As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 31, 2012

Registration Statement No. 333-_____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**20-8729264**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	**(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)**

99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10013
Telephone: (646) 706-5208
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

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RUSSELL H. ELLISON
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.
99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10013
Telephone: (646) 706-5208
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

ALEXANDER M. DONALDSON
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4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607
Telephone: (919) 781-4000
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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.
If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. ☐

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. ☒

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ☐

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box. ☐

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "accelerated filer", "large accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act) (Check one):

Large accelerated filer £	Accelerated filer S
Non-accelerated filer £(Do not check if smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company £

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price per unit (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common stock, $0.001 par value per share	—	$ —	$ —	$ —
Preferred stock, $0.001 par value per share	—	—	—	—
Warrants	—	—	—	—
Debt Securities	—	—	—	—
Units	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	$ 100,000,000	$ 11,460 (3)

(1) There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities, such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, and such indeterminate number of units as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed $100,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. If any debt securities are issued at an original issued discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate offering price not to exceed $100,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with the other securities registered hereunder. The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined, from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the issuance by the Registrant of the securities registered hereunder. The securities registered hereunder also include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock and amount of debt securities as may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange, upon exercise of warrants or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of any of such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transaction.

(2) The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the Registrant in connection with, and at the time of, the issuance of the securities and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3, as amended.

(3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based on the proposed maximum aggregate offering price of all securities listed.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This registration statement contains two prospectuses:

- a base prospectus which covers the offering, issuance and sale of such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities, such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, and such indeterminate number of units to purchase any combination of the foregoing securities, which together shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed $100,000,000; and

- a sales agreement prospectus covering the offering, issuance and sale of shares of the Registrant's common stock that may be issued and sold under the Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement (the "Sales Agreement") between the Registrant and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. for shares of common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $20,000,000.

The base prospectus immediately follows this explanatory note. The specific terms of any securities to be offered pursuant to the base prospectus will be specified in a prospectus supplement to the base prospectus. The sales agreement prospectus immediately follows the base prospectus. The common stock that may be offered, issued and sold under the sales agreement prospectus is included in the $100,000,000 of securities that may be offered, issued and sold by the registrant under the base prospectus.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities or accept an offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated January 31, 2012

Prospectus

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

$100,000,000 of
Common Stock,
Preferred Stock,
Warrants,
Debt Securities and/or
Units

From time to time, we may offer up to $100,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units, in one or more offerings in amounts, at prices and on the terms that we will determine at the time of offering. We may also offer common stock or preferred stock upon conversion of debt securities, common stock upon conversion of preferred stock, or common stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon the exercise of warrants.

Each time we sell securities, we will provide specific terms of the securities offered in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. We will specify in any accompanying prospectus supplement the terms of any offering. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, as well as any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, carefully before you invest in any securities. **This prospectus may not be used by us to consummate a sale of securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.**

We will sell these securities directly to our stockholders or to other purchasers or through agents on our behalf or through underwriters or dealers as designated from time to time. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide the names of the agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts.

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the trading symbol “VTUS.” On January 27, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock was $8.72 per share. We recommend that you obtain current market quotations for our common stock prior to making an investment decision.

You should carefully read this prospectus, the prospectus supplement relating to any specific offering of securities and all information incorporated by reference herein and therein.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. These risks are discussed in this prospectus under “Risk Factors” beginning on page 12 and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is , 2012.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, utilizing a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities, either individually or in units, in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of $100,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering.

This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of the offering of the securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. Prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. However, no prospectus supplement will fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, includes all material information relating to this offering. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement, the information and documents incorporated herein by reference and the additional information under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" before making an investment decision.

You should rely only on the information we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information we have incorporated herein by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of a security.

To the extent there are inconsistencies between any prospectus supplement, this prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference, the document with the most recent date will control.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our securities, unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Unless the context otherwise requires, "Ventrus," the "company," "we," "us," "our" and similar names refer to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. Because it is a summary, it might not contain all of the information that is important to you. Accordingly, you are urged to carefully review this prospectus in its entirety, including "Risk Factors" beginning on page 12 and our financial statements and related notes thereto incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision.

Overview

We are a development stage specialty pharmaceutical company currently focused on the development of late-stage prescription drugs for gastrointestinal disorders, specifically hemorrhoids, anal fissures and fecal incontinence. Major pharmaceutical progress has been made in the gastrointestinal therapeutic areas of gastroesophageal reflux, peptic ulcer disease and inflammatory bowel disease. However, many major gastrointestinal disorders still lack medical treatments. We are pursuing treatments for three of the 10 most prevalent gastrointestinal disorders in the U.S. We estimate that the patient population of these three disorders is almost 30.0 million people in the U.S., based on the data we cite for each indication in this report.

We are not aware of any prescription drug treatments for hemorrhoids or fecal incontinence that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA for these indications, yet there currently are approximately 21.7 million Americans suffering from symptomatic hemorrhoids in the past year, and approximately 7.0 million from fecal incontinence. While there are approximately 1.1 million office visits per year for anal fissures in the U.S., we are aware of only one drug that has received FDA approval for the treatment of pain associated with anal fissures; Rectiv received approval in late June 2011, and is expected to come to market in the first quarter of 2012. Rectiv is effective in reducing the pain from anal fissures, but moderate and severe headaches are a frequent side effect of this drug whose active ingredient is nitroglycerin. Our lead product VEN 309 (iferanserin) is a new chemical entity, or NCE, for the topical treatment of symptomatic internal hemorrhoids. In seven clinical studies between 1993 and 2003 involving 359 patients, VEN 309 demonstrated good tolerability and no severe adverse events, and statistically significant improvements in bleeding, itchiness and pain. Beginning in 2008, we have had extensive discussions with the FDA under a Special Protocol Assessment, or SPA, process, for our first pivotal U.S. trial of VEN 309 for the treatment of symptomatic internal hemorrhoids. While we decided not to pursue an agreement letter, we received many recommendations from the FDA concerning the major and important elements of the trial during this process and we incorporated these into our protocol. To avoid delays and without having reached agreement with FDA on the SPA, we proceeded to file the protocol to our existing investigational new drug application, or IND, with the FDA in July 2011 and began enrolling and dosing patients in August 2011. We own all rights, title and interest in VEN 309.

Our additional product candidate portfolio consists of two in-licensed late-stage drugs. VEN 307 (diltiazem) is intended to treat pain associated with anal fissures and VEN 308 (phenylephrine) is intended to treat fecal incontinence. These candidates are two molecules that were previously approved and are currently marketed for other indications and that have been formulated into our proprietary topical treatments for these new gastrointestinal indications.

Diltiazem was first approved in 1982 in oral form for the treatment of angina and high blood pressure. It has been prescribed in the U.S. for millions of patients in oral dosages typically from 240 mg to 360 mg per day. In contrast, daily doses of VEN 307 for treatment of anal fissures will range from 15 mg to 45 mg. Because of the extensive patient exposure to diltiazem as a cardiovascular agent and the wide safety margin as a low dose topical therapy, we intend to develop the topical formulation as a Section 505(b)(2) new drug application, or NDA, based on our discussions with the FDA at our pre-IND meeting in August 2007.

Phenylephrine has been available since the early 1940s in oral and nasal form for the treatment of nasal congestion. It has also been used as a topical ophthalmic agent since 1936. Phenylephrine is prescribed more than 17 million times per year in the U.S., with 99% of the prescriptions being for cough/cold oral preparations. The typical oral dosing is 40 mg to 60 mg per day. Because of the extensive patient exposure to phenylephrine, we intend to develop VEN 308 as a topical formulation through a Section 505(b)(2) NDA.

In August 2007, we had a pre-IND meeting with the FDA concerning VEN 307 for the treatment of pain from anal fissures where we discussed necessary preclinical testing and product formulation to support an IND established what clinical safety database would be required, and that the next clinical studies needed for approval were two pivotal Phase III trials, preceded (if conducted in the U.S.) by three short-term dermal toxicology studies using final drug product formulation. In June 2007, we had a pre-IND meeting with the FDA concerning VEN 308 for the treatment of fecal incontinence associated with ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA) where it was established that the next clinical study in the program should be a Phase IIb trial where multiple doses will be assessed and that existing toxicology data are sufficient to support Phase II testing. We have not had further meetings with the FDA on either VEN 307 or VEN 308 since the meetings in 2007. Beginning in February 2009, the development of the three products, VEN 307, VEN 308 and VEN 309, was delayed due to a lack of financial resources prior to the completion of our initial public offering in December 2010. We have used and are using the proceeds from that offering, as well as the proceeds from our July 2011 registered public offering of our common stock, to continue the development of VEN 309 and VEN 307 and we are using a portion of the proceeds from the July 2011 offering to fund the two pivotal Phase III trials for VEN 309.

Our Products and Development Strategy

Our three late-stage product candidates are:

Iferanserin ointment (VEN 309) for the topical treatment of symptomatic internal hemorrhoids. Hemorrhoids, which are characterized by the inflammation and swelling of veins around the anus or lower rectum, can cause bleeding, itching, pain and difficulty defecating. VEN 309, an NCE formulated as an ointment for intra-anal application, has highly selective, antagonistic activity against peripheral 5HT $_{2A}$ receptors involved in clotting and the contraction of arteries and veins, two events believed to be associated with hemorrhoid formation. By limiting 5HT $_{2A}$ receptor activity, VEN 309 improves the flow of blood out of the dilated veins that comprise the hemorrhoid, thereby reducing bleeding, itchiness and pain. As reported a survey of 10,000 adult consumers in the U.S. conducted on our behalf by Princeton Brand Econometrics, symptomatic hemorrhoids have affected approximately 21.7 million people in the past year and approximately 6.7 million adults on any given day in the U.S. Despite such a high prevalence, we are not aware of any FDA-approved prescription drugs for the treatment of hemorrhoids. While there are commonly used prescription drugs in the U.S. for hemorrhoids, such as Anusol®, none have been approved by the FDA or have been designated by the FDA as safe and effective for this indication. Various combination products (such as the Preparation H line of products) are available in the U.S. over-the-counter, or OTC, under the FDA's OTC monograph rule. The great majority of these OTC treatments provide only temporary relief from the symptoms of hemorrhoids, but do not address the cause of hemorrhoids. The mechanism of action of these treatments is either generally anti-inflammatory, such as steroids, or acting as a protective coating on the hemorrhoid or acting as local anesthetics, in the case of most of the OTC products, or unknown, in the case of herbal remedies, and we are not aware of any clinical trials published in medical journals on the efficacy or safety of any topical or oral drug currently marketed in the U.S. for the treatment of hemorrhoids. We believe VEN 309 to be more effective than the currently available conventional hemorrhoid topical or oral drug therapies and more attractive than surgical procedures, which are the only currently validated treatment options.

We originally licensed VEN 309 from Sam Amer & Co., Inc., or Amer, who had developed VEN 309 through Phase II trials and up to readiness for Phase III trials in the U.S. and Europe. On November 14, 2011, we acquired all rights, title and interest to VEN 309 from Amer. VEN 309 is covered for composition of matter in patents that will expire in August 2015 in the U.S. and February 2018 elsewhere. If approved by the FDA, VEN 309 will receive five years of data exclusivity in the U.S. as an NCE under the Hatch-Waxman Act and 10 years from the date of approval in Europe. We filed a new concentration range patent in August 2010, which, if issued, would grant patent protection until 2030 and prevent substitutable generic competition.

Our initial Phase III trial for VEN 309 (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01355874) is a multicenter double-blind randomized placebo-controlled parallel treatment group trial, consisting of three arms with a double-blind portion and an open-label extension portion consisting of:

Double blind part

- Approximately 600 male or female patients aged 18 – 75 years (200 patients per arm) recruited at up to approximately 70 sites in the U.S., randomized 1:1:1 ratio to:
    - Arm 1: placebo ointment twice daily intra-anally for 14 days;

- Arm 2: iferanserin ointment twice daily for 14 days;
- Arm 3: iferanserin ointment twice daily for7 days followed by placebo ointment twice daily for 7 days;

- After 14 days treatment, patients will be followed up at Day 28;
- Inclusion criteria includes symptomatic grade I to III internal hemorrhoids, bleeding from hemorrhoids every day for the two days immediately preceding the day that they are randomized and study medication applied, with pain or itching accompanying the bleeding for the two days; and
- Exclusion criteria includes: grade IV hemorrhoids; thrombosed internal or external hemorrhoids;prior history of, or current, heart disease or depression; laxatives, anticoagulants, over-the-counter anti-hemorrhoidal agents, topical steroids, suppositories of any kind, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), Cox-2 inhibitors, and other drugs and conditions including potential inhibitors of CYP2D6 such as SSRI drugs.

The endpoints for the double-blind part of the trial are:

- Primary: Proportion of patients with cessation of bleeding by Day 7 that persists for the remainder of the treatment period (through Day 14); and
- Key Secondary: Proportion of patients with cessation of pain and/or itching by Day 7 that persists for the remainder of the treatment period (through Day 14).

Open Label part

After the 28 day double blind portion of the trial, patients will be followed quarterly for one year and treated with active drug if they have a recurrence at any time during that period. We will assess time to first recurrence, and the overall recurrence rate over one year, and will be able to observe the unblinded response to treatment of recurrence during this part of the trial.

Although we did not obtain an SPA agreement with the FDA, we believe that our modeling of the endpoint definitions as proposed by the FDA using the German Phase IIb trial data, confirm a projected power of > 99% for the primary endpoint and > 95% for the key secondary endpoints for our proposed Phase III trial.

We filed the protocol to our existing IND with the FDA in July 2011 and began enrolling and dosing patients in August 2011, and estimate we will complete enrollment approximately in April 2012. We anticipate reporting the top line data from our ongoing U.S. Phase III trial of VEN 309 in hemorrhoids in June of 2012.

Diltiazem cream (VEN 307), a topical treatment for the relief of pain associated with anal fissures. Anal fissures are small tears or cuts in the skin that lines the anus. They can be extremely painful, cause bleeding and often require surgery, which itself can have unsatisfactory outcomes. In 2010, it was estimated by SDI Health LLC that there were approximately 1.1 million office visits per year for anal fissures. At present, we are aware of only one FDA-approved drug for the treatment of anal fissures. Rectiv (nitroglycerin) ointment 0.4%, for the treatment of moderate to severe pain associated with chronic anal fissures, received FDA approval in late June 2011, and is expected to come to market in the first quarter of 2012. Topical nitroglycerin, the active ingredient in Rectiv, also has been compounded by pharmacists to treat anal fissures, but has a substantially higher rate of side effects than topical diltiazem, notably moderate and severe headaches, which also are experienced with Rectiv. We also are aware of limited use of Botox as an injection into the anal sphincter to treat this condition. Several topical forms of nifedipine, a calcium-channel blocker, also are used to treat pain from anal fissures. Diltiazem cream, also a calcium-channel blocker, however, is currently used as the preferred treatment prior to surgery by many gastroenterologists across the U.S. in a version that must be specially mixed, or compounded, for each patient in the pharmacy. Compounded diltiazem is currently listed in the U.S. and E.U. anal fissure treatment guidelines as a preferred agent prior to attempting surgery. Neither compounded diltiazem nor nifedipine, however, is FDA-approved for the relief of pain associated with anal fissures nor is the cost typically reimbursed by Medicare or health insurance plans. We expect that VEN 307, if approved by FDA and Rectiv would be reimbursable under Medicare and health insurance plans. When applied topically for the treatment of anal fissures, diltiazem, which has been used for decades for hypertension and angina, dilates the blood vessels supplying the region, reduces anal sphincter tone, and thereby substantially decreases pain. In the majority of multiple clinical trials conducted against placebo or topical nitroglycerin conducted between 1999 and 2002 by various researchers in investigator initiated trials, diltiazem cream significantly reduced the pain associated with anal fissures.

Our product, VEN 307, is a pre-mixed and pre-packaged proprietary formulation of diltiazem that when applied topically yields lower blood levels (at one-tenth the amount) than the lowest oral dose used for cardiovascular treatment. We believe these low blood levels improve the safety profile and lower the risk of side effects. We have potential to capture immediate market share if VEN 307 is approved due to the familiarity of gastroenterologists with the current use of diltiazem to treat anal fissures, its ease of prescription as a pre-formulated FDA-approved product with no need for compounding necessary at the pharmacy, and the expected ability for patients to be reimbursed through their health insurance plans or Medicare. We have licensed the exclusive North American rights to VEN 307 for the topical treatment of anal fissures from S.L.A. Pharma, our development partner, who has completed early-stage clinical trials, toxicology studies and manufacturing for VEN 307 up to the end of Phase II. VEN 307 is covered by a method of use in a patent that will expire in February 2018.

In August 2007, we had a pre-IND meeting with the FDA concerning VEN 307 for the treatment of pain from anal fissures where we addressed necessary preclinical testing and product formulation to support an IND, established what clinical safety database would be required, and that the next clinical studies needed for approval were two pivotal Phase III trials, preceded (if conducted in the U.S.) by three short-term dermal toxicology studies using final drug product formulation. Prior to conducting any clinical Phase III trials in the U.S., we must complete three short-term dermal toxicology studies and file an IND for FDA approval. We plan to employ a two-pronged development strategy for VEN 307. While S.L.A. Pharma is conducting the first Phase III VEN 307 clinical trial in the E.U. which completed enrollment in December 20112 and is anticipated to be reporting data in May 2012, we intend to initiate development of a different formulation of VEN 307 with new intellectual property in the form of an extended release formulation. There are several proven methodologies for extended release topical formulations, and we believe that diltiazem is readily druggable in this regard. We intend to assess three to four alternatives preclinically with multiple contractors, and then assess absorption and effect on the internal anal sphincter (IAS) pressure with the most promising candidate, while we file Patent Cooperation Treaty applications for the specific technology combined with diltiazem for all formulations that are technically feasible.

S.L.A. Pharma began enrollment in the VEN 307 Phase III trial in November 2010 and completed enrollment of 465 patients at 32 sites in Europe in December 2011. Patients were treated for two months and then observed without treatment for one month in a randomized 1:1:1 double blind study that compares treatments of fiber plus 2% VEN 307 and fiber plus 4% VEN 307 to fiber plus placebo. The primary endpoint is reduction of pain upon defecation averaged across the fourth week of treatment, using a validated numerical rating scale for pain. Patients used daily diaries and were observed for one week prior to randomization to ensure sufficient pain prior to randomization. We expect initial top-line data from the VEN 307 EU Phase III study to be available in May 2012.

If there is successful completion of and satisfactory data from the E.U. trial, we will make the final decision on which formulation to pursue depending on several factors, including whether the new formulation is clinically superior, our access to capital, clinical and regulatory considerations, and our assessment of the then-current state of our intellectual property estate. If the new U.S. developed formulation is superior as demonstrated by sufficient data and the other factors are met, we plan to file an IND for the new formulation of VEN 307 and then initiate two pivotal trials in parallel in order to complete the NDA for an estimated FDA submission in 2014. If the new formulation is not superior, from the clinical. CMC and intellectual property perspectives, we plan to finish clinical development utilizing the current formulation which would require three short-term dermal toxicology studies and one additional pivotal Phase III trial in the U.S. We believe that continuing with the current formulation could result in an NDA submission in 2013 but would expect to continue to pursue other lifecycle options for VEN 307. We intend to use a portion of our current resources to continue the development of VEN 307.

Phenylephrine gel (VEN 308) for the treatment of fecal incontinence associated with ileal pouch anal anastomosis, an FDA orphan indication. Ileal pouch anal anastomosis, or IPAA, is a surgical procedure used as part of a colectomy, which is a surgical treatment for patients with ulcerative colitis. Fecal incontinence resulting from dysfunctional sphincter tone is a common consequence of this procedure. According to a U.S. community based epidemiology study (Nelson et al., JAMA, 1995), 2.2% of the U.S. population suffer from fecal incontinence, which we estimate to be approximately 7.0 million people, based on 2009 Census Bureau population estimates. Patients with IPAA, secondary to a total colectomy, tend to have a high incidence of fecal incontinence, up to 30%, according to a 1987 study conducted by Dr. John Pemberton and others at the Mayo Medical School. The surgery associated with IPAA can weaken sphincters and muscles necessary for continence and therefore can result in incontinence. About 30% of patients with ulcerative colitis, a form of inflammatory bowel disease which has a prevalence of 700,000 patients in the U.S. (according to Datamonitor 2008) will have had a colectomy, almost always an IPAA procedure (according to McGlauchlin and Clark, Practical Gastroenterology, 8/2008). IPAA-related fecal incontinence is considered an orphan indication by the FDA and the European Medicines Agency, or EMEA. In 2006, the total population of patients with IPAA-related fecal incontinence in the U.S. was estimated to be 50,000 to 100,000, according to IMS Health, Inc. Currently, there are few options available to treat this problem, consisting of OTC bulk laxatives, fiber diets, Imodium, which is a treatment for diarrhea, and invasive surgical procedures. In addition, Solesta, an injectable inert bulking agent product, was approved as a device by the FDA in May 2011 for the treatment of fecal incontinence in adult patients who have failed conservative therapy. Solesta is injected submucosally around the anal sphincter and consequently has to be administered in an outpatient setting by qualified physicians. In addition, Norgine is conducting a European Phase II program with NRL001, a suppository formulation of an alpha adrenergic stimulating agent for the treatment of fecal incontinence. We are not aware of any FDA-approved drugs for fecal incontinence. In multiple investigator initiated clinical trials with patients suffering from IPAA-associated fecal incontinence, topical phenylephrine significantly (and in some patients, dramatically) improved patient bowel control. In clinical trials with other forms of incontinence, improvements were also observed following application of topical phenylephrine, depending on the cause of the incontinence.

Our product, VEN 308, is a gel formulation of phenylephrine. Applied topically, VEN 308 increases anal sphincter tone, thereby improving fecal incontinence in patients where sphincter tone is the major cause of their symptoms, such as post-IPAA surgery. We believe VEN 308 has significant advantages over the limited treatment options currently available for fecal incontinence associated with IPAA, including but not limited to, increased efficacy and/or reduced invasiveness. We have licensed the exclusive North American rights to VEN 308 from S.L.A. Pharma who developed the specific formulation of phenylephrine for the topical use in fecal incontinence and developed the manufacturing method. S.L.A. Pharma's previous partner, Solvay, conducted important pharmacokinetic studies. We currently do not expect to spend any time or resources developing VEN 308 in the short term. VEN 308 is covered by a patent that will expire in December 2017. If approved by the FDA, VEN 308 will receive seven years of data exclusivity in the U.S. under the Orphan Drug Act.

The FDA has granted VEN 308 orphan status for the treatment of IPAA-related fecal incontinence. In the U.S., orphan drug designation is given to a drug intended to treat a rare disease of condition, which is generally a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals in the U.S. Assuming sufficient resources in the future and positive results from a Phase IIb dose ranging trial in the U.S. in support of the orphan indication of IPAA-related fecal incontinence that we intend to undertake, we would expect to submit an orphan NDA for VEN 308 for this indication. Orphan status provides seven years of data exclusivity in the U.S. from the date of approval for a specific indication.

Our Development Efforts

We own VEN 309 (but prior to November 14, 2011, in-licensed it from Amer) and in-license our two other product candidates from S.L.A Pharma. All clinical trials to date have been conducted either by the licensor, the licensor's previous partners or by independent investigators, as have the preclinical studies and product formulation activities. Since the time we licensed these products, we have focused our efforts on establishing and clarifying the regulatory pathway for late phase clinical trials and regulatory approval, on establishing the contract manufacturing capacity and methods necessary to allow late phase clinical trials to proceed, and on initiating late phase trials, preclinical toxicology and human pharmacology studies with our products, all of which will be conducted by contracted third parties under our direction. These development efforts have not required many employees and we have historically operated with only a limited number of employees with the expertise necessary to progress our product candidates down the development path outlined above. This helps us contain our operating costs.

Subsequent to the completion of our initial public offering in late December 2010, we began hiring a few employees and contracting with three individuals or entities to complete our staffing needs for our initial Phase III trial of VEN 309. Throughout 2011, we added several other employees. We also have contracted with contract research organizations to assist us in our Phase III trials for VEN 309. However, we remain dependent on the availability and competency of the third parties with whom we have contracted and with whom we plan to contract for the continued development of our product candidates.

Our Strategy

Our objective is to develop and commercialize our product candidates to treat hemorrhoids, anal fissures and fecal incontinence. Currently, there are no FDA-approved prescription drugs in the U.S. for the treatment of hemorrhoids. One product (Rectiv, a topical nitroglycerin) was approved by the FDA in June 2011 and we expect this product to be launched by Aptalis in 2012. There are no FDA-approved prescription drugs for the treatment of incontinence, but Solesta, a hyaluronic acid dermal filler, was approved as a device by the FDA in 2011 for intra-anal injection for fecal incontinence. We expect Salix Pharmaceuticals to launch this product in 2012.

To achieve this objective, we intend to:

- complete one of two planned pivotal Phase III trials in the U.S. of VEN 309 for the treatment of hemorrhoids, that began in August 2011 and for which enrollment is expected to be complete around April 2012 and for which top line results are expected around June 2012;

- assuming positive data from the initial Phase III trial for VEN 309, conduct an additional pivotal Phase III trial as well as a Phase III double blind recurrence trial. Assuming acceptable results from these clinical trials, as well as from clinical pharmacology and other, non-clinical, activities, such as carcinogenicity and toxicology studies, prepare and file an NDA for VEN 309 for the treatment of hemorrhoids in 2014;

- assuming VEN 309 is approved by the FDA, and because there are no FDA-approved prescription drug competitors in the U.S., we intend to commercialize the product in the U.S. using either our own sales force or through an agreement with a suitable partner and to license the product for sale outside of the U.S.;

- assuming receipt of positive data from an ongoing European Phase III trial of VEN 307, expected in May 2012, conduct one pivotal trial with the existing three times per day formulation or two parallel pivotal trials with a to-be-identified twice daily formulation as well as short-term dermal toxicology studies for VEN 307, with the goal to prepare and file an NDA for a Phase III trial of VEN 307 for the topical treatment of pain associated with anal fissures in 2013;

- assuming VEN 307 is approved by the FDA, and because topical diltiazem is already used by colorectal surgeons in the U.S., we intend to engage our own gastrointestinal specialty sales force and marketing staff to commercialize this product and/or engage a suitable partner in the U.S. and to license it for sale in Canada; and

- pending the outcome of the ongoing Phase II trials in VEN 309 and VEN 307, and the availability of additional capital, develop a final formulation of VEN 308 and advance that product through Phase IIB studies.

History of Operations

We hired Dr. Russell Ellison, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer, and David Barrett, our Chief Financial Officer, in December 2010 upon the completion of our initial public offering. From June 2010 until they were hired, Dr. Ellison and Mr. Barrett served as consultants because our only business activities during that time consisted of maintaining our licenses with S.L.A. Pharma and Amer, and activities connected with our initial public offering. From late December 2010 through February 2011, we completed the staffing for our planned development of VEN 309, by adding a clinician, two clinical project managers, a head of manufacturing, and an executive assistant on a contract or permanent employment basis. We have used these consultancy arrangements to conserve our resources.

Although incorporated in 2005, we began active operations in the spring of 2007 upon the licensing of VEN 307 and VEN 308 by Paramount BioSciences from S.L.A. Pharma. Shortly thereafter, we hired Thomas Rowland as our chief executive officer (who was then one of our directors), Dr. Terrance Coyne as our chief medical officer, and Dr. John Dietrich as our vice president of clinical operations, as well as other employees. Due to our lack of capital, Drs. Coyne and Dietrich resigned in February 2009. Mr. Rowland resigned as our chief executive officer in February 2009, but he continued to act as our president from the date of his resignation in February 2009 until May 2010. Simultaneously with the resignation of Dr. Dietrich, we entered into a consulting agreement with him whereby he provided consultation on manufacturing, preclinical and clinical aspects of our drug programs on an as-needed basis. These arrangements with Mr. Rowland and Dr. Dietrich allowed us to continue minimal operations following their resignations until June 2010 when we contracted with Dr. Ellison and Mr. Barrett. In January 2011, we renewed the consulting agreement with Dr. Dietrich. Effective September 1, 2011, we hired Mr. Rowland as our Chief Business Officer.

Our Management

Our management team consists of: Russell H. Ellison, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors, who has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including serving as vice president — medical affairs and Chief Medical Officer of Roche Laboratories, Inc., USA. and of Sanofi-Synthelabo, USA; David J. Barrett, Chief Financial Officer, previously chief financial officer of Neuro-Hitech, Inc., a publicly traded pharmaceutical company with development stage and marketed products; and Thomas Rowland, Chief Business Officer, who was hired effective September 1, 2011, has over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, most of which was in the gastrointestinal area, and was our founding chief executive officer. Beginning in January 2011, we have increased the number of our employees to seven and have long-term contracts with seven consultants on manufacturing, preclinical and clinical aspects of our drug programs. We also have contracted with three contract research organizations to assist in our drug development plans. We use these consulting agreements to avoid the costs customarily associated with employees until our financial resources allow us to hire additional employees. We believe that the addition of these employees and consultants to the Ventrus team will help us advance our product candidates to the next stage of development.

Recent Developments

We had filed an SPA in June 2008 with the FDA to ensure its explicit agreement with our first pivotal Phase III protocol for VEN 309, using the 0.5% concentration. As part of that process, we had extensive discussions with FDA about the protocol and filed a revised protocol on May 16, 2011. In late June 2011, the FDA issued its response and requested that additional information be included in the protocol pertaining to some details of the study, and therefore did not issue an agreement letter for the SPA. The FDA's recommendations included adding a standardized methodology to the protocol to assess patients' comprehension of symptoms and symptom terms, such as "anus" or "anal-rectal area"; addressing the possibility that women in menses may not be able to determine whether the source of their bleeding is from hemorrhoids; and adding more clarity to the protocol regarding maintenance of blinding while preserving accurate dosing in the seven-day treatment arm. In addition, the FDA recommended adding a stratification to the efficacy analysis, a rewording for better clarity of the endpoint definition , and clarifications to the description of the formal statistical hypothesis and calculation of the sample size for the primary endpoint. None of these recommendations affected the previous recommendations of the FDA for the endpoints, overall statistical powering and subject number, and the overall clinical design. We incorporated these latest changes into the protocol and, in order to maintain our timelines for the trial, we filed the protocol to our existing IND with the FDA, and did not continue to pursue the SPA process. We began enrollment and dosing in the first Phase III trial in August 2011.

On July 19, 2011, we sold 5,175,000 shares of common stock in a public offering at a price to the public of $10.00 per share for gross proceeds of $51.75 million. The shares include 675,000 shares of common stock sold pursuant to the over-allotment option granted by us to the underwriters, which option was exercised in full. We received approximately $47.5 million in net proceeds from the offering, after deducting underwriting and financial advisory fees and estimated offering expenses.

On June 6, 2011, we amended our license agreement with S.L.A. Pharma. The amendment eliminated our potential $800,000 payment to S.L.A. Pharma for the development of VEN 307, previously payable upon the completion of enrollment into the Phase III clinical trial that S.L.A. Pharma is conducting in Europe. It also eliminated S.L.A. Pharma's ability to terminate the license agreement at any time, with one month's notice, in the event that we had failed to make a required payment and a third party wished to enter into a license agreement for VEN 307 and VEN 308, provided the termination would not have been effective if within that one-month period we paid all then required payments under the agreement. Pursuant to the amendment, we were obligated to pay S.L.A. Pharma up to $1,000,000 in milestone payments, payable in four equal installments of $250,000 once specified thresholds of randomized patients are achieved in the Phase III trial for VEN 307 that S.L.A. Pharma is conducting in Europe. The enrollment for this trial was completed in December 2011, somewhat ahead of schedule, and these payments have all been made. Additionally, as part of the amended agreement, upon our receipt of a quality controlled final study report of the Phase III trial for VEN 307 in Europe, we must pay S.L.A. Pharma $400,000 in development costs for VEN 307.

On June 5, 2011, we entered into an agreement with Amer to acquire all rights, title and interest to VEN 309. We paid $500,000 on execution and paid $12 million for the asset at closing on November 14, 2011. Closing was subject to our raising net proceeds of a certain minimum amount, as well as customary closing conditions. Closing was also subject to, in respect of the first pivotal Phase III trial and any recurrence treatment for VEN 309, the absence through November 10, 2011 of any serious severe adverse events that were life threatening with a risk of serious morbidity that had occurred in one or more subjects receiving VEN 309 which were either determined to be at least probably caused by VEN 309 or had been disclosed by us in a public securities filing. We will pay Amer royalties of between 3.0% and 4.0% on net annual sales in the U.S. and between 1.0% and 1.33% on gross annual sales outside the U.S. (subject to a minimum royalty payment on both U.S. and ex-U.S. sales), which, in addition to an approximately 50% reduction in milestone payments under the current license agreement, represents an approximately 66% decrease in the royalty fees due to Amer under the former license agreement.

On November 1, 2011, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or PTO, issued U.S. Patent No. 8,048,875 with claims directed to the use of VEN 307 as a topical treatment for the relief of pain associated with anal fissures. The U.S. patent expires in February 2018. A continuation application was filed on July 8, 2011 claiming priority to U.S. Patent No. 8,048,875 with claims directed to additional uses of VEN 307 for related indications. If the continuation application is issued as a patent, it will also expire in February 2018. If approved by the FDA, VEN 307 will receive three years of data exclusivity in the U.S. under the Hatch-Waxman Act.

In 2011, we commissioned Princeton Brand Econometrics, or PBE, to conduct a landmark omnibus survey of hemorrhoid consumers and patients. From these data, PBE developed a predictive model to forecast physician and patient behavior in response to various product profiles and promotional levels. Results from the market research show that the hemorrhoid market is potentially large, patients are seeking solutions, and respond strongly to the VEN 309 product concept. Of the 10,202 adult consumers surveyed, 1,125 patients reported having hemorrhoids within the last two years, which represents approximately 11% of the U.S. adult population (25.8 million of 234 million people). In addition to the 11% two year prevalence, 9%, 6% and 3% reported having hemorrhoids within the past one year (21.7 million people), one month (14 million people) and on the day of survey (6.7 million people) respectively. Of the entire group of hemorrhoid patients surveyed, 85% reported having had treatment at some point; from the treatment subset, 86% reported using OTC and 14% using prescription products as their last treatment. 10% of all hemorrhoid patients surveyed had had an invasive procedure (banding, injection, surgery) at some time, of which 61% had surgery, and 75% of patients who had had an invasive procedure reported a recurrence. When exposed to the VEN 309 product concept, 88% of those surveyed who had hemorrhoidal symptoms on the day of survey stated they would request a prescription on their next office visit (using factoring by PBE this estimates that 80% probably would request a prescription). Of the entire sample of consumers who had had hemorrhoids at any time in the past two years, 66% would fill a prescription at a thirty-five dollar out of pocket co-pay; of those earning more than $50,000 per year, 78% would fill a prescription at a $35 out of pocket co-pay.

Seven hundred and ninety-five health care providers, or HCPs, were also surveyed. Based on these data and prescriber–level data from Wolters Kluwer, PBE estimates that 170,000 HCPs directly generate 4 mm prescriptions for intra-anal/intra-rectal steroids and 2 mm recommendations for OTC products; approximately 21,000 HCPs account for 50% of this activity. When exposed to the VEN 309 product concept and a range of patient co-pay scenarios, HCPs showed a high willingness to prescribe and a minimal co-pay sensitivity; the probability that they would write a prescription in response to a patient request ranged from .88 to .92 (factored by PBE).

Corporate History and Information

We were incorporated in Delaware in October 2005 under the name South Island Biosciences, Inc. and changed our name to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. in April 2007. We began operations in April 2007 upon the acquisition of the licenses to VEN 307 and VEN 308 and the hiring of a development team. We acquired the license to VEN 309 in March 2008. We acquired the licenses to VEN 307, VEN 308 and VEN 309 from Paramount Bioscience, LLC and also borrowed funds from Paramount and one or more of its affiliates. Our largest stockholder, Dr. Lindsay Rosenwald, is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and sole stockholder of Paramount. We conducted operations until March 2009 when we terminated our employees due to a lack of financial resources. We retained the services of our then executive team through consulting agreements, pursuant to which those individuals, from February 2009 to June 2010, conducted minimal activities consisting of maintaining the licenses to our product candidates and business development and financing activities. We completed a series of convertible note financings in February, April and May of 2010 that provided us funds to hire as consultants our current chief executive officer and chief financial officer and undertake our initial public offering. The completion of our initial public offering in December 2010 and the related exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option in January 2011 raised approximately $17.5 million in net proceeds. In July 2011, we raised approximately $47.5 million in net proceeds in a registered public offering. We have used a portion of those net proceeds to resume the development of VEN 309 and VEN 307, including hiring employees, contracting with consultants, contracting with contract research organizations to assist us in executing and monitoring our Phase III trials for VEN 309 for the treatment of internal hemorrhoids, and contracting with manufacturers of clinical trial supplies for those studies.

Our executive offices are located at 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10013. Our telephone number is (646) 706-5208. Our website address is *www.ventrusbio.com*. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Offerings Under This Prospectus

We may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities, either individually or in units, with a total value of up to $100,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of any offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities.

The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. However, no prospectus supplement will fundamentally change the terms that are set forth in this prospectus or offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of its effectiveness.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of any securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell the securities directly to investors or to or through agents, underwriters or dealers. We, and our agents or underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we offer securities through agents or underwriters, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

- the names of those agents or underwriters;
- applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;
- details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and
- the net proceeds to us.

Common Stock

We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by stockholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably any dividends that may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to prior distribution rights of any preferred stock then outstanding.

Preferred Stock

We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Our board of directors will determine the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of such series, without any further vote or action by stockholders. Convertible preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or exchangeable for our other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option or both and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements, we will fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of such series in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue under a separate agreement. We may enter into warrant agreements with a bank or trust company that we select to be our warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of warrants.

In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement related to the particular series of warrants being offered, as well as the warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement or warrant certificate containing the terms of the warrants we are offering before the issuance of the warrants.

Debt Securities

We may offer debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all of our senior indebtedness. Convertible debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option or both and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

With respect to any debt securities that we issue, we will issue such debt securities under an indenture, which we would enter into with the trustee named in the indenture. Any indenture would be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Units

We may issue units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the units. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement related to the series of units being offered, as well as the unit agreements that contain the terms of the units. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. The prospectus supplement applicable to each offering of our securities will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in our company. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific factors discussed below and under the heading "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" included in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, each of which are on file with the SEC and are incorporated herein by reference, and which may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future.

Risks Related to Our Business

We have a limited operating history and a history of operating losses, and expect to incur significant additional operating losses.

We were established in October 2005, began active operations in the spring of 2007 and have only a limited operating history. Therefore, there is limited historical financial information upon which to base an evaluation of our performance. Our prospects must be considered in light of the uncertainties, risks, expenses, and difficulties frequently encountered by companies in their early stages of operations. We have generated losses since we began operations and, as of September 30, 2011, we had a deficit accumulated during the development stage of $48.7 million. We expect to incur substantial additional losses over the next several years as our research, development, pre-clinical testing, and clinical trial activities increase. The amount of future losses and when, if ever, we will achieve profitability are uncertain. We have no products that have generated any commercial revenue, do not expect to generate revenues from the commercial sale of products unless and until our product candidates are approved by the FDA for sale, and might never generate revenues from the sale of products.

We are not currently profitable and might never become profitable.

We have a history of losses and expect to incur substantial losses and negative operating cash flow for the foreseeable future, and we might never achieve or maintain profitability. Even if we succeed in developing and commercializing one or more product candidates, we expect to incur substantial losses for the foreseeable future. We also expect to continue to experience negative cash flow and to incur significant operating and capital expenditure for the foreseeable future. We anticipate that our expenses will increase substantially in the foreseeable future as we:

- continue to undertake preclinical development and clinical trials for product candidates;
- seek regulatory approvals for product candidates;
- implement additional internal systems and infrastructure; and
- hire additional personnel.

As a result, we will need to generate significant revenues in order to achieve and maintain profitability. Our ability to generate revenue and achieve profitability will depend on, among other things:

- successful completion of animal tests, which are referred to as pre-clinical studies, as well as human tests, which are referred to as clinical trials, for our product candidates;
- obtaining necessary regulatory approvals from the FDA and international regulatory agencies;
- establishing manufacturing, sales, and marketing arrangements with third parties; and

- raising sufficient funds to finance our activities.

We might not succeed at any of these undertakings. If we are unsuccessful at some or all of these undertakings, our business, prospects, and results of operations might be materially adversely affected.

We have no approved products.

To date, we have no approved product on the market and have generated no product revenues. Unless and until we receive approval from the FDA and other regulatory authorities for our product candidates, we cannot sell our drugs and will not have product revenues. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, we will have to fund all of our operations and capital expenditures from cash on hand, any licensing fees and any future securities offerings or debt financings. We intend to devote substantially all of our resources to the development of VEN 309 and VEN 307. In the event we do not obtain regulatory approval of either of these product candidates, our business will be materially and adversely affected.

We are a development-stage company and might not be able to commercialize any product candidates.

We are a development-stage company and have not demonstrated our ability to perform the functions necessary for the successful commercialization of any product candidates. The successful commercialization of any product candidates will require us to perform a variety of functions, including:

- continuing to undertake preclinical development and clinical trials;
- participating in regulatory approval processes;
- formulating and manufacturing products; and
- conducting sales, marketing and distribution activities.

Our development of current and future product candidates is subject to the risks of failure and delay inherent in the development of new pharmaceutical products and products based on new technologies, including:

- delays in product development, clinical testing, or manufacturing;
- unplanned expenditures in product development, clinical testing, or manufacturing;
- failure of a product candidate to demonstrate acceptable safety and efficacy;
- failure to receive regulatory approvals;
- emergence of superior or equivalent products;
- inability to manufacture and sell on our own, or through any others, product candidates on a commercial scale or at a financially viable cost; and
- failure to achieve market acceptance.

Because of these risks, our research and development efforts might not result in any commercially viable products. If we do not successfully complete a significant portion of these development efforts, obtain required regulatory approvals, and have commercial success with any approved products, our business, financial condition and results of operations will be materially harmed.

We will need additional financing to fund our activities in the future and complete the development of our product candidates.

We anticipate that we will incur operating losses for the foreseeable future. We expect that our current resources will provide us with sufficient capital to fund our operations for more than 12 months and to develop VEN 309 through two pivotal Phase III trials. However, we might consume our available capital before that time if, for example, we are not efficient in developing our product candidates and conducting clinical trials or if regulatory requirements change.

Moreover, we believe we will require substantial funds in the future to support our operations. We anticipate that to complete the clinical trial process to obtain the approval of our product candidates will cost approximately $20 million for VEN 307, $15 million for VEN 308 and $40 million for VEN 309. We might seek equity or debt financings in the future to fund our operations. However, there is no assurance that we will be successful in raising the additional capital we need to fund our business plan on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all. If we do not succeed in raising additional funds on acceptable terms, we might be unable to initiate or complete clinical trials or obtain approval of any product candidate from the FDA and other regulatory authorities. In addition, we could be forced to discontinue product development, forego sales and marketing efforts, sacrifice attractive business opportunities, cease operations entirely and sell or otherwise transfer all or substantially all of our remaining assets.

We are dependent on a license relationship for VEN 307 and VEN 308.

We have acquired, by license from S.L.A. Pharma, the rights to VEN 307 and VEN 308, which are critical to our business, and we might enter into additional licenses in the future. The license with S.L.A. Pharma contains, and we expect that any future licenses will contain, provisions requiring up-front, milestone, and royalty payments to the licensor. If we fail to comply with these obligations to a licensor, that licensor might have the right to terminate the license on relatively short notice, in which event we would not be able to commercialize drug candidates or technologies that were covered by the license. Also, the milestone and other payments associated with licenses will make it less profitable for us to develop our drug candidates than if we owned the technology ourselves.

We did not continue to pursue a Special Protocol Assessment, or SPA, for VEN 309 and the FDA may not find the pivotal trials we conduct for VEN 309 to be sufficient to support approval.

In order not to delay the start of our Phase III trial for VEN 309 for the treatment of internal hemorrhoids, we chose not to reach agreement with FDA on a SPA and proceeded instead with the trial without an agreement letter on the SPA from the FDA. As a result, none of the recommendations made by the FDA on the major and important elements of the protocol to date and that we have implemented are binding on the FDA, which could result in delays in or failure to obtain approval of the NDA we plan to file for VEN 309. Further, in addition to our two pivotal Phase III trials for VEN 309, the FDA will also require that we complete various additional clinical trials and non-clinical testing, such as a Phase III recurrence trial and carcinogenicity and toxicology testing, and our discussions with the FDA from 2008 to date do not cover the detailed design or conduct of these additional trials and testing. As a result, we cannot assure that the pivotal trials and other studies we conduct will be sufficient to support approval of any NDA we file with respect to VEN 309.

The results of our Phase III trial for VEN 309 might not be as expected, which expectations are based on our post hoc analysis of an earlier study.

We have modeled the potential performance of the endpoints suggested by the FDA for our Phase III trial for VEN 309 using data from a prior double-blind Phase IIb trial of VEN 309 conducted in Germany that was very similar in all major respects to the Phase III trial we began conducting in August 2011. While we believe this post hoc analysis provided illustrative information, there are some differences related to patient inclusion/exclusion criteria and clinical endpoints and there could be unknown differences related to physician characteristics and study conduct between the studies that could possibly result in different outcomes. Accordingly, the successful results in the prior study might not be an indicator of success in our Phase III trials.

We have had negative cash flows from operations and might not be able to generate sufficient cash to meet our substantial obligations to S.L.A. Pharma, which could result in the termination of our license or put substantial burdens on our financial position.

We license two of our product candidates, VEN 307 and VEN 308, from S.L.A. Pharma, a Swiss corporation, and have obligations related to VEN 308 and to fund S.L.A. Pharma's development efforts for VEN 307 in the E.U., all of which are set forth in the chart below.

Amount Due	Date Due	Fee Description
$41,500/monthly	Monthly beginning October 1, 2010, and continuing until S.L.A. Pharma is no longer managing the development program for VEN 307.	Project management fees for VEN 307.
$400,000	Upon receipt of a quality controlled final study report of the Phase III trial for VEN 307 in Europe	Development expense for VEN 307

Our ability to make the payments required under the S.L.A. Pharma license agreement depends on our ability to generate cash in the future. We expect to experience negative cash flow for the foreseeable future as we fund our operating losses and capital expenditures. In the event that we are not current in our payments under the license agreement, S.L.A. Pharma may terminate the license agreement if we have not brought the payments current within three business days of receipt of notice from S.L.A. Pharma. Further, if we commercialize a product candidate, we must pay S.L.A. Pharma annual royalties ranging from the mid to upper single digit percentages, based upon net sales of the product. We also are required to make future milestone payments totaling up to $20 million upon the achievement of various milestones related to regulatory events for both VEN 307 and VEN 308, the earliest of which is not anticipated until 2015. In the event we breach these obligations, we could lose our rights to VEN 307 or VEN 308, or both, depending on the breach, which would have a material adverse effect on our business and prospects.

We have identified material weaknesses in our financial reporting process.

We have identified material weaknesses in our financial reporting process with respect to lack of accounting expertise, segregation of duties and lack of independent review over financial reporting. We and our auditors have also identified numerous errors in the accounting for routine transactions and non-routine, complex transactions, including with respect to the valuation of common stock and derivative securities, the recording of debt discount and related amortization for warrants issued in connection with debt financings and calculation of deferred tax assets. The material weaknesses identified with respect to lack of accounting expertise and segregation of duties relate to the policies and procedures that:

- ensure that information required to be disclosed is properly gathered and reported;
- pertain to the maintenance of records that accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions of our assets;
- provide reasonable assurance that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

We have taken the following measures to address the material weaknesses identified by us and our auditors and improve our periodic financial statement reporting process:

- hired a Chief Financial Officer in December 2010 (who previously was serving as a consultant) to strengthen our internal staffing and technical expertise in financial accounting and reporting;
- upgraded our accounting software system in the first quarter of 2011;

- limited access to the accounting and information systems and related data to strengthen segregation of duties;

- implemented in the fourth quarter of 2010 procedures and controls in the financial statement close process to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the preparation of quarterly and annual financial statements; and

- hired a controller in April 2011.

There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully implement our plans to remediate the material weaknesses in our financial reporting process. Our failure to successfully implement our plans to remediate these material weaknesses could cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations, to produce timely and reliable financial information, and to effectively prevent fraud. Additionally, such failure could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative impact on our financial condition and stock price.

Corporate and academic collaborators might take actions to delay, prevent, or undermine the success of our products.

Our operating and financial strategy for the development, clinical testing, manufacture, and commercialization of drug candidates heavily depends on collaborating with corporations, academic institutions, licensors, licensees, and other parties. However, there can be no assurance that we will successfully establish these collaborations. In addition, should a collaboration be terminated, replacement collaborators might not be available on attractive terms, or at all. The activities of any collaborator will not be within our control and might not be within our power to influence. There can be no assurance that any collaborator will perform its obligations to our satisfaction or at all, that we will derive any revenue or profits from these collaborations, or that any collaborator will not compete with us. If any collaboration is not successful, we might require substantially greater capital to undertake development and marketing of our proposed products and might not be able to develop and market these products effectively, if at all. In addition, a lack of development and marketing collaborations might lead to significant delays in introducing proposed products into certain markets and/or reduced sales of proposed products in such markets.

We rely on data provided by our collaborators and others that has not been independently verified and could prove to be false, misleading, or incomplete.

We rely on third-party vendors, scientists, and collaborators to provide us with significant data and other information related to our projects, clinical trials, and our business. If these third parties provide inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete data, our business, prospects, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

We rely exclusively on third parties to formulate and manufacture our product candidates.

While we have contracted with a highly experienced head of manufacturing to oversee the manufacture of our clinical trial supplies, we do not have and do not intend to establish our own manufacturing facilities. Consequently, we lack the physical plant to formulate and manufacture our own product candidates, which are currently being manufactured entirely by commercial third parties, albeit under close supervision by our contractors. If any product candidate we might develop or acquire in the future receives FDA approval, we will rely on one or more third-party contractors to manufacture our products. If, for any reason, we become unable to rely on our current source or any future source to manufacture our product candidates, either for clinical trials or, at some future date, for commercial quantities, then we would need to identify and contract with additional or replacement third-party manufacturers to manufacture compounds for preclinical, clinical and commercial purposes. We might not be successful in identifying additional or replacement third-party manufacturers, or in negotiating acceptable terms with any that we do identify. If we are unable to secure and maintain third-party manufacturing capacity, the development and sales of our products and our financial performance might be materially affected.

In addition, before any of our collaborators can begin to commercially manufacture our product candidates, each must obtain regulatory approval of the manufacturing facility and process. Manufacturing of drugs for clinical and commercial purposes must comply with the FDA's Current Good Manufacturing Practices, or cGMPs, and applicable non-U.S. regulatory requirements. The cGMP requirements govern quality control and documentation policies and procedures. Complying with cGMP and non-U.S. regulatory requirements will require that we expend time, money, and effort in production, recordkeeping, and quality control to assure that the product meets applicable specifications and other requirements. Our contracted manufacturing facilities must also pass a pre-approval inspection prior to FDA approval. Failure to pass a pre-approval inspection might significantly delay FDA approval of our products. If any of our collaborators fails to comply with these requirements, it would be subject to possible regulatory action which could limit the jurisdictions in which we are permitted to sell our products. As a result, our business, financial condition, and results of operations might be materially harmed.

Our reliance on a limited number of third-party manufacturers exposes us to the following risks:

- We might be unable to identify manufacturers for commercial supply on acceptable terms or at all because the number of potential manufacturers is limited and the FDA must approve any replacement contractor. This approval would generally require compliance inspections. In addition, a new manufacturer would have to be educated in, or develop substantially equivalent processes for, production of our products after receipt of FDA approval, if any.

- Our third-party manufacturers might be unable to formulate and manufacture our drugs in the volume and of the quality required to meet our clinical and commercial needs, if any.

- Our contract manufacturers might not perform as agreed or might not remain in the contract manufacturing business for the time required to supply our clinical trials or to successfully produce, store and distribute our products.

- Currently, our contract manufacturers are all foreign, which increases the risk of shipping delays and adds the risk of import restrictions.

- Drug manufacturers are subject to ongoing periodic unannounced inspection by the FDA and corresponding state agencies to ensure strict compliance with cGMP and other government regulations and corresponding foreign standards. We do not have complete control over third-party manufacturers' compliance with these regulations and standards although we have agents in plant that monitor the production process.

- If any third-party manufacturer makes improvements in the manufacturing process for our products, we might not own, or might have to share, the intellectual property rights to the innovation with our licensors.

- We might compete with other companies for access to these manufacturers' facilities and might be subject to manufacturing delays if the manufacturers give other clients higher priority than us.

Each of these risks could delay our clinical trials or the approval, if any, of our product candidates by the FDA or the commercialization of our product candidates and could result in higher costs or deprive us of potential product revenues. As a result, our business, financial condition, and results of operations might be materially harmed.

Preclinical and clinical trials required for our product candidates are expensive and time-consuming, and their outcome is uncertain.

In order to obtain FDA approval to market a new drug product, we must demonstrate safety and effectiveness in humans. To meet these requirements, we must conduct extensive preclinical testing and sufficient adequate and well-controlled clinical trials. Conducting clinical trials is a lengthy, time consuming, and expensive process. The length of time might vary substantially according to the type, complexity, novelty, and intended use of the product candidate, and often can be several years or more per trial. Delays associated with products for which we are directly conducting preclinical or clinical trials might cause us to incur additional operating expenses. The commencement and rate of completion of clinical trials might be delayed by many factors, including, for example:

- inability to manufacture sufficient quantities of qualified materials under cGMP for use in clinical trials;

- slower than expected rates of patient recruitment;

- failure to recruit a sufficient number of patients;
- modification of clinical trial protocols;
- changes in regulatory requirements for clinical trials;
- the lack of effectiveness during clinical trials;
- the emergence of unforeseen safety issues;
- delays, suspension, or termination of clinical trials by the institutional review board responsible for overseeing the study at a particular study site; and
- government, institutional review board or other regulatory delays or clinical holds requiring suspension or termination of the trials.

We still must complete pharmacological and toxicity testing for VEN 309. In addition, because VEN 309 may be used as a chronic treatment, we are also required to complete long-term carcinogenicity testing. If any of this testing demonstrates meaningful toxicity, it could delay or prevent us from obtaining regulatory approval of VEN 309.

The results from preclinical testing and early clinical trials are not necessarily predictive of results obtained in later clinical trials. Accordingly, even if we obtain or have obtained positive results from preclinical or early clinical trials, we might not achieve the same success in future clinical trials. For example, although positive results have been observed in earlier clinical trials of each of VEN 309, VEN 307 and VEN 308, there is no assurance that any of our future clinical trials will be successful. Clinical trials might not provide statistically significant data supporting a product candidate's safety and effectiveness to meet the requisite regulatory approvals.

We intend to rely on one or more contract research organizations, or CROs, to conduct our clinical trials for VEN 309 and VEN 307. We will be highly dependent on these CROs to conduct our trials in accordance with the requirements of the FDA and good scientific practice. In the event the CROs fail to perform their duties in such a fashion, we may not obtain regulatory approval for any of our product candidates.

The failure of clinical trials to demonstrate safety and effectiveness for the desired indications could harm the development of that product candidate and other product candidates. This failure could cause us to abandon a product candidate and could delay development of other product candidates. Any delay in, or termination of, our clinical trials would delay the filing of our NDAs with the FDA and, ultimately, our ability to commercialize our product candidates and generate product revenues. Any change in, or termination of, our clinical trials could materially harm our business, financial condition, and results of operation.

Existing and unforeseen safety issues could hinder the development of our product candidates and their adoption, if approved.

VEN 309, like numerous other drugs, is dependent on the CYP2D6 enzyme for its metabolism. An important property of CYP2D6 is that its activity is affected by genetic variability in individuals, including individuals who are CYP2D6 deficient and that its activity can be reduced by certain drugs. If this enzyme is inhibited by other medications being taken by a patient or the patient has a genetically reduced amount or a deficiency of the enzyme, and the patient takes VEN 309, the patient might have a higher level of iferanserin in his or her blood and might experience side effects although we are unaware of what the side effects might be. One patient in one of our Phase I trials had a genetic reduction of this enzyme and did experience substantially higher levels of VEN 309 in his blood. However, no side effects were observed in this patient. There are several well known drugs that also are dependent on CYP2D6, including several antidepressants as well as tamoxifen. We might restrict the use of VEN 309 in patients taking medications that inhibit or are dependent on the CYP2D6 enzyme, depending on the outcome of clinical drug-drug interaction clinical studies that we have initiated. VEN 309 has demonstrated arrythmogenic potential in in vitro (hERG channel) studies at exposures 60-100 times the topical 0.5% twice daily dose being studied in humans. We expect to conduct an arrhythmia clinical study ("thorough QT study") as part of our Phase III clinical pharmacology program, which studies are routinely required by the FDA. Even though VEN 309 has a wide safety margin in this area, we cannot be certain of the outcome of this study, and demonstration of clinically meaningful arrhythmia risks could compromise or prevent the approvability of the product in major markets.

Both VEN 307 and VEN 308 have been safely used extensively for decades when given orally at much higher exposures (blood levels) than currently under study in the topical application of VEN 307 and VEN 308. Despite these safety records, other safety issues could arise during testing of our products, which might delay testing or prevent further development entirely. If a product is approved, any limitation on use that might be necessary could hinder its adoption in the marketplace. In addition, if any product is approved, it could be used against any instructions that we publish that limit its use, which could subject us to litigation.

If we cannot compete successfully for market share against other drug companies, we might not achieve sufficient product revenues and our business will suffer.

If our product candidates receive FDA approval, they will compete with a number of existing and future drugs and therapies developed, manufactured and marketed by others. Existing or future competing drugs might provide greater therapeutic convenience or clinical or other benefits for a specific indication than our products, or might offer comparable performance at a lower cost. If our products fail to capture and maintain market share, we might not achieve sufficient product revenues and our business will suffer.

We might compete against fully integrated pharmaceutical companies and smaller companies that are collaborating with larger pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, government agencies and other public and private research organizations. Many of these competitors, either alone or together with their collaborative partners, operate larger research and development programs or have substantially greater financial resources than we do, as well as significantly greater experience in:

- developing drugs;
- undertaking pre-clinical testing and human clinical trials;
- obtaining FDA and other regulatory approvals of drugs;
- formulating and manufacturing drugs; and
- launching, marketing and selling drugs.

We might not obtain the same resources and experience as our competitors. If we are unable to perform these tasks effectively and efficiently, our results of operations might be materially adversely affected.

Developments by competitors might render our products or technologies obsolete or non-competitive.

The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are intensely competitive. We might compete with organizations that are developing treatments for the indications that our products target.

To our knowledge, there is currently only one FDA-approved drug for the treatment of anal fissures. Rectiv, a topical nitroglycerin treatment, was approved in late June 2011 by the FDA, and is expected to come to market in the first quarter of 2012. For the treatment of fecal incontinence, Solesta, an injectable therapy developed by Oceana Therapeutics, was approved as a device by the FDA in 2011 and is expected to come to market in 2012. To our knowledge, there are no other products approved or in development although there are two non-drug products in development. For the treatment of hemorrhoids, some physicians are known to prescribe topical steroids, although such treatment has not been approved by the FDA for this indication. Further, many hemorrhoid sufferers use Wyeth’s Preparation H or similar products for symptomatic relief (active ingredients can vary by country but generally include glycerin, phenylephrine HCl, pramoxine HCl, white petrolatum, shark liver oil and/or witch hazel). No data are publicly available regarding the clinical efficacy of this or other over-the-counter symptomatic treatments for hemorrhoids. Finally, there are surgical devices being studied for the treatment of hemorrhoids. If our competitors develop effective treatments for anal fissure, fecal incontinence or hemorrhoids and successfully commercialize those treatments, our business and prospects might be materially harmed.

If we are not able to develop collaborative marketing relationships with licensees or partners, or create an effective internal sales, marketing, and distribution capability, we might be unable to market our products successfully.

To market our products, we will have to establish our own marketing and sales force or out-license our product candidates to, or collaborate with, larger firms with experience in marketing and selling pharmaceutical products. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully establish our own marketing capabilities or establish marketing, sales, or distribution relationships with third parties; that such relationships, if established, will be successful; or that we will be successful in gaining market acceptance for our products. To the extent that we enter into any marketing, sales, or distribution arrangements with third parties, our product revenues will be lower than if we marketed and sold our products directly, and any revenues we receive will depend upon the efforts of such third parties. If we are unable to establish such third-party sales and marketing relationships, or choose not to do so, we will have to establish our own in-house capabilities. Although our employees have extensive experience in the commercialization of drug products, we, as a company, have no experience in marketing or selling pharmaceutical products and currently have no sales, marketing, or distribution infrastructure. To market any of our products directly, we would need to develop a marketing, sales, and distribution force that both has technical expertise and the ability to support a distribution capability. To establish our own marketing, sales, and distribution capacity would significantly increase our costs, and require substantial additional capital. In addition, there is intense competition for proficient sales and marketing personnel, and we might not be able to attract individuals who have the qualifications necessary to market, sell, and distribute our products. There can be no assurance that we will be able to establish internal marketing, sales, or distribution capabilities.

Physicians and patients might not accept and use our drugs.

Even if the FDA approves one of our product candidates, physicians and patients might not accept and use it. Acceptance and use of our products will depend upon a number of factors, including:

- perceptions by members of the health care community, including physicians, about the safety and effectiveness of our product;
- cost-effectiveness of our product relative to competing product or therapies;
- availability of reimbursement for our product from government or other healthcare payors; and
- effective marketing and distribution efforts by us and our licensees and distributors, if any.

If our current product candidates are approved, we expect sales to generate substantially all of our revenues for the foreseeable future, and as a result, the failure of these products to find market acceptance would harm our business and would require us to seek additional financing.

Our ability to generate product revenues will be diminished if our products sell for inadequate prices or patients are unable to obtain adequate levels of reimbursement.

Our ability to commercialize our products, alone or with collaborators, will depend in part on the extent to which reimbursement will be available from:

- government and health administration authorities;
- private health maintenance organizations and health insurers; and
- other healthcare payors.

Significant uncertainty exists as to the reimbursement status of newly approved healthcare products. Healthcare payors, including Medicare, are challenging the prices charged for medical products and services. Government and other healthcare payors increasingly attempt to contain healthcare costs by limiting both coverage and the level of reimbursement for drugs. Even if our product candidates are approved by the FDA, insurance coverage might not be available, and reimbursement levels might be inadequate, to cover our products. If government and other healthcare payors do not provide adequate coverage and reimbursement levels for our products, once approved, market acceptance of such products could be reduced.

Proposals to modify the current health care system in the U.S. to improve access to health care and control its costs are continually being considered by the federal and state governments. In March 2010, the U.S. Congress passed landmark healthcare reform legislation. We cannot predict what impact on federal reimbursement policies and regulatory compliance landscape this legislation will have in general or on our business specifically. Members of the U.S. Congress and some state legislatures are seeking to overturn at least portions of the legislation and the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear in March 2012 a case challenging the constitutionality of the legislation. We expect continued judicial and legislative review and assessment of this legislation and possibly alternative health care reform proposals. We cannot predict judicial results or whether new proposals will be made or adopted, when they may be adopted or what impact they may have on us if they are adopted.

Health administration authorities in countries other than the U.S. may not provide reimbursement for our products at rates sufficient for us to achieve profitability, or at all. Like the U.S., these countries could adopt health care reform proposals and could materially alter their government-sponsored health care programs by reducing reimbursement rates.

Any reduction in reimbursement rates under Medicare or private insurers or foreign health care programs could negatively affect the pricing of our products. If we are not able to charge a sufficient amount for our products, then our margins and our profitability will be adversely affected.

If we lose key management or scientific personnel, cannot recruit qualified employees, directors, officers, or other significant personnel or experience increases in our compensation costs, our business might materially suffer.

We are highly dependent on the services of our Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Russell H. Ellison and our Chief Business Officer, Thomas Rowland. Our employment agreements with Dr. Ellison and Mr. Rowland do not ensure the retention of either. This is also true for our other management team members, both present and future.

Furthermore, our future success also depends, in part, on our ability to identify, hire, and retain additional management team members as our operations grow. We expect to experience intense competition for qualified personnel and might be unable to attract and retain the personnel necessary for the development of our business. Finally, we do not currently maintain, nor do we intend to obtain in the future, “key man” life insurance that would compensate us in the event of the death or disability of any of the members of our management team.

If we cannot enforce non-compete and confidentiality provisions applicable to our employees and consultants, our business might materially suffer.

We include a non-compete provision in any employment agreement we enter into with an employee including Dr. Ellison and Mr. Rowland, that runs during the term of the agreement and for six months after termination, and up to one year after termination if Mr. Rowland voluntarily resigns without good reason (as defined in his employment agreement). This non-compete provision was also included in employment agreements with our former chief medical officer and chief scientific officer, which have lapsed.

We include a confidentiality provision in any employment or consulting agreement we enter into with an employee or a consultant. The confidentiality provision runs during the term of the agreement and thereafter without limit. As a result, the confidentiality provisions contained in the employment agreements with our former chief medical officer and chief scientific officer remain in effect and are in effect under all of our current consulting agreements.

For future employees with whom we do not enter into an employment agreement, we will enter into a confidentiality agreement with the same provisions described above.

To be able to enforce these non-compete and confidentiality provisions we would need to know of any breach and have sufficient funds to enforce the provisions. We cannot assure you that we would know of or be able to afford enforcement of any breach. In addition, such provisions are subject to state law and interpretation by courts, which could limit the scope and duration of these provisions. Any limitation on or non-enforcement of these non-compete and confidentiality provisions could have an adverse effect on our business.

If we are unable to hire additional qualified personnel, our ability to grow our business might be harmed.

At December 31, 2011, we had seven employees, seven consultants, and three contract research organizations with whom we have contracted to carry out our business plan. While we believe this will provide us with sufficient staffing to develop VEN 309 and VEN 307 through the fourth quarter of 2013, we will need to hire or contract with additional qualified personnel with expertise in clinical research and testing, government regulation, formulation and manufacturing and sales and marketing to commercialize VEN 309 and VEN 307 and to develop VEN 308. We compete for qualified individuals with numerous biopharmaceutical companies, universities and other research institutions. Competition for these individuals is intense, and we cannot be certain that our search for such personnel will be successful. Attracting and retaining qualified personnel will be critical to our success.

We might not successfully manage our growth.

Our success will depend upon the expansion of our operations and the effective management of our growth, which will place a significant strain on our current and future management and other administrative and operational resources. To manage this growth, we must expand our facilities, augment our operational, financial and management systems and hire and train additional qualified personnel. If we are unable to manage our growth effectively, our business would be harmed.

We might seek to develop our business through acquisitions of or investment in new or complementary businesses, products or technologies, and the failure to manage these acquisitions or investments, or the failure to integrate them with our existing business, could have a material adverse effect on us.

We might consider opportunities to acquire or invest in other technologies, products and businesses that might enhance our capabilities or complement our current product candidates. Potential and completed acquisitions and strategic investments involve numerous risks, including potential problems or issues associated with the following:

- assimilating the purchased technologies, products or business operations;
- maintaining uniform standards, procedures, controls and policies;
- unanticipated costs associated with the acquisition or investment;
- diversion of our management’s attention from our preexisting business;
- maintaining or obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals or complying with regulatory standards; and
- adverse effects on existing business operations.

We have no current commitments with respect to any acquisition or investment in other technologies or businesses. We do not know if we will identify suitable acquisitions, whether we will be able to successfully complete any acquisitions, or whether we will be able to successfully integrate any acquired product, technology or business into our business or retain key personnel, suppliers or collaborators.

Our ability to successfully develop our business through acquisitions would depend on our ability to identify, negotiate, complete and integrate suitable target businesses or technologies and obtain any necessary financing. These efforts could be expensive and time consuming and might disrupt our ongoing operations. If we are unable to efficiently integrate any acquired business, technology or product into our business, our business and financial condition might be adversely affected.

Risks Related to Our Regulatory and Legal Environment

We are subject to extensive and costly government regulation.

Product candidates employing our technology are subject to extensive and rigorous domestic government regulation including regulation by the FDA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, other divisions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Justice, state and local governments, and their respective foreign equivalents. The FDA regulates the research, development, preclinical and clinical testing, manufacture, safety, effectiveness, record-keeping, reporting, labeling, storage, approval, advertising, promotion, sale, distribution, import, and export of pharmaceutical products. The FDA regulates small molecule chemical entities, whether administered orally, topically or by injection, as drugs, subject to an NDA, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. If products employing our technologies are marketed abroad, they will also be subject to extensive regulation by foreign governments, whether or not they have obtained FDA approval for a given product and its uses. Such foreign regulation might be equally or more demanding than corresponding U.S. regulation.

Government regulation substantially increases the cost and risk of researching, developing, manufacturing, and selling our products. The regulatory review and approval process, which includes preclinical testing and clinical trials of each product candidate, is lengthy, expensive, and uncertain. We or our collaborators must obtain and maintain regulatory authorization to conduct clinical trials and approval for each product we intend to market, and the manufacturing facilities used for the products must be inspected and meet legal requirements. Securing regulatory approval requires submitting extensive preclinical and clinical data and other supporting information for each proposed therapeutic indication in order to establish the product's safety and efficacy for each intended use. The development and approval process might take many years, requires substantial resources, and might never lead to the approval of a product.

Even if we are able to obtain regulatory approval for a particular product, the approval might limit the intended medical uses for the product, limit our ability to promote, sell, and distribute the product, require that we conduct costly post-marketing surveillance, and/or require that we conduct ongoing post-marketing studies. Material changes to an approved product, such as, for example, manufacturing changes or revised labeling, might require further regulatory review and approval. Once obtained, any approvals might be withdrawn, including, for example, if there is a later discovery of previously unknown problems with the product, such as a previously unknown safety issue.

If we, our collaborators, or our contract manufacturers fail to comply with applicable regulatory requirements at any stage during the regulatory process, such noncompliance could result in, among other things, delays in the approval of applications or supplements to approved applications; refusal of a regulatory authority, including the FDA, to review pending market approval applications or supplements to approved applications; untitled letter or warning letters; fines; import and export restrictions; product recalls or seizures; injunctions; total or partial suspension of production; civil penalties; withdrawals of previously approved marketing applications or licenses; recommendations by the FDA or other regulatory authorities against governmental contracts; and/or criminal prosecutions.

We might not obtain the necessary U.S. or worldwide regulatory approvals to commercialize any product candidate.

We cannot assure you that we will receive the approvals necessary to commercialize for sale any of our product candidates, or any product candidate we acquire or develop in the future. We will need FDA approval to commercialize our product candidates in the U.S. and approvals from the FDA-equivalent regulatory authorities in foreign jurisdictions to commercialize our product candidates in those jurisdictions. In order to obtain FDA approval of any product candidate, we must submit to the FDA an NDA demonstrating that the product candidate is safe for humans and effective for its intended use. This demonstration requires significant research, pre-clinical studies, and clinical trials. Satisfaction of the FDA's regulatory requirements typically takes many years, depends upon the type, complexity and novelty of the product candidate and requires substantial resources for research, development and testing. We cannot predict whether our research and clinical approaches will result in drugs that the FDA considers safe for humans and effective for their indicated uses. The FDA has substantial discretion in the drug approval process and might require us to conduct additional pre-clinical and clinical testing, perform post-marketing studies or otherwise limit or impose conditions on any approval we obtain. For example, in late April 2011, the FDA proposed that we include an additional one week treatment arm in our pivotal Phase III trials for VEN 309 to evaluate whether patients could be fully treated within seven days, in addition to the 14-day period we proposed testing. We agreed with the FDA and added the third arm, which increased the costs of the pivotal study.

The approval process might also be delayed by changes in government regulation, future legislation or administrative action or changes in FDA policy that occur prior to or during our regulatory review. Delays in obtaining regulatory approvals might:

- delay commercialization of, and our ability to derive product revenues from, our product candidates;
- impose costly procedures on us; and
- diminish any competitive advantages that we might otherwise enjoy.

Even if we comply with all FDA requests, the FDA might ultimately reject one or more of our NDAs. We cannot be sure that we will ever obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates. Failure to obtain FDA approval of our product candidates will severely undermine our business by leaving us without a saleable product, and therefore without any source of revenues, until another product candidate could be developed or obtained. There is no guarantee that we will ever be able to develop or acquire another product candidate.

In foreign jurisdictions, we must receive approval from the appropriate regulatory authorities before we can commercialize any drugs. The risks associated with foreign regulatory approval processes are similar to the risks associated with the FDA approval procedures described above. We cannot assure you that we will receive the approvals necessary to commercialize our product candidates for sale outside the U.S.

Even if approved, our products will be subject to extensive post-approval regulation.

Once a product is approved, numerous post-approval requirements apply. Among other things, the holder of an approved NDA is subject to ongoing FDA oversight monitoring and reporting obligations, including obligations to monitor and report adverse events and instances of the failure of a product to meet the specifications in the NDA. Application holders must submit new or supplemental applications and obtain FDA approval for changes to the approved product, product labeling, or manufacturing process. Application holders also must submit advertising and other promotional material to the FDA and report on ongoing clinical trials. The FDA also has the authority to require changes in the labeling of approved drug products and to require post-marketing studies.

Advertising and promotional materials must comply with FDA rules in addition to other applicable federal and state laws. The distribution of product samples to physicians must comply with the requirements of the Prescription Drug Marketing Act. Manufacturing facilities remain subject to FDA inspection and must continue to adhere to the FDA's cGMP requirements. Application holders must obtain FDA approval for product, manufacturing, and labeling changes, depending on the nature of the change. Sales, marketing, and scientific/educational grant programs, among other activities, must comply with the anti-fraud and abuse provisions of the Social Security Act, the False Claims Act, and similar state laws, each as amended. Pricing and rebate programs must comply with the Medicaid rebate requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 and the Veteran's Health Care Act of 1992, each as amended. If products are made available to authorized users of the Federal Supply Schedule of the General Services Administration, additional laws and requirements apply. All of these activities are also potentially subject to federal and state consumer protection and unfair competition laws.

Depending on the circumstances, failure to meet these post-approval requirements can result in criminal prosecution, fines, injunctions, recall or seizure of products, total or partial suspension of production, denial or withdrawal of pre-marketing product approvals, or refusal to allow us to enter into supply contracts, including government contracts. In addition, even if we comply with FDA and other requirements, new information regarding the safety or effectiveness of a product could lead the FDA to modify or withdraw product approval.

We face the risk of product liability claims and might not be able to obtain insurance.

Our business exposes us to the risk of product liability claims that are inherent in the development of drugs. If the use of one or more of our or our collaborators' drugs harms people, we might be subject to costly and damaging product liability claims brought against us by clinical trial participants, consumers, health care providers, pharmaceutical companies or others selling our products. Our inability to obtain sufficient product liability insurance at an acceptable cost to protect against potential product liability claims could prevent or inhibit the commercialization of pharmaceutical products we develop. We currently do not carry clinical trial insurance or product liability insurance for VEN 307. We obtained such insurance prior to beginning the Phase III trial for VEN 309. We cannot predict all of the possible harms or side effects that might result and, therefore, the amount of insurance coverage we hold now or in the future might not be adequate to cover all liabilities we might incur. We intend to expand our insurance coverage to include the sale of commercial products if we obtain marketing approval for our drug candidates in development, but we might be unable to obtain commercially reasonable product liability insurance for any products approved for marketing. If we are unable to obtain insurance at an acceptable cost or otherwise protect against potential product liability claims, we will be exposed to significant liabilities, which might materially and adversely affect our business and financial position. If we are sued for any injury allegedly caused by our or our collaborators' products, our liability could exceed our total assets and our ability to pay the liability. A successful product liability claim or series of claims brought against us would decrease our cash and could cause the value of our common stock to decrease.

We might be exposed to liability claims associated with the use of hazardous materials and chemicals.

Our research, development and manufacturing activities and/or those of our third-party contractors might involve the controlled use of hazardous materials and chemicals. Although we will strive to have our safety procedures, and those of our contractors, for using, storing, handling and disposing of these materials comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations, we cannot completely eliminate the risk of accidental injury or contamination from these materials. In the event of such an accident, we could be held liable for any resulting damages, and any liability could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, the federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the use, manufacture, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous or radioactive materials and waste products might require us to incur substantial compliance costs that could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. We currently do not carry hazardous materials liability insurance. We intend to obtain such insurance in the future if necessary.

Risks Related to Our Intellectual Property

Our patent for the concentration range of VEN 309 may not issue and our existing composition of matter patent covering VEN 309 could be invalidated.

Different concentrations of a drug are separately patentable under certain circumstances. Because of unexpected differences between concentrations of the product that were observed in the clinical program (i.e. that 0.5% concentration is superior to a 0.25% and a higher 1.0% concentration in the comprehensive reduction in hemorrhoid symptoms), which data have not been previously published, on August 23, 2010, we filed method of use patent applications in the U.S. and internationally for VEN 309, claiming a specific concentration range. The patent, if issued, could be considered new art and provide patent protection for 20 additional years. However, if our existing composition of matter patent for VEN 309 is challenged by a third party and invalidated, and the concentration patent is never issued and even if issued is challenged by a third party, we would have only five years of U.S. data exclusivity under the Hatch-Waxman Act from the time VEN 309 is approved.

Our business depends on protecting our intellectual property.

If we and our licensor S.L.A. Pharma do not obtain protection for our respective intellectual property rights, our competitors might be able to take advantage of our research and development efforts to develop competing drugs.

Our success, competitive position and future revenues, if any, depend in part on our ability and the abilities of our licensors to obtain and maintain patent protection for our products, methods, processes and other technologies, to preserve our trade secrets, to prevent third parties from infringing on our proprietary rights and to operate without infringing the proprietary rights of third parties. To date, we hold some exclusive patent rights, including rights under U.S. patents and patent applications as well as rights under foreign patents and patent applications. We anticipate filing additional patent applications both in the U.S. and in other countries, as appropriate. However, the patent process is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, and there can be no assurance that we will be successful in protecting our products by obtaining and defending patents. These risks and uncertainties include the following:

- Our patent rights might be challenged, invalidated, or circumvented, or otherwise might not provide any competitive advantage;

- Our competitors, many of which have substantially greater resources than we do and many of which might make significant investments in competing technologies, might seek, or might already have obtained, patents that will limit, interfere with, or eliminate our ability to make, use, and sell our potential products either in the U.S. or in international markets;

- As a matter of public policy regarding worldwide health concerns, there might be significant pressure on the U.S. government and other international governmental bodies to limit the scope of patent protection both inside and outside the U.S. for disease treatments that prove successful; and

- Countries other than the U.S. might have less restrictive patent laws than those upheld by U.S. courts, allowing foreign competitors the ability to exploit these laws to create, develop, and market competing products.

In addition, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and patent offices in other jurisdictions have often required that patent applications concerning pharmaceutical and/or biotechnology-related inventions be limited or narrowed substantially to cover only the specific innovations exemplified in the patent application, thereby limiting the scope of protection against competitive challenges. Thus, even if we or our licensors are able to obtain patents, the patents might be substantially narrower than anticipated.

In addition to patents, we also rely on trade secrets and proprietary know-how. Although we take measures to protect this information by entering into confidentiality and inventions agreements with our employees, scientific advisors, consultants, and collaborators, we cannot provide any assurances that these agreements will not be breached, that we will be able to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of disclosure if they are breached, or that our trade secrets will not otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors. If any of these events occurs, or we otherwise lose protection for our trade secrets or proprietary know-how, the value of this information may be greatly reduced.

Patent and other intellectual property protection is crucial to the success of our business and prospects, and there is a substantial risk that such protections will prove inadequate. Our business and prospects will be harmed if these protections prove insufficient.

Our non-compete with Amer, Dr. Sam Amer and his wife may not be enforceable.

As a condition to our purchase of VEN 309 from Amer, each of Amer, Dr. Sam Amer and his wife entered into a five-year non-compete agreement with us. The non-compete applies to the U.S. and its territories and anywhere else in the world where a patent has issued for VEN 309 and prohibits Amer, Dr. Amer and/or his wife, directly or indirectly, from owning an interest in, managing, operating, joining, controlling or participating in the ownership, management, operation or control of any profit or non-profit business or organization that conducts research, develops, formulates, tests, produces, licenses, commercializes, manufactures or distributes a product incorporating VEN 309 or any product which has the function of affecting the $5HT_{2A}$ receptor. The enforceability of non-competes is a matter of state law and courts generally look with disfavor on non-competes that are not narrowly drawn. California is particularly strict with the limitations that may be imposed by non-compete agreements and the geographic scope must be limited to the entity's or individual's "scope of business". While we believe that the non-compete has been drafted to comply with California law, we cannot be certain that it will be enforced. However, Amer, Dr. Amer and his wife could challenge the non-compete in court or choose to violate it in which event we would have to sue to enforce it. Either situation would be costly, might distract the attention of our management and the court might not uphold the non-compete. Further, the milestone and royalty payments we must pay Amer are not contingent on compliance with the non-compete. If Amer, Dr. Amer and/or his wife competed against us in developing a product incorporating VEN 309, it could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We rely on trade secret protections through confidentiality agreements with our employees, customers and other parties, and the breach of these agreements could adversely affect our business and prospects.

We rely on trade secrets, which we seek to protect, in part, through confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with our employees, collaborators, supplies, and other parties. There can be no assurance that these agreements will not be breached, that we would have adequate remedies for any such breach or that our trade secrets will not otherwise become known to or independently developed by our competitors. We might be involved from time to time in litigation to determine the enforceability, scope and validity of our proprietary rights. Any such litigation could result in substantial cost and divert management's attention from our operations.

If we infringe the rights of third parties we might have to forgo selling our future products, pay damages, or defend against litigation.

If our product candidates, methods, processes and other technologies infringe the proprietary rights of other parties, we could incur substantial costs and we might have to:

- obtain licenses, which might not be available on commercially reasonable terms, if at all;
- abandon an infringing product candidate;
- redesign our products or processes to avoid infringement;
- stop using the subject matter claimed in the patents held by others;
- pay damages; and/or
- defend litigation or administrative proceedings which might be costly whether we win or lose, and which could result in a substantial diversion of our financial and management resources.

Any of these events could substantially harm our earnings, financial condition and operations.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

There are interlocking relationships among us and certain affiliates of Paramount Biosciences, LLC, which might present potential conflicts of interest.

Dr. Lindsay Rosenwald is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and sole stockholder of Paramount BioCapital, Inc., or Paramount, and is the sole member of Paramount BioSciences, LLC. We acquired the rights to VEN 307 and VEN 308 from Paramount BioSciences who had licensed them from S.L.A. Pharma. Dr. Rosenwald individually and through entities he controls beneficially owned as of December 31, 2011 approximately 7.8% of our issued and outstanding common stock, excluding any shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants.

In consideration of his guaranteeing the $800,000 promissory note we issued to Israel Discount Bank of New York in September 2010, we entered into a letter agreement with Dr. Rosenwald whereby Dr. Rosenwald has the right to attend our board meetings, which right he has not exercised since May 2011, and to appoint two directors to our board. Dr. Rosenwald has never exercised his right to appoint those directors. If and when appointed, these directors would be subject to stockholder approval at the expiration of their terms. This potential board representation, coupled with his beneficial ownership of approximately 7.8% of the common stock of our company, increases Dr. Rosenwald's ability to potentially influence our board of directors and the management of our company. Dr. Rosenwald's rights will terminate upon the earlier to occur of (a) August 30, 2015, (b) the merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our stock or assets in a transaction or series of transactions immediately after which our stockholders as of immediately prior to the transaction hold less than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the surviving, acquiring or parent corporation, or (c) Dr. Rosenwald's ownership of our company is less than 5.0% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock.

As of December 31, 2011, we owed Paramount Corporate Development, LLC, an affiliate of Dr. Rosenwald's, $100,000 for services previously rendered and for which there is no due date.

Generally, Delaware corporate law, under which we are governed, requires that any transactions between us and any of our affiliates be on terms that, when taken as a whole, are substantially as favorable to us as those then reasonably obtainable from a person who is not an affiliate in an arms-length transaction. We believe that the terms of our relationships with Dr. Rosenwald, Paramount BioSciences and their affiliates satisfy the requirement of Delaware law, but in the event that one or more parties challenges the fairness of such terms, we might have to expend substantial resources in resolving the challenge, and we can make no guarantees as to the result.

None of our affiliates, Paramount BioSciences, its affiliates or Dr. Rosenwald is obligated pursuant to any agreement or understanding with us to make any additional products or technologies available to us, nor can there be any assurance, and we do not expect and purchasers of our common stock should not expect, that any biomedical or pharmaceutical product or technology identified by such affiliates, Paramount BioSciences, its affiliates or Dr. Rosenwald in the future will be made available to us. In addition, certain of our current officers and directors or certain of any officers or directors hereafter appointed or elected might from time to time serve as officers or directors of other biopharmaceutical or biotechnology companies. There can be no assurance that such other companies will not have interests in conflict with our own.

Dr. Rosenwald may exert significant influence on our board of directors and the management of our company.

As of December 31, 2011, Dr. Rosenwald and his affiliates beneficially owned approximately 7.8% of our issued and outstanding capital stock, excluding any shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants. In addition, in consideration of his guaranteeing the $800,000 promissory note we issued to Israel Discount Bank of New York in September 2010, we entered into a letter agreement with Dr. Rosenwald whereby Dr. Rosenwald has the right to attend our board meetings and to appoint two directors to our board. Dr. Rosenwald has not exercised his observer rights since May 2011 and has never exercised his right to appoint a director. As a result of this agreement, Dr. Rosenwald and his affiliates could exert significant influence on the election of our board of directors and the outcome of issues submitted to our stockholders, including any merger, consolidation, or sale of all or substantially all of our assets. The interests of Dr. Rosenwald and his affiliates might not coincide with the interests of other holders of our capital stock. This concentration of ownership may harm the value of our common stock by, among other things:

- delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company;
- impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination involving our company; or
- causing us to enter into transaction or agreements that are not in the best interests of all stockholders.

We might not be able to maintain the listing of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "VTUS." We might not be able to maintain the listing standards of that exchange. If we fail to maintain the listing requirements, our common stock might trade on the OTC Bulletin Board or in the "pink sheets" maintained by Pink OTC Markets, Inc. These alternative markets are generally considered to be markets that are less efficient and less broad than the NASDAQ Capital Market.

The price of our common stock might fluctuate significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Since we went public on December 22, 2010, the price of our common stock has fluctuated between $6.00 and $21.00. Volatility in the market price of our common stock might prevent you from being able to sell your shares of our common stock at or above the price you paid for such shares. The trading price of our common stock might be volatile and subject to wide price fluctuations in response to various factors, including:

- results of our clinical trials and other studies;

- availability of capital;
- future sales of our common stock;
- sale of shares of our common stock by our significant stockholders or members of our management;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- investor perceptions of us and the pharmaceutical industry;
- issuance of new or changed securities analysts' reports or recommendations, or the announcement of any changes to our credit rating;
- success or failure of our product candidates;
- introduction of new products or announcements of significant contracts, acquisitions or capital commitments by us or our competitors;
- threatened or actual litigation and government investigations;
- legislative, political or regulatory developments;
- the overall performance of the equity markets;
- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly financial and operating results;
- general economic conditions;
- changes in interest rates; and
- changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance, interpretations or principles.

These and other factors might cause the market price of our common stock to fluctuate substantially, which might limit or prevent investors from readily selling their shares of our common stock and might otherwise negatively affect the liquidity of our common stock. In addition, in recent years, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This volatility has had a significant impact on the market price of securities issued by many companies across many industries. The changes frequently appear to occur without regard to the operating performance of the affected companies. Accordingly, the price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that have little or nothing to do with our company, and these fluctuations could materially reduce our share price.

The requirements of being a public company adds to our operating costs and might strain our resources and distract our management.

As a public company, we face increased legal, accounting, administrative and other costs and expenses not faced by private companies. We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which requires that we file annual, quarterly and current reports with respect to our business and financial condition, and the rules and regulations implemented by the SEC, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the NASDAQ Capital Market, each of which imposes additional reporting and other obligations on public companies. These rules and regulations increase our legal and financial compliance costs and make some activities more time-consuming and costly, although we are currently unable to estimate these costs with any degree of certainty. Complying with these requirements might divert management's attention from other business concerns, which could have a material adverse effect on our prospects, business, and financial condition.

Additionally, the expenses incurred by public companies generally for reporting and corporate governance purposes have been increasing. These increased costs will require us to divert a significant amount of money that we could otherwise use to develop our product candidates or otherwise expand our business. If we are unable to satisfy our obligations as a public company, we could be subject to delisting of our common stock, fines, sanctions and other regulatory action and potentially civil litigation.

Our internal control over financial reporting currently has material weaknesses, and failure to achieve and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could have a material adverse effect on our business and stock price.

As a public company, we must maintain internal control over financial reporting in a manner that meets the standards of publicly traded companies. We anticipate being required to meet these standards in the course of preparing our financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, and our management will be required to report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011. 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. We are in the process of reviewing, documenting and testing our internal control over financial reporting. We might encounter problems or delays in completing the implementation of any changes necessary to make a favorable assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. If we cannot favorably assess the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, investors could lose confidence in our financial information and the price of our common stock could decline.

We do not intend to pay dividends for the foreseeable future and our stock may not appreciate in value.

We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the operation and growth of our business and do not expect to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. As a result, the success of an investment in shares of our common stock will depend upon any future appreciation in its value. There is no guarantee that shares of our common stock will appreciate in value or that the price at which our stockholders have purchased their shares will be able to be maintained.

Several provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws could discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Several provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws could discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition that stockholders may consider favorable, and the market price of our common stock could be reduced as a result. These provisions include:

- “blank check” preferred stock;
- prohibiting us from engaging in a “business combination” with an “interested stockholder” for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder unless certain provisions are met;
- prohibiting cumulative voting in the election of directors;
- limiting the persons who may call special meetings of stockholders;
- establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by stockholders at stockholder meetings; and
- the ability of our board of directors to increase its size and fill vacancies.

We will need additional financing to fund our activities in the future, which likely will dilute our stockholders.

We anticipate that we will incur operating losses for the foreseeable future. Additionally, we believe we will require substantial funds in the future to support our operations. We expect to seek equity or debt financings in the future to fund our operations. The issuance of additional equity securities, or convertible debt or other derivative securities, likely will dilute some if not all of our then existing stockholders, depending on the financing terms.

Shares eligible for registration for future sale, if and when sold may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, as the future market sale of a substantial amount of outstanding stock in the public marketplace could reduce the price of our common stock.

Holders of an aggregate of approximately 925,000 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants are entitled to rights to register the shares held by them under the Securities Act pursuant to registration rights granted to the holders of these securities. We intend to file in the near future a registration statement covering the resale of these shares. Any substantial sale of common stock by these holders after this offering may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The SEC encourages companies to disclose forward-looking information so that investors can better understand a company's future prospects and make informed investment decisions. This prospectus and the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated herein by reference contain such "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Words such as "may," "might," "should," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "projects," "intends," "plans," "believes" and words and terms of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance, identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements represent management's current judgment regarding future events and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. These risks include, but are not limited to: risks related to costs, timing, regulatory review and results of our pre-clinical studies and clinical trials; our ability to obtain FDA and foreign approval of our product candidates; differences between historical studies on which we have based our Phase III clinical trials for VEN 309 and VEN 307 and actual results from those trials; our anticipated capital expenditures, our estimates regarding our capital requirements, and our need for future capital; our liquidity and working capital requirements; our expectations regarding our revenues, expenses and other results of operations; the unpredictability of the size of the markets for, and market acceptance of, any of our products, including VEN 309; our ability to sell any approved products and the prices we are able to realize; our need to obtain additional funding and our ability to obtain future funding on acceptable terms, or at all; our ability to retain and hire necessary employees and to staff our operations appropriately; our ability to compete in our industry and innovation by our competitors; our ability to stay abreast of and comply with new or modified laws and regulations that currently apply or become applicable to our business; estimates and estimate methodologies used in preparing our financial statements; and the future trading prices of our common stock and the impact of securities analysts' reports on these prices. Please also see the discussion of risks and uncertainties under "Risk Factors" above and contained in any supplements to this prospectus, and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto, as filed with the SEC and which are incorporated herein by reference.

In light of these assumptions, risks and uncertainties, the results and events discussed in the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus or in any document incorporated herein by reference might not occur. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or the date of the document incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not under any obligation, and we expressly disclaim any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. All subsequent forward-looking statements attributable to us or to any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We cannot assure you that we will receive any proceeds in connection with securities offered by us pursuant to this prospectus. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities by us under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including clinical trials, research and development expenses, and general and administrative expenses. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement our intended use for the net proceeds received from the sale of any securities by us. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we intend to invest the net proceeds generally in short-term, investment grade, interest bearing securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods presented. We did not conduct any operations in 2006. Our earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges for each of the periods presented. Because of the deficiency, the ratio information is not applicable. The extent to which earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges is shown below.

	Nine Months Ended	Year Ended December 31			
	September 30, 2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Deficiency of earnings available to cover fixed charges	$(418,991)	$(10,530,099)	$(1,199,315)	$(1,635,211)	$ (67,210)

For purposes of computing the deficiency of earnings available to cover fixed charges, fixed charges represent interest expense, including deferred financing costs and beneficial conversion feature charges.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

- at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

A prospectus supplement or supplements (and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

- the name or names of the underwriters, if any;
- the purchase price of the securities or other consideration therefor, and the proceeds, if any, we will receive from the sale;
- any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;
- any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;
- any public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Capital Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker’s bid, however, the passive market maker’s bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Pursuant to our certificate of incorporation, we are authorized to issue 50,000,000 shares of common stock, $0.001 par value per share. As of January 23, 2012, we had 12,406,406 shares of common stock outstanding and approximately 135 stockholders of record.

The following summary of certain provisions of our common stock does not purport to be complete. You should refer to our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws, both of which are included as exhibits to the registration statement we have filed with the SEC in connection with this offering. The summary below is also qualified by provisions of applicable law.

General

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by the stockholders, and there are no cumulative voting rights. Generally, all matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority (or, in the case of election of directors, by a plurality) of the votes entitled to be cast by all shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy, subject to any voting rights granted to holders of any preferred stock.

The holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratable dividends, if any, payable in cash, in stock or otherwise if, as and when declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, subject to any preferential rights that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of our company, after payment in full of all outstanding debts and other liabilities, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all remaining assets, subject to prior distribution rights of preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. No shares of common stock have preemptive rights or other subscription rights to purchase additional shares of common stock. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable, and the shares of common stock included in this registration statement will be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common stock will be subject to, and might be adversely affected by, the rights of holders of any preferred stock that we may issue in the future. All shares of common stock that are acquired by us shall be available for reissuance by us at any time.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is VStock Transfer, LLC, Inc. The transfer agent’s address is 77 Spruce Street, Cedarhurst, New York 11516 and its telephone number is (212) 828-8436.

NASDAQ Capital Market

Our common stock is listed for quotation on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “VTUS.” On January 27, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock was $8.72 per share.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of such series, without any further vote or action by our stockholders. As of the date of this prospectus, no shares of preferred stock were outstanding. The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation and could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company.

We will fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include any or all of the following, as required:

- the title and stated value;
- the number of shares we are offering;
- the liquidation preference per share;
- the purchase price;
- the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;
- whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;
- the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;
- any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;
- whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;
- whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;
- voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;
- preemptive rights, if any;
- restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;
- whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;
- a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

- any limitations on issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

If we issue shares of preferred stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and non-assessable.

The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of that preferred stock. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our common stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provision of any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we may offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. For any debt securities that we may offer, an indenture (and any relevant supplemental indenture) will contain additional important terms and provisions and will be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, or as an exhibit to reports that we file with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

With respect to any debt securities that we issue, we will issue such debt securities under an indenture, which we would enter into with the trustee named in the indenture. Any indenture would be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

With respect to any debt securities that we issue, we will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

- the title;
- the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;
- any limit on the amount that may be issued;
- whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, and if so, the terms and who the depository will be;
- the maturity date;
- the principal amount due at maturity;
- whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;
- the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

- whether or not the debt securities will be convertible into shares of our common stock or our preferred stock and, if so, the terms of such conversion;
- whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured by some or all of our assets, and the terms of any secured debt;
- the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;
- the place where payments will be payable;
- restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;
- our right, if any, to defer payment or interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;
- the date, if any, after which and the conditions upon which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemptions provisions;
- the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;
- whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;
- whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness, issuing additional securities, or entering into a merger, consolidation or sale of our business;
- a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- information describing any book-entry features;
- any provisions for payment of additional amounts for taxes;
- whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an "original issue discount" as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of $1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;
- events of default;
- whether we and/or the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders;
- the form of debt security and how it may be exchanged and transferred;
- description of the debenture trustee and paying agent, and the method of payments; and
- any other specified terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of any warrants that we may offer under this prospectus and the related warrant agreements and warrant certificates. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. With respect to any warrants that we offer, specific warrant agreements will contain additional important terms and provisions and will be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus or as an exhibit to reports that we file with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

- the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the warrants;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, the exercise price for shares of our common stock or preferred stock and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock to be received upon exercise of the warrants;
- in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will begin and the date on which that right will expire or, if you may not continuously exercise the warrants throughout that period, the specific date or dates on which you may exercise the warrants;
- whether the warrants will be issued in fully registered form or bearer form, in definitive or global form or in any combination of these forms, although, in any case, the form of a warrant included in a unit will correspond to the form of the unit and of any security included in that unit;
- any applicable material U.S. federal income tax consequences;
- the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;
- the proposed listing, if any, of the warrants or the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants on any securities exchange;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and the common stock will be separately transferable;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- the anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;
- any redemption or call provisions;
- whether the warrants are to be sold separately or with other securities as parts of units; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

- in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or
- in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or, payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for any warrants will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We might issue units comprised of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock and warrants in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement, warrant and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units.

We may choose to evidence each series of units by unit certificates that we would issue under a separate agreement. If we choose to evidence the units by unit certificates, we will enter into the unit agreements with a unit agent and will indicate the name and address of the unit agent in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of units.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF DELAWARE LAW AND OF THE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Certain provisions of Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation and bylaws discussed below may have the effect of making more difficult or discouraging a tender offer, proxy contest or other takeover attempt. These provisions are expected to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of our company to first negotiate with our board of directors. We believe that the benefits of increasing our ability to negotiate with the proponent of an unfriendly or unsolicited proposal to acquire or restructure our company outweigh the disadvantages of discouraging these proposals because negotiation of these proposals could result in an improvement of their terms.

Delaware anti-takeover law

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a "business combination" with an "interested stockholder" for a period of three years following the date the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

- the board of directors approves the transaction in which the stockholder became an interested stockholder prior to the date the interested stockholder attained that status;
- when the stockholder became an interested stockholder, he or she owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and certain shares owned by employee benefits plans; or
- on or subsequent to the date the business combination is approved by the board of directors, the business combination is authorized by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the voting stock of the corporation at an annual or special meeting of stockholders.

Generally, a "business combination" includes a merger, asset or stock sale, or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Generally, an "interested stockholder" is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock.

The existence of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law would be expected to have an anti-takeover effect with respect to transactions not approved in advance by our board of directors, including discouraging attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares of our common stock.

Charter Documents

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying or preventing changes in control or management of our company. First, the Bylaws provide that all stockholder action must be effected at a duly called meeting of stockholders and not by a consent in writing. Further, our bylaws limit who may call special meetings of the stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation does not include a provision for cumulative voting for directors. Under cumulative voting, a minority stockholder holding a sufficient percentage of a class of shares may be able to ensure the election of one or more directors. Our bylaws provide that the number of directors on our board, which may range from three to nine directors, shall be exclusively fixed by our board, which has set the number of directors at five. Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in our authorized number of directors and any vacancies in our board resulting from death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or other cause (including removal from office by a vote of the shareholders) will be filled by a majority of our board then in office. Finally, our bylaws establish procedures, including advance notice procedures, with regard to the nomination of candidates for election as directors and stockholder proposals. These and other provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control or management of our company.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered hereby will be passed upon by Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP, Raleigh, North Carolina.

EXPERTS

The balance sheets of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and the related statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from October 7, 2005 (inception) to December 31, 2010 have been audited by EisnerAmper LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance on the report of EisnerAmper LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the SEC's public reference facilities at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You can request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the public reference facilities. SEC filings are also available at the SEC's web site at http://www.sec.gov. Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market, and you can read and inspect our filings at the offices of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. at 1735 K Street, Washington, D.C. 20006.

This prospectus is only part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and therefore omits certain information contained in the registration statement. We have also filed exhibits and schedules with the registration statement that are excluded from this prospectus, and you should refer to the applicable exhibit or schedule for a complete description of any statement referring to any contract or other document. You may inspect a copy of the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules, without charge, at the public reference room or obtain a copy from the SEC upon payment of the fees prescribed by the SEC.

INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information that we file with them. Incorporation by reference allows us to disclose important information to you by referring you to those other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We filed a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with the SEC with respect to the securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus. This prospectus omits certain information contained in the registration statement, as permitted by the SEC. You should refer to the registration statement, including the exhibits, for further information about us and the securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus. Statements in this prospectus regarding the provisions of certain documents filed with, or incorporated by reference in, the registration statement are not necessarily complete and each statement is qualified in all respects by that reference. Copies of all or any part of the registration statement, including the documents incorporated by reference or the exhibits, may be obtained upon payment of the prescribed rates at the offices of the SEC listed above in "Where You Can Find More Information." The documents we are incorporating by reference are:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on April 13, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three-month period ended March 31, 2011 filed with the SEC on May 16, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the six-month period ended June 30, 2011, filed with the SEC on August 15, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Form 10-Q/A for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2011 filed with the SEC on November 14 and November 18, 2011, respectively;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 7, January 20, January 27, February 1, May 25, May 31, June 7, June 22, July 14, July 19, August 25, November 9, November 14, November 14, November 18 and December 21, 2011, and January 9, January 13 and January 20, 2012;
- our definitive proxy solicitation materials filed with the SEC on April 27, 2011;
- the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35005) filed with the SEC on December 10, 2010, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- all of the filings pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of the filing of the original registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement.

In addition, all documents subsequently filed by us pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, before the date our offering is terminated or completed are deemed to be incorporated by reference into, and to be a part of, this prospectus.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will furnish without charge to you, on written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, including exhibits to these documents. You should direct any requests for documents to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., Attention: David J. Barrett, 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10013, (646) 706-5208.

You should rely only on information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities or accept an offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where such offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 31, 2012

Prospectus

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

$20,000,000 of Shares

Common Stock

We have entered into a controlled equity offering sales agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor, relating to shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the sales agreement, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $20.0 million from time to time through Cantor.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "VTUS." On January 27, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market was $8.72 per share.

Sales of our common stock, if any, under this prospectus may be made in sales deemed to be "at-the-market" equity offerings as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, including sales made directly on or through the NASDAQ Capital Market, the existing trading market for our common stock, sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange or otherwise, in negotiated transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at prices related to such prevailing market prices, and/or any other method permitted by law. Cantor will act as a sales agent on a best efforts basis using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between Cantor and us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in any escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

The compensation to Cantor for sales of common stock sold pursuant to the sales agreement is an aggregate of 3.0% of the gross proceeds of the sales price per share. In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf, Cantor will be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the compensation of Cantor will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have also agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to Cantor with respect to certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Please read the information contained in and incorporated by reference under the heading "Risk Factors" on page S-3 of this prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are filed after the date hereof and incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is , 2012.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus relates to the offering of our common stock. Before buying any of the common stock that we are offering, we urge you to carefully read this prospectus, together with the information incorporated by reference as described under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" in this prospectus. These documents contain important information that you should consider when making your investment decision.

This prospectus describes the specific terms of the common stock we are offering and also adds to, and updates information contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, before the date of this prospectus, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in this prospectus. If any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date — for example, a document incorporated by reference into this prospectus — the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and in any free writing prospectus that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering. We have not, and Cantor has not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and Cantor is not, making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy our securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making that offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering, is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should read this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety before making an investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in the sections of this prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference."

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus and the offering of the common stock in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the common stock and the distribution of this prospectus outside the United States. This prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities offered by this prospectus by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

The address of our principal executive office is Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., 99 Hudson Street. 5th Floor New York, New York 10013, and our telephone number is (646) 706-5208. Our corporate website address is www.ventrusbio.com. The information contained on our website is not a part of, and should not be construed as being incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.

Unless the context otherwise requires, "Ventrus," the "company," "we," "us," "our" and similar names refer to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights certain information about us, this offering and selected information contained elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before deciding whether to invest in our common stock. For a more complete understanding of our company and this offering, we encourage you to read and consider carefully the more detailed information in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus, and the information referred to under the heading "Risk Factors" in this prospectus on page S-3 and on page 12 of the accompanying prospectus, and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus.

The Offering

Common stock offered by us	In accordance with the terms of the sales agreement, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time through Cantor shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $20.0 million, less amounts sold through Cantor under the sales agreement.
Manner of offering	"At-the-market" offering that may be made from time to time through our sales agent, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. See "Plan of Distribution" on page S-7.

Use of Proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, if any, for general corporate purposes, including clinical trials, research and development expenses and general and administrative expenses. See "Use of Proceeds" on page S-5 of this prospectus.

Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Please read the information contained in and incorporated by reference under the heading "Risk Factors" on page S-3 of this prospectus and page 12 of the accompanying prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are filed after the date hereof and incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus.

NASDAQ Capital Market Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "VTUS."

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risk. Before deciding whether to invest in our common stock, you should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties described below and discussed under the section entitled "Risk Factors" on page 12 of the accompanying prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" included in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, each of which are on file with the SEC and are incorporated herein by reference, and which may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future. There may be other unknown or unpredictable economic, business, competitive, regulatory or other factors that could have material adverse effects on our future results. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, business prospects, financial condition or results of operations could be seriously harmed. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline, resulting in a loss of all or part of your investment. Please also read carefully the section below entitled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Additional Risks Related to This Offering

Management will have broad discretion as to the use of the proceeds from this offering, and may not use the proceeds effectively.

Because we have not designated the amount of net proceeds from this offering to be used for any particular purpose, our management will have broad discretion as to the application of the net proceeds from this offering and could use them for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of the offering. Our management may use the net proceeds for corporate purposes that may not improve our financial condition or market value.

You may experience immediate and substantial dilution.

The offering price per share in this offering may exceed the net tangible book value per share of our common stock outstanding prior to this offering. Assuming that an aggregate of 2,293,577 shares of our common stock are sold during the term of the sales agreement with Cantor at a price of $8.72 per share, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on January 27, 2012, for aggregate gross proceeds of $20,000,000, after deducting commissions and estimated aggregate offering expenses payable by us, you will experience immediate dilution of $3.86 per share, representing the difference between our as adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2011 after giving effect to this offering and the assumed offering price. The exercise of outstanding stock options and warrants may result in further dilution of your investment. See the section entitled "Dilution" below for a more detailed illustration of the dilution you would incur if you participate in this offering.

You may experience future dilution as a result of future equity offerings.

In order to raise additional capital, we may in the future offer additional shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock at prices that may not be the same as the price per share in this offering. We may sell shares or other securities in any other offering at a price per share that is less than the price per share paid by investors in this offering, and investors purchasing shares or other securities in the future could have rights superior to existing stockholders. The price per share at which we sell additional shares of our common stock, or securities convertible or exchangeable into common stock, in future transactions may be higher or lower than the price per share paid by investors in this offering.

We do not intend to pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

We have never paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the operation and growth of our business and currently do not plan to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The SEC encourages companies to disclose forward-looking information so that investors can better understand a company's future prospects and make informed investment decisions. This prospectus and the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated herein by reference contain such "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Words such as "may," "might," "should," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "projects," "intends," "plans," "believes" and words and terms of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance, identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements represent management's current judgment regarding future events and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. These risks include, but are not limited to: risks related to costs, timing, regulatory review and results of our studies and clinical trials; our ability to obtain FDA and foreign approval of our product candidates; differences between historical studies on which we have based our Phase III clinical trials for VEN 309 and actual results from those trials; our anticipated capital expenditures, our estimates regarding our capital requirements, and our need for future capital; our liquidity and working capital requirements; our expectations regarding our revenues, expenses and other results of operations; the unpredictability of the size of the markets for, and market acceptance of, any of our products, including VEN 309; our ability to sell any approved products and the prices we are able to realize; our need to obtain additional funding and our ability to obtain future funding on acceptable terms, or at all; our ability to retain and hire necessary employees and to staff our operations appropriately; our ability to compete in our industry and innovation by our competitors; our ability to stay abreast of and comply with new or modified laws and regulations that currently apply or become applicable to our business; estimates and estimate methodologies used in preparing our financial statements; and the future trading prices of our common stock and the impact of securities analysts' reports on these prices. Please also see the discussion of risks and uncertainties under "Risk Factors" above and contained in any supplements to this prospectus, and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto, as filed with the SEC and which are incorporated herein by reference.

In light of these assumptions, risks and uncertainties, the results and events discussed in the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus or in any document incorporated herein by reference might not occur. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or the date of the document incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not under any obligation, and we expressly disclaim any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. All subsequent forward-looking statements attributable to us or to any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We currently intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, if any, for general corporate purposes, including clinical trials, research and development expenses, and general and administrative expenses.

The amounts and timing of our use of the net proceeds from this offering will depend on a number of factors, such as the timing and progress of our research and development efforts, the timing and progress of any collaborative or strategic partnering efforts, and the competitive environment for our planned products. As of the date of this prospectus, we cannot specify with certainty all of the particular uses for the net proceeds to us from this offering. Accordingly, our management will have broad discretion in the timing and application of these proceeds. Pending application of the net proceeds as described above, we intend to temporarily invest the proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing instruments.

DILUTION

If you invest in this offering, your ownership interest will be diluted to the extent of the difference between the public offering price per share and the as adjusted net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering. We calculate net tangible book value per share by dividing the net tangible book value, which is tangible assets less total liabilities, by the number of outstanding shares of our common stock. Dilution represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers of shares in this offering and the as adjusted net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after giving effect to this offering. Our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2011 was approximately $52.2 million, or $4.21 per share.

After giving effect to the sale of our common stock during the term of the sales agreement with Cantor in the aggregate amount of $20,000,000 at an assumed offering price of $8.72 per share, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on January 27, 2012, and after deducting commissions and estimated aggregate offering expenses payable by us, our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2011 would have been approximately $71.4 million, or $4.86 per share of common stock. This represents an immediate increase in the net tangible book value of $0.65 per share to our existing stockholders and an immediate dilution in net tangible book value of $3.86 per share to new investors. The following table illustrates this per share dilution:

Assumed public offering price per share		$8.72
Net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2011	$4.21	
Increase in net tangible book value per share attributable to this offering	$0.65	
As adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2011, after giving effect to this offering		$4.86
Dilution per share to new investors purchasing shares in this offering		$3.86

The table above assumes for illustrative purposes that an aggregate of 2,293,577 shares of our common stock are sold during the term of the sales agreement with Cantor at a price of $8.72 per share, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on January 27, 2012, for aggregate gross proceeds of $20,000,000. The shares pursuant to the sales agreement with Cantor are being sold from time to time at various prices. An increase of $1.00 per share in the price at which the shares are sold from the assumed offering price of $8.72 per share shown in the table above, assuming all of our common stock in the aggregate amount of $20,000,000 during the term of the sales agreement with Cantor is sold at that price, would increase our adjusted net tangible book value per share after the offering to $4.94 per share and would increase the dilution in net tangible book value per share to new investors in this offering to $4.78 per share, after deducting commissions and estimated aggregate offering expenses payable by us. A decrease of $1.00 per share in the price at which the shares are sold from the assumed offering price of $8.72 per share shown in the table above, assuming all of our common stock in the aggregate amount of $20,000,000 during the term of the sales agreement with Cantor is sold at that price, would decrease our adjusted net tangible book value per share after the offering to $4.76 per share and would decrease the dilution in net tangible book value per share to new investors in this offering to $2.96 per share, after deducting commissions and estimated aggregate offering expenses payable by us. This information is supplied for illustrative purposes only.

The above discussion and table are based on 12,406,406 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2011 and excludes the following, all as of September 30, 2011:

· warrants to purchase 958,526 shares of common stock at exercise prices of between $1.24 and $66.46 per share;

· options to purchase 1,958,455 shares of common stock with a weighted average exercise price of $6.14 per share; and

· 2,008,745 shares of common stock reserved for future grants under our 2010 Equity Incentive Plan.

To the extent that options or warrants outstanding as of September 30, 2011 have been or are exercised, or other shares are issued, investors purchasing shares in this offering could experience further dilution. In addition, we may choose to raise additional capital due to market conditions or strategic considerations, even if we believe we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans. To the extent that additional capital is raised through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, the issuance of these securities could result in further dilution to our stockholders.

MARKET FOR COMMON STOCK

	2010	
	High	**Low**
First Quarter*	$ —	$ —
Second Quarter*	$	$
Third Quarter*	$	$
Fourth Quarter	$ 7.71	$ 6.00

	2011	
	High	**Low**
First Quarter	$ 11.98	$ 5.75
Second Quarter	$ 21.00	$ 11.02
Third Quarter	$ 15.10	$ 7.84
Fourth Quarter	$ 9.94	$ 6.96

* Our common stock began trading on the NASDAQ Capital Market on December 17, 2010, on a “when-issued” basis. On December 23, 2010, the first trading day after the distribution, “when-issued” trading with respect to our common stock ended and “regular way” trading began. As a result, our stock was not listed in the first three quarters of 2010 and only listed for 10 trading days in the fourth quarter of 2010.

On January 27, 2012, the closing price for the common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Capital Market was $8.72.

As of January 23, 2012, there were approximately 135 stockholders of record, which excludes stockholders whose shares were held in nominee or street name by brokers. We believe that, when our record holders and stockholders whose shares were held in nominee or street name by brokers are combined, we have an aggregate of approximately 1,000 stockholders.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into a controlled equity offering sales agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor, that provides for the issuance and sale by us of shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $20.0 million from time to time through Cantor acting as agent. Cantor may sell the common stock by any method that is deemed to be an "at-the-market" equity offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, including sales made directly on or through the NASDAQ Capital Market or any other existing trading market for the common stock in the U.S. or to or through a market maker. Cantor may also sell the common stock in privately negotiated transactions, subject to our prior approval.

Each time we wish to issue and sell common stock under the sales agreement, we will notify Cantor of the number of shares to be issued, the dates on which such sales are anticipated to be made and any minimum price below which sales may not be made. Once we have so instructed Cantor, unless Cantor declines to accept the terms of this notice, Cantor has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such shares up to the amount specified on such terms. The obligations of Cantor under the sales agreement to sell our common stock is subject to a number of conditions that we must meet.

The settlement between us and Cantor is generally anticipated to occur on the third trading day following the date on which the sale was made. Sales of our common stock as contemplated in this prospectus will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as we and Cantor may agree upon. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

We will pay Cantor a commission equal to an aggregate of 3.0% of the gross proceeds we receive from the sales of our common stock. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to close this offering, the actual total public offering amount, commissions and proceeds to us, if any, are not determinable at this time. In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf, Cantor may, and will with respect to sales effected in an "at-the-market-offering," be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the compensation of Cantor will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to Cantor with respect to certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. We have also agreed to reimburse Cantor for fees and disbursements to its counsel in an amount not to exceed $50,000, which will be paid out of the commission due to Cantor from us under the sales agreement from the sale of shares in the offering; provided, that such $50,000 shall be due in full no later than June 30, 2012 whether or not a sufficient number of shares of common stock have been sold in connection with the offering. We estimate that the total expenses for the offering, excluding compensation and reimbursements payable to Cantor under the terms of the sales agreement, will be approximately $200,000.

The offering of our common stock pursuant to the sales agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all of our common stock provided for in this prospectus, or (ii) termination of the sales agreement as permitted therein. Cantor may terminate the sales agreement at any time in certain circumstances, including the occurrence of a material adverse change with respect to us that, in Cantor's sole judgment, makes it impracticable or inadvisable to market the shares, if there has occurred any material adverse change in the U.S. financial markets or international financial markets, which in Cantor's sole judgment makes it impracticable to market the shares, if trading in the shares has been suspended or limited by the SEC or the NASDAQ Capital Market, or the Exchange, or if trading generally has been suspended or limited by the Exchange, if any suspension of trading of any shares of the Company on any exchange or over-the-counter market shall have occurred and be continuing, if there is a major disruption of securities settlements or clearance services in the U.S. which shall be continuing, or if a banking moratorium has been declared in the U.S. Federal or New York authorities. We and Cantor may each terminate the sales agreement at any time upon 10 days prior notice.

This summary of the material provisions of the sales agreement does not purport to be a complete statement of its terms and conditions. A copy of the sales agreement is filed with the SEC and is incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information" below.

Cantor and its affiliates may in the future provide various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates, for which services they may in the future receive customary fees. To the extent required by Regulation M, Cantor will not engage in any market making activities involving our common stock while the offering is ongoing under this prospectus.

A prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on a web site maintained by Cantor and Cantor may distribute the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus electronically.

LEGAL MATTERS

Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP, Raleigh, North Carolina, will pass upon the validity of the common stock offered by this prospectus. Reed Smith LLP, New York, New York, is counsel for Cantor in connection with this offering.

EXPERTS

The balance sheets of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and the related statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from October 7, 2005 (inception) to December 31, 2010 have been audited by EisnerAmper LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance on the report of EisnerAmper LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of the registration statement on Form S-3 we filed with the SEC under the Securities Act and does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to any of our contracts, agreements or other documents, the reference may not be complete and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement or the exhibits to the reports or other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus for a copy of such contract, agreement or other document. Because we are subject to the information and reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information from other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. Information in this prospectus supersedes information incorporated by reference that we filed with the SEC prior to the date of this prospectus, while information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus. The documents we are incorporating by reference are:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on April 13, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three-month period ended March 31, 2011 filed with the SEC on May 16, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the six-month period ended June 30, 2011, filed with the SEC on August 15, 2011;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Form 10-Q/A for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2011 filed with the SEC on November 14 and November 18, 2011, respectively;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 7, January 20, January 27, February 1, May 25, May 31, June 7, June 22, July 14, July 19, August 25, November 9, November 14, November 14, November 18 and December 21, 2011, and January 9, January 13 and January 20, 2012;
- our definitive proxy solicitation materials filed with the SEC on April 27, 2011; and
- the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35005) filed with the SEC on December 10, 2010, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items unless such Form 8-K expressly provides to the contrary) made with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, including those made after the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to effectiveness of such registration statement, until we file a post-effective amendment that indicates the termination of the offering of the common stock made by this prospectus and will become a part of this prospectus from the date that such documents are filed with the SEC. Information in such future filings updates and supplements the information provided in this prospectus. Any statements in any such future filings will automatically be deemed to modify and supersede any information in any document we previously filed with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference to the extent that statements in the later filed document modify or replace such earlier statements.

You should direct any requests for documents to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., Attention: David J. Barrett, 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10013, (646) 706-5208.

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

We estimate that expenses payable by us in connection with the offering described in this registration statement will be as follows:

SEC registration fee	$	11,460*
Legal fees and expenses	$	100,000*
Accounting fees and expenses	$	25,000*
Printing expenses	$	5,000*
Miscellaneous	$	58,540*
Total	$	200,000*

*Estimated as permitted under Rule 511 of Regulation S-K.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL, permits a corporation, under specified circumstances, to indemnify its directors, officers, employees or agents against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlements actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with any action, suit or proceeding brought by third parties by reason of the fact that they were or are directors, officers, employees or agents of the corporation, if such directors, officers, employees or agents acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reason to believe their conduct was unlawful. In a derivative action, that is one by or in the right of the corporation, indemnification may be made only for expenses actually and reasonably incurred by directors, officers, employees or agents in connection with the defense or settlement of an action or suit, and only with respect to a matter as to which they will have acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification will be made if such person will have been adjudged liable to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought will determine upon application that the defendant directors, officers, employees or agents are fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses despite such adjudication of liability.

Pursuant to the DGCL, our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that no director will be personally liable to our company or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to our company or our stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that we will generally indemnify our directors, officers, employees or agents to the fullest extent permitted by the law against all losses, claims, damages or similar events. We have obtained liability insurance for each director and officer for certain losses arising from claims or charges made against them while acting in their capacities as directors or officers of our company.

Item 16. Exhibits.

(a) The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit Number	Description of Document	Registrant's Form	Dated	Exhibit Number	Filed Herewith
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement				
1.2	Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement dated January 30, 2012 between Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.				X
4.1	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate.	S-1	10/29/10	4.1	
4.2	Form of Convertible Promissory Note issued to investors between December 2007 and March 2008, as amended in December 14, 2009.	S-1	7/20/10	4.2	
4.3	Form of Warrant issued to investors between June and September 2008.	S-1	7/20/10	4.3	
4.4	Form of Convertible Promissory Note issued to Paramount BioSciences, LLC and Capretti Grandi, LLC in 2008 and 2009, as amended on December 21, 2009.	S-1	10/04/10	4.4	
4.5	Warrants issued to Paramount Credit Partners, LLC on January 23, March 25, June 1 and June 24, 2009.	S-1	10/04/10	4.5	
4.6	Form of Convertible Promissory Note issued to investors and Paramount BioCapital, Inc. in February, March and April 2010.	S-1	7/20/10	4.6	
4.7	Form of Convertible Promissory Note issued to investors in May 2010.	S-1	10/04/10	4.7	
4.8	Form of Warrant issued to investors in February and March, 2010.	S-1	10/04/10	4.8	
4.9	Form of Warrant issued to investors in May 2010.	S-1	10/04/10	4.9	
4.10	Form of Placement Agent Warrant issued to Paramount BioCapital, Inc. on March 11, 2008.	S-1	7/20/10	4.10	
4.11	Placement Agent Warrants issued to National Securities Corporation on February 26, March 31 and May 6, 2010, as amended October 28, 2010 and November 30, 2010.	S-1	12/06/10	4.11	
4.12	Warrant issued to S.L.A. Pharm AG on August 30, 2010.	S-1	10/04/10	4.12	
4.13	Form of underwriters warrant dated December 22, 2010.	S-1	2/06/10	4.13	
4.14*	Specimen Preferred Stock Certificate and Form of Certificate of Designation of Preferred Stock.				
4.15*	Form of Indenture.				
4.16*	Form of Note.				
4.17*	Form of Common Stock Warrant Agreement and Warrant Certificate.				
4.18*	Form of Preferred Stock Warrant Agreement and Warrant Certificate.				
4.19*	Form of Debt Securities Warrant Agreement and Warrant Certificate.				
4.20*	Form of Unit Agreement.				

5.1	Opinion of Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP.	X
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.	X
23.1	Consent of EisnerAmper LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.	X
23.2	Consent of Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.1).	X
24.1	Power of Attorney (included in the signature pages hereto).	X
25.1*	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee.	

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* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference, if applicable.

** The Registrant received confidential treatment with respect to certain portions of this exhibit. Such portions have been omitted from this exhibit and have been filed separately with the SEC.

(b) None.

Item 17. 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 of 1933;

(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 SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(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 (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) above 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 and Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, 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.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the 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 of 1933 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 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 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act ("Act") in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

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-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form S-3 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York, on January 31, 2012.

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

By: /s/ Russell H. Ellison
Russell H. Ellison
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., do hereby constitute and appoint Russell H. Ellison and David J. Barrett, or either of them, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the SEC, 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 are necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorney-in-fact and agents, or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement on Form S-3 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Capacity	Date
/s/ Russell H. Ellison Russell H. Ellison	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	January 31, 2012
/s/ David J. Barrett David J. Barrett	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	January 31, 2012
/s/ Anthony E. Altig Anthony E. Altig	Director	January 31, 2012
/s/ Mark Auerbach Mark Auerbach	Director	January 31, 2012
/s/ Joseph Felder Joseph Felder	Director	January 31, 2012
/s/ Myron Z. Holubiak Myron Z. Holubiak	Director	January 31, 2012

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

$20.0 Million of Common Stock
(par value $0.001 per share)

Controlled Equity Offering[sm]

Sales Agreement

January 30, 2012

Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.
499 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), confirms its agreement (this "**Agreement**") with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. (the "**Agent**"), as follows:

1. Issuance and Sale of Shares. The Company agrees that, from time to time during the term of this Agreement, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth herein, it may issue and sell through the Agent, up to $20.0 million of shares (the "**Maximum Amount**") of common stock (the "**Placement Shares**") of the Company, par value $0.001 per share (the "**Common Stock**"). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the parties hereto agree that compliance with the limitations set forth in this Section 1 on the amount of Placement Shares issued and sold under this Agreement shall be the sole responsibility of the Company and that Agent shall have no obligation in connection with such compliance. The issuance and sale of Placement Shares through Agent will be effected pursuant to the Registration Statement (as defined below) filed by the Company and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**Commission**"), although nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring the Company to use the Registration Statement to issue Common Stock.

The Company has filed or will file, in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Securities Act**") and the rules and regulations thereunder (the "**Securities Act Regulations**"), with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3, including a base prospectus, relating to certain securities, including the Placement Shares to be issued from time to time by the Company, and which incorporates by reference documents that the Company has filed or will file in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "**Exchange Act**"), and the rules and regulations thereunder. The Company has prepared a prospectus supplement specifically relating to the Placement Shares (the "**Prospectus Supplement**") to the base prospectus included as part of such registration statement. The Company will furnish to the Agent, for use by the Agent, copies of the prospectus included as part of such registration statement, as supplemented by the Prospectus Supplement, relating to the Placement Shares. Except where the context otherwise requires, such registration statement, including all documents filed as part thereof or incorporated by reference therein, and including any information contained in a Prospectus (as defined below) subsequently filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act Regulations or deemed to be a part of such registration statement pursuant to Rule 430B of the Securities Act Regulations, is herein called the "**Registration Statement**." The base prospectus, including all documents incorporated therein by reference, included in the Registration Statement, as it may be supplemented by the Prospectus Supplement, in the form in which such prospectus and/or Prospectus Supplement have most recently been filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act Regulations, together with the then issued Issuer Free Writing Prospectus(es), is herein called the "**Prospectus**." Any reference herein to the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto shall be deemed to refer to and include the documents incorporated by reference therein, and any reference herein to the terms "amend," "amendment" or "supplement" with respect to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the filing after the execution hereof of any document with the Commission deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

Any reference herein to the Registration Statement, any Prospectus Supplement, Prospectus or any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (defined below) shall be deemed to refer to and include the documents, if any, incorporated by reference therein (the "**Incorporated Documents**"), including, unless the context otherwise requires, the documents, if any, filed as exhibits to such Incorporated Documents. Any reference herein to the terms "amend," "amendment" or "supplement" with respect to the Registration Statement, any Prospectus Supplement, the Prospectus or any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the filing of any document under the Exchange Act on or after the most-recent effective date of the Registration Statement, or the date of Prospectus Supplement, Prospectus or such Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, as the case may be, and incorporated therein by reference. For purposes of this Agreement, all references to the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or to any amendment or supplement thereto shall be deemed to include the most recent copy filed with the Commission pursuant to its Electronic Data Gathering Analysis and Retrieval System, or if applicable, the Interactive Data Electronic Application system when used by the Commission (collectively, "**EDGAR**").

2. Placements. Each time that the Company wishes to issue and sell Placement Shares hereunder (each, a "**Placement**"), it will notify the Agent by email notice (or other method mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties) of the number of Placement Shares, the time period during which sales are requested to be made, any limitation on the number of Placement Shares that may be sold in any one day and any minimum price below which sales may not be made (a "**Placement Notice**"), the form of which is attached hereto as Schedule 1. The Placement Notice shall originate from any of the individuals from the Company set forth on Schedule 3 (with a copy to each of the other individuals from the Company listed on such schedule), and shall be addressed to each of the individuals from the Agent set forth on Schedule 3, as such Schedule 3 may be amended from time to time. The Placement Notice shall be effective unless and until (i) the Agent declines to accept the terms contained therein for any reason, in its sole discretion, (ii) the entire amount of the Placement Shares thereunder have been sold, (iii) the Company suspends or terminates the Placement Notice or (iv) this Agreement has been terminated under the provisions of Section 12. The amount of any discount, commission or other compensation to be paid by the Company to Agent in connection with the sale of the Placement Shares shall be calculated in accordance with the terms set forth in Schedule 2. It is expressly acknowledged and agreed that neither the Company nor the Agent will have any obligation whatsoever with respect to a Placement or any Placement Shares unless and until the Company delivers a Placement Notice to the Agent and the Agent does not decline such Placement Notice pursuant to the terms set forth above, and then only upon the terms specified therein and herein. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of a Placement Notice, the terms of the Placement Notice will control.

3. Sale of Placement Shares by Agent. Subject to the provisions of Section 5(a), the Agent, for the period specified in the Placement Notice, will use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices and applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations and the rules of the NASDAQ Capital Market (the "**Exchange**"), to sell the Placement Shares up to the amount specified, and otherwise in accordance with the terms of such Placement Notice. The Agent will provide written confirmation to the Company no later than the opening of the Trading Day (as defined below) immediately following the Trading Day on which it has made sales of Placement Shares hereunder setting forth the number of Placement Shares sold on such day, the compensation payable by the Company to the Agent pursuant to Section 2 with respect to such sales, and the Net Proceeds (as defined below) payable to the Company, with an itemization of the deductions made by the Agent (as set forth in Section 5(b)) from the gross proceeds that it receives from such sales. Subject to the terms of the Placement Notice, the Agent may sell Placement Shares by any method permitted by law deemed to be an "at the market" offering as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act Regulations, including without limitation sales made directly on the Exchange, on any other existing trading market for the Common Stock or to or through a market maker. Subject to the terms of a Placement Notice, the Agent may also sell Placement Shares by any other method permitted by law, including but not limited to in privately negotiated transactions. "**Trading Day**" means any day on which Common Stock is purchased and sold on the Exchange.

4. Suspension of Sales. The Company or the Agent may, upon notice to the other party in writing (including by email correspondence to each of the individuals of the other Party set forth on Schedule 3, if receipt of such correspondence is actually acknowledged by any of the individuals to whom the notice is sent, other than via auto-reply) or by telephone (confirmed immediately by verifiable facsimile transmission or email correspondence to each of the individuals of the other Party set forth on Schedule 3), suspend any sale of Placement Shares (a "**Suspension**"); provided, however, that such suspension shall not affect or impair any party's obligations with respect to any Placement Shares sold hereunder prior to the receipt of such notice. While a Suspension is in effect any obligation under Sections 7(l), 7(m), and 7(n) with respect to the delivery of certificates, opinions, or comfort letters to the Agent, shall be waived, provided, however, that such waiver shall not apply for the Representation Date (defined below) occurring on the date that the Company files its annual report on Form 10-K. Each of the parties agrees that no such notice under this Section 4 shall be effective against any other party unless it is made to one of the individuals named on Schedule 3 hereto, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time.

5. Sale and Delivery to the Agent; Settlement.

(a) Sale of Placement Shares. On the basis of the representations and warranties herein contained and subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, upon the Agent's acceptance of the terms of a Placement Notice, and unless the sale of the Placement Shares described therein has been declined, suspended, or otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the Agent, for the period specified in the Placement Notice, will use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices and applicable law and regulations to sell such Placement Shares up to the amount specified, and otherwise in accordance with the terms of such Placement Notice. The Company acknowledges and agrees that (i) there can be no assurance that the Agent will be successful in selling Placement Shares, (ii) the Agent will incur no liability or obligation to the Company or any other person or entity if it does not sell Placement Shares for any reason other than a failure by the Agent to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices and applicable law and regulations to sell such Placement Shares as required under this Agreement and (iii) the Agent shall be under no obligation to purchase Placement Shares on a principal basis pursuant to this Agreement, except as otherwise agreed by the Agent and the Company.

(b) Settlement of Placement Shares. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Placement Notice, settlement for sales of Placement Shares will occur on the third (3rd) Trading Day (or such earlier day as is industry practice for regular-way trading) following the date on which such sales are made (each, a "**Settlement Date**"). The Agent shall notify the Company of each sale of Placement Shares on the date of such sale. The amount of proceeds to be delivered to the Company on a Settlement Date against receipt of the Placement Shares sold (the "**Net Proceeds**") will be equal to the aggregate sales price received by the Agent, after deduction for (i) the Agent's commission, discount or other compensation for such sales payable by the Company pursuant to Section 2 hereof, and (ii) any transaction fees imposed by any governmental or self-regulatory organization in respect of such sales.

(c) Delivery of Placement Shares. On or before each Settlement Date, the Company will, or will cause its transfer agent to, electronically transfer the Placement Shares being sold by crediting the Agent's or its designee's account (provided the Agent shall have given the Company written notice of such designee at least one Trading Day prior to the Settlement Date) at The Depository Trust Company through its Deposit and Withdrawal at Custodian System or by such other means of delivery as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties hereto which in all cases shall be freely tradable, transferable, registered shares in good deliverable form. On each Settlement Date, the Agent will deliver the related Net Proceeds in same day funds to an account designated by the Company on, or prior to, the Settlement Date. The Company agrees that if the Company, or its transfer agent (if applicable), defaults in its obligation to deliver Placement Shares on a Settlement Date, the Company agrees that in addition to and in no way limiting the rights and obligations set forth in Section 10(a) hereto, it will (i) hold the Agent harmless against any loss, claim, damage, or expense (including reasonable legal fees and expenses), as incurred, arising out of or in connection with such default by the Company or its transfer agent (if applicable) and (ii) pay to the Agent any commission, discount, or other compensation to which it would otherwise have been entitled absent such default.

(d) Denominations; Registration. Certificates for the Placement Shares, if any, shall be in such denominations and registered in such names as the Agent may request in writing at least one full Business Day (as defined below) before the Settlement Date. The certificates for the Placement Shares, if any, will be made available by the Company for examination and packaging by the Agent in The City of New York not later than noon (New York time) on the Business Day prior to the Settlement Date.

(e) Limitations on Offering Size. Under no circumstances shall the Company cause or request the offer or sale of any Placement Shares if, after giving effect to the sale of such Placement Shares, the aggregate gross sales proceeds of Placement Shares sold pursuant to this Agreement would exceed the lesser of (A) together with all sales of Placement Shares under this Agreement, the Maximum Amount, (B) the amount available for offer and sale under the currently effective Registration Statement and (C) the amount authorized from time to time to be issued and sold under this Agreement by the Company's board of directors, a duly authorized committee thereof or a duly authorized executive committee, and notified to the Agent in writing. Under no circumstances shall the Company cause or request the offer or sale of any Placement Shares pursuant to this Agreement at a price lower than the minimum price authorized from time to time by the Company's board of directors, a duly authorized committee thereof or a duly authorized executive committee, and notified to the Agent in writing. Further, under no circumstances shall the Company cause or permit the aggregate offering amount of Placement Shares sold pursuant to this Agreement to exceed the Maximum Amount.

6. Representations and Warranties of the Company. The Company represents and warrants to, and agrees with Agent that as of the date of this Agreement and as of each Applicable Time (as defined below):

(a) Registration Statement and Prospectus. The Company and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement meet the requirements for and comply with the conditions for the use of Form S-3 under the Securities Act. The Registration Statement will be or has been filed with the Commission. The Registration Statement will be declared effective by the Commission prior to the issuance of any Placement Notices by the Company. The Prospectus Supplement will name Agent as underwriter, acting as agent, that the Company will engage in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution." The Company has not received, and has no notice of, any order of the Commission preventing or suspending the use of the Registration Statement, or threatening or instituting proceedings for that purpose. The Registration Statement and the offer and sale of Placement Shares as contemplated hereby meet the requirements of Rule 415 under the Securities Act and comply in all material respects with said Rule. Any statutes, regulations, contracts or other documents that are required to be described in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus or to be filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement have been so described or filed. Copies of the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, and any such amendments or supplements and all documents incorporated by reference therein that were filed with the Commission on or prior to the date of this Agreement have been delivered, or are available through EDGAR, to Agent and its counsel. The Company has not distributed and, prior to the later to occur of each Settlement Date and completion of the distribution of the Placement Shares, will not distribute any offering material in connection with the offering or sale of the Placement Shares other than the Registration Statement and the Prospectus and any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (as defined below) to which Agent has consented. The Common Stock is currently quoted on the Exchange under the trading symbol "**VTUS**". Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Company has not, in the 12 months preceding the date hereof, received notice from the Exchange to the effect that the Company is not in compliance with the listing or maintenance requirements. The Company has no reason to believe that it will not in the foreseeable future continue to be in compliance with all such listing and maintenance requirements.

(b) No Misstatement or Omission. The Registration Statement, when it became or becomes effective, and the Prospectus, and any amendment or supplement thereto, on the date of such Prospectus or amendment or supplement, conformed and will conform in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act. At each Settlement Date, the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, as of such date, will conform in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act. The Registration Statement, when it became or becomes effective, did not, and will not, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. The Prospectus and any amendment and supplement thereto, on the date thereof and at each Applicable Time (defined below), did not or will not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The documents incorporated by reference in the Prospectus or any Prospectus Supplement did not, and any further documents filed and incorporated by reference therein will not, when filed with the Commission, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated in such document or necessary to make the statements in such document, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The foregoing shall not apply to statements in, or omissions from, any such document made in reliance upon, and in conformity with, information furnished to the Company by Agent specifically for use in the preparation thereof.

(c) Conformity with Securities Act and Exchange Act. The Registration Statement, the Prospectus, any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto, and the documents incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto, when such documents were or are filed with the Commission under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act or became or become effective under the Securities Act, as the case may be, conformed or will conform in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, as applicable.

(d) Financial Information. The consolidated financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses, if any, together with the related notes and schedules, present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Company and the Subsidiaries as of the dates indicated and the consolidated results of operations, cash flows and changes in stockholders' equity of the Company for the periods specified and have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Securities Act and Exchange Act and in conformity with GAAP (as defined below) applied on a consistent basis during the periods involved; the other financial and statistical data with respect to the Company and the Subsidiaries contained or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses, if any, are accurately and fairly presented and prepared on a basis consistent with the financial statements and books and records of the Company; there are no financial statements (historical or pro forma) that are required to be included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or the Prospectus that are not included or incorporated by reference as required; the Company does not have any material liabilities or obligations, direct or contingent (including any off-balance sheet obligations), not described in the Registration Statement (excluding the exhibits thereto), and the Prospectus; and all disclosures contained or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses, if any, regarding "non-GAAP financial measures" (as such term is defined by the rules and regulations of the Commission) comply with Regulation G of the Exchange Act and Item 10 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act, to the extent applicable.

(e) Conformity with EDGAR Filing. The Prospectus delivered to Agent for use in connection with the sale of the Placement Shares pursuant to this Agreement will be identical to the versions of the Prospectus created to be transmitted to the Commission for filing via EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

(f) Organization. The Company is, and will be, duly organized, validly existing as a corporation and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization. The Company is, and will be, duly licensed or qualified as a foreign corporation for transaction of business and in good standing under the laws of each other jurisdiction in which its ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its businesses requires such license or qualification, and has all corporate power and authority necessary to own or hold its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, except where the failure to be so qualified or in good standing or have such power or authority would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect or would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on or affecting the assets, business, operations, earnings, properties, condition (financial or otherwise), prospects, stockholders' equity or results of operations of the Company, or prevent or materially interfere with consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby (a "**Material Adverse Effect**").

(g) Subsidiaries. The Company has no subsidiaries.

(h) No Violation or Default. The Company is not (i) in violation of its charter or by-laws or similar organizational documents; (ii) in default, and no event has occurred that, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute such a default, in the due performance or observance of any term, covenant or condition contained in any indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which the Company is bound or to which any of the property or assets of the Company are subject; or (iii) in violation of any law or statute or any judgment, order, rule or regulation of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except, in the case of each of clauses (ii) and (iii) above, for any such violation or default that would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. To the Company's knowledge, no other party under any material contract or other agreement to which it is a party is in default in any respect thereunder where such default would have a Material Adverse Effect.

(i) No Material Adverse Change. Subsequent to the respective dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Free Writing Prospectuses, if any (including any document deemed incorporated by reference therein), there has not been (i) any Material Adverse Effect, or any development involving a prospective Material Adverse Effect, in or affecting the business, properties, management, financial, condition (financial or otherwise), results of operations, or prospects of the Company, (ii) any transaction which is material to the Company, (iii) any obligation or liability, direct or contingent (including any off-balance sheet obligations), incurred by the Company, which is material to the Company, (iv) any material change in the capital stock or outstanding long-term indebtedness of the Company or (v) any dividend or distribution of any kind declared, paid or made on the capital stock of the Company, other than in each case above in the ordinary course of business or as otherwise disclosed in the Registration Statement or Prospectus (including any document deemed incorporated by reference therein).

(j) Capitalization. The issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company have been validly issued, are fully paid and nonassessable and, other than as disclosed in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, are not subject to any preemptive rights, rights of first refusal or similar rights. The Company has an authorized, issued and outstanding capitalization as set forth in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as of the dates referred to therein (other than the grant of additional options under the Company's existing stock option plans, or changes in the number of outstanding shares of Common Stock of the Company due to the issuance of shares upon the exercise or conversion of securities exercisable for, or convertible into, Common Stock outstanding on the date hereof) and such authorized capital stock conforms to the description thereof set forth in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus. The description of the securities of the Company in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus is complete and accurate in all material respects. Except as disclosed in or contemplated by the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, as of the date referred to therein, the Company does not have outstanding any options to purchase, or any rights or warrants to subscribe for, or any securities or obligations convertible into, or exchangeable for, or any contracts or commitments to issue or sell, any shares of capital stock or other securities.

(k) Authorization; Enforceability. The Company has full legal right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement and perform the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and is a legal, valid and binding agreement of the Company enforceable in accordance with its terms, except to the extent that enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and by general equitable principles.

(l) Authorization of Placement Shares. The Placement Shares, when issued and delivered pursuant to the terms approved by the board of directors of the Company or a duly authorized committee thereof, or a duly authorized executive committee, against payment therefor as provided herein, will be duly and validly authorized and issued and fully paid and nonassessable, free and clear of any pledge, lien, encumbrance, security interest or other claim, including any statutory or contractual preemptive rights, resale rights, rights of first refusal or other similar rights, and will be registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act. The Placement Shares, when issued, will conform in all material respects to the description thereof set forth in or incorporated into the Prospectus.

(m) No Consents Required. No consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company this Agreement, the issuance and sale by the Company of the Placement Shares, except for such consents, approvals, authorizations, orders and registrations or qualifications as may be required under applicable state securities laws or by the by-laws and rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("**FINRA**") or the Exchange in connection with the sale of the Placement Shares by the Agent.

(n) No Preferential Rights. Except as set forth in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, (i) no person, as such term is defined in Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X promulgated under the Securities Act (each, a "**Person**"), has the right, contractual or otherwise, to cause the Company to issue or sell to such Person any Common Stock or shares of any other capital stock or other securities of the Company, (ii) no Person has any preemptive rights, resale rights, rights of first refusal, or any other rights (whether pursuant to a "poison pill" provision or otherwise) to purchase any Common Stock or shares of any other capital stock or other securities of the Company, (iii) no Person has the right to act as an underwriter or as a financial advisor to the Company in connection with the offer and sale of the Common Stock, and (iv) no Person has the right, contractual or otherwise, to require the Company to register under the Securities Act any Common Stock or shares of any other capital stock or other securities of the Company, or to include any such shares or other securities in the Registration Statement or the offering contemplated thereby, whether as a result of the filing or effectiveness of the Registration Statement or the sale of the Placement Shares as contemplated thereby or otherwise.

(o) Independent Public Accounting Firm. EisnerAmper LLP (the "**Accountant**"), whose report on the consolidated financial statements of the Company is filed with the Commission as part of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, are and, during the periods covered by their report, were an independent registered public accounting firm within the meaning of the Securities Act and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). To the Company's knowledge, after due and careful inquiry, the Accountant is not in violation of the auditor independence requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "**Sarbanes-Oxley Act**") with respect to the Company.

(p) Enforceability of Agreements. All agreements between the Company and third parties expressly referenced in the Prospectus are legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company enforceable in accordance with their respective terms, except to the extent that (i) enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and by general equitable principles and (ii) the indemnification provisions of certain agreements may be limited by federal or state securities laws or public policy considerations in respect thereof.

(q) No Litigation. Except as set forth in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, there are no legal, governmental or regulatory actions, suits or proceedings pending, nor, to the Company's knowledge, any legal, governmental or regulatory investigations, to which the Company is a party or to which any property of the Company is the subject that, individually or in the aggregate, if determined adversely to the Company, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect or materially and adversely affect the ability of the Company to perform its obligations under this Agreement; to the Company's knowledge, no such actions, suits or proceedings are threatened or contemplated by any governmental or regulatory authority or threatened by others; and (i) there are no current or pending legal, governmental or regulatory investigations, actions, suits or proceedings that are required under the Securities Act to be described in the Prospectus that are not so described; and (ii) there are no contracts or other documents that are required under the Securities Act to be filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement that are not so filed.

(r) Consents and Permits. Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, the Company has made all filings, applications and submissions required by, and possesses all approvals, licenses, certificates, certifications, clearances, consents, exemptions, marks, notifications, orders, permits and other authorizations issued by, the appropriate federal, state or foreign regulatory authorities (including, without limitation, the United States Food and Drug Administration (the "**FDA**"), the United States Drug Enforcement Administration or any other foreign, federal, state, provincial or local government or regulatory authorities engaged in the regulation of clinical trials, pharmaceuticals, biologics or biohazardous substances or materials) necessary for the ownership or lease of their respective properties or to conduct its businesses as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectuses (collectively, "**Permits**"), except for such Permits the failure of which to possess, obtain or make the same would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; the Company is in compliance with the terms and conditions of all such Permits, except where the failure to be in compliance would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; all of the Permits are valid and in full force and effect, except where any invalidity, individually or in the aggregate, would be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; and the Company has not received any written notice of proceedings relating to the limitation, revocation, cancellation, suspension, modification or non-renewal of any such Permit which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would have a Material Adverse Effect, and has any reason to believe that any such license, certificate, permit or authorization will not be renewed in the ordinary course. To the extent required by applicable laws and regulations of the FDA, the Company has submitted to the FDA an Investigational New Drug Application or amendment or supplement thereto for each clinical trial it has conducted or sponsored or is conducting or sponsoring; all such submissions were in material compliance with applicable laws and rules and regulations when submitted and no material deficiencies have been asserted by the FDA with respect to any such submissions.

(s) Regulatory Filings. Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, the Company has not failed to file with the applicable regulatory authorities (including, without limitation, the FDA, or any foreign, federal, state, provincial or local governmental or regulatory authority performing functions similar to those performed by the FDA) any required filing, declaration, listing, registration, report or submission, except for such failures that, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectuses, all such filings, declarations, listings, registrations, reports or submissions were in compliance with applicable laws when filed and no deficiencies have been asserted by any applicable regulatory authority with respect to any such filings, declarations, listings, registrations, reports or submissions, except for any deficiencies that, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect. The Company has operated and currently is, in all material respects, in compliance with the United States Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, all applicable rules and regulations of the FDA and other federal, state, local and foreign governmental bodies exercising comparable authority.

(t) Intellectual Property. Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, the Company owns, possesses, licenses or has other rights to use all foreign and domestic patents, patent applications, trade and service marks, trade and service mark registrations, trade names, copyrights, licenses, inventions, trade secrets, technology, Internet domain names, know-how and other intellectual property (collectively, the "**Intellectual Property**"), necessary for the conduct of its business as now conducted except to the extent that the failure to own, possess, license or otherwise hold adequate rights to use such Intellectual Property would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect. Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus (a) there are no rights of third parties to any such Intellectual Property owned by the Company; (b) to the Company's knowledge, there is no infringement by third parties of any such Intellectual Property; (c) there is no pending or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened action, suit, proceeding or claim by others challenging the Company's rights in or to any such Intellectual Property, and the Company is unaware of any facts which could form a reasonable basis for any such action, suit, proceeding or claim; (d) there is no pending or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened action, suit, proceeding or claim by others challenging the validity or scope of any such Intellectual Property; (e) there is no pending or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened action, suit, proceeding or claim by others that the Company infringes or otherwise violates any patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret or other proprietary rights of others; (f) to the Company's knowledge, there is no third-party U.S. patent or published U.S. patent application which contains claims for which an Interference Proceeding (as defined in 35 U.S.C. § 135) has been commenced against any patent or patent application described in the Prospectus as being owned by or licensed to the Company; and (g) the Company has complied with the terms of each agreement pursuant to which Intellectual Property has been licensed to the Company, and all such agreements are in full force and effect, except, in the case of any of clauses (a)-(g) above, for any such infringement by third parties or any such pending or threatened suit, action, proceeding or claim as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(u) Clinical Studies. To the Company's knowledge, the preclinical studies and tests and clinical trials described in the Prospectus were, and, if still pending, are being, to the Company's knowledge, conducted in all material respects in accordance with the experimental protocols, procedures and controls pursuant to, where applicable, accepted professional and scientific standards for products or product candidates comparable to those being developed by the Company; the descriptions of such studies, tests and trials, and the results thereof, contained in the Prospectus are accurate and complete in all material respects; the Company is not aware of any tests, studies or trials not described in the Prospectus, the results of which reasonably call into question the results of the tests, studies and trials described in the Prospectus; and the Company has not received any written notice or correspondence from the FDA or any foreign, state or local governmental body exercising comparable authority or any institutional review board or comparable authority requiring the termination, suspension, clinical hold or material modification of any tests, studies or trials.

(v) Market Capitalization. As of the close of trading on the Exchange on the Trading Day immediately prior to the date of this Agreement, the aggregate market value of the outstanding voting and non-voting common equity (as defined in Securities Act Rule 405) of the Company held by persons other than affiliates of the Company (pursuant to Securities Act Rule 144, those that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by, or are under common control with, the Company) (the "**Non-Affiliate Shares**"), was equal to or greater than $75 million (calculated by multiplying (x) the highest price at which the common equity of the Company closed on the Exchange within 60 days of the date of this Agreement times (y) the number of Non-Affiliate Shares). At the time the Registration Statement was or is originally declared effective and at the time the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K was filed with the Commission, the Company met the then applicable requirements for the use of Form S-3 under the Securities Act. The Company is not a shell company (as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act) and has not been a shell company for at least 12 calendar months previously and if it has been a shell company at any time previously, has filed current Form 10 information (as defined in Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3) with the Commission at least 12 calendar months previously reflecting its status as an entity that is not a shell company.

(w) No Material Defaults. The Company has not defaulted on any installment on indebtedness for borrowed money or on any rental on one or more long-term leases, which defaults, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect. The Company has not filed a report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the filing of its last Annual Report on Form 10-K, indicating that it (i) has failed to pay any dividend or sinking fund installment on preferred stock or (ii) has defaulted on any installment on indebtedness for borrowed money or on any rental on one or more long-term leases, which defaults, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(x) Certain Market Activities. Neither the Company nor any of its directors, officers or controlling persons has taken, directly or indirectly, any action designed, or that has constituted or might reasonably be expected to cause or result in, under the Exchange Act or otherwise, the stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of the Placement Shares.

(y) Broker/Dealer Relationships. Neither the Company nor any related entities (i) is required to register as a "broker" or "dealer" in accordance with the provisions of the Exchange Act or (ii) directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is a "person associated with a member" or "associated person of a member" (within the meaning set forth in the FINRA Manual).

(z) No Reliance. The Company has not relied upon the Agent or legal counsel for the Agent for any legal, tax or accounting advice in connection with the offering and sale of the Placement Shares.

(aa) Taxes. The Company has filed all federal, state, local and foreign tax returns which have been required to be filed and paid all taxes shown thereon through the date hereof, to the extent that such taxes have become due and are not being contested in good faith, except where the failure to so file or pay would not have a Material Address Effect. Except as otherwise disclosed in or contemplated by the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, no tax deficiency has been determined adversely to the Company which has had, or would reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect. The Company has no knowledge of any federal, state or other governmental tax deficiency, penalty or assessment which has been or might be asserted or threatened against it which would have a Material Adverse Effect.

(bb) Title to Real and Personal Property. Except as set forth in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, the Company has good and valid title in fee simple to all items of real property and good and valid title to all personal property described in the Registration Statement or Prospectus as being owned by it that are material to the business of the Company, in each case free and clear of all liens, encumbrances and claims, except those that (i) do not materially interfere with the use made and proposed to be made of such property by the Company or (ii) would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect. Any real property described in the Registration Statement or Prospectus as being leased by the Company is held by it under valid, existing and enforceable leases, except those that (A) do not materially interfere with the use made or proposed to be made of such property by the Company or (B) would not be reasonably expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(cc) Environmental Laws. Except as set forth in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, the Company (i) is in compliance with any and all applicable federal, state, local and foreign laws, rules, regulations, decisions and orders relating to the protection of human health and safety, the environment or hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants (collectively, "**Environmental Laws**"); (ii) has received and is in compliance with all permits, licenses or other approvals required of it under applicable Environmental Laws to conduct its business as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus; and (iii) has not received notice of any actual or potential liability for the investigation or remediation of any disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants, except, in the case of any of clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) above, for any such failure to comply or failure to receive required permits, licenses, other approvals or liability as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(dd) Disclosure Controls. The Company maintains systems of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (i) transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorizations; (ii) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (iii) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's general or specific authorization; and (iv) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective and the Company is not aware of any material weaknesses in its internal control over financial reporting (other than as set forth in the Prospectus). Since the date of the latest audited financial statements of the Company included in the Prospectus, there has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting (other than as set forth in the Prospectus). The Company has established disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15) for the Company and designed such disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to the certifying officers by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as the case may be, is being prepared. The Company's certifying officers have evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days prior to the filing date of the Form 10-K for the fiscal year most recently ended (such date, the **"Evaluation Date**"). The Company presented in its Form 10-K for the fiscal year most recently ended the conclusions of the certifying officers about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures based on their evaluations as of the Evaluation Date and the disclosure controls and procedures are effective. Since the Evaluation Date, there have been no significant changes in the Company's internal controls (as such term is defined in Item 307(b) of Regulation S-K under the Act) or, to the Company's knowledge, in other factors that could significantly affect the Company's internal controls (other than as set forth in the Prospectus).

(ee) Sarbanes-Oxley. There is and has been no failure on the part of the Company or any of the Company's directors or officers, in their capacities as such, to comply in all material respects with any applicable provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Each of the principal executive officer and the principal financial officer of the Company (or each former principal executive officer of the Company and each former principal financial officer of the Company as applicable) has made all certifications required by Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act with respect to all reports, schedules, forms, statements and other documents required to be filed by it or furnished by it to the Commission. For purposes of the preceding sentence, "principal executive officer" and "principal financial officer" shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

(ff) Finder's Fees. The Company has not incurred any liability for any finder's fees, brokerage commissions or similar payments in connection with the transactions herein contemplated, except as may otherwise exist with respect to Agent pursuant to this Agreement.

(gg) Labor Disputes. No labor disturbance by or dispute with employees of the Company exists or, to the knowledge of the Company, is threatened which would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect

(hh) Investment Company Act. The Company is not or, after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Placement Shares, will not be an "investment company" or an entity "controlled" by an "investment company," as such terms are defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "**Investment Company Act**").

(ii) Operations. The operations of the Company are and have been conducted at all times in compliance with applicable financial record keeping and reporting requirements of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970, as amended, the money laundering statutes of all jurisdictions to which the Company is subject, the rules and regulations thereunder and any related or similar rules, regulations or guidelines, issued, administered or enforced by any governmental agency (collectively, the "**Money Laundering Laws**"), except as would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; and no action, suit or proceeding by or before any court or governmental agency, authority or body or any arbitrator involving the Company with respect to the Money Laundering Laws is pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened.

(jj) Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements. There are no transactions, arrangements and other relationships between and/or among the Company, and/or, to the knowledge of the Company, any of its affiliates and any unconsolidated entity, including, but not limited to, any structural finance, special purpose or limited purpose entity (each, an "**Off Balance Sheet Transaction**") that could reasonably be expected to affect materially the Company's liquidity or the availability of or requirements for its capital resources, including those Off Balance Sheet Transactions described in the Commission's Statement about Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations (Release Nos. 33-8056; 34-45321; FR-61), required to be described in the Prospectus which have not been described as required.

(kk) Underwriter Agreements. The Company is not a party to any agreement with an agent or underwriter for any other "at-the-market" or continuous equity transaction.

(ll) ERISA. To the knowledge of the Company, each material employee benefit plan, within the meaning of Section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("**ERISA**"), that is maintained, administered or contributed to by the Company or any of its affiliates for employees or former employees of the Company has been maintained in material compliance with its terms and the requirements of any applicable statutes, orders, rules and regulations, including but not limited to ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "**Code**"); no prohibited transaction, within the meaning of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, has occurred which would result in a material liability to the Company with respect to any such plan excluding transactions effected pursuant to a statutory or administrative exemption; and for each such plan that is subject to the funding rules of Section 412 of the Code or Section 302 of ERISA, no "accumulated funding deficiency" as defined in Section 412 of the Code has been incurred, whether or not waived, and the fair market value of the assets of each such plan (excluding for these purposes accrued but unpaid contributions) exceeds the present value of all benefits accrued under such plan determined using reasonable actuarial assumptions.

(mm) Forward Looking Statements. No forward-looking statement (within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act) (a "**Forward Looking Statement**") contained in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus has been made or reaffirmed without a reasonable basis or has been disclosed other than in good faith. The Forward Looking Statements incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year most recently ended (i) are within the coverage of the safe harbor for forward looking statements set forth in Section 27A of the Securities Act, Rule 175(b) under the Securities Act or Rule 3b-6 under the Exchange Act, as applicable, (ii) were made by the Company with a reasonable basis and in good faith and reflect the Company's good faith commercially reasonable best estimate of the matters described therein, and (iii) have been prepared in accordance with Item 10 of Regulation S-K under the Act.

(nn) Agent Purchases. The Company acknowledges and agrees that Agent has informed the Company that the Agent may, to the extent permitted under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, purchase and sell Common Stock for its own account while this Agreement is in effect, provided, that (i) no such purchase or sales shall take place while a Placement Notice is in effect (except to the extent each Agent may engage in sales of Placement Shares purchased or deemed purchased from the Company as a "riskless principal" or in a similar capacity) and (ii) the Company shall not be deemed to have authorized or consented to any such purchases or sales by the Agent.

(oo) Margin Rules. Neither the issuance, sale and delivery of the Placement Shares nor the application of the proceeds thereof by the Company as described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus will violate Regulation T, U or X of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any other regulation of such Board of Governors.

(pp) Insurance. The Company carries, or is covered by, insurance in such amounts and covering such risks as the Company reasonably believes are adequate for the conduct of its properties and as is customary for companies engaged in similar businesses in similar industries.

(qq) No Improper Practices. (i) Neither the Company nor, to the Company's knowledge, any of its executive officers has, in the past five years, made any unlawful contributions to any candidate for any political office (or failed fully to disclose any contribution in violation of law) or made any contribution or other payment to any official of, or candidate for, any federal, state, municipal, or foreign office or other person charged with similar public or quasi-public duty in violation of any law or of the character required to be disclosed in the Prospectus; (ii) no relationship, direct or indirect, exists between or among the Company or, to the Company's knowledge, any affiliate of it, on the one hand, and the directors, officers and stockholders of the Company, on the other hand, that is required by the Securities Act to be described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus that is not so described; (iii) no relationship, direct or indirect, exists between or among the Company or any affiliate of it, on the one hand, and the directors, officers, stockholders or directors of the Company, on the other hand, that is required by the rules of FINRA to be described in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus that is not so described; (iv) except as described in the Prospectus, there are no material outstanding loans or advances or material guarantees of indebtedness by the Company to or for the benefit of any of its officers or directors or any of the members of the families of any of them; and (v) the Company has not offered, or caused any placement agent to offer, Common Stock to any person with the intent to influence unlawfully (A) a customer or supplier of the Company to alter the customer's or supplier's level or type of business with the Company or (B) a trade journalist or publication to write or publish favorable information about the Company or any of its products or services, and, (vi) neither the Company nor, to the Company's knowledge, any employee or agent of the Company has made any payment of funds of the Company or received or retained any funds in violation of any law, rule or regulation (including, without limitation, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977), which payment, receipt or retention of funds is of a character required to be disclosed in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus.

(rr) Status Under the Securities Act. The Company was not and is not an ineligible issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act at the times specified in Rules 164 and 433 under the Securities Act in connection with the offering of the Placement Shares.

(ss) No Misstatement or Omission in an Issuer Free Writing Prospectus. Each Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, as of its issue date and as of each Applicable Time (as defined in Section 24 below), did not, does not and will not include any information that conflicted, conflicts or will conflict with the information contained in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, including any incorporated document deemed to be a part thereof that has not been superseded or modified. The foregoing sentence does not apply to statements in or omissions from any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus based upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by the Agent specifically for use therein.

(tt) No Conflicts. Neither the execution of this Agreement, nor the issuance, offering or sale of the Placement Shares, nor the consummation of any of the transactions contemplated herein and therein, nor the compliance by the Company with the terms and provisions hereof and thereof will conflict with, or will result in a breach of, any of the terms and provisions of, or has constituted or will constitute a default under, or has resulted in or will result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Company pursuant to the terms of any contract or other agreement to which the Company may be bound or to which any of the property or assets of the Company is subject, except (i) such conflicts, breaches or defaults as may have been waived and (ii) such conflicts, breaches and defaults that would not have a Material Adverse Effect; nor will such action result (x) in any violation of the provisions of the organizational or governing documents of the Company, or (y) in any material violation of the provisions of any statute or any order, rule or regulation applicable to the Company or of any court or of any federal, state or other regulatory authority or other government body having jurisdiction over the Company.

(uu) (i) The Company represents that, neither the Company nor any director, officer, employee, agent, affiliate or representative of the Company, is a government, individual, or entity (in this paragraph (uu), "**Person**") that is, or is owned or controlled by a Person that is:

(A) the subject of any sanctions administered or enforced by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, Her Majesty's Treasury, or other relevant sanctions authority (collectively, "**Sanctions**"), nor

(B) located, organized or resident in a country or territory that is the subject of Sanctions (including, without limitation, Burma/Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria).

(ii) The Company represents and covenants that it will not, directly or indirectly, use the proceeds of the offering, or lend, contribute or otherwise make available such proceeds to any subsidiary, joint venture partner or other Person:

(A) to fund or facilitate any activities or business of or with any Person or in any country or territory that, at the time of such funding or facilitation, is the subject of Sanctions; or

(B) in any other manner that will result in a violation of Sanctions by any Person (including any Person participating in the offering, whether as underwriter, advisor, investor or otherwise).

(iii) The Company represents and covenants that, except as detailed in the Prospectus, for the past 5 years, it has not knowingly engaged in, is not now knowingly engaged in, and will not engage in, any dealings or transactions with any Person, or in any country or territory, that at the time of the dealing or transaction is or was the subject of Sanctions.

(vv) Stock Transfer Taxes. On each Settlement Date, all stock transfer or other taxes (other than income taxes) which are required to be paid in connection with the sale and transfer of the Placement Shares to be sold hereunder will be, or will have been, fully paid or provided for by the Company and all laws imposing such taxes will be or will have been fully complied with.

Any certificate signed by an officer of the Company and delivered to the Agent or to counsel for the Agent pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement shall be deemed to be a representation and warranty by the Company, as applicable, to the Agent as to the matters set forth therein.

7. Covenants of the Company. The Company covenants and agrees with Agent that:

(a) Registration Statement Amendments. After the date of this Agreement and during any period in which a Prospectus relating to any Placement Shares is required to be delivered by Agent under the Securities Act (including in circumstances where such requirement may be satisfied pursuant to Rule 172 under the Securities Act), (i) the Company will notify the Agent promptly of the time when any subsequent amendment to the Registration Statement, other than documents incorporated by reference, has been filed with the Commission and/or has become effective or any subsequent supplement to the Prospectus has been filed and of any request by the Commission for any amendment or supplement to the Registration Statement or Prospectus or for additional information, (ii) the Company will prepare and file with the Commission, promptly upon the Agent's request, any amendments or supplements to the Registration Statement or Prospectus that, in such Agent's reasonable opinion, may be necessary or advisable in connection with the distribution of the Placement Shares by the Agent (provided, however, that the failure of the Agent to make such request shall not relieve the Company of any obligation or liability hereunder, or affect the Agent's right to rely on the representations and warranties made by the Company in this Agreement and provided, further, that the only remedy the Agent shall have with respect to the failure to make such filing shall be to cease making sales under this Agreement until such amendment or supplement is filed); (iii) the Company will not file any amendment or supplement to the Registration Statement or Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares or a security convertible into the Placement Shares unless a copy thereof has been submitted to Agent within a reasonable period of time before the filing and the Agent has not objected thereto (provided, however, that the failure of the Agent to make such objection shall not relieve the Company of any obligation or liability hereunder, or affect the Agent's right to rely on the representations and warranties made by the Company in this Agreement and provided, further, that the only remedy Agent shall have with respect to the failure by the Company to obtain such consent shall be to cease making sales under this Agreement) and the Company will furnish to the Agent at the time of filing thereof a copy of any document that upon filing is deemed to be incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement or Prospectus, except for those documents available via EDGAR; and (iv) the Company will cause each amendment or supplement to the Prospectus to be filed with the Commission as required pursuant to the applicable paragraph of Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act or, in the case of any document to be incorporated therein by reference, to be filed with the Commission as required pursuant to the Exchange Act, within the time period prescribed (the determination to file or not file any amendment or supplement with the Commission under this Section 7(a), based on the Company's reasonable opinion or reasonable objections, shall be made exclusively by the Company).

(b) Notice of Commission Stop Orders. The Company will advise the Agent, promptly after it receives notice or obtains knowledge thereof, of the issuance or threatened issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement, of the suspension of the qualification of the Placement Shares for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, or of the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for any such purpose; and it will promptly use its commercially reasonable efforts to prevent the issuance of any stop order or to obtain its withdrawal if such a stop order should be issued. The Company will advise the Agent promptly after it receives any request by the Commission for any amendments to the Registration Statement or any amendment or supplements to the Prospectus or any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus or for additional information related to the offering of the Placement Shares or for additional information related to the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus.

(c) Delivery of Prospectus; Subsequent Changes. During any period in which a Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares is required to be delivered by the Agent under the Securities Act with respect to the offer and sale of the Placement Shares, (including in circumstances where such requirement may be satisfied pursuant to Rule 172 under the Securities Act), the Company will comply with all requirements imposed upon it by the Securities Act, as from time to time in force, and to file on or before their respective due dates all reports and any definitive proxy or information statements required to be filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, 15(d) or any other provision of or under the Exchange Act. If the Company has omitted any information from the Registration Statement pursuant to Rule 430A under the Act, it will use its best efforts to comply with the provisions of and make all requisite filings with the Commission pursuant to said Rule 430A and to notify the Agent promptly of all such filings. If during such period any event occurs as a result of which the Prospectus as then amended or supplemented would include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances then existing, not misleading, or if during such period it is necessary to amend or supplement the Registration Statement or Prospectus to comply with the Securities Act, the Company will promptly notify Agent to suspend the offering of Placement Shares during such period and the Company will promptly amend or supplement the Registration Statement or Prospectus (at the expense of the Company) so as to correct such statement or omission or effect such compliance.

(d) Listing of Placement Shares. During any period in which the Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares is required to be delivered by the Agent under the Securities Act with respect to the offer and sale of the Placement Shares, the Company will use its reasonable best efforts to cause the Placement Shares to be listed on the Exchange.

(e) Delivery of Registration Statement and Prospectus. The Company will furnish to the Agent and its counsel (at the expense of the Company) copies of the Registration Statement, the Prospectus (including all documents incorporated by reference therein) and all amendments and supplements to the Registration Statement or Prospectus that are filed with the Commission during any period in which a Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares is required to be delivered under the Securities Act (including all documents filed with the Commission during such period that are deemed to be incorporated by reference therein), in each case as soon as reasonably practicable and in such quantities as the Agent may from time to time reasonably request and, at Agent's request, will also furnish copies of the Prospectus to each exchange or market on which sales of the Placement Shares may be made; provided, however, that the Company shall not be required to furnish any document (other than the Prospectus) to the Agent to the extent such document is available on EDGAR.

(f) Earnings Statement. The Company will make generally available to its security holders as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 15 months after the end of the Company's current fiscal quarter, an earnings statement covering a 12-month period that satisfies the provisions of Section 11(a) and Rule 158 of the Securities Act.

(g) Use of Proceeds. The Company will use the Net Proceeds as described in the Prospectus in the section entitled "Use of Proceeds."

(h) Notice of Other Sales. Without the prior written consent of Agent, the Company will not, directly or indirectly, offer to sell, sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of any Common Stock (other than the Placement Shares offered pursuant to this Agreement) or securities convertible into or exchangeable for Common Stock, warrants or any rights to purchase or acquire, Common Stock during the period beginning on the fifth (5th) Trading Day immediately prior to the date on which any Placement Notice is delivered to Agent hereunder and ending on the fifth (5th) Trading Day immediately following the final Settlement Date with respect to Placement Shares sold pursuant to such Placement Notice (or, if the Placement Notice has been terminated or suspended prior to the sale of all Placement Shares covered by a Placement Notice, the date of such suspension or termination); and will not directly or indirectly in any other "at-the-market" or continuous equity transaction offer to sell, sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of any Common Stock (other than the Placement Shares offered pursuant to this Agreement) or securities convertible into or exchangeable for Common Stock, warrants or any rights to purchase or acquire, Common Stock prior to the later of the termination of this Agreement and the sixtieth (60th) day immediately following the final Settlement Date with respect to Placement Shares sold pursuant to such Placement Notice; provided, however, that such restrictions will not be required in connection with the Company's issuance or sale of (i) Common Stock, options to purchase Common Stock or Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of options, pursuant to any employee or director stock option or benefits plan, stock ownership plan or dividend reinvestment plan (but not Common Stock subject to a waiver to exceed plan limits in its dividend reinvestment plan) of the Company whether now in effect or hereafter implemented, and (ii) Common Stock issuable upon conversion of securities or the exercise of warrants, options or other rights in effect or outstanding, and disclosed in filings by the Company available on EDGAR or otherwise in writing to the Agent.

(i) Change of Circumstances. The Company will, at any time during the pendency of a Placement Notice advise the Agent promptly after it shall have received notice or obtained knowledge thereof, of any information or fact that would alter or affect in any material respect any opinion, certificate, letter or other document required to be provided to the Agent pursuant to this Agreement.

(j) Due Diligence Cooperation. The Company will cooperate with any reasonable due diligence review conducted by the Agent or its representatives in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, including, without limitation, providing information and making available documents and senior corporate officers, during regular business hours and at the Company's principal offices, as the Agent may reasonably request.

(k) Required Filings Relating to Placement of Placement Shares. The Company agrees that on such dates as the Securities Act shall require, the Company will (i) file a prospectus supplement with the Commission under the applicable paragraph of Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act (each and every filing under Rule 424(b), a "**Filing Date**"), which prospectus supplement will set forth, within the relevant period, the amount of Placement Shares sold through the Agent, the Net Proceeds to the Company and the compensation payable by the Company to the Agent with respect to such Placement Shares, and (ii) deliver such number of copies of each such prospectus supplement to each exchange or market on which such sales were effected as may be required by the rules or regulations of such exchange or market.

(l) Representation Dates; Certificate. (1) Prior to the date of the first Placement Notice and (2) each time the Company:

(i) files the Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares or amends or supplements (other than a prospectus supplement relating solely to an offering of securities other than the Placement Shares) the Registration Statement or the Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares by means of a post-effective amendment, sticker, or supplement but not by means of incorporation of documents by reference into the Registration Statement or the Prospectus relating to the Placement Shares;

(ii) files an annual report on Form 10-K under the Exchange Act (including any Form 10-K/A containing amended financial information or a material amendment to the previously filed Form 10-K);

(iii) files its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q under the Exchange Act; or

(iv) files a current report on Form 8-K containing amended financial information (other than information "furnished" pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or to provide disclosure pursuant to Item 8.01 of Form 8-K relating to the reclassification of certain properties as discontinued operations in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144) under the Exchange Act (each date of filing of one or more of the documents referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) shall be a "**Representation Date**");

the Company shall furnish the Agent (but in the case of clause (iv) above only if the Agent reasonably determines that the information contained in such Form 8-K is material) with a certificate, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 7(l). The requirement to provide a certificate under this Section 7(l) shall be waived for any Representation Date occurring at a time a Suspension is in effect, which waiver shall continue until the earlier to occur of the date the Company delivers instructions for the sale of Placement Shares hereunder (which for such calendar quarter shall be considered a Representation Date) and the next occurring Representation Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Company subsequently decides to sell Placement Shares following a Representation Date when the a Suspension was in effect and did not provide the Agent with a certificate under this Section 7(l), then before the Company delivers the instructions for the sale of Placement Shares or the Agent sells any Placement Shares pursuant to such instructions, the Company shall provide the Agent with a certificate in conformity with this Section 7(l) dated as of the date that the instructions for the sale of Placement Shares are issued.

(m) Legal Opinion. (1) Prior to the date of the first Placement Notice and (2) within five (5) Trading Days of each Representation Date with respect to which the Company is obligated to deliver a certificate in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 7(l) for which no waiver is applicable and excluding the date of this Agreement, the Company shall cause to be furnished to the Agent a written opinion of Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP ("**Company Counsel**"), or other counsel satisfactory to the Agent, in form and substance satisfactory to Agent and its counsel, substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Exhibit 7(m), modified, as necessary, to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as then amended or supplemented; provided, however, the Company shall be required to furnish to Agent no more than one opinion hereunder per calendar quarter; provided, further, that in lieu of such opinions for subsequent periodic filings under the Exchange Act, counsel may furnish the Agent with a letter (a "**Reliance Letter**") to the effect that the Agent may rely on a prior opinion delivered under this Section 7(m) to the same extent as if it were dated the date of such letter (except that statements in such prior opinion shall be deemed to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as amended or supplemented as of the date of the Reliance Letter).

(n) Comfort Letter. (1) Prior to the date of the first Placement Notice and (2) within five (5) Trading Days of each Representation Date with respect to which the Company is obligated to deliver a certificate in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 7(l) for which no waiver is applicable and excluding the date of this Agreement, the Company shall cause its independent registered public accounting firm to furnish the Agent letters (the "**Comfort Letters**"), dated the date the Comfort Letter is delivered, which shall meet the requirements set forth in this Section 7(n); provided, that if requested by the Agent, the Company shall cause a Comfort Letter to be furnished to the Agent within ten (10) Trading Days of the date of occurrence of any material transaction or event, including the restatement of the Company's financial statements. The Comfort Letter from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm shall be in a form and substance satisfactory to the Agent, (i) confirming that they are an independent registered public accounting firm within the meaning of the Securities Act and the PCAOB, (ii) stating, as of such date, the conclusions and findings of such firm with respect to the financial information and other matters ordinarily covered by accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters in connection with registered public offerings (the first such letter, the "**Initial Comfort Letter**") and (iii) updating the Initial Comfort Letter with any information that would have been included in the Initial Comfort Letter had it been given on such date and modified as necessary to relate to the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, as amended and supplemented to the date of such letter.

(o) Market Activities. The Company will not, directly or indirectly, (i) take any action designed to cause or result in, or that constitutes or might reasonably be expected to constitute, the stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of Common Stock or (ii) sell, bid for, or purchase Common Stock, or pay anyone any compensation for soliciting purchases of the Placement Shares other than the Agent.

(p) Investment Company Act. The Company will conduct its affairs in such a manner so as to reasonably ensure that neither it nor any of its Subsidiaries will be or become, at any time prior to the termination of this Agreement, an "investment company," as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act.

(q) No Offer to Sell. Other than an Issuer Free Writing Prospectus approved in advance by the Company and the Agent in its capacity as agent hereunder, neither the Agent nor the Company (including its agents and representatives, other than Agent in its capacity as such) will make, use, prepare, authorize, approve or refer to any written communication (as defined in Rule 405 under the Act), required to be filed with the Commission, that constitutes an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy Placement Shares hereunder.

(r) Blue Sky and Other Qualifications. The Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts, in cooperation with the Agent, to qualify the Placement Shares for offering and sale, or to obtain an exemption for the Placement Shares to be offered and sold, under the applicable securities laws of such states and other jurisdictions (domestic or foreign) as the Agent may designate and to maintain such qualifications and exemptions in effect for so long as required for the distribution of the Placement Shares (but in no event for less than one year from the date of this Agreement); *provided*, *however*, that the Company shall not be obligated to file any general consent to service of process or to qualify as a foreign corporation or as a dealer in securities in any jurisdiction in which it is not so qualified or to subject itself to taxation in respect of doing business in any jurisdiction in which it is not otherwise so subject. In each jurisdiction in which the Placement Shares have been so qualified or exempt, the Company will file such statements and reports as may be required by the laws of such jurisdiction to continue such qualification or exemption, as the case may be, in effect for so long as required for the distribution of the Placement Shares (but in no event for less than one year from the date of this Agreement).

(s) Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Company and the Subsidiaries will maintain and keep accurate books and records reflecting their assets and maintain internal accounting controls in a manner designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and including those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company, (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals, (iii) that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with management's and the Company's directors' authorization, and (iv) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on its financial statements. The Company and the Subsidiaries will maintain such controls and other procedures, including, without limitation, those required by Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and the applicable regulations thereunder that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms, including, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its principal executive officer and principal financial officer, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and to ensure that material information relating to the Company or the Subsidiaries is made known to them by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which such periodic reports are being prepared.

(t) Secretary's Certificate; Further Documentation. Prior to the date of the first Placement Notice, the Company shall deliver to the Agent a certificate of the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Company and attested to by an executive officer of the Company, dated as of such date, certifying as to (i) the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, (ii) the By-laws of the Company, (iii) the resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the issuance of the Placement Shares and (iv) the incumbency of the officers duly authorized to execute this Agreement and the other documents contemplated by this Agreement. Within five (5) Trading Days of each Representation Date, the Company shall have furnished to the Agent such further information, certificates and documents as the Agent may reasonably request.

8. Payment of Expenses. The Company will pay all expenses incident to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including (i) the preparation and filing of the Registration Statement, including any fees required by the Commission, and the printing or electronic delivery of the Prospectus as originally filed and of each amendment and supplement thereto, in such number as the Agent shall deem necessary, (ii) the printing and delivery to the Agent of this Agreement and such other documents as may be required in connection with the offering, purchase, sale, issuance or delivery of the Placement Shares, (iii) the preparation, issuance and delivery of the certificates, if any, for the Placement Shares to the Agent, including any stock or other transfer taxes and any capital duties, stamp duties or other duties or taxes payable upon the sale, issuance or delivery of the Placement Shares to the Agent, (iv) the fees and disbursements of the counsel, accountants and other advisors to the Company, (v) the fees and disbursements of the counsel to the Agent, in an amount not to exceed $50,000, which will be paid out of the commissions due to the Agent from the Company pursuant to Section 2 of this Agreement; provided, that such $50,000 shall be due in full no later than June 30, 2012 whether or not a sufficient number of Placement Shares have been sold, (vi) the qualification or exemption of the Placement Shares under state securities laws in accordance with the provisions of Section 7(r) hereof, including filing fees, but excluding fees of the Agent's counsel, (vii) the printing and delivery to the Agent of copies of any Permitted Issuer Free Writing Prospectus and the Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto in such number as the Agent shall deem necessary, (viii) the preparation, printing and delivery to the Agent of copies of the blue sky survey, (ix) the fees and expenses of the transfer agent and registrar for the Common Stock, (x) the filing and other fees incident to any review by FINRA of the terms of the sale of the Placement Shares including the fees of the Agent's counsel (subject to the cap, set forth in clause (v) above), and (xi) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing of the Placement Shares on the Exchange.

9. Conditions to Agent's Obligations. The obligations of the Agent hereunder with respect to a Placement will be subject to the continuing accuracy and completeness of the representations and warranties made by the Company herein, to the due performance by the Company of its obligations hereunder, to the completion by the Agent of a due diligence review satisfactory to it in its reasonable judgment, and to the continuing satisfaction (or waiver by the Agent in its sole discretion) of the following additional conditions:

(a) Registration Statement Effective. The Registration Statement shall have become effective and shall be available for the (i) resale of all Placement Shares issued to the Agent and not yet sold by the Agent and (ii) sale of all Placement Shares contemplated to be issued by any Placement Notice.

(b) No Material Notices. None of the following events shall have occurred and be continuing: (i) receipt by the Company of any request for additional information from the Commission or any other federal or state governmental authority during the period of effectiveness of the Registration Statement, the response to which would require any post-effective amendments or supplements to the Registration Statement or the Prospectus; (ii) the issuance by the Commission or any other federal or state governmental authority of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or the initiation of any proceedings for that purpose; (iii) receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification or exemption from qualification of any of the Placement Shares for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for such purpose; or (iv) the occurrence of any event that makes any material statement made in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus or any material document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated therein by reference untrue in any material respect or that requires the making of any changes in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or documents so that, in the case of the Registration Statement, it will not contain any materially untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading and, that in the case of the Prospectus, it will not contain any materially untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(c) No Misstatement or Material Omission. Agent shall not have advised the Company that the Registration Statement or Prospectus, or any amendment or supplement thereto, contains an untrue statement of fact that in the Agent's reasonable opinion is material, or omits to state a fact that in the Agent's reasonable opinion is material and is required to be stated therein or is necessary to make the statements therein not misleading.

(d) Material Changes. Except as contemplated in the Prospectus, or disclosed in the Company's reports filed with the Commission, there shall not have been any material adverse change, on a consolidated basis, in the authorized capital stock of the Company or any Material Adverse Effect, or any development that could reasonably be expected to cause a Material Adverse Effect, or a downgrading in or withdrawal of the rating assigned to any of the Company's securities (other than asset backed securities) by any rating organization or a public announcement by any rating organization that it has under surveillance or review its rating of any of the Company's securities (other than asset backed securities), the effect of which, in the case of any such action by a rating organization described above, in the reasonable judgment of the Agent (without relieving the Company of any obligation or liability it may otherwise have), is so material as to make it impracticable or inadvisable to proceed with the offering of the Placement Shares on the terms and in the manner contemplated in the Prospectus.

(e) Legal Opinion. The Agent shall have received the opinion of Company Counsel required to be delivered pursuant to Section 7(m) on or before the date on which such delivery of such opinion is required pursuant to Section 7(m).

(f) Comfort Letter. The Agent shall have received the Comfort Letter required to be delivered pursuant to Section 7(n) on or before the date on which such delivery of such Comfort Letter is required pursuant to Section 7(n).

(g) Representation Certificate. The Agent shall have received the certificate required to be delivered pursuant to Section 7(l) on or before the date on which delivery of such certificate is required pursuant to Section 7(l).

(h) No Suspension. Trading in the Common Stock shall not have been suspended on the Exchange and the Common Stock shall not have been delisted from the Exchange.

(i) Other Materials. On each date on which the Company is required to deliver a certificate pursuant to Section 7(l), the Company shall have furnished to the Agent such appropriate further information, certificates and documents as the Agent may reasonably request. All such opinions, certificates, letters and other documents will be in compliance with the provisions hereof. The Company will furnish the Agent with such conformed copies of such opinions, certificates, letters and other documents as the Agent shall reasonably request.

(j) Securities Act Filings Made. All filings with the Commission required by Rule 424 under the Securities Act to have been filed prior to the issuance of any Placement Notice hereunder shall have been made within the applicable time period prescribed for such filing by Rule 424.

(k) Approval for Listing. The Placement Shares shall either have been approved for listing quotation on the Exchange, subject only to notice of issuance, or the Company shall have filed an application for listing quotation of the Placement Shares on the Exchange at, or prior to, the issuance of any Placement Notice.

(l) FINRA. FINRA shall have raised no objection to the terms of this offering and the amount of compensation allowable or payable to the Agent as described in the Prospectus.

(m) No Termination Event. There shall not have occurred any event that would permit the Agent to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 12(a).

10. Indemnification and Contribution.

(a) Company Indemnification. The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Agent, its partners, members, directors, officers, employees and agents and each person, if any, who controls the Agent within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act as follows:

(i) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, joint or several, arising out of or based upon any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, or arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact included in any related Issuer Free Writing Prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto), or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(ii) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, joint or several, to the extent of the aggregate amount paid in settlement of any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or of any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission; provided that (subject to Section 10(d) below) any such settlement is effected with the written consent of the Company, which consent shall not unreasonably be delayed or withheld; and

(iii) against any and all expense whatsoever, as incurred (including the fees and disbursements of counsel), reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission, to the extent that any such expense is not paid under (i) or (ii) above,

provided, however, that this indemnity agreement shall not apply to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission made solely in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by the Agent expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), or in any related Issuer Free Writing Prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto).

(b) Agent Indemnification. Agent agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company and its directors and each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense described in the indemnity contained in Section 10(a), as incurred, but only with respect to untrue statements or omissions, or alleged untrue statements or omissions, made in the Registration Statement (or any amendments thereto) or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with information relating to the Agent and furnished to the Company in writing by the Agent expressly for use therein. The Company hereby acknowledges that the only information that the Agent has furnished to the Company expressly for use in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) are the statements set forth in the third sentence of the fourth paragraph of the seventh and eight paragraphs under the caption “Plan of Distribution” in the Prospectus.

(c) Procedure. Any party that proposes to assert the right to be indemnified under this Section 10 will, promptly after receipt of notice of commencement of any action against such party in respect of which a claim is to be made against an indemnifying party or parties under this Section 10, notify each such indemnifying party of the commencement of such action, enclosing a copy of all papers served, but the omission so to notify such indemnifying party will not relieve the indemnifying party from (i) any liability that it might have to any indemnified party otherwise than under this Section 10 and (ii) any liability that it may have to any indemnified party under the foregoing provision of this Section 10 unless, and only to the extent that, such omission results in the forfeiture of substantive rights or defenses by the indemnifying party. If any such action is brought against any indemnified party and it notifies the indemnifying party of its commencement, the indemnifying party will be entitled to participate in and, to the extent that it elects by delivering written notice to the indemnified party promptly after receiving notice of the commencement of the action from the indemnified party, jointly with any other indemnifying party similarly notified, to assume the defense of the action, with counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party, and after notice from the indemnifying party to the indemnified party of its election to assume the defense, the indemnifying party will not be liable to the indemnified party for any legal or other expenses except as provided below and except for the reasonable costs of investigation subsequently incurred by the indemnified party in connection with the defense. The indemnified party will have the right to employ its own counsel in any such action, but the fees, expenses and other charges of such counsel will be at the expense of such indemnified party unless (1) the employment of counsel by the indemnified party has been authorized in writing by the indemnifying party, (2) the indemnified party has reasonably concluded (based on advice of counsel) that there may be legal defenses available to it or other indemnified parties that are different from or in addition to those available to the indemnifying party, (3) a conflict or potential conflict exists (based on advice of counsel to the indemnified party) between the indemnified party and the indemnifying party (in which case the indemnifying party will not have the right to direct the defense of such action on behalf of the indemnified party) or (4) the indemnifying party has not in fact employed counsel to assume the defense of such action within a reasonable time after receiving notice of the commencement of the action, in each of which cases the reasonable fees, disbursements and other charges of counsel will be at the expense of the indemnifying party or parties. It is understood that the indemnifying party or parties shall not, in connection with any proceeding or related proceedings in the same jurisdiction, be liable for the reasonable fees, disbursements and other charges of more than one separate firm admitted to practice in such jurisdiction at any one time for all such indemnified party or parties. All such fees, disbursements and other charges will be reimbursed by the indemnifying party promptly as they are incurred. An indemnifying party will not, in any event, be liable for any settlement of any action or claim effected without its written consent. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of each indemnified party, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment in any pending or threatened claim, action or proceeding relating to the matters contemplated by this Section 10 (whether or not any indemnified party is a party thereto), unless such settlement, compromise or consent (1) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such litigation, investigation, proceeding or claim and (2) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

(d) Settlement Without Consent if Failure to Reimburse. If an indemnified party shall have requested an indemnifying party to reimburse the indemnified party for reasonable fees and expenses of counsel, such indemnifying party agrees that it shall be liable for any settlement of the nature contemplated by Section 10(a)(ii) effected without its written consent if (1) such settlement is entered into more than 45 days after receipt by such indemnifying party of the aforesaid request, (2) such indemnifying party shall have received notice of the terms of such settlement at least 30 days prior to such settlement being entered into and (3) such indemnifying party shall not have reimbursed such indemnified party in accordance with such request prior to the date of such settlement.

(e) Contribution. In order to provide for just and equitable contribution in circumstances in which the indemnification provided for in the foregoing paragraphs of this Section 10 is applicable in accordance with its terms but for any reason is held to be unavailable from the Company or the Agent, the Company and the Agent will contribute to the total losses, claims, liabilities, expenses and damages (including any investigative, legal and other expenses reasonably incurred in connection with, and any amount paid in settlement of, any action, suit or proceeding or any claim asserted, but after deducting any contribution received by the Company from persons other than the Agent, such as persons who control the Company within the meaning of the Securities Act, officers of the Company who signed the Registration Statement and directors of the Company, who also may be liable for contribution) to which the Company and the Agent may be subject in such proportion as shall be appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Agent on the other hand. The relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Agent on the other hand shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the total net proceeds from the sale of the Placement Shares (before deducting expenses) received by the Company bear to the total compensation received by the Agent (before deducting expenses) from the sale of Placement Shares on behalf of the Company. If, but only if, the allocation provided by the foregoing sentence is not permitted by applicable law, the allocation of contribution shall be made in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in the foregoing sentence but also the relative fault of the Company, on the one hand, and the Agent, on the other hand, with respect to the statements or omission that resulted in such loss, claim, liability, expense or damage, or action in respect thereof, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations with respect to such offering. Such relative fault shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company or the Agent, the intent of the parties and their relative knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission. The Company and the Agent agree that it would not be just and equitable if contributions pursuant to this Section 10(e) were to be determined by pro rata allocation or by any other method of allocation that does not take into account the equitable considerations referred to herein. The amount paid or payable by an indemnified party as a result of the loss, claim, liability, expense, or damage, or action in respect thereof, referred to above in this Section 10(e) shall be deemed to include, for the purpose of this Section 10(e), any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any such action or claim to the extent consistent with Section 10(c) hereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 10(e), the Agent shall not be required to contribute any amount in excess of the commissions received by it under this Agreement and no person found guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) will be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. For purposes of this Section 10(e), any person who controls a party to this Agreement within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any officers, directors, partners, employees or agents of the Agent, will have the same rights to contribution as that party, and each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement will have the same rights to contribution as the Company, subject in each case to the provisions hereof. Any party entitled to contribution, promptly after receipt of notice of commencement of any action against such party in respect of which a claim for contribution may be made under this Section 10(e), will notify any such party or parties from whom contribution may be sought, but the omission to so notify will not relieve that party or parties from whom contribution may be sought from any other obligation it or they may have under this Section 10(e) except to the extent that the failure to so notify such other party materially prejudiced the substantive rights or defenses of the party from whom contribution is sought. Except for a settlement entered into pursuant to the last sentence of Section 10(c) hereof, no party will be liable for contribution with respect to any action or claim settled without its written consent if such consent is required pursuant to Section 10(c) hereof.

11. Representations and Agreements to Survive Delivery. The indemnity and contribution agreements contained in Section 10 of this Agreement and all representations and warranties of the Company herein or in certificates delivered pursuant hereto shall survive, as of their respective dates, regardless of (i) any investigation made by or on behalf of the Agent, any controlling persons, or the Company (or any of their respective officers, directors or controlling persons), (ii) delivery and acceptance of the Placement Shares and payment therefor or (iii) any termination of this Agreement.

12. Termination.

(a) The Agent may terminate this Agreement, by notice to the Company, as hereinafter specified at any time (1) if there has been, since the time of execution of this Agreement or since the date as of which information is given in the Prospectus, any change, or any development or event involving a prospective change, in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the business, properties, earnings, results of operations or prospects of the Company and its Subsidiaries considered as one enterprise, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, which individually or in the aggregate, in the sole judgment of the Agent is material and adverse and makes it impractical or inadvisable to market the Placement Shares or to enforce contracts for the sale of the Placement Shares, (2) if there has occurred any material adverse change in the financial markets in the United States or the international financial markets, any outbreak of hostilities or escalation thereof or other calamity or crisis or any change or development involving a prospective change in national or international political, financial or economic conditions, in each case the effect of which is such as to make it, in the judgment of the Agent, impracticable or inadvisable to market the Placement Shares or to enforce contracts for the sale of the Placement Shares, (3) if trading in the Common Stock has been suspended or limited by the Commission or the Exchange, or if trading generally on the Exchange has been suspended or limited, or minimum prices for trading have been fixed on the Exchange, (4) if any suspension of trading of any securities of the Company on any exchange or in the over-the-counter market shall have occurred and be continuing, (5) if a major disruption of securities settlements or clearance services in the United States shall have occurred and be continuing, or (6) if a banking moratorium has been declared by either U.S. Federal or New York authorities. Any such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except that the provisions of Section 8 (Payment of Expenses), Section 10 (Indemnification and Contribution), Section 11 (Representations and Agreements to Survive Delivery), Section 17 (Governing Law and Time; Waiver of Jury Trial) and Section 18 (Consent to Jurisdiction) hereof shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination. If the Agent elects to terminate this Agreement as provided in this Section 12(a), the Agent shall provide the required notice as specified in Section 13 (Notices).

(b) The Company shall have the right, by giving ten (10) days notice as hereinafter specified to terminate this Agreement in its sole discretion at any time after the date of this Agreement. Any such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except that the provisions of Section 8, Section 10, Section 11, Section 17 and Section 18 hereof shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination.

(c) The Agent shall have the right, by giving ten (10) days notice as hereinafter specified to terminate this Agreement in its sole discretion at any time after the date of this Agreement. Any such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except that the provisions of Section 8, Section 10, Section 11, Section 17 and Section 18 hereof shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination.

(d) Unless earlier terminated pursuant to this Section 12, this Agreement shall automatically terminate upon the issuance and sale of all of the Placement Shares through the Agent on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth herein; provided that the provisions of Section 8, Section 10, Section 11, Section 17 and Section 18 hereof shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination.

(e) This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect unless terminated pursuant to Sections 12(a), (b), (c), or (d) above or otherwise by mutual agreement of the parties; provided, however, that any such termination by mutual agreement shall in all cases be deemed to provide that Section 8, Section 10, Section 11, Section 17 and Section 18 shall remain in full force and effect.

(f) Any termination of this Agreement shall be effective on the date specified in such notice of termination; provided, however, that such termination shall not be effective until the close of business on the date of receipt of such notice by the Agent or the Company, as the case may be. If such termination shall occur prior to the Settlement Date for any sale of Placement Shares, such Placement Shares shall settle in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

13. Notices. All notices or other communications required or permitted to be given by any party to any other party pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing, unless otherwise specified, and if sent to the Agent, shall be delivered to:

Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.
499 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attention: Capital Markets/Jeff Lumby
Facsimile: (212) 307-3730

with copies to

Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.
499 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attention: Stephen Merkel
General Counsel
Facsimile: (212) 307-3730

and with a copy to:

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attention: Daniel I. Goldberg, Esq.
Facsimile: (212) 521-5450

and if to the Company, shall be delivered to:

Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.
99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10013
Attention: David J. Barrett, CFO
Facsimile: (646) 706-5101

with a copy to:

Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27607
Attention: Alexander M. Donaldson
Facsimile: (919) 781-4865

Each party to this Agreement may change such address for notices by sending to the parties to this Agreement written notice of a new address for such purpose. Each such notice or other communication shall be deemed given (i) when delivered personally or by verifiable facsimile transmission (with an original to follow) on or before 4:30 p.m., New York City time, on a Business Day or, if such day is not a Business Day, on the next succeeding Business Day, (ii) on the next Business Day after timely delivery to a nationally-recognized overnight courier and (iii) on the Business Day actually received if deposited in the U.S. mail (certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid). For purposes of this Agreement, "**Business Day**" shall mean any day on which the Exchange and commercial banks in the City of New York are open for business.

An electronic communication ("**Electronic Notice**") shall be deemed written notice for purposes of this Section 13 if sent to the electronic mail address specified by the receiving party under separate cover. Electronic Notice shall be deemed received at the time the party sending Electronic Notice receives verification of receipt by the receiving party. Any party receiving Electronic Notice may request and shall be entitled to receive the notice on paper, in a nonelectronic form ("**Nonelectronic Notice**") which shall be sent to the requesting party within ten (10) days of receipt of the written request for Nonelectronic Notice.

14. Successors and Assigns. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Company and the Agent and their respective successors and the affiliates, controlling persons, officers and directors referred to in Section 10 hereof. References to any of the parties contained in this Agreement shall be deemed to include the successors and permitted assigns of such party. Nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any party other than the parties hereto or their respective successors and permitted assigns any rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities under or by reason of this Agreement, except as expressly provided in this Agreement. Neither party may assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party; provided, however, that the Agent may assign its rights and obligations hereunder to an affiliate thereof without obtaining the Company's consent.

15. Adjustments for Stock Splits. The parties acknowledge and agree that all share-related numbers contained in this Agreement shall be adjusted to take into account any stock split, stock dividend or similar event effected with respect to the Placement Shares.

16. Entire Agreement; Amendment; Severability. This Agreement (including all schedules and exhibits attached hereto and Placement Notices issued pursuant hereto) constitutes the entire agreement and supersedes all other prior and contemporaneous agreements and undertakings, both written and oral, among the parties hereto with regard to the subject matter hereof. Neither this Agreement nor any term hereof may be amended except pursuant to a written instrument executed by the Company and the Agent. In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained herein, or the application thereof in any circumstance, is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable as written by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be given full force and effect to the fullest possible extent that it is valid, legal and enforceable, and the remainder of the terms and provisions herein shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable term or provision was not contained herein, but only to the extent that giving effect to such provision and the remainder of the terms and provisions hereof shall be in accordance with the intent of the parties as reflected in this Agreement.

17. GOVERNING LAW AND TIME; WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICTS OF LAWS. SPECIFIED TIMES OF DAY REFER TO NEW YORK CITY TIME. THE COMPANY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

18. **CONSENT TO JURISDICTION. EACH PARTY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY SUBMITS TO THE NON-EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS SITTING IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN, FOR THE ADJUDICATION OF ANY DISPUTE HEREUNDER OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED HEREBY, AND HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, AND AGREES NOT TO ASSERT IN ANY SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING, ANY CLAIM THAT IT IS NOT PERSONALLY SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF ANY SUCH COURT, THAT SUCH SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING IS BROUGHT IN AN INCONVENIENT FORUM OR THAT THE VENUE OF SUCH SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING IS IMPROPER. EACH PARTY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES PERSONAL SERVICE OF PROCESS AND CONSENTS TO PROCESS BEING SERVED IN ANY SUCH SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF (CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED) TO SUCH PARTY AT THE ADDRESS IN EFFECT FOR NOTICES TO IT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREES THAT SUCH SERVICE SHALL CONSTITUTE GOOD AND SUFFICIENT SERVICE OF PROCESS AND NOTICE THEREOF. NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED TO LIMIT IN ANY WAY ANY RIGHT TO SERVE PROCESS IN ANY MANNER PERMITTED BY LAW.**

19. Use of Information. The Agent may not provide any information gained in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including due diligence, to any third party other than its legal counsel advising it on this Agreement unless expressly approved by the Company in writing.

20. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Delivery of an executed Agreement by one party to the other may be made by facsimile transmission.

21. Effect of Headings.

The section and exhibit headings herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

22. Permitted Free Writing Prospectuses.

The Company represents, warrants and agrees that, unless it obtains the prior consent of the Agent, and the Agent represents, warrants and agrees that, unless it obtains the prior consent of the Company, it has not made and will not make any offer relating to the Placement Shares that would constitute an Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, or that would otherwise constitute a "free writing prospectus," as defined in Rule 405, required to be filed with the Commission. Any such free writing prospectus consented to by the Agent or by the Company, as the case may be, is hereinafter referred to as a "Permitted Free Writing Prospectus." The Company represents and warrants that it has treated and agrees that it will treat each Permitted Free Writing Prospectus as an "issuer free writing prospectus," as defined in Rule 433, and has complied and will comply with the requirements of Rule 433 applicable to any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, including timely filing with the Commission where required, legending and record keeping. For the purposes of clarity, the parties hereto agree that all free writing prospectuses, if any, listed in Exhibit 22 hereto are Permitted Free Writing Prospectuses.

23. Absence of Fiduciary Relationship.

The Company acknowledges and agrees that:

(a) the Agent is acting solely as agent in connection with the public offering of the Placement Shares and in connection with each transaction contemplated by this Agreement and the process leading to such transactions, and no fiduciary or advisory relationship between the Company or any of its respective affiliates, stockholders (or other equity holders), creditors or employees or any other party, on the one hand, and the Agent, on the other hand, has been or will be created in respect of any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, irrespective of whether or not the Agent has advised or is advising the Company on other matters, and the Agent has no obligation to the Company with respect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement except the obligations expressly set forth in this Agreement;

(b) it is capable of evaluating and understanding, and understands and accepts, the terms, risks and conditions of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement;

(c) the Agent has not provided any legal, accounting, regulatory or tax advice with respect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and it has consulted its own legal, accounting, regulatory and tax advisors to the extent it has deemed appropriate;

(d) it is aware that the Agent and its affiliates are engaged in a broad range of transactions which may involve interests that differ from those of the Company and the Agent has no obligation to disclose such interests and transactions to the Company by virtue of any fiduciary, advisory or agency relationship or otherwise; and

(e) it waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any claims it may have against the Agent for breach of fiduciary duty or alleged breach of fiduciary duty in connection with the sale of Placement Shares under this Agreement and agrees that the Agent shall not have any liability (whether direct or indirect, in contract, tort or otherwise) to it in respect of such a fiduciary duty claim or to any person asserting a fiduciary duty claim on its behalf or in right of it or the Company, employees or creditors of Company, other than in respect of the Agent's obligations under this Agreement and to keep information provided by the Company to the Agent and the Agent's counsel confidential to the extent not otherwise publicly-available.

24. Definitions.

As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings set forth below:

"**Applicable Time**" means (i) each Representation Date and (ii) the time of each sale of any Placement Shares pursuant to this Agreement.

"**Issuer Free Writing Prospectus**" means any "issuer free writing prospectus," as defined in Rule 433, relating to the Placement Shares that (1) is required to be filed with the Commission by the Company, (2) is a "road show" that is a "written communication" within the meaning of Rule 433(d)(8)(i) whether or not required to be filed with the Commission, or (3) is exempt from filing pursuant to Rule 433(d)(5)(i) because it contains a description of the Placement Shares or of the offering that does not reflect the final terms, in each case in the form filed or required to be filed with the Commission or, if not required to be filed, in the form retained in the Company's records pursuant to Rule 433(g) under the Securities Act Regulations.

"**Rule 164**," "**Rule 172**," "**Rule 405**," "**Rule 415**," "**Rule 424**," "**Rule 424(b)**," "**Rule 430B**," and "**Rule 433**" refer to such rules under the Securities Act Regulations.

All references in this Agreement to financial statements and schedules and other information that is "contained," "included" or "stated" in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus (and all other references of like import) shall be deemed to mean and include all such financial statements and schedules and other information that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, as the case may be.

All references in this Agreement to the Registration Statement, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement to any of the foregoing shall be deemed to include the copy filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR; all references in this Agreement to any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (other than any Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses that, pursuant to Rule 433, are not required to be filed with the Commission) shall be deemed to include the copy thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR; and all references in this Agreement to "supplements" to the Prospectus shall include, without limitation, any supplements, "wrappers" or similar materials prepared in connection with any offering, sale or private placement of any Placement Shares by the Agent outside of the United States.

If the foregoing correctly sets forth the understanding between the Company and the Agent, please so indicate in the space provided below for that purpose, whereupon this letter shall constitute a binding agreement between the Company and the Agent.

Very truly yours,

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

By: /s/ Russell H. Ellison
Name: Russell H. Ellison
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

ACCEPTED as of the date first-above written:

CANTOR FITZGERALD & CO.

By: /s/ Jeffrey Lumby
Name: Jeffrey Lumby
Title: Senior Managing Director

SCHEDULE 1

FORM OF PLACEMENT NOTICE

From: Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.

To: Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.
Attention: _____

Subject: Placement Notice

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the terms and subject to the conditions contained in the Sales Agreement between Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. ("**Agent**"), dated January 30, 2012, the Company hereby requests that the Agent sell up to _____ of the Company's Common Stock, par value $0.001 per share, at a minimum market price of $_____ per share, during the time period beginning [month, day, time] and ending [month, day, time].

SCHEDULE 2

Compensation

The Company shall pay to the Agent in cash, upon each sale of Placement Shares pursuant to this Agreement, an amount equal to 3% of the aggregate gross proceeds from each sale of Placement Shares.

SCHEDULE 3

Notice Parties

The Company

Russell H. Ellison (rellison@ventrusbio.com)

David J. Barrett (dbarrett@ventrusbio.com)

The Agent

Jeff Lumby (jlumby@cantor.com)

Josh Feldman (jfeldman@cantor.com)

Peter Dippolito (pdippolito@cantor.com)

EXHIBIT 7(l)

Form of Representation Date Certificate

The undersigned, the duly qualified and elected _____, of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), does hereby certify in such capacity and on behalf of the Company, pursuant to Section 7(l) of the Sales Agreement, dated January 30, 2012 (the "Sales Agreement"), between the Company and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., that to the best of the knowledge of the undersigned:

(i) The representations and warranties of the Company in Section 6 of the Sales Agreement (A) to the extent such representations and warranties are subject to qualifications and exceptions contained therein relating to materiality or Material Adverse Effect, are true and correct on and as of the date hereof, except for those representations and warranties that speak solely as of a specific date and which were true and correct as of such date, with the same force and effect as if expressly made on and as of the date hereof and (B) to the extent such representations and warranties are not subject to any qualifications or exceptions, are true and correct in all material respects as of the date hereof as if made on and as of the date hereof except for those representations and warranties that speak solely as of a specific date and which were true and correct as of such date, with the same force and effect as if expressly made on and as of the date hereof; and

(ii) The Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied pursuant to the Sales Agreement at or prior to the date hereof.

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT 7(m)

Form of Legal Opinion

Capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Sales Agreement.

1. The Company has been organized and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware. The Company has the corporate power and authority, and, to our knowledge, all material governmental licenses, authorizations, consents and approvals that are required to own, lease and operate its properties and assets and to carry on its business as now conducted and as proposed to be conducted (and described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2010).

2. The Company has the corporate power and authority to (i) execute, deliver and perform the Sales Agreement, (ii) to issue, sell and deliver the Placement Shares pursuant to the Sales Agreement and (iii) to carry out and perform its obligations under, and to consummate the transactions contemplated by, the Sales Agreement.

3. All action on the part of the Company, its directors and its stockholders necessary for the authorization, execution and delivery by the Company of the Sales Agreement, the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Placement Shares pursuant to the Sales Agreement and the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by the Sales Agreement has been duly taken. The Sales Agreement has been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

4. All presently issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and nonassessable and free of any preemptive or similar rights arising by operation of the Company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws or the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, and, to our knowledge, have been issued in compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations. To our knowledge, except for rights described or referred to in the Sales Agreement, there are no other options, warrants, conversion privileges or other rights presently outstanding to purchase or otherwise acquire from the Company any capital stock or other securities of the Company, or any other agreements to issue any such securities or rights. The Placement Shares have been duly authorized and, when issued and paid for pursuant to the terms of the Sales Agreement, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable and free of any preemptive or similar rights arising by operation of the Company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws or the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware or, to our knowledge, rights of first refusal or other similar rights to subscribe for the Placement Shares.

5. The Registration Statement filed with the Commission (No. 333-[ ]) which registers the sale of the Placement Shares is currently effective and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or, to our knowledge, threatened. Any required filing of the Prospectus pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act has been made in the manner and within the time required by Rule 424(b).

6. The Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Prospectus Supplement and the reports filed with the Commission that are incorporated therein by reference (other than the financial statements and schedules and other financial data included or incorporated by reference therein, as to which we express no opinion), complied as of their respective effective or filing dates in all material respects as to form with the requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

7. The execution, delivery and performance by the Company of, and the compliance by the Company with the terms of, the Sales Agreement and the issuance, sale and delivery of the Placement Shares pursuant to the Agreement do not (a) conflict with or result in a violation of any provision of law, rule or regulation or any rule or regulation of any securities exchange applicable to the Company or of the certificate of incorporation or bylaws or other similar organizational documents of the Company, (b) conflict with, result in a breach of or constitute a default (or an event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become a default) under, or result in or permit the termination or modification of, any agreement, instrument, order, writ, judgment or decree known to us to which the Company is a party or is subject that would result in a Material Adverse Effect or (c) to our knowledge, result in the creation or imposition of any lien, claim or encumbrance on any of the assets or properties of the Company or its Subsidiary that would result in a Material Adverse Effect.

8. To our knowledge, except as set forth in the Company's filings with the Commission, there is (i) no claim, action, suit, proceeding, arbitration, investigation or inquiry, pending or threatened, before any court or governmental or administrative body or agency, or any private arbitration tribunal, against the Company, or any of its officers, directors or employees (in connection with the discharge of their duties as officers, directors and employees), of the Company, or affecting any of its properties or assets and (ii) no indenture, contract, lease, mortgage, deed of trust, note agreement, loan or other agreement or instrument of a character required to be filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, which is not filed as required by the Securities Act and the rules thereunder.

9. In connection with the valid execution, delivery and performance by the Company of the Sales Agreement, or the offer, sale, issuance or delivery of the Placement Shares or the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby, no consent, license, permit, waiver, approval or authorization of, or designation, declaration, registration or filing with, any governmental or regulatory authority, self-regulatory organization, or court is required other than the filing with the Exchange of a notice of issuance of the Placement Shares.

10. The Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Placement Shares and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Prospectus will not be, an Investment Company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

11. The information included in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus under the caption “Description of Common Stock,” to the extent that it constitutes matters of law, summaries of legal matters, documents referred to therein or legal conclusions, has been reviewed by us and fairly summarizes the matters set forth therein in all material respects.

The opinion of counsel will be accompanied by a standard Rule 10b-5 negative assurance letter.

Exhibit 22

Permitted Free Writing Prospectes

None.

Exhibit 5.1

Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

January 31, 2012

Board of Directors
Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.
99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Ventrus Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the registration statement on Form S-3, to be filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on the date hereof (the "Registration Statement") pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), relating to up to $100,000,000 of one or more of the following securities (collectively, the "Securities") which may be issued by the Company, from time to time, under the Registration Statement: (i) shares of the Company's common stock, $0.001 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), which may include shares of Common Stock issuable upon the conversion or exercise of the other Offered Securities included in the Registration Statement, (ii) shares of the Company's preferred stock, $0.001 par value per share (the "Preferred Stock"), which may include shares of Preferred Stock issuable upon the conversion or exercise of the Debt Securities and Warrants (as defined herein) included in the Registration Statement, (iii) debt securities (the "Debt Securities"), the terms of which will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company prior to the issuance thereof, (iv) warrants (the "Warrants") to purchase Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Debt Securities, and (v) unit ("Units") comprised of any combination of the foregoing Securities.

We also have acted as counsel to the Company in connection with an offering of shares of Common Stock having an aggregate offering price of up to $20.0 million of shares of Common Stock that may be issued and sold (the "Sales Agreement Shares") under a Sales Agreement, dated January 30, 2012, between the Company and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. (the "Sales Agreement"). The preliminary prospectus supplement for the offer and sale of the Sales Agreement Shares is included in the Registration Statement (as may be amended or supplemented, the "Sales Agreement Prospectus Supplement").

This opinion is being furnished in accordance with the requirements of Item 16 of Form S-3 and Item 601(b)(5)(i) of Regulation S-K.

In connection with the foregoing, we have relied upon, among other things, our examination of such documents, records of the Company and certificates of its officers and public officials as we deemed necessary for purposes of the opinions expressed below. In our examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity with the original of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

1. With respect to any offering of Common Stock by the Company pursuant to the Registration Statement other than pursuant to the Sales Agreement (the "Offered Common Stock"), when (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act, (b) the board of directors or any duly designated committee thereof has adopted resolutions approving the issuance and sale of the Offered Common Stock at a specified price or pursuant to a specified pricing mechanism, (c) if the Offered Common Stock is to be sold in a firm commitment underwritten offering or in a best efforts placement offering, an underwriting agreement or placement agency agreement with respect to the Offered Common Stock has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto, (d) certificates representing the shares of Offered Common Stock have been duly executed by appropriate officers of the Company or appropriate book entries have been made in the stock records of the Company, and (e) the shares of Offered Common Stock have been duly and properly sold, paid for and delivered as contemplated in the Registration Statement, any prospectus supplement relating thereto and, if applicable, in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other purchase agreement, the shares of Offered Common Stock, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

2. With respect to any offering of Preferred Stock by the Company pursuant to the Registration Statement (the "Offered Preferred Stock"), when (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act, (b) the board of directors or any duly designated committee thereof has adopted resolutions approving the issuance and sale of the Offered Preferred Stock at a specified price or pursuant to a specified pricing mechanism, (c) a certificate of designation with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock has been filed with and accepted for filing by the Delaware Secretary of State, (d) if the Offered Preferred Stock is to be sold in a firm commitment underwritten offering or in a best efforts placement offering, an underwriting agreement or placement agency agreement with respect to the Offered Preferred Stock has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto, (e) certificates representing the shares of Offered Preferred Stock have been duly executed by appropriate officers of the Company or appropriate book entries have been made in the stock records of the Company, and (f) the shares of Offered Preferred Stock have been duly and properly sold, paid for and delivered as contemplated in the Registration Statement, any prospectus supplement relating thereto and, if applicable, in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other purchase agreement, the shares of Offered Preferred Stock, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

3. With respect to any series of the Debt Securities offered under the Registration Statement, provided that (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act; (b) an indenture has been duly authorized and executed by the Company and the applicable trustee by all necessary corporate action; (c) the issuance and terms of the Debt Securities have been duly authorized by the Company by all necessary corporate action; (d) the terms of the Debt Securities and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the indenture so as not to violate any applicable law or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company, so as to be in conformity with the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (e) the Debt Securities have been duly executed and delivered by the Company and authenticated by the applicable trustee pursuant to the indenture and delivered against payment therefor, then the Debt Securities, when issued and sold in accordance with the indenture and a duly authorized, executed and delivered purchase, underwriting or similar agreement, or upon exercise of any Warrants under the Warrant Agreement, will be valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, arrangement, moratorium or other similar laws affecting creditors' rights, and subject to general equity principles and to limitations on availability of equitable relief, including specific performance.

4. With respect to any offering of Warrants by the Company pursuant to the Registration Statement (the "Offered Warrants"), when (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act, (b) the board of directors or any duly designated committee thereof has adopted resolutions approving the form, terms, issuance and sale of the Offered Warrants at a specified price or pursuant to a specified pricing mechanism, (c) if the Offered Warrants are to be sold in a firm commitment underwritten offering or in a best efforts placement offering, an underwriting agreement or placement agency agreement with respect to the Offered Warrants has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto, and (d) the Offered Warrants have been duly and properly sold, paid for and delivered as contemplated in the Registration Statement, any prospectus supplement relating thereto and, if applicable, in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other purchase agreement and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of any applicable warrant agreement (the "Warrant Agreement") between the Company and the purchaser or warrant agent named therein, the Offered Warrants will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

5. With respect to any offering of Units by the Company pursuant to the Registration Statement (the "Offered Units"), when (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act, (b) when the board of directors has taken all necessary corporate action to authorize and approve the form, issuance, execution and terms of the Offered Units, the related unit agreements between the Company and the unit agent or purchaser named therein ("Unit Agreements"), if any, and any Offered Securities which are components of such Offered Units, the terms of the offering thereof and related matters, (c) if the Offered Units are to be sold in a firm commitment underwritten offering or in a best efforts placement offering, an underwriting agreement or placement agency agreement with respect to the Offered Units has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto, and (d) the (1) Offered Units, (2) the Unit Agreements, if any, and (3) such Offered Securities that are components of such Offered Units have been duly and properly sold, paid for and delivered as contemplated in the Registration Statement, any prospectus supplement relating thereto and, if applicable, in accordance with the applicable underwriting or other purchase agreement and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of any applicable (i) Unit Agreement and (ii) Warrant Agreement, in the case of Warrants, such Units will be validly issued and will entitle the holder thereof to the rights specified in the Unit Agreements, if any.

6. With respect to the Sales Agreement Shares, when (a) the Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act, (b) a definitive Sales Agreement Prospectus Supplement is filed with the Commission, and (c) the Sales Agreement Shares have been duly and properly sold, paid for and delivered as contemplated in the Registration Statement, the Sales Agreement Prospectus Supplement, the Sales Agreement Shares will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

This opinion is limited to the Delaware General Corporation Law, including the statutory provisions of the Delaware General Corporate Law and all applicable provisions of the Delaware Constitution and reported judicial decisions interpreting these laws. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Commission as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement and reference to our firm under the heading “Legal Matters” in the Prospectus included therein. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/ WYRICK ROBBINS YATES & PONTON LLP

Exhibit 12.1

VENTRUS BIOSCIENCES, INC.

COMPUTATION OF RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

	For the Years Ended December 31,				Nine Months Ended
	2007	2008	2009	2010	September 30, 2011
Expenses:					
Research & development	$ 3,479,179	$ 5,978,723	$ 2,942,992	$ 1,850,667	$ 7,737,523
General & administrative	1,022,263	1,185,587	397,238	2,925,590	7,376,738
Loss from operations	4,501,442	7,164,310	3,340,230	4,766,257	15,114,261
Interest income	758	13,091	140	5,730	47,880
Earnings as adjusted	4,500,684	7,151,219	3,340,090	4,760,527	15,066,381
Fixed charges:					
Interest expense	67,210	1,635,211	1,120,811	2,043,676	116,664
Amortization of deferred financing cost	—	—	78,504	2,484,927	302,327
Beneficial conversion feature	—	—	—	6,001,496	—
Total fixed charges	$ 67,210	$ 1,635,211	$ 1,199,315	$ 10,530,099	$ 418,991
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Deficiency of earnings available to cover fixed charges (2)	$ (67,210)	$ (1,635,211)	$ (1,199,315)	$ (10,530,099)	$ (418,991)

(1) Because we had no earnings in each period, it is not possible to calculate the ratio of combined fixed charges and preference dividends to earnings. We did not conduct any operations in 2006.

(2) For purposes of this calculation, "earnings" consist of income (loss) before income taxes and fixed charges. "Fixed charges" consist of interest expenses, amortization of deferred financing costs and beneficial conversion feature.

Exhibit 23.1

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. on Form S-3 (No. 333-) to be filed on or about January 30, 2012 of our report dated April 12, 2011 on our audits of the financial statements of Ventrus Biosciences, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010, and for the period from October 7, 2005 (Inception) to December 31, 2010 which report is included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 13, 2011. We also consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in the Registration Statement on Form S-3.

/s/ EisnerAmper LLP

New York, New York
January 30, 2012