

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-8**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

**Assembly Biosciences, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**11711 N. Meridian Street, Suite 310**

**Carmel, Indiana**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**20-8729264**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**46032**

(Zip Code)

**Assembly Biosciences, Inc. 2019 Inducement Award Plan  
Assembly Biosciences, Inc. Amended and Restated 2014 Stock Incentive Plan**  
(Full title of the plan)

**Elizabeth H. Lacy**

**General Counsel, SVP, Legal Operations and Corporate Secretary**

**Assembly Biosciences, Inc.**

**11711 N. Meridian Street, Suite 310**

**Carmel, Indiana 46032**

(Name and address of agent for service)

**(833) 509-4583**

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

**Copies to:**

**Mitchell S. Bloom, Esq.**

**Maggie L. Wong, Esq.**

**Goodwin Procter LLP**

**100 Northern Avenue**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02210**

**(617) 570-1000**

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

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of securities to be registered</b>	<b>Amount to be registered(1)</b>	<b>Proposed maximum offering price per share</b>	<b>Proposed maximum aggregate offering price</b>	<b>Amount of registration fee</b>
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	500,000	\$11.86	\$5,930,000(2)	\$769.72
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	87,000(3)	\$17.26	\$1,501,620(4)	\$194.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>587,000</b>		<b>\$7,431,620</b>	<b>\$964.63</b>

- 
- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this registration statement (the “Registration Statement”) shall also cover any additional shares of common stock that become issuable under (a) the Assembly Biosciences, Inc. (the “Company”) 2019 Inducement Award Plan (the “2019 Plan”) or (b) the Assembly Biosciences, Inc. Amended and Restated 2014 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2014 Plan”) by reason of any stock dividend, stock split or similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration that results in an increase in the number of the outstanding shares of common stock.
- (2) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price is calculated on the basis of \$11.86 per share, the exercise price of the stock options granted pursuant to the 2019 Plan on August 6, 2019.
- (3) Reflects an estimated number of shares of common stock underlying awards granted under the Company’s 2010 Equity Incentive Plan that, upon being repurchased by the Company or forfeited on or after June 2, 2016, will become issuable under the 2014 Plan pursuant to the 2014 Plan’s terms.
- (4) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price is calculated pursuant to Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act on the basis of \$17.26 per share, the average of the high and low sale prices of The Company’s common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on November 4, 2019.
-

**PART I**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS**

**Item 1. Plan Information.**

The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered in accordance with Form S-8 and Rule 428(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Such documents are not required to be, and are not, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”), either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. These documents, and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Form S-8, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

**Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.**

The written statement required by Item 2 of Part I is included in documents delivered to participants in the plan covered by this Registration Statement pursuant to Rule 428(b) of the Securities Act.

**PART II**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

**Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.**

The following documents, which have been filed with the Commission by Assembly Biosciences, Inc. (the “Company” or the “Registrant”), pursuant to the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), as applicable, are hereby incorporated by reference in, and shall be deemed to be a part of, this Registration Statement:

- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the Commission on February 28, 2019 (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the information specifically incorporated by reference in the Company’s Form 10-K from the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, filed with the Commission on April 4, 2019);
- the Company’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2019, June 30, 2019 and September 30, 2019, filed with the Commission on May 9, 2019, August 5, 2019 and November 7, 2019, respectively;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 22, 2019, May 2, 2019, May 21, 2019, August 9, 2019 and October 28, 2019;
- the description of the Company’s common stock in the Company’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35005) filed with the Commission on December 10, 2010, including any amendment or report filed by the Company for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement that indicates that all of the shares of common stock registered hereunder have been sold or that deregisters all of such shares then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the respective dates of filing of such documents, except as to any portion of any future annual or quarterly report to stockholders or document or current report furnished under current Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K that is not deemed filed under such provisions.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such earlier statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning the Company at:

11711 N. Meridian Street, Suite 310  
Carmel, Indiana 46032  
Telephone: (833) 509-4583  
Attn: Corporate Secretary

You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement or any related prospectus. The Company has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this Registration Statement or any related prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

**Item 4. Description of Securities.**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.**

None.

**Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the “DGCL”) provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who are, or are threatened to be made, parties to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person was an officer, director, employee, or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such person as an officer, director, employee, or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys’ fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation’s best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was illegal.

Section 145 of the DGCL also gives a corporation the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys’ fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. Section 145 further provides that, to the extent that a present or former director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any such action, suit or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys’ fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith.

The Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that:

- the Company shall indemnify its directors, officers and, in the discretion of its board of directors, certain employees and agents to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as it now exists or may in the future be amended; and
- the Company shall advance reasonable expenses, including attorneys’ fees, to its directors and officers in connection with legal proceedings relating to their service for or on behalf of the Company, subject to limited exceptions.

Section 145 of the DGCL also authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him under Section 145. The Company maintains general liability insurance which covers certain liabilities of its directors and officers arising out of claims based on acts or omissions in their capacities as directors or officers, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The Company has adopted provisions in the Company’s certificate of incorporation that limit or eliminate the personal liability of the Company’s directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as it now exists or may in the future be amended. Consequently, a director will not be personally liable to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability for:

- any breach of the director’s duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders;
- acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

- unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions under Section 174 of the DGCL; or
- any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

These limitations of liability do not alter director liability under the federal securities laws and do not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as an injunction or rescission.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

See the Exhibit Index on the page immediately preceding the signatures to this Registration Statement for a list of exhibits filed as part of this Registration Statement, which Exhibit Index is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

## EXHIBIT INDEX

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1	<a href="#"><u>Fourth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Assembly Biosciences, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on June 1, 2018).</u></a>
4.2	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of Assembly Biosciences, Inc., as amended on August 6, 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on November 7, 2019).</u></a>
4.3	<a href="#"><u>Specimen Common Stock Certificate of Assembly Biosciences, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Commission on December 30, 2015).</u></a>
5.1	<a href="#"><u>Opinion of Goodwin Procter LLP.</u></a>
23.1	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Goodwin Procter LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).</u></a>
23.2	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.</u></a>
24.1	<a href="#"><u>Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement).</u></a>
99.1	<a href="#"><u>Assembly Biosciences, Inc. 2019 Inducement Award Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on November 7, 2019).</u></a>
99.2	<a href="#"><u>Form of Notice of Stock Option Grant and Stock Option Agreement under the Assembly Biosciences, Inc. 2019 Inducement Award Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on November 7, 2019).</u></a>
99.3	<a href="#"><u>Assembly Biosciences, Inc. Amended and Restated 2014 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 6, 2016).</u></a>



**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of South San Francisco, State of California, on November 7, 2019.

ASSEMBLY BIOSCIENCES, INC.

By: /s/ John G. McHutchison, A.O., M.D.  
John G. McHutchison, A.O., M.D.  
Chief Executive Officer and President

## POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Assembly Biosciences, Inc., hereby severally constitute and appoint John G. McHutchison, A.O., M.D., Thomas J. Russo and Elizabeth H. Lacy, and each of them singly (with full power to each of them to act alone), our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution in each of them for him/her and in his/her name, place and stead, and in any and all capacities, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement on Form S-8, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as full to all intents and purposes as he/she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their or his/her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons on November 7, 2019 in the capacities indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
<u>/s/ John G. McHutchison, A.O., M.D.</u> John G. McHutchison, A.O., M.D.	Director, Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)
<u>/s/ Thomas J. Russo</u> Thomas J. Russo	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ William R. Ringo, Jr.</u> William R. Ringo, Jr.	Chairman of the Board
<u>/s/ Anthony E. Altig</u> Anthony E. Altig	Director
<u>/s/ Mark Auerbach</u> Mark Auerbach	Director
<u>/s/ Richard D. DiMarchi, Ph.D.</u> Richard D. DiMarchi, Ph.D.	Director
<u>/s/ Myron Z. Holubiak</u> Myron Z. Holubiak	Director
<u>/s/ Helen S. Kim</u> Helen S. Kim	Director
<u>/s/ Alan J. Lewis, Ph.D.</u> Alan J. Lewis, Ph.D.	Director
<u>/s/ Susan Mahony, Ph.D.</u> Susan Mahony, Ph.D.	Director
<u>/s/ Derek A. Small</u> Derek A. Small	Director



Goodwin Procter LLP  
100 Northern Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
goodwinlaw.com  
+1 617 570 1000

November 7, 2019

Assembly Biosciences, Inc.  
11711 N. Meridian Street, Suite 310  
Carmel, Indiana

Re: Securities Being Registered under Registration Statement on Form S-8

We have acted as counsel to you in connection with your filing of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), on or about the date hereof relating to an aggregate of 587,000 shares (the "Shares") of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share ("Common Stock"), of Assembly Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), that may be issued pursuant to the Company's 2019 Inducement Award Plan (the "2019 Plan") and Amended and Restated 2014 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2014 Plan," together with the 2019 Plan, the "Plans").

We have reviewed such documents and made such examination of law as we have deemed appropriate to give the opinions set forth below. We have relied, without independent verification, on certificates of public officials and, as to matters of fact material to the opinion set forth below, on certificates of officers of the Company.

The opinion set forth below is limited to the Delaware General Corporation Law.

For purposes of the opinion set forth below, we have assumed that no event occurs that causes the number of authorized shares of Common Stock available for issuance by the Company to be less than the number of then unissued Shares.

Based on the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized and, upon issuance and delivery against payment therefor in accordance with the terms of the Plans, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the inclusion of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. In giving our consent, we do not admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ GOODWIN PROCTER LLP

GOODWIN PROCTER LLP

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the Assembly Biosciences, Inc. 2019 Inducement Award Plan and the Assembly Biosciences, Inc. Amended and Restated 2014 Stock Incentive Plan of our reports dated February 28, 2019, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and related notes of Assembly Biosciences, Inc. and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Assembly Biosciences, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Redwood City, California  
November 7, 2019