commercial advantage from the intellectual property that we develop. Many countries have compulsory licensing laws under which a patent owner may be compelled to grant licenses to third parties. In addition, many countries limit the enforceability of patents against government agencies or government contractors. In these countries, the patent owner may have limited remedies, which could materially diminish the value of such patent. If we or any of our licensors are forced to grant a license to third parties with respect to any patents relevant to our business, our competitive position may be impaired, and our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects may be adversely affected. ~~- 61 -~~ Obtaining and maintaining our patent protection depends on compliance with various procedural, document submission, fee payment, and other requirements imposed by government patent agencies, and our patent protection could be reduced or eliminated for non- compliance with these requirements. The USPTO and various non- U. S. government agencies require compliance with several procedural, documentary, fee payment **,** and other similar provisions during the patent application process. In some circumstances, we are dependent on our licensors to take the necessary action to comply with these requirements with respect to our licensed intellectual property. For example, periodic maintenance fees, renewal fees, annuity fees, and various other government fees on patents and applications will be due to be paid to the USPTO and various government patent agencies outside of the United States over the lifetime of our owned or licensed patents and applications or any patents and applications we may own in the future. In certain circumstances, we rely on our licensors to pay these fees due to U. S. and non- U. S. patent agencies. In some cases, an inadvertent lapse can be cured by payment of a late fee or by other means in accordance with the applicable rules. There are situations, however, in which non- compliance can result in abandonment or lapse of the patent or patent application, resulting in a partial or complete loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction. **- 71-** In such an event, potential competitors might be able to enter the market with similar or identical products or technology, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. The USPTO and various non- U. S. government agencies require compliance with certain foreign filing requirements during the patent application process. For example, in some countries, including the United States, China, India **,** and some European countries, a foreign filing license is required before certain patent applications are filed. The foreign filing license requirements vary by country and depend on various factors, including where the inventive activity occurred, **the** citizenship status of the inventors, the residency of the inventors and the invention owner, the place of business for the invention owner **,** and the nature of the subject matter to be disclosed (e. g., items related to national security or national defense). In some cases, a foreign filing license may be obtained retroactively in accordance with the applicable rules. There are situations, however, in which non- compliance can result in abandonment of a pending patent application or can be grounds for revoking or invalidating an issued patent, resulting in the loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction. In such an event, potential competitors might be able to enter the relevant markets with similar or identical products or technology, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. We are also dependent on our licensors to take the necessary actions to comply with these requirements with respect to our licensed intellectual property ~~. The COVID- 19 pandemic may impair our and our licensors' ability to comply with these procedural, document submission, fee payment, and other requirements imposed by government patent agencies, which may materially and adversely affect our ability to obtain or maintain patent protection for our products and product candidates~~ . Changes in patent laws or their interpretations could diminish the value of patents in general, thereby impairing our ability to protect our products. Changes in either the patent laws or interpretation of the patent laws in the United States could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of patent applications and the enforcement or defense of issued patents. Assuming that other requirements for patentability are met, prior to March 2013, in the United States, the first to invent the claimed invention was entitled to the patent, while outside the United States, the first to file a patent application was entitled to the patent. After March 2013, under the Leahy- Smith America Invents Act (the America Invents Act) enacted in September 2011, the United States transitioned to a first inventor to file system in which, assuming that other requirements for patentability are met, the first inventor to file a patent application will be entitled to the patent on an invention regardless of whether a third party was the first to invent the claimed invention. A third party that files a patent application in the USPTO after March 2013, but before us or our licensors could therefore be awarded a patent covering an invention of ours or our licensors even if we had made the invention before it was made by such third party. This ~~will require~~ **requires** us to be cognizant ~~going forward~~ of the time from invention to filing of a patent application. Since patent applications in the United States and most other countries are confidential for a period of time after filing or until issuance, we cannot be certain that we or our licensors were the first to either (i) file any patent application related to lorundrostat or any of our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop or (ii) invent any of the inventions claimed in our patents or patent applications. The America Invents Act also includes a number of significant changes that affect the way patent applications will be prosecuted and also may affect patent litigation. These include allowing third- party protests and submission of prior art to the USPTO during patent prosecution and additional procedures to attack the

validity of a patent by USPTO- administered post- grant proceedings, including post- grant review, inter partes review , and derivation proceedings. Because of a lower evidentiary standard in USPTO proceedings compared to the evidentiary standard in ~~United States~~ **U. S.** federal courts necessary to invalidate a patent claim, a third party could potentially provide evidence in a USPTO proceeding sufficient ~~- 62 -~~ for the USPTO to hold a claim invalid even though the same evidence would be insufficient to invalidate the claim if first presented in a district court action. Accordingly, a third party may attempt to use the USPTO procedures to invalidate our patent claims that would not have been invalidated if first challenged by the third party as a defendant in a district court action. Therefore, the America Invents Act and its implementation could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our patent applications and the enforcement or defense of patents issuing from those patent applications, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. **- 72-** In addition, the patent positions of companies in the development and commercialization of pharmaceuticals are particularly uncertain. Recent U. S. Supreme Court rulings have narrowed the scope of patent protection available in certain circumstances and weakened the rights of patent owners in certain situations. We cannot predict how decisions by the courts, the U. S. Congress , or the USPTO may impact the value of our patent rights. This combination of events has created uncertainty with respect to the validity and enforceability of patents, once obtained. Depending on future actions by the U. S. Congress, the federal courts , and the USPTO, the laws and regulations governing patents could change in unpredictable ways that could have a material adverse effect on our existing patent portfolio and our ability to protect and enforce our intellectual property in the future. Similarly, changes in patent law 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 have licensed or that we may obtain in the future. Issued patents covering our product candidates could be found invalid or unenforceable if challenged in court or before administrative bodies in the United States or abroad. Our patent rights may be subject to priority, validity, inventorship , and enforceability disputes. Legal proceedings relating to intellectual property claims, with or without merit, are unpredictable and generally expensive and time- consuming and likely to divert significant resources from our core business, including distracting our management and scientific personnel from their normal responsibilities and generally harm our business. If we or our licensors are unsuccessful in any of these proceedings, such patents and patent applications may be narrowed, invalidated , or held unenforceable, we may be required to obtain licenses from third parties, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all, or we may be required to cease the development, manufacture , and commercialization of lorundrostat or future product candidates. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. If we or our licensors initiate legal proceedings against a third party to enforce a patent covering lorundrostat or any of our future product candidates, the defendant could counterclaim that such patent is invalid or unenforceable. In patent litigation in the United States, defendant counterclaims alleging invalidity or unenforceability are commonplace. Grounds for a validity challenge could include an alleged failure to meet any of several statutory requirements, including lack of novelty, obviousness, non- enablement, lack of sufficient written description, failure to claim patent- eligible subject matter , or obviousness- type double patenting. Grounds for an unenforceability assertion could be an allegation that someone connected with prosecution of the patent withheld relevant information from the USPTO, or made a misleading statement, during prosecution. Third parties may raise claims challenging the validity or enforceability of a patent before administrative bodies in the United States or abroad, even outside the context of litigation. Such mechanisms include re- examination, post- grant review, inter partes review, interference proceedings, derivation proceedings, and equivalent proceedings in foreign jurisdictions (e. g., opposition proceedings). Such proceedings could result in the revocation of, cancellation of , or amendment to our patent rights in such a way that they no longer cover our product candidates or prevent third parties from competing with our product candidates. The outcome following legal assertions of invalidity and unenforceability is unpredictable. With respect to the validity question, for example, we cannot be certain that there is no invalidating prior art, of which we or our licensing partners and the patent examiner were unaware during prosecution. If a third party were to prevail on a legal assertion of invalidity or unenforceability, we would lose at least part, and perhaps all, of the patent protection on lorundrostat and any future product candidates. Such a loss of patent protection would have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. **- 73-** We cannot ensure that patent rights relating to inventions described and claimed in our pending patent applications will issue or that patents based on our patent applications will not be challenged and rendered invalid and / or unenforceable. We have pending ~~United States~~ **U. S.** and foreign patent applications in our portfolio; however, we cannot predict: • if and when patents may issue based on our patent applications; • the scope of protection of any patent issuing based on our patent applications; ~~- 63 -~~ • whether the claims of any patent issuing based on our patent applications will provide protection against competitors; • whether or not third parties will find ways to invalidate or circumvent our patent rights; • whether or not others will obtain patents claiming aspects similar to those covered by our patents and patent applications; • whether we will need to initiate litigation or administrative proceedings to enforce and / or defend our patent rights which will be costly whether we win or lose; and / or • whether the patent applications that we own ~~,~~ or in- license will result in issued patents with claims that cover lorundrostat or any of our future product candidates or uses thereof in the United States or in other foreign countries. The claims in our pending patent applications directed to lorundrostat and any ~~or~~ **of** our future product candidates and / or technologies may not be considered patentable by the USPTO or by patent offices in foreign countries. Any such patent applications may not issue as granted patents. One aspect of the determination of patentability of our inventions depends on the scope and content of the " prior art, " information that was or is deemed available to a person of skill in the relevant art prior to the priority date of the claimed invention. There may be prior art of which we are not aware that may affect the patentability of our patent claims or, if issued, affect the validity or enforceability of a patent claim. Even if the patents do issue based on our patent applications, third parties may challenge the validity, enforceability , or scope thereof, which may result in such patents being narrowed, invalidated , or held unenforceable. Furthermore, even if they are unchallenged, patents in our portfolio may

not adequately exclude third parties from practicing relevant technology or prevent others from designing around our claims. If the breadth or strength of our intellectual property position with respect to our product candidates is threatened, it could dissuade companies from collaborating with us to develop and threaten our ability to commercialize our product candidates. In the event of litigation or administrative proceedings, the claims in any of our issued patents may not be considered valid by courts in the United States or foreign countries. Patent terms may be inadequate to protect the competitive position of our product candidates for an adequate amount of time. Patents have a limited lifespan. 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 or international patent application 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 are obtained, once the patent has expired, we may be vulnerable to competition from competitive products, including generics. Given the amount of time required for the development, testing **,** and regulatory review of new product candidates, patents protecting such product candidates might expire before or shortly after such product candidates are commercialized. As a result, our owned and licensed patent portfolio may not provide us with sufficient rights to exclude others from commercializing products similar or identical to ours. If we do not have sufficient patent life to protect our products, our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects will be adversely affected. **- 74-** If we do not obtain patent term extension and equivalent extensions outside of the United States for our product candidates, our business may be materially harmed. Depending upon the timing, duration **,** and specifics of any FDA marketing approval of lorundrostat or any future product candidate we may develop, one or more of our in- licensed issued U. S. patents or issued U. S. patents we may own in the future may be eligible for limited patent term extension under the Hatch- Waxman Amendments. The Hatch-Waxman Amendments permit a patent term extension of up to 5 years as compensation for patent term lost during the FDA regulatory review process. A patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of fourteen (14) years from the date of product approval, only ~~1~~ **one** patent may be extended, and only those claims covering the approved drug, a method for using it **,** or a method for manufacturing it may be extended. Similar patent term restoration provisions to compensate for commercialization delay caused by regulatory review are also available in certain foreign jurisdictions, such as in Europe under Supplemental Protection Certificate. However, we may not be granted an extension for various reasons, including failing to exercise due diligence during the testing phase or regulatory review process, failing to apply within applicable deadlines, failing to apply prior to expiration of relevant patents, or failing to satisfy other applicable requirements. Moreover, the applicable time period or the scope of patent protection afforded could be less than we request. In addition, to the extent we wish to pursue patent term extension based on a patent that we in- license from a third party, we may need the cooperation of that third party. If we are unable to obtain patent term extension, or the foreign ~~- 64-~~ equivalent, or if the term of any such extension is less than we request, our competitors may obtain approval ~~of~~ **for** competing products following our patent expiration, and our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects could be materially harmed ~~).~~. We may be subject to claims challenging the inventorship of our patents and other intellectual property. We or our licensors may be subject to claims that former employees, consultants, collaborators **,** or other third parties have an interest in our patent rights, any potential trade secrets, or other intellectual property as an inventor, co- inventor **,** or owner of any potential trade secrets. For example, we may have inventorship disputes arise from conflicting obligations of consultants or others who are involved in developing our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these and other claims challenging inventorship or our patent rights, any potential trade secrets **,** or other intellectual property. If we or our licensors fail in defending any such claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable intellectual property rights, such as exclusive ownership of, or right to use, intellectual property that is important to our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop. Even if we are successful in defending against such claims, litigation could result in substantial costs and be a distraction to our management and other employees. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. If we are unable to protect the confidentiality of any potential trade secrets, our business and competitive position would be harmed. In addition to seeking patent protection for our product candidates and proprietary technologies, we may also rely on trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements to protect our unpatented know- how, technology, and other proprietary information and to maintain our competitive position. We seek to protect any potential trade secrets and other proprietary technology, in part, by entering into non- disclosure and confidentiality agreements with parties who have access to them, such as our employees, third- party collaborators, CROs, contract manufacturers, consultants, advisors **,** and other third parties. We also enter into confidentiality and invention or patent assignment agreements with our employees and consultants. Trade secrets and know-how can be difficult to protect. We cannot guarantee that we have entered into applicable agreements with each party that may have or have had access to any potential trade secrets or proprietary technology and processes. Despite these efforts, any of these parties may breach the agreements and disclose our proprietary information, including any potential trade secrets, and we may not be able to obtain adequate remedies for such breaches. Monitoring unauthorized uses and disclosures is difficult, and we do not know whether the steps we have taken to protect our proprietary technologies will be effective. We cannot guarantee **- 75-** that any potential trade secrets and other proprietary and confidential information will not be disclosed or that competitors will not otherwise gain access to any potential trade secrets. Enforcing a claim that a party illegally disclosed or misappropriated a trade secret is difficult, expensive **,** and time- consuming, and the outcome is unpredictable. In addition, some courts inside and outside the United States are less willing or unwilling to protect trade secrets. If any of our potential trade secrets were to be lawfully obtained or independently developed by a competitor or other third party, we would have no right to prevent them from using that technology or information to compete with us. Furthermore, others may independently discover any potential trade secrets and proprietary information. If any of our potential trade secrets were to be lawfully obtained or independently developed by a competitor or other third party, we would have no right to prevent them, or those to whom they communicate it, from using that technology or information to compete with us. If any of our potential trade secrets were to be disclosed or misappropriated

or if any such information were to be independently developed by a competitor or other third party, our competitive position would be materially and adversely harmed. We may be subject to claims that third parties have an ownership interest in any potential trade secrets. For example, we may have disputes arise from conflicting obligations of our employees, consultants , or others who are involved in developing our product candidate. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these and other claims challenging ownership of any potential trade secrets. If we fail in defending any such claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable trade secret rights, such as exclusive ownership of, or right to use, trade secrets that are important to our product candidates and other proprietary technologies we may develop. Such an outcome could have a material adverse effect on our business. Even if we are successful in defending against such claims, litigation could result in substantial costs and be a distraction to our management and other employees. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. ~~- 65 -~~ 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 and market our products and product candidates. We cannot guarantee that any of our or our licensors' patent searches or analyses, including the identification of relevant patents, the scope of patent claims , or the expiration of relevant patents, are complete or thorough, nor can we be certain that we or our licensors have identified each and every third- party patent and pending patent application in the United States and abroad that is relevant to or necessary for the commercialization of our current and future products and product candidates in any jurisdiction. Patent applications in the United States and elsewhere are not published until approximately 18 months after the earliest filing for which priority is claimed, with such earliest filing date being commonly referred to as the priority date. Therefore, patent applications covering our product candidates could have been filed by others without our knowledge. Additionally, pending patent applications that have been published can, subject to certain limitations, be later amended in a manner that could cover product candidates or the use of our product candidates. The scope of a patent claim is determined by the interpretation of the law, the words of a patent claim, the written disclosure in a patent , and the patent' s prosecution history. Our interpretation of the relevance or the scope of a patent or a pending patent application may be incorrect, which may negatively impact our ability to market our products. We may incorrectly determine that our products or product candidates are not covered by a third- party patent or may incorrectly predict whether a third party' s pending patent application will issue with claims of relevant scope. Our determination of the expiration date of any patent in the United States or abroad that we consider relevant may be incorrect, and we may incorrectly conclude that a third- party patent is invalid and unenforceable. Our failure to identify and correctly interpret relevant patents may negatively impact our ability to develop and market our products and product candidates. If we fail to identify and correctly interpret relevant patents, we may be subject to infringement claims. Also, because the claims of published patent applications can change between publication and patent grant, there may be published patent applications that may ultimately issue with claims that we infringe. As the number of competitors in the market grows and the number of patents issued in this area increases, the possibility of patent infringement claims **- 76 -** escalates. Moreover, in recent years, individuals and groups that are non- practicing entities, commonly referred to as " patent trolls, " have purchased patents and other intellectual property assets for the purpose of making claims of infringement in order to extract settlements. From time to time, we may receive threatening letters, notices , or " invitations to license, " or may be the subject of claims that our products and business operations infringe or violate the intellectual property rights of others. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to successfully settle or otherwise resolve such infringement claims. If we fail in any such dispute, in addition to being forced to pay damages, we may be temporarily or permanently prohibited from commercializing any of our product candidates that are held to be infringing. We might, if possible, also be forced to redesign product candidates or services so that we no longer infringe the third- party intellectual property rights. Any of these events, even if we were ultimately to prevail, could require us to divert substantial financial and management resources that we would otherwise be able to devote to our business. We may be subject to claims asserting that our employees, consultants , or advisors have wrongfully used or disclosed alleged trade secrets of their current or former employers or claims asserting ownership of what we regard as our own intellectual property. Some of our employees, consultants , and advisors are currently or were previously employed at universities or other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies, including our competitors or potential competitors. Although we try to ensure that our employees, consultants , and advisors do not use the proprietary information or know- how of others in their work for us, we may be subject to claims that we or these individuals have used or disclosed intellectual property, including trade secrets or other proprietary information, of any such individual' s current or former employer. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these claims. If we fail in defending any such claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable intellectual property rights or personnel. Even if we are successful in defending against such claims, litigation could result in substantial costs and be a distraction to our management. In addition, while it is our policy to require our employees and contractors who may be involved in the conception or development of intellectual property to execute agreements assigning such intellectual property to us, we may be unsuccessful in executing such an agreement with each party who, in fact, conceives or develops intellectual property that we regard as our own. The assignment of intellectual property rights may not be self- executing, or the assignment agreements may be breached, and we may be forced to bring claims against third parties, or defend claims that they may bring against us, to determine the ownership of what we regard as our intellectual property. Such claims could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations , and prospects. ~~- 66 -~~ Third- party claims of intellectual property infringement, misappropriation , or other violations against us or our collaborators could be expensive and time - consuming and may prevent or delay the development and commercialization of our product candidates. Our commercial success depends in part on our ability to avoid infringing, misappropriating , and otherwise violating the patents and other intellectual property rights of third parties. There is a substantial amount of complex litigation involving patents and other intellectual property rights in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, as well as administrative proceedings for challenging patents, including interference, derivation , and reexamination proceedings before the USPTO or oppositions and other comparable proceedings in

foreign jurisdictions. Such challenges may result in loss of exclusivity or freedom to operate or in patent claims being narrowed, invalidated , or held unenforceable, in whole or in part, which could limit our ability to stop others from using or commercializing similar or identical products and techniques without payment ~~,~~ or limit the duration of the patent protection of our technology. As discussed above, ~~recently,~~ due to changes in U. S. law referred to as patent reform, ~~new~~ procedures including inter partes review and post- grant review have also been implemented. As stated above, this reform adds uncertainty to the possibility of challenge to our patent rights in the future. Numerous U. S. and foreign- issued patents and pending patent applications owned by third parties exist in the fields in which we are commercializing or plan to commercialize lorundrostat. As the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries expand and more patents are issued, and as we gain greater visibility and market **- 77-** exposure as a public company, the risk increases that lorundrostat or any future product candidates, and commercializing activities may give rise to claims of infringement of the patent rights of others. We cannot assure you that lorundrostat or any future product candidates we develop will not infringe existing or future patents owned by third parties. We may not be aware of patents that have already been issued for which a third party, such as a competitor in the fields in which we are developing lorundrostat or our future product candidates, might accuse us of infringing. It is also possible that patents owned by third parties of which we are aware, but which we do not believe we infringe or that we believe we have valid defenses to any claims of patent infringement, could be found to be infringed by us. It is not unusual that corresponding patents issued in different countries have different scopes of coverage, such that in one country a third- party patent does not pose a material risk, but in another country, the corresponding third- party patent may pose a material risk to lorundrostat and any future product candidates. As such, we monitor third- party patents in the relevant pharmaceutical markets. In addition, because patent applications can take many years to issue, there may be currently pending patent applications that may later result in issued patents that we may infringe. In the event that any third- party claims that we infringe their patents or that we are otherwise employing their proprietary technology without authorization and initiates litigation against us, even if we believe such claims are without merit, a court of competent jurisdiction could hold that such patents are valid, enforceable and infringed by us. Defense of infringement claims, regardless of their merit, would involve substantial litigation expense and would be a substantial diversion of management and other employee resources from our business, and may impact our reputation. In the event of a successful claim of infringement against us, we may be enjoined from further developing or commercializing the infringing products or technologies. In addition, we may be required to pay substantial damages, including treble damages and attorneys' fees for willful infringement, obtain one or more licenses from third parties, pay royalties , and / or redesign our infringing products or technologies, which may be impossible or require substantial time and monetary expenditure. Such licenses may not be available on commercially reasonable 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. If we are unable to obtain a necessary license to a third- party patent on commercially reasonable terms or at all, we may be unable to commercialize the infringing products or technologies or such commercialization efforts may be significantly delayed, which could in turn significantly harm our business. In addition, we may in the future pursue patent challenges with respect to third- party patents, including as a defense against the foregoing infringement claims. The outcome of such challenges is unpredictable. Even if resolved in our favor, the foregoing proceedings could be very expensive, particularly for a company of our size, and time- consuming. Such proceedings could substantially increase our operating losses and reduce the resources available for development activities or any future sales, marketing , or distribution activities. We may not have sufficient financial or other resources to conduct such proceedings adequately. Some of our competitors may be able to sustain the costs of litigation or administrative proceedings more effectively than we can because of greater financial resources. Such proceedings may also absorb significant time ~~of~~ **from** our technical and management personnel and distract them from their normal responsibilities. Uncertainties resulting from such proceedings could impair our ability to compete in the marketplace. In addition, there could be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions , or other interim proceedings or developments and if securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have a ~~- 67-~~ substantial adverse effect on the price of our common stock. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition , or results of operations. We may become involved in lawsuits to protect or enforce our patent and other intellectual property rights, which could be expensive, time- consuming , and unsuccessful. Third parties, such as a competitor, may infringe our patent rights. In an infringement proceeding, a court may decide that a patent owned by us or licensed to us is invalid or unenforceable or may refuse to stop the other party from using the invention at issue on the grounds that the patent does not cover the technology in question. In addition, our or our licensors' patent rights may become involved in inventorship, priority , or **- 78-** validity disputes. To counter or defend against such claims can be expensive and time- consuming. An adverse result in any litigation proceeding could put our patent rights at risk of being invalidated, held unenforceable , or interpreted narrowly. Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation and proceedings, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during such litigation and proceedings. Even if resolved in our favor, litigation or other legal proceedings relating to intellectual property claims may cause us to incur significant expenses and could distract our personnel from their normal responsibilities. In addition, there could be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions , or other interim proceedings or developments, and if securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have a substantial adverse effect on the price of our common stock. Such litigation or proceedings could substantially increase our operating losses and reduce the resources available for development activities or any future sales, marketing , or distribution activities. We may not have sufficient financial or other resources to conduct such litigation or proceedings adequately. Some of our competitors may be able to sustain the costs of such litigation or proceedings more effectively than we can because of their greater financial resources and more mature and developed intellectual property portfolios. Uncertainties resulting from the initiation and continuation of patent litigation or other

proceedings could have a material adverse effect on our ability to compete in the marketplace. 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 registered or unregistered trademarks or trade names may be challenged, infringed, diluted, circumvented **,** or declared generic or determined to be infringing, misappropriating **,** or violating 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 partners or customers in the markets of interest. During trademark registration proceedings, we may receive rejections of our applications by the USPTO or in other foreign jurisdictions. Although we are given an opportunity to respond to such rejections, we may be unable to overcome them. In the event that our trademarks are successfully challenged, we could be forced to rebrand our products, which could result in loss of brand recognition, and could require us to devote resources to advertising and marketing new brands. In addition, in the USPTO and in comparable agencies in many foreign jurisdictions, third parties are given an opportunity to oppose pending trademark applications and to seek to cancel registered trademarks. Opposition or cancellation proceedings may be filed against our trademarks, which may not survive such proceedings. Moreover, any name we may propose to use with lorundrostat or any future product candidate in the United States must be approved by the FDA, regardless of whether we have registered it, or applied to register it, as a trademark. Similar requirements exist in Europe. The FDA typically conducts a review of proposed product names, including an evaluation of potential for confusion with other product names. If the FDA or an equivalent administrative body in a foreign jurisdiction objects to any of our proposed proprietary product names, we may be required to expend significant additional resources in an effort to identify a suitable substitute name that would qualify under applicable trademark laws, not infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate the existing rights of third parties and be acceptable to the FDA. Furthermore, in many countries, owning and maintaining a trademark registration may not provide an adequate defense against a subsequent infringement claim asserted by the owner of a senior trademark. We may not be able to obtain, protect **,** or enforce our rights to these trademarks and trade names, which we need to build name recognition among potential partners or customers in our markets of interest. At times, competitors or other third parties 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, misappropriation, dilution **,** or other claims brought by owners of other registered trademarks or trademarks that incorporate variations of our registered or unregistered trademarks or trade names. Over the long term, if we are unable to 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 obtain, enforce **,** or protect our proprietary rights related to trademarks, trade names, domain ~~name~~ **names ,** or **- 79-** other intellectual property may be ineffective and could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. ~~- 68-~~ Intellectual property rights do not necessarily address all potential threats. The degree of future protection afforded by our intellectual property rights is uncertain because intellectual property rights have limitations and may not adequately protect our business or permit us to maintain our competitive advantage. For example: • others may be able to make products that are similar to lorundrostat or any future product candidates or utilize similar technology but that are not covered by the claims of the patents that we license or may own; • we or our licensors might not have been the first to make the inventions covered by our or our licensors' current or future patent applications; • ~~We~~ **we** or our licensors might not have been the first to file patent applications covering our or their inventions; • others may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate any of our or our licensors' technologies without infringing our intellectual property rights; • it is possible that our or our licensors' current or future patent applications will not lead to issued patents; • any patent issuing from our or our licensors' current or future patent applications may be held invalid or unenforceable, including as a result of legal challenges by our competitors or other third parties; • ~~Others~~ **others** may have access to the same intellectual property rights licensed to use in the future on a non-exclusive basis; • our competitors or other third parties might conduct research and development activities in countries where we or our licensors do not have patent rights and then use the information learned from such activities to develop competitive products for sale in our major commercial markets; • we may not develop additional proprietary technologies that are patentable; • the patents or other intellectual property rights of others may harm our business; and • we may choose not to file for patent protection in order to maintain certain trade secrets or know- how, and a third party may subsequently file a patent application covering such intellectual property. Should any of the foregoing occur, it could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. We partially depend on intellectual property licensed from third parties, and our licensors may not always act in our best interest. If we fail to comply with our obligations under our intellectual property licenses, if the licenses are terminated **,** or if disputes regarding these licenses arise, we could lose significant rights that are important to our business. We are a party to the Mitsubishi License under which we are granted rights to intellectual property that are important to lorundrostat and our business **,** and we may enter into additional license agreements in the future with other third parties. The Mitsubishi License imposes, and we expect that any future license agreements where we in- license intellectual property, will impose on us, various development, regulatory **,** and / or commercial diligence obligations, payment of milestones **,** and / or royalties and other obligations. We may need to devote substantial time and attention to ensuring that we are compliant with our obligations under such **- 80-** agreements, which may divert management' s time and attention away from our research and development programs or other day- to- day activities. If we fail to comply with our obligations under these agreements, or we are subject to bankruptcy- related proceedings, the licensor may have the right to terminate the license, in which event we would not be able to develop or market products covered by the license, or we may be subject to litigation for breach of these agreements. If we or our licensors fail to adequately protect our licensed intellectual property, our ability to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates could suffer. We do not have complete control over the maintenance, prosecution **,** and litigation of our in- licensed patents and patent applications and may have limited control over future intellectual property that may be in- licensed. For example, we cannot be certain that activities such as the maintenance

and prosecution by our licensors have been or will be conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations or will result in valid and enforceable patents and other intellectual property rights. It is possible that our licensors' infringement ~~- 69-~~ proceedings or defense activities may be less vigorous than had we conducted them ourselves or may not be conducted in accordance with our best interests. In addition, the agreements under which we license intellectual property or technology from third parties are complex, and certain provisions in such agreements may be susceptible to multiple interpretations. The resolution of any contract interpretation disagreement that may arise could narrow what we believe to be the scope of our rights to the relevant patents, know- how **,** and proprietary technology, or increase what we believe to be our financial or other obligations under the relevant agreement. Disputes that may arise between us and our licensors regarding intellectual property subject to a license agreement could include disputes regarding: • the scope of rights granted under the license agreement and other interpretation- related issues; • whether and the extent to which our technology and processes infringe on intellectual property of the licensor that is not subject to the licensing agreement; • our right to sublicense patent and other rights to third parties under collaborative development relationships; • our diligence obligations with respect to the use of the licensed technology in relation to our development and commercialization of lorundrostat or any future product candidates and what activities satisfy those diligence obligations; and • the ownership of inventions and know- how resulting from the joint creation or use of intellectual property by our licensors and us. If disputes over intellectual property that we have licensed prevent or impair our ability to maintain our current licensing arrangements on acceptable terms, we may be unable to successfully develop and commercialize the affected technology or lorundrostat or any future product candidates. As a result, any termination of or disputes over our intellectual property licenses could result in the loss of our ability to develop and commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates, or we could lose other significant rights, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. For example, our agreements with certain of our third- party research partners provide that improvements developed in the course of our relationship may be owned solely by either us or our third- party research partner, or jointly between us and the third party. If we determine that rights to such improvements owned solely by a research partner or other third party with whom we collaborate are necessary to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates or maintain our competitive advantage, we may need to obtain a license from such third party in order to use the improvements and continue developing, manufacturing **,** or marketing lorundrostat or any future product candidates. We may not be able to obtain such a license on an exclusive basis, on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, which could prevent us from **- 81-** commercializing lorundrostat or any future product candidates or allow our competitors or others the chance to access technology that is important to our business. We also may need the cooperation of any co- owners of our intellectual property in order to enforce such intellectual property against third parties, and such cooperation may not be provided to us. We may not be successful in obtaining or maintaining necessary rights to product components and processes for our development pipeline through acquisitions and in- licenses. The growth of our business may depend in part on our ability to acquire, in- license **,** or use third- party intellectual property and proprietary rights. For example, lorundrostat or any future product candidates may require specific formulations to work effectively and efficiently, we may develop product candidates containing our compounds and pre- existing pharmaceutical compounds, or we may be required by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities to provide a companion diagnostic test or tests with our product candidates, any of which could require us to obtain rights to use intellectual property held by third parties. In addition, with respect to any patent or other intellectual property rights we may co- own with third parties, we may require licenses to such co- owners **'** interest to such patents. We may be unable to acquire or in- license any compositions, methods of use, processes **,** or other third- party intellectual property rights from third parties that we identify as necessary or important to our business operations. In addition, we may fail to obtain any of these licenses at a reasonable cost or on reasonable terms, if at all. Were that to happen, we may need to cease use of the compositions or methods covered by those third- party intellectual property rights and may need to seek to develop alternative approaches that do not infringe, misappropriate **,** or otherwise violate those intellectual property rights, which may entail additional costs and development delays, even if we were able to develop such alternatives, which may not be feasible. Even if we are able to obtain a license, it may be non- exclusive, which means that our competitors may also ~~- 70-~~ receive access to the same technologies licensed to us. In that event, we may be required to expend significant time and resources to develop or license replacement technology. Additionally, we may collaborate with academic institutions to accelerate our preclinical research or development under written agreements with these institutions. In certain cases, these institutions provide us with an option to negotiate a license to any of the institution' s rights in technology resulting from the collaboration. Even if we hold such an option, we may be unable to negotiate a license from the institution within the specified timeframe or under terms that are acceptable to us. If we are unable to do so, the institution may offer the intellectual property rights to others, potentially blocking our ability to pursue our program. The licensing and acquisition of third- party intellectual property rights is a competitive area, and companies that may be more established or have greater resources than we do may also be pursuing strategies to license or acquire third- party intellectual property rights that we may consider necessary or attractive in order to commercialize lorundrostat or any future product candidates. More established companies may have a competitive advantage over us due to their size, cash resources **,** and greater clinical development and commercialization capabilities. In addition, companies that perceive us to be a competitor may be unwilling to assign or license rights to us. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully complete these types of negotiations and ultimately acquire the rights to the intellectual property surrounding the additional product candidates that we may seek to develop or market. If we are unable to successfully obtain rights to required third- party intellectual property or to maintain the existing intellectual property rights we have, we may have to abandon development of certain programs **,** and our business financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects could suffer. Our intellectual property licensed from third parties may be subject to retained rights. Our current or future licensors may retain certain rights under their agreements with us, including the right to use the underlying technology for noncommercial academic and research use, to publish general scientific findings from research related to the technology, and to

make customary scientific and scholarly disclosures of information relating to the technology. It is difficult to monitor whether our licensors will limit their use of the technology to these uses, and we could incur substantial expenses to enforce our rights to our licensed technology in the event of misuse. **- 82-** Government agencies may provide funding, facilities, personnel **,** or other assistance in connection with the development of the intellectual property rights owned by or licensed to us. Such government agencies may have retained rights in such intellectual property. For example, the ~~United States~~ **U. S.** federal government retains certain rights in inventions produced with its financial assistance under the Patent and Trademark Law Amendments Act, or the Bayh- Dole Act; these include the right to grant or require us to grant mandatory licenses or sublicenses to such intellectual property to third parties under certain specified circumstances, including if it is necessary to meet health and safety needs that we are not reasonably satisfying or if it is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by federal regulations, or to manufacture products in the United States. Any exercise of such rights, including with respect to any such required sublicense of these licenses **,** could result in the loss of significant rights and could harm our ability to commercialize licensed products. While it is our policy to avoid engaging our university partners in projects in which there is a risk that government funds may be commingled, we cannot be sure that any such co- developed intellectual property will be free from government rights. If, in the future, we co- own or license in technology that is critical to our business that is developed in whole or in part with government funds subject to certain government rights, our ability to enforce or otherwise exploit patents covering such technology may be adversely affected. Risks Related to Our Common Stock ~~An active, liquid and orderly market for our common stock may not develop, or we may in the future fail to satisfy the continued listing requirements of Nasdaq. Prior to our IPO, there had been no public market for our common stock. Our common stock only recently began trading on the Nasdaq Global Select Market (Nasdaq), and we can provide no assurance that we will be able to develop an active trading market for our common stock. Even if an active trading market is developed, it may not be sustained. The lack of an active market may impair your ability to sell your shares at the time you wish to sell them or at a price that you consider reasonable. An inactive market may also impair our ability to raise capital by selling shares and may impair our ability to acquire other businesses or technologies using our shares as consideration, which, in turn, could materially adversely affect our business. If we fail to satisfy the continued listing requirements of Nasdaq, such as the corporate governance requirements or the minimum closing bid price requirement, Nasdaq may take steps to delist our common stock. Such a delisting would~~ 71~~ likely have a negative effect on the price of our common stock and would impair your ability to sell or purchase our common stock when you wish to do so. In the event of a delisting, we can provide no assurance that any action taken by us to restore compliance with listing requirements would allow our common stock to become listed again, stabilize the market price or improve the liquidity of our common stock, prevent our common stock from dropping below the Nasdaq minimum bid price requirement or prevent future non- compliance with the listing requirements of Nasdaq.~~ The trading price of the shares of our common stock could be highly volatile, and purchasers of our common stock could incur substantial losses. Our stock price is likely to be volatile. The stock market in general and the market for stock of biopharmaceutical companies in particular have experienced extreme volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. As a result of this volatility, investors may not be able to sell their common stock at or above the price at which they paid. The market price for our common stock may be influenced by those factors discussed in this " Risk Factors " section and many others, including: • results of our clinical trials and preclinical studies, and the results of trials of our competitors or those of other companies in our market sector; • our ability to enroll subjects in our future clinical trials; • our ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of lorundrostat or any future product candidates or additional indications thereof, or limitations to specific label indications or patient populations for its use, or changes or delays in the regulatory review process; • regulatory or legal developments in the United States and foreign countries; • changes in the structure of healthcare payment systems; • the success or failure of our efforts to identify, develop, acquire **,** or license additional product candidates; • innovations, clinical trial results, product approvals **,** and other developments by our competitors; • announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures **,** or capital commitments; • the degree and rate of physician and market adoption of any of our current and future product candidates; • manufacturing, supply **,** or distribution delays or shortages, including our inability to obtain adequate product supply, at acceptable prices or at all ; • any changes to our relationship with any manufacturers, suppliers, collaborators **,** or other strategic partners; **- 83-** • achievement of expected product sales and profitability; • variations in our financial results or those of companies that are perceived to be similar to us, including variations from expectations of securities analysts or investors; • market conditions in the biopharmaceutical sector and issuance of securities analysts' reports or recommendations; • trading volume of our common stock; • an inability to obtain additional funding or obtaining funding on unattractive terms; • sales of our stock by us, our insiders **,** or our stockholders, as well as the anticipation of lock- up releases; • general economic, industry **,** and market conditions **,** other events or factors, many of which are beyond our control; • actual or anticipated fluctuations in our financial condition and results of operations; • publication of news releases by other companies in our industry, and especially direct competitors, including about adverse developments related to safety, effectiveness, accuracy **,** and usability of their products, reputational concerns, reimbursement coverage, regulatory compliance, and product recalls; ~~- 72-~~ • announcement or progression of geopolitical events **and** ~~(including in relation to the conflict~~ **conflicts** ~~between Russia and Ukraine)~~ ; • additions or departures of senior management or key personnel; • intellectual property, product liability **,** or other litigation against us or our inability to enforce our intellectual property; • changes in our capital structure, such as future issuances of securities and the incurrence of additional debt; and • changes in accounting standards, policies, guidelines, interpretations **,** or principles. In addition, in the past, stockholders have initiated class action lawsuits against biopharmaceutical companies following periods of volatility in the market prices of these companies' stock. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could cause us to incur substantial costs, divert our management' s attention and resources **,** and damage our reputation, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition ~~and~~ **,** results of operations **,** and prospects. Our executive officers, directors **,** and principal stockholders, if they choose to act together, will have the ability to significantly

influence all matters submitted to stockholders for approval and may prevent new investors from influencing significant corporate decisions. As of ~~February 16~~ **March 15**, ~~2023~~ **2024**, our executive officers, directors **,** and greater than 5 % stockholders, in the aggregate, owned approximately ~~62~~ **31**. ~~6~~ **7** % of our outstanding common stock. As a result, such persons, acting together, have the ability to significantly influence all matters submitted to our board of directors or stockholders for approval, including the appointment of our management, the election and removal of directors **,** and approval of any significant transactions, as well as our management and business affairs, which may prevent new investors from influencing some or all of the foregoing. This concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying, deferring **,** or preventing a change in control, impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover **,** or other business combination involving us, or discouraging a potential acquiror from making a tender offer or **- 84-** otherwise attempting to obtain control of our business, even if such a transaction would benefit other stockholders. We do not currently intend to pay dividends on our common stock, and, consequently, your ability to achieve a return on your investment will depend on appreciation, if any, in the price of our common stock. We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our common stock. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation **,** and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends for the foreseeable future. In addition, any future debt agreements may preclude us from paying dividends. For the foreseeable future, any return to stockholders will therefore be limited to the appreciation of their stock. There is no guarantee that shares of our common stock will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which stockholders have purchased their shares. ~~Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock by our existing stockholders in the public market could cause our stock price to fall. Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market or the perception that these sales might occur could significantly reduce the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise adequate capital through the sale of additional equity or equity- linked securities. In connection with our IPO, our directors and executive officers and holders of substantially all of our outstanding securities entered into lock- up agreements with the underwriters pursuant to which they may not, with limited exceptions, for a period of 180 days from the date of the prospectus for the IPO, offer, sell or otherwise transfer or dispose of any of our securities, without the prior written consent of BofA Securities, Inc., Evercore Group L. L. C. and Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated. The underwriters may permit our officers, directors and other securityholders who are subject to the lock- up agreements to sell shares prior to the expiration of the lock- up agreements at any time in their sole discretion. Sales of these shares, or perceptions that they will be sold, could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline. After the lock- up agreements expire, these shares of common stock will be eligible for sale in the public market, except that shares held by directors, executive officers and other affiliates will be subject to volume limitations under Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). - 73- In addition, as of December 31, 2022, 1, 365, 442 shares of common stock that are subject to outstanding options under our employee benefit plans will become eligible for sale in the public market to the extent permitted by the provisions of various vesting schedules, the lock- up agreements and Rule 144 and Rule 701 under the Securities Act. If these additional shares of common stock are sold, or if it is perceived that they will be sold, in the public market, the trading price of our common stock could decline. The holders of 20, 637, 415 shares of our outstanding common stock, or approximately 50. 5 % of our total outstanding common stock as of December 31, 2022, are entitled to rights with respect to the registration of their shares under the Securities Act, subject to the 180- day lock- up agreements entered into in connection with our IPO. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in the shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act, except for shares held by affiliates, as defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Any sales of securities by these stockholders, or the registration of such shares, could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our common stock.** We are an emerging growth company and a smaller reporting company, and the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies and smaller reporting companies may make our common stock less attractive to investors. We are an emerging growth company, as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, as amended (the JOBS Act), and may remain an emerging growth company until the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our IPO. However, if certain events occur prior to the end of such five- year period, including if we become a " large accelerated filer, " as defined under the ~~Securities~~ Exchange Act ~~of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)~~, our annual gross revenue exceeds $ 1. 235 billion or we issue more than $ 1. 0 billion of non- convertible debt in any three- year period, we will cease to be an emerging growth company prior to the end of such five- year period. For so long as we remain an emerging growth company, we are permitted and intend to rely on exemptions from certain disclosure requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. These exemptions include: • being permitted to provide only two years of audited financial statements, in addition to any required unaudited interim financial statements, with correspondingly reduced " Management' s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations " disclosure in connection with registered securities offerings; • not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements in the assessment of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002 ~~(Sarbanes- Oxley)~~; • not being required to 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, unless the ~~U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission (~~SEC ~~)~~ determines the new rules are necessary for protecting the public; • reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation; and • exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and shareholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We cannot predict whether investors will find our common stock less attractive if we rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and our stock price may be reduced or more volatile. In addition, the JOBS Act provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of an extended transition period for complying with new or revised accounting standards. This allows an emerging growth company to delay the adoption of these accounting standards until they would otherwise apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected to

avail ourselves of this exemption and, therefore, we may not be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. We intend - 85- to rely on other exemptions provided by the JOBS Act, including without limitation, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 (b) of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002. We are also a smaller reporting company as defined in the Exchange Act. We may continue to be a smaller reporting company even after we are no longer an emerging growth company. We may take advantage of certain of the scaled disclosures available to smaller reporting companies and will be able to take advantage of these scaled disclosures for so long as our voting and non- voting common stock held by non- affiliates is less than $ 250. 0 million measured on the last business day of our second fiscal quarter, or our annual revenue is less than $ 100. 0 million during the most recently ~~- 74-~~ completed fiscal year and our voting and non- voting common stock held by non- affiliates is less than $ 700. 0 million measured on the last business day of our second fiscal quarter. Provisions in our charter documents and under Delaware law could discourage a takeover that stockholders may consider favorable and may lead to entrenchment of management. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that could significantly reduce the value of our shares to a potential acquiror or delay or prevent changes in control or changes in our management without the consent of our board of directors. The provisions in our charter documents include the following: • a classified board of directors with three- year staggered terms, which may delay the ability of stockholders to change the membership of a majority of our board of directors; • no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which limits the ability of minority stockholders to elect director candidates; • the exclusive right of our board of directors, unless the board of directors grants such right to the stockholders, to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the board of directors or the resignation, death , or removal of a director, which prevents stockholders from being able to fill vacancies on our board of directors; • the required approval of at least 66- 2 / 3 % of the shares entitled to vote to remove a director for cause, and the prohibition on removal of directors without cause; • the ability of our board of directors to authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock and to determine the price and other terms of those shares, including preferences and voting rights, without stockholder approval, which could be used to significantly dilute the ownership of a hostile acquiror; • the ability of our board of directors to alter our amended and restated bylaws without obtaining stockholder approval; • the required approval of at least 66- 2 / 3 % of the shares entitled to vote to adopt, amend , or repeal our amended and restated bylaws or repeal the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation regarding the election and removal of directors; • a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent, which forces stockholder action to be taken at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders; • an exclusive forum provision providing that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will be the exclusive forum for certain actions and proceedings; • the requirement that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by the board of directors, which may delay the ability of our stockholders to force consideration of a proposal or to take action, including the removal of directors; and - 86- • advance notice procedures that stockholders must comply with in order to nominate candidates to our board of directors or to propose matters to be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting, which may discourage or deter a potential acquiror from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquiror' s own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us. We are also subject to the anti- takeover provisions contained in Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Under Section 203, a corporation may not, in general, engage in a business combination with any holder of 15 % or more of its capital stock unless the holder has held the stock for three years or, among other exceptions, the board of directors has approved the transaction. ~~- 75-~~ Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will be the exclusive forum for substantially all disputes between us and our stockholders and that the federal district courts shall be the exclusive forum for the resolution of any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act, which could limit our stockholders' ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us or our directors, officers , or employees ~~or the underwriters or any offering giving rise to such claim~~ . Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware is the exclusive forum for any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf, any action asserting a breach of fiduciary duty, any action asserting a claim against us arising pursuant to the Delaware General Corporation Law, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or our amended and restated bylaws, or any action asserting a claim against us that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine; provided, that, this provision would not apply to suits brought to enforce a duty or liability created by the Exchange Act. Furthermore, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the federal district courts of the United States shall be the exclusive forum for the resolution of any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act. These choice of forum provisions may limit 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 result in increased costs for investors to bring a claim. By agreeing to this provision, however, stockholders will not be deemed to have waived our compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Furthermore, the enforceability of similar choice of forum provisions in other companies' certificates of incorporation has been challenged in legal proceedings, and it is possible that a court could find these types of provisions to be inapplicable or unenforceable. If a court were to find the choice of forum provisions 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. General Risk Factors We ~~incur significant costs as a result of operating as a public company, and our management is required to devote substantial time to new compliance initiatives. As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, which require, among other things, that we file with the SEC annual, quarterly and current reports with respect to our business and financial condition. In addition, Sarbanes- Oxley, as well as rules subsequently adopted by the SEC and Nasdaq to implement provisions of Sarbanes- Oxley, impose significant requirements on~~

~~public companies, including requiring establishment and maintenance of effective disclosure and financial controls and certain corporate governance practices. Further, pursuant to the Dodd- Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, the SEC has adopted additional rules and regulations in these areas, such as mandatory " say on pay " voting requirements that will apply to us when we cease to be an emerging growth company. Stockholder activism, the current political environment and the current high level of government intervention and regulatory reform may lead to substantial new regulations and disclosure obligations, which may lead to additional compliance costs and impact the manner in which we operate our business in ways we cannot currently anticipate. We expect the rules and regulations applicable to public companies to substantially increase our legal and financial compliance costs and to make some activities more time consuming and costly. The increased costs will decrease our net income or increase our net loss, and may require us to reduce expenditures in other areas of our business or increase the prices of our products, if approved. For example, we expect these rules and regulations to make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance, and we may be required to incur substantial costs to maintain the same or similar coverage. We cannot predict or estimate the amount or timing of additional costs we may incur to comply with these requirements. The impact of these requirements could also make it more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified persons to serve on our board of directors, our board committees or as executive officers. If these requirements divert the attention of our management and personnel from other business concerns, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We~~ are subject to U. S. and certain foreign export and import controls, sanctions, embargoes, anti- corruption laws **,** and anti- money laundering laws and regulations. Compliance with these legal standards could impair our ability to compete in domestic and international markets. We could face criminal liability and other serious consequences for violations, which could harm our business. We are subject to export control and import laws and regulations, including the U. S. Export Administration Regulations, U. S. Customs regulations, and various economic and trade sanctions regulations administered by the U. S. ~~- 76 -~~ Treasury Department' s Office of Foreign Assets Controls and anti- corruption and anti- money laundering laws and regulations, including the U. S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, as amended, the U. S. domestic bribery statute contained in 18 U. S. C. § 201, the U. S. Travel Act, the USA PATRIOT Act and other state and national anti- bribery and anti- money laundering laws in the countries in which we conduct activities. Anti- corruption laws are interpreted broadly and prohibit companies and their employees, agents, CROs, contractors **,** and other collaborators and partners from authorizing, promising, offering, providing, soliciting **,** or receiving, directly or indirectly, improper payments or anything else of value to recipients in the public or private sector. We may engage third parties for clinical trials outside of the United States, to sell our **- 87-** products abroad if and when we enter a commercialization phase, and / or to obtain necessary permits, licenses, patent registrations **,** and other regulatory approvals. We have direct or indirect interactions with officials and employees of government agencies or government- affiliated hospitals, universities **,** and other organizations. We can be held liable for the corrupt or other illegal activities of our employees, agents, CROs, contractors **,** and other collaborators and partners, even if we do not explicitly authorize or have actual knowledge of such activities, and any training or compliance programs or other initiatives we undertake to prevent such activities may not be effective. Any violations of the laws and regulations described above may result in substantial civil and criminal fines and penalties, imprisonment, the loss of export or import privileges, debarment, tax reassessments, breach of contract and fraud litigation, reputational harm **,** and other consequences. Furthermore, U. S. export control laws and economic sanctions prohibit the provision of certain products and services to countries, governments, and persons targeted by U. S. sanctions. U. S. sanctions that have been or may be imposed as a result of military conflicts in other countries may impact our ability to continue activities at future clinical trial sites within regions covered by such sanctions. If we fail to comply with export and import regulations and such economic sanctions, penalties could be imposed, including fines and / or denial of certain export privileges. These export and import controls and economic sanctions could also adversely affect our supply chain. Our third- party manufacturers or suppliers may use potent chemical agents and hazardous materials, and any claims relating to improper handling, storage **,** or disposal of these materials could be time- consuming or costly. Our third- party manufacturers or suppliers use, and potential future collaborators will use, biological materials ~~,~~ **and** potent chemical agents and may use hazardous materials, including chemicals and biological agents and compounds that could be dangerous to human health and safety of the environment. The operations of our third- party manufacturers and suppliers also produce hazardous waste products. Federal, state **,** and local laws and regulations govern the use, generation, manufacture, storage, handling **,** and disposal of these materials and wastes. Compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations may be expensive, and current or future environmental laws and regulations may impair our product development efforts. In addition, our third- party manufacturers and suppliers cannot eliminate the risk of accidental injury or contamination from these materials or wastes. We do not carry specific biological or hazardous waste insurance coverage, and our property, casualty **,** and general liability insurance policies specifically exclude coverage for damages and fines arising from biological or hazardous waste exposure or contamination. In the event of contamination or injury at our manufacturers' or suppliers' sites, we could be held liable for damages or be penalized with fines in an amount exceeding our resources, and our clinical trials or regulatory approvals could be suspended. Although we maintain workers' compensation insurance for certain costs and expenses we may incur due to injuries to our employees resulting from work- related injuries, this insurance may not provide adequate coverage against potential liabilities. We do not maintain insurance for toxic tort claims that may be asserted against us in connection with our third- party manufacturers' and suppliers' storage or disposal of biologic, hazardous **,** or radioactive materials. In addition, our third- party manufacturers and suppliers may need to incur substantial costs in order to comply with current or future environmental, health **,** and safety laws and regulations, which have tended to become more stringent over time, which may increase the cost of their services to us. These current or future laws and regulations may impair our research, development **,** or production efforts. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations also may result in substantial fines, penalties **,** or other sanctions or liabilities for our third- party manufacturers and suppliers, which could in turn materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations **,** and prospects. To the extent we develop our

own manufacturing operations in the future, we may similarly incur substantial costs to ensure compliance with these laws, and all the foregoing risks will further apply to us, as well. - 88- Business disruptions could seriously harm our future revenue and financial condition and increase our costs and expenses. Our operations and the operations of our suppliers, CROs, CMOs , and clinical sites could be subject to earthquakes, power shortages, telecommunications or infrastructure failures, cybersecurity incidents, physical security breaches, water shortages, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, blizzards , and other extreme weather conditions, fires, public health pandemics or epidemics ~~(including~~ , ~~for example, the COVID- 19 pandemic)~~ and other natural or ~~manmade~~ **man- made** disasters or ~~- 77-~~ business interruptions, for which we are predominantly self- insured. We rely on third- party manufacturers or suppliers to produce lorundrostat and its components and on CROs and clinical sites to conduct our clinical trials ~~,~~ and do not have a redundant source of supply for all components of our product candidate. Our ability to obtain clinical or, if approved, commercial, supplies of lorundrostat or any future product candidates could be disrupted if the operations of these suppliers were affected by a man- made or natural disaster or other business interruption, and our ability to commence, conduct , or complete our clinical trials in a timely manner could be similarly adversely affected by any of the foregoing. The occurrence of any of these business disruptions could seriously harm our operations and financial condition and increase our costs and expenses. Unstable market and economic conditions may have serious adverse consequences on our business, financial condition , and stock price. The global credit and financial markets have ~~recently~~ experienced extreme volatility and disruptions, including severely diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth, increases in unemployment rates , and uncertainty about economic stability. The financial markets and the global economy may also be adversely affected by the current or anticipated impact of military conflict, including ~~the~~ **geopolitical** conflict **in** ~~between Russia~~ and **around** Ukraine, **Israel, and other areas of the world,** terrorism , or other ~~geopolitical~~ events. Sanctions imposed by the United States and other countries in response to such conflicts ~~, including the one in Ukraine,~~ may also adversely impact the financial markets and the global economy, and any economic countermeasures by the affected countries or others could exacerbate market and economic instability. There can be no assurance that further deterioration in credit and financial markets and confidence in economic conditions will not occur. Our general business strategy may be adversely affected by any such economic downturn, volatile business environment , or continued unpredictable and unstable market conditions. If the current equity and credit markets deteriorate, it may make any necessary debt or equity financing more difficult, more costly , and more dilutive. Failure to secure any necessary financing in a timely manner and on favorable terms could have a material adverse effect on our growth strategy, financial performance , and stock price and could require us to delay, limit, reduce, or terminate our product development or future commercialization efforts or grant rights to develop and market our product candidates even if we would otherwise prefer to develop and market such product candidates ourselves, or on less favorable terms than we would otherwise choose. In addition, ~~if~~ one or more of our current service providers, manufacturers , and other partners may not survive an economic downturn, which could directly affect our ability to attain our clinical development goals on schedule and on budget. Changes in tax law may materially adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations , and cash flows, or adversely impact the value of an investment in our common stock. New income, sales, use , or other tax laws, statutes, rules, regulations , or ordinances could be enacted at any time, or interpreted, changed, modified , or applied adversely to us, any of which could adversely affect our business operations and financial performance. We urge our investors to consult with their legal and tax advisors with respect to any changes in tax law and the potential tax consequences of investing in our common stock. If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports or publish unfavorable research or reports about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline. The trading market for our common stock depends in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us, our business, our market , or our competitors. If one or more of the analysts - 89- who ~~covers~~ **cover** us ~~downgrades~~ **downgrade** our stock, or if we fail to meet the expectations of one or more of these analysts, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases to cover us or fails to regularly publish reports on us, interest in our stock could decrease, which could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline. If we fail to maintain proper and effective internal control over financial reporting, our ability to produce accurate and timely financial statements could be impaired, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting , and the trading price of our common stock may decline. Pursuant to Section 404 of **the** Sarbanes- Oxley **Act of 2002** , our management **is** ~~will be~~ required to report upon the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting beginning with ~~the~~ **this** ~~annual~~ **Annual** ~~report~~ **Report** ~~for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2024~~ . When we lose our status as an " emerging growth company " and do not otherwise qualify as a " smaller reporting company " with less than $ 100 million in annual revenue, our independent registered public accounting firm will be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The rules governing the standards that must be met for our management to assess our internal control over financial reporting are complex and require significant documentation, testing , and possible remediation ~~. To comply with the requirements of being a reporting company under the Exchange Act, we may need to upgrade our information technology systems; implement additional financial and management controls,~~ ~~- 78- reporting systems and procedures; and hire additional accounting and finance staff~~ . If we or, if required, our auditors are unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting , and the trading price of our common stock may decline. We cannot assure you that there will not be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting in the future. Any failure to maintain internal control over financial reporting could severely inhibit our ability to accurately report our financial condition, results of operations , or cash flows. If we are unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, or if our independent registered public accounting firm determines we have a material weakness or significant deficiency in our internal control over financial reporting once that firm begins its Section 404 reviews, investors may lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, the market price of our common stock could decline, and we could be subject to sanctions or investigations by Nasdaq, the SEC , or other regulatory authorities. Failure to remedy any material weakness in our internal control over financial

reporting, or to implement or maintain other effective control systems required of public companies, could also restrict our future access to the capital markets. We could be subject to securities class action litigation. In the past, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following a decline in the market price of its securities. This risk is especially relevant for us because biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies have experienced significant stock price volatility in recent years. If we face such litigation, even if ultimately decided in our favor, it could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management' s attention and resources, which could harm our business.