

# ACLARIS THERAPEUTICS, INC.

## AMENDED AND RESTATED CHARTER OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As revised on July 15, 2020

---

### PURPOSE AND POLICY

The purpose of the Compensation Committee (the “*Committee*”) of the Board of Directors (the “*Board*”) of ACLARIS THERAPEUTICS, INC., a Delaware corporation (the “*Company*”) shall be to (i) act on behalf of the Board in fulfilling the Board’s responsibilities to oversee the Company’s compensation policies, plans and programs, (ii) review and determine the compensation to be paid to the Company’s executive officers (as that term is defined in Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time (the “*Exchange Act*”) and Rule 16a-1 thereunder), (iii) if and when applicable, review and discuss with management the Company’s disclosures contained under the caption “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” (“*CD&A*”) for use in any of the Company’s annual reports on Form 10-K, registration statements, proxy statements or information statements and (iv) prepare and review the Committee report included in the Company’s annual proxy statement in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*SEC*”) in effect from time to time. The term “*compensation*” shall include salary, long-term incentives, bonuses, perquisites, equity incentives, severance arrangements, retirement benefits and other related benefits and benefit plans.

The policy of the Committee, in discharging these obligations, shall be to maintain an overall compensation structure designed to attract, retain and motivate management and other employees by providing appropriate levels of risk and reward in proportion to individual contribution and performance and to establish appropriate incentives for management to further the Company’s long-term strategic plan.

### COMPOSITION

The Committee shall consist of at least two (2) members of the Board. Each member of the Committee shall satisfy (i) the independence requirements of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“*Nasdaq*”) applicable to compensation committee members, as in effect from time to time, when and as required by Nasdaq, subject to any exceptions permitted by Nasdaq and (ii) any other qualifications determined by the Board or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee from time to time. Each member may also be required to satisfy, as determined by the Board from time to time, the “non-employee director” standard within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time (the “*Exchange Act*”). The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and may be removed by the Board in its discretion. Vacancies occurring on the Committee shall be filled by the Board. The Committee’s chairperson shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

## **MEETINGS AND MINUTES**

The Committee shall hold such regular or special meetings as its members deem necessary or appropriate, but in no event less than annually. The presence in person or by telephone of a majority of the Committee's members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Committee. All actions of the Committee will require (i) the vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present or (ii) a unanimous written consent of the members of the Committee then serving. Minutes of each meeting of the Committee, and each written consent, shall be prepared and distributed to each director of the Company and to the Secretary of the Company after each meeting and shall be placed in the Company's minute book. The Chairman of the Committee shall report to the Board from time to time regarding the activities of the Committee, whenever so requested by the Board.

## **AUTHORITY**

Each member of the Committee shall have full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company as deemed necessary or appropriate by any member of the Committee to discharge his or her responsibilities hereunder, including human resources personnel preparing the CD&A for the Company's reports to be filed with the SEC.

The Committee shall have the authority to obtain, at the expense of the Company, advice and assistance from internal or external legal, accounting or other advisors and consultants. In addition, the Committee shall have sole authority to retain and terminate any compensation consultant to assist in the evaluation of director, chief executive officer or senior executive compensation, including sole authority to approve such consultant's reasonable fees and other retention terms, all at the Company's expense. Other reasonable expenditures for external resources that the Committee deems necessary or appropriate in the performance of its duties are, unless prohibited by Nasdaq Listing Rules or applicable law, permitted.

The Committee also may form and delegate authority to one or more subcommittees consisting of one or more members of the Board (whether or not he, she or they are on the Committee) to the extent allowed under applicable law and stock exchange listing requirements. By delegating an issue to a subcommittee, the Committee does not surrender any authority over that issue. Although the Committee may act on any issue that has been delegated to a subcommittee, doing so will not limit or restrict future action by the subcommittee on any matters delegated to it. Any action or decision of a subcommittee will be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The approval of this Charter by the Board shall be construed as a delegation of authority to the Committee with respect to the responsibilities set forth herein.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee's procedures should remain flexible to address changing circumstances most effectively. Accordingly, the Committee may supplement and, except as otherwise required

by applicable law or the requirements of Nasdaq, deviate from these activities as appropriate under the circumstances:

**1. Overall Compensation Strategy.** The Committee shall review, modify (as needed) and approve (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the full Board for determination and approval) the overall compensation strategy and policies for the Company, including:

(a) reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives, which shall support and reinforce the Company's long-term strategic goals, relevant to the compensation of the Company's executive officers and other senior management, as appropriate;

(b) evaluating and approving the compensation plans and programs advisable for the Company, as well as evaluating and approving, or recommending to the Board for approval, the modification or termination of existing plans and programs;

(c) establishing policies with respect to equity compensation arrangements;

(d) reviewing regional and industry-wide compensation practices and trends to assess the adequacy and competitiveness of the Company's executive compensation programs among comparable companies in the Company's industry; *provided, however*, that the Committee shall exercise independent judgment in determining the appropriate levels and types of compensation to be paid;

(e) reviewing and approving the terms of any employment agreements, severance arrangements, change-of-control protections and any other compensatory arrangements (including, without limitation, perquisites and any other form of compensation) for the Company's executive officers and other senior management, as appropriate;

(f) reviewing and approving any compensation arrangement for any executive officer involving any subsidiary, special purpose or similar entity, taking into account the potential for conflicts of interest in such arrangements and whether the arrangement has the potential to benefit the Company;

(g) reviewing the Company's practices and policies of employee compensation as they relate to risk management and risk-taking incentives, to determine whether such compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company;

(h) reviewing and considering the results of any advisory vote on executive compensation;

(i) considering and, if appropriate, establishing stock ownership guidelines for the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the Company's other executive officers; and

(j) evaluating the efficacy of the Company's compensation policy and strategy in achieving expected benefits to the Company and otherwise furthering the Committee's policies.

## **2. *Compensation of Chief Executive Officer.***

The Committee shall establish and approve (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board for determination and approval) the corporate goals and objectives of the Company's Chief Executive Officer that are periodically established and shall evaluate the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of relevant corporate goals and objectives, including the policy of the Committee and the Chief Executive Officer's performance in:

- fostering a corporate culture that promotes the highest level of integrity and ethical standards;
- developing and executing the Company's long-term strategic plan and conducting the business of the Company in a manner appropriate to enhance long-term stockholder value; and
- achieving any other corporate performance goals and objectives deemed relevant to the Chief Executive Officer as set by the Committee.

In determining the long-term incentive component of the Chief Executive Officer's compensation, the Committee should seek to achieve an appropriate level of risk and reward, taking into consideration the Company's performance and relative stockholder return, the potential benefits and costs to the Company of the award, the value of similar incentive awards given to chief executive officers of comparable companies, the awards given to the Company's Chief Executive Officer in past years, and such other criteria as the Committee deems advisable. The Chief Executive Officer may not be present during the voting or deliberations regarding his or her compensation.

**3. *Compensation of Other Executive Officers and Senior Management.*** The Committee shall review and approve (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board for determination and approval) the corporate performance goals and objectives of the Company's other executive officers, or other senior management, as appropriate, that are periodically established. The Committee shall review, determine and approve (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board for determination and approval) the compensation and other terms of employment of each such executive officer or other senior management, taking into consideration the executive officer's or senior management's success in achieving the corporate performance goals and objectives deemed relevant to the executive officer as established by the Committee, as well as in fostering a corporate culture that promotes the highest levels of integrity and the highest ethical standards.

**4. *Compensation of Directors.*** The Committee shall review and approve (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board for determination and approval) the type and amount of compensation to be paid or awarded to Board members, including consulting, retainer, Board meeting, committee and committee chair fees and stock option grants or other stock awards, as well as any changes considered appropriate. The Committee shall also periodically consider and, if appropriate, establish stock ownership guidelines for non-employee directors.

**5. Selection of Compensation Consultants, Legal Counsel and Other Advisers.** The compensation committee may, in its sole discretion, retain or obtain the advice of a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser (referred to collectively as “advisers”) to assist it in the performance of its duties, only after taking into consideration the factors specified in Nasdaq Listing Rule 5605(d)(3)<sup>1</sup> or any successor provision. However, nothing in this provision requires that any advisers be independent. The Committee need not conduct this independence assessment with respect to (a) in-house legal counsel or (b) any adviser whose role is limited to (i) consulting on any broad-based plan that does not discriminate in scope, terms, or operation in favor of executive officers or directors of the Company and that is available generally to all salaried employees or (ii) providing information that either is not customized for a particular company or that is customized based on parameters that are not developed by the adviser and about which the adviser does not provide advice. The compensation committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of any compensation consultant, legal counsel and other adviser retained by the Committee, and such advisers shall report directly, and be accountable, to the Committee. The Committee shall have sole authority to approve the reasonable fees and the other terms and conditions of such engagement, including authority to terminate the engagement. The Company must provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of reasonable compensation to a compensation consultant, legal counsel or any other adviser retained by the Committee. Nothing in this provision requires the Committee to implement or act consistently with the advice or recommendations of any adviser or affects the ability or obligation of the Committee to exercise its own judgment in fulfillment of its duties.

**6. Administration of Benefit Plans.** The Committee shall adopt, amend and terminate (or, if it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board for adoption, amendment or termination) the Company’s stock option plans, stock appreciation rights plans, pension and profit sharing plans, incentive plans, stock bonus plans, stock purchase plans, bonus plans, deferred compensation plans and similar programs. The Committee shall have full power and authority to administer these plans, establish guidelines, interpret plan documents, select participants, approve grants and awards and exercise such other power and authority as may be permitted or required under such plans.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Nasdaq Listed Company Guide provides:

“The compensation committee may select, or receive advice from, a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser to the compensation committee, other than in-house legal counsel, only after taking into consideration the following factors:

- (i) the provision of other services to the Company by the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser;
- (ii) the amount of fees received from the Company by the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser, as a percentage of the total revenue of the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser;
- (iii) the policies and procedures of the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest;
- (iv) any business or personal relationship of the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser with a member of the compensation committee;
- (v) any stock of the Company owned by the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser; and
- (vi) any business or personal relationship of the compensation consultant, legal counsel, other adviser or the person employing the adviser with an Executive Officer of the Company.”

**7. Compensation Discussion and Analysis.** If required, the Committee shall review and discuss with management the Company's disclosures contained under the caption "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" for use in any of the Company's annual reports on Form 10-K, registration statements, proxy statements or information statements and make recommendations to the Board as to whether or not the CD&A should be included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, registration statements, proxy statements or information statements.

**8. Compensation Proposals.** The Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board on compensation-related proposals to be considered at the Company's annual meeting, including the frequency of advisory votes on executive compensation.

**9. Committee Report.** The Committee shall prepare and review the Committee report on executive compensation to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement in accordance with applicable SEC rules and regulations.

**10. Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure.** The Committee shall review and discuss with management, if appropriate, any conflicts of interest raised by the work of any compensation consultant that had any role in determining or recommending the amount or form of executive or director compensation (except as set forth in clause (a) and (b) of Section 5 above) or was retained by the Committee or management and how such conflict is being addressed for disclosure in the Company's annual proxy statement in accordance with applicable SEC rules and regulations.

**11. Committee Self-Assessment and Charter Review.** The Committee shall review, discuss and assess its own performance at least annually. The Committee shall also review and assess the adequacy of this charter at least annually and shall recommend any proposed changes to the Board for its consideration.

\* \* \* \*