

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

Or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-15771

ABEONA THERAPEUTICS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

83-0221517

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

3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, TX

(Address of principal executive offices)

75219

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (214) 665-9495

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

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

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

Title of each Class

NASDAQ Capital Markets

Name of each exchange on which registered

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of June 30, 2017, was approximately \$162,488,000.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of March 15, 2018 was 47,226,940 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K where indicated. Such Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year to which this report relates.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The registrant meets the "accelerated filer" requirements as of the end of its 2017 fiscal year pursuant to Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. However, pursuant to Rule 12b-2 and SEC Release No. 33-8876, the registrant (as a smaller reporting company transitioning to the larger reporting company system based on its public float as of June 30, 2017) is not required to satisfy the larger reporting company requirements until its first quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the 2018 fiscal year and thus remains eligible to use the scaled disclosure requirements applicable to smaller reporting companies under Item 10 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Form 10-K (including information incorporated by reference) contains statements that express our opinions, expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or projections regarding future events or future results and therefore are, or may be deemed to be, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. By their nature, these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. These statements and other risks described below as well as those discussed elsewhere in this Form 10-K, documents incorporated by reference and other documents and reports that we file periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) include, without limitation, statements relating to uncertainties associated with research and development activities, clinical trials, our expectation that ABO-202 is anticipated to enter clinical trials in 2018, our ability to raise capital to fund our operations, including our ability to secure grants, the timing of and our ability to achieve regulatory approvals, dependence on others to market our licensed products, collaborations and our ability to attract licensing partners, future cash flow, the timing and receipt of licensing and milestone revenues, the future success of our marketed products and products in development, our belief that advances in biotechnology will provide significant opportunities to develop new treatments for rare diseases, our sales projections, and the sales projections of our licensing partners, our ability to achieve licensing milestones, the size of the prospective markets in which we may offer products, anticipated product launches and our commercialization strategies, anticipated product approvals and timing thereof, product opportunities, clinical trials and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) applications, as well as our drug development strategy, our clinical development timelines and expectations regarding the rate of technological developments in the industry and increased and intensified competition, our plan not to establish an internal marketing organization, our expectations regarding minimizing development risk and developing and introducing technology, the terms of future licensing arrangements, our ability to secure additional financing for our operations, our ability to establish new relationships and maintain current relationships with collaborators, licensors, licensees and others, our ability to attract and retain key personnel, our belief that we will not pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future, our belief that a failure to obtain necessary additional capital in the future will result in our operations being jeopardized, our expectation that we will continue to incur losses, our belief that we will expend substantial funds to conduct research and development programs, preclinical studies and clinical trials of potential products, our anticipated product candidates, our ability to achieve profitability on a sustained basis or at all, and our expected cash burn rate. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “could,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential” or “continue” or the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology. We intend the forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements in these sections. The forward-looking information is based on various factors and was derived using numerous assumptions that we believe were reasonable when made.

Forward-looking statements necessarily involve risks and uncertainties, and our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, including those set forth below in Item 1A. Risk Factors and elsewhere in this Form 10-K. The factors set forth under “Risk Factors” and other cautionary statements made in this Form 10-K should be read and understood as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this Form 10-K. The forward-looking statements contained in this Form 10-K represent our judgment only as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on such statements. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason, even if new information becomes available or other events occur in the future.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Business

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (together with our subsidiaries, “we,” “our,” “Abeona” or the “Company”) is a Delaware corporation. We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing cell and gene therapies for life-threatening rare genetic diseases. Our lead programs include EB-101 (gene-corrected skin grafts) for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB), ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH), an adeno-associated virus (AAV) based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type A (MPS IIIA) and ABO-101 (AAV NAGLU), an AAV based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type B (MPS IIIB). We are also developing ABO-201 (AAV-CLN3) gene therapy for juvenile Batten disease (JNCL), ABO-202 (AAV-CLN1) for treatment of infantile Batten disease (INCL), EB-201 for epidermolysis bullosa (EB), ABO-301 (AAV-FANCC) for Fanconi anemia (FA) disorder and ABO-302 using a novel CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing approach to gene therapy for rare blood diseases. In addition we are developing a proprietary vector platform, AIM™, for next generation product candidates. Our principal executive office is located at 3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75219. Our website address is www.abeonatherapeutics.com.

Product Development Strategy

Abeona is focused on developing and delivering gene therapy products for severe and life-threatening rare diseases. A rare disease is one that affects fewer than 200,000 people in the U.S. There are nearly 7,000 rare diseases, which may involve chronic illness, disability, and often, premature death. More than 25 million Americans and 30 million Europeans have a severe, life-threatening disease. While rare diseases can affect any age group, about 50% of people affected are children (15 million) and rare diseases account for 35% of deaths in the first year of life. These rare diseases are often poorly diagnosed, very complex, and have no treatment or not very effective treatment. Over 95% of rare diseases do not have a single FDA or EMA approved drug treatment, however most rare diseases are often caused by changes in genes. Approximately 80% of rare diseases are genetic in origin and can present at any stage of life. We believe emerging insights in genetics and advances in biotechnology, as well as new approaches and collaboration between researchers, industry, regulators and patient groups, provide significant opportunities to develop breakthrough treatments for rare diseases.

Developing Next Generation Gene Therapy

Gene therapy is the use of DNA as a potential therapy to treat a disease. In many disorders, particularly genetic diseases caused by a single genetic defect, gene therapy aims to treat a disease by delivering the correct copy of DNA into a patient’s cells. The healthy, functional copy of the therapeutic gene then helps the cell function correctly. In gene therapy, DNA that encodes a therapeutic protein is packaged within a “vector,” often a “naked” virus, which is used to transfer the DNA to the inside of cells within the body. Gene therapy can be delivered by a direct injection, either intravenously (IV) or directly into a specific tissue in the body, where it is taken up by individual cells. Once inside cells, the correct DNA is expressed by the cell machinery, resulting in the production of missing or defective protein, which in turn is used to treat the patient’s underlying disease and can provide long-term benefit.

Abeona is developing next-generation AAV gene therapies. Viruses such as AAV are utilized because they have evolved a way of encapsulating and delivering one or more genes of the size needed for clinical application, and can be purified in large quantities at high concentration. Unlike AAV vectors found in nature, the AAV vectors used by Abeona have been genetically-modified such that they do not replicate. Although the preclinical studies in animal models of disease demonstrate the promising impact of AAV-mediated gene expression to affected tissues such as the heart, liver and muscle, our programs use a specific virus that is capable of delivering therapeutic DNA across the blood brain barrier and into the central nervous system (CNS) and the somatic system (body), making them attractive for addressing lysosomal storage diseases which have severe CNS manifestations of the disease.

Lysosomal storage diseases (LSDs) are a group of rare inborn errors of metabolism resulting from deficiency in normal lysosomal function. These diseases are characterized by progressive accumulation of storage material within the lysosomes of affected cells, ultimately leading to cellular dysfunction. Multiple tissues ranging from musculoskeletal and visceral to tissues of the CNS are typically involved in disease pathology. Since the advent of enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) to manage some LSDs, general clinical outcomes have significantly improved; however, treatment with infused protein is lifelong and continued disease progression is still evident in patients. Thus, AAV-based gene therapy may provide a viable alternative or adjunctive therapy to current management strategies for LSDs.

Our initial programs are focused on LSDs such as Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) III A and IIIB. MPSIII, also known as Sanfilippo syndromes type A and type B, is a progressive neuromuscular disease with profound CNS involvement. Our lead product candidates, ABO-101 and ABO-102, have been developed to replace the damaged, malfunctioning enzymes within target cells with the normal, functioning version. ABO-201 is a similar product, using an AAV to deliver the correct lysosomal gene that is defective in juvenile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis. Delivered via a single injection, these drugs are only given once to a patient.

ABO-101 for MPS III B and ABO-102 for MPS III A (Sanfilippo syndrome)

MPS III (Sanfilippo syndrome) is a group of four inherited genetic diseases, described as type A, B, C or D, which cause enzyme deficiencies that result in the abnormal accumulation of glycosaminoglycans (sugars) in body tissues. MPS III is a lysosomal storage disease, a group of rare inborn errors of metabolism resulting from deficiency in normal lysosomal function. The incidence of MPS III (all four types combined) is estimated to be 1 in 70,000 births.

Mucopolysaccharides are long chains of sugar molecules used in the building of connective tissues in the body. There is a continuous process in the body of replacing used materials and breaking them down for disposal. Children with MPS III are missing an enzyme which is essential in breaking down used mucopolysaccharides. The partially broken down mucopolysaccharides remain stored in cells in the body causing progressive damage. Babies may show little sign of the disease, but as more and more cells become damaged, symptoms start to appear.

In MPS III, the predominant symptoms occur due to accumulation within the CNS, including the brain and spinal cord, resulting in cognitive decline, motor dysfunction, and eventual death. To date, there is no cure for MPS III and treatments are largely supportive.

Abeona is developing next-generation AAV-based gene therapies for MPS III, which involves a one-time delivery of a normal copy of the defective gene to cells of the CNS with the aim of reversing the effects of the genetic errors that cause the disease.

After a single dose in MPS III preclinical models, ABO-101 and ABO-102 induced cells in the CNS and peripheral organs to produce the missing enzymes which helped repair the damage caused to the cells. Preclinical *in vivo* efficacy studies in MPS III have demonstrated functional benefits that remain for months after treatment. A single dose of ABO-101 or ABO-102 significantly restored normal cell and organ function, corrected cognitive defects that remained months after drug administration, increased neuromuscular control and increased the lifespan of animals with MPS III over 100% one year after treatment compared to untreated control animals. These results are consistent with studies from several laboratories suggesting AAV treatment could potentially benefit patients with MPS III A and B. In addition, safety studies conducted in animal models of MPS III have demonstrated that delivery of ABO-101 or ABO-102 are well tolerated with minimal side effects.

EB-101 for the Treatment of Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa and EB-201 for the Correction of Gene Mutations in Skin Cells (Keratinocytes)

EB-101 (LZRSE-Col7A1 Engineered Autologous Epidermal Sheets (LEAES)), is an *ex vivo* gene therapy for the treatment of RDEB. EB-201 (AAVDJ-Col7A1) is a pre-clinical candidate targeting a novel, AAV-mediated gene editing and delivery approach to correct gene mutations in skin cells for patients with RDEB. We entered into an agreement (the "EB Agreement") with EB Research Partnership ("EBRP") and Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation ("EBMRF") to collaborate on gene therapy treatments for EB. The EB Agreement became effective August 3, 2016, on the execution of two licensing agreements with The Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University ("Stanford") described below.

We entered into a license with Stanford effective August 3, 2016 for the EB-101 (LZRSE-Col7A1 Engineered Autologous Epidermal Sheets (LEAES)) technology, and we have performed certain preclinical development work and are performing clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for EB based upon such in-licensed technology.

We also entered into a license with Stanford effective August 3, 2016 for the EB-201 (AAV DJ COL7A1) technology, and we plan to perform preclinical development and clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for EB based upon such in-licensed technology.

ABO-201 for juvenile Batten disease (or Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses) (JNCL) and ABO-202 (AAV-CLN1) gene therapy for treatment of infantile Batten disease (or Infantile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses) (INCL)

ABO-201 (AAV CLN3) is an AAV-based gene therapy which has shown promising preclinical efficacy in delivery of a normal copy of the defective CLN3 gene to cells of the CNS with the aim of reversing the effects of the genetic errors that cause JNCL. JNCL is a rare, fatal, autosomal recessive (inherited) disorder of the nervous system that typically begins in children between 4 and 8 years of age. Often the first noticeable sign of JNCL is vision impairment, which tends to progress rapidly and eventually result in blindness. As the disease progresses, children experience loss of previously acquired skills (developmental regression). This regression usually begins with the loss of the ability to speak in complete sentences. Children then lose motor skills, such as the ability to walk or sit. They also develop movement abnormalities that include rigidity or stiffness, slow or diminished movements (hypokinesia), and stooped posture. Beginning in mid- to late childhood, affected children may have recurrent seizures (epilepsy), heart problems, behavioral problems, and difficulty sleeping. Life expectancy is greatly reduced. Most people with juvenile Batten disease live into their twenties or thirties. As yet, no specific treatment is known that can halt or reverse the symptoms of JNCL.

JNCL is the most common form of a group of disorders known as neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses (NCLs). Collectively, all forms of NCL affect an estimated 2 to 4 in 100,000 live births in the United States. NCLs are more common in Finland, where approximately 1 in 12,500 individuals are affected, as well as Sweden, other parts of northern Europe, and Newfoundland, Canada.

Most cases of JNCL are caused by mutations in the CLN3 gene, which is the focus of our AAV-based gene therapy approach. These mutations disrupt the function of cellular structures called lysosomes. Lysosomes are compartments in the cell that normally digest and recycle different types of molecules. Lysosome malfunction leads to a buildup of fatty substances called lipopigments and proteins within these cell structures. These accumulations occur in cells throughout the body, but neurons in the brain seem to be particularly vulnerable to damage. The progressive death of cells, especially in the brain, leads to vision loss, seizures, and intellectual decline in children with JNCL.

ABO-202 (AAV9 CLN1) is an AAV-based gene therapy which has shown promising preclinical efficacy in delivery of a normal copy of the defective CLN1 gene to cells of the central nervous system with the aim of reversing the effects of the genetic errors that cause an infantile form of Batten disease (also known as infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis).

ABO-301 for Fanconi Anemia (FA) and ABO-302 for rare blood diseases using a novel CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing approach to gene therapy for rare blood diseases

ABO-301 (AAV-FANCC) is an AAV-based gene therapy which has shown promising preclinical efficacy in delivery of a normal copy of the defective gene to cells of the hematopoietic or blood system with the aim of reversing the effects of the genetic errors that cause FA. FA is a rare (1 in 160,000) pediatric, autosomal recessive (inherited) disease characterized by multiple physical abnormalities, organ defects, bone marrow failure, and a higher than normal risk of cancer. The average lifespan for people with FA is 20 to 30 years.

The major function of bone marrow is to produce new blood cells. In FA, a DNA mutation renders the FANCC gene nonfunctional. Loss of FANCC causes skeletal abnormalities and leads to bone marrow failure. FA patients also have much higher rates of hematological diseases, such as acute myeloid leukemia or tumors of the head, neck, skin, gastrointestinal system, or genital tract. The likelihood of developing one of these cancers in people with FA is between 10 and 30 percent. Aside from bone marrow transplantation, there are no specific treatments known that can halt or reverse the symptoms of FA. Repairing fibroblast cells in FA patients with a functional FANCC gene is the focus of our AAV-based gene therapy approach.

Using a novel CRISPR (clustered, regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats)-Cas9 (CRISPR associated protein 9) system, researchers used a protein-RNA complex composed of an enzyme known as Cas9 bound to a guide RNA molecule that has been designed to recognize a particular DNA sequence. The RNA molecules guide the Cas9 complex to the location in the genome that requires repair. CRISPR-Cas9 uniquely enables surgically efficient knock-out, knock-down or selective editing of defective genes in the context of their natural promoters, unlocking the potential to treat both recessive and dominant forms of genetic diseases. Most importantly, this approach has the potential to allow for more precise gene modification.

Polymer Hydrogel Technology (PHT™)

MuGard® (mucoadhesive oral wound rinse) approved for mucositis, stomatitis, aphthous ulcers, and traumatic ulcers

MuGard is our marketed product for the management of oral mucositis, a frequent side-effect of cancer therapy for which there is no other established treatment. MuGard, a proprietary nanopolymer formulation, received marketing clearance from the FDA in the U.S. as well as Europe, China, Australia, New Zealand and Korea. We launched MuGard in the U.S. in 2010 and licensed MuGard for commercialization in the U.S. to AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (AMAG) in 2013. We licensed MuGard to RHEI Pharmaceuticals, N.V. for China and other Southeast Asian countries in 2010; Hanmi Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. for South Korea in 2014; and Norgine B.V. for the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Australia and New Zealand in 2014.

Intellectual Property

We believe that the value of technology both to us and to our potential corporate partners is established and enhanced by our broad intellectual property positions. Consequently, we have already been issued and seek to obtain additional U.S. and foreign patent protection for our products, including those under development and for new discoveries.

Patent applications are filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and, when appropriate, with the Paris Convention's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Countries (most major countries in Western Europe and the Far East) for our inventions and prospective products.

We have a strategy of maintaining an ongoing line of patent continuation applications for each major category of patentable carrier and delivery technology. By this approach, we are extending the intellectual property protection of our basic targeting technology and initial agents to cover additional specific carriers and agents, some of which are anticipated to carry the priority dates of the original applications.

Gene Therapy Licensed Patents

We have secured an exclusive license in the field of use through Nationwide Children's Hospital to the ABO-101 and ABO-102 patent portfolio for developing treatments for patients with MPS IIIA and B. This portfolio (13/491,326 and 15/903,861) comprises one patent family: "Products and methods for delivery of polynucleotides by adeno-associated virus for lysosomal storage disorders."

Additionally, we have secured FDA Orphan Drug Designation for both MPS IIIA and B, which will provide 7 years of post-launch market exclusivity for both ABO-101 and ABO-102 in the U.S. ABO-101 and ABO-102 are also eligible for 12 years of Biologics exclusivity upon approval in the U.S. and 10 years of exclusivity in the European Union upon marketing authorization. We have secured Orphan Drug Status within the EMA for both ABO-101 and ABO-102, which will grant 10 years of post-market exclusivity in the European Union.

We licensed the exclusive rights to an international patent publication number (WO 2016/100575) which has been filed nationally in Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and the United States as well as priority applications (62/092,501 and 62/146,793) from the UNeMed Corporation. The patents are "Compositions and Methods for the Treatment of Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis" and "Gene Therapy for Juvenile Batten Disease" for an AAV gene therapy for the treatment of JNCL.

We licensed patent applications (international patent publication number WO 2015/179540, which has been filed nationally in Canada, the European Union (and by extension into Hong Kong), Japan and the United States, as well as priority application, 62/000,590, "Method for Editing a Genetic Sequence" with an exclusive, field of use, worldwide, agreement with the University of Minnesota for an AAV gene therapy for the treatment of patients with Fanconi anemia (FA) disorder and other rare blood diseases.

We licensed a patent family (U.S. Patent No. 9,169,299 and 9,856,469, allowed U.S. application number 14/853,552, and pending application EP 16196258.4) entitled “AAV Capsid Proteins for Nucleic Acid Transfer” from Stanford with exclusivity for an AAV delivery vector for the treatment of FA and a rare blood disease platform.

We licensed patent applications (62/274,700 and 62/414,533) and international patent publication number WO 2017/120147 entitled “Gene Therapy for Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa using Genetically Corrected Autologous Keratinocytes” from Stanford. This exclusive agreement provides an exclusive license to this technology for the treatment of RDEB.

We licensed a patent family (international patent publication number WO 2016/081811) which has been filed nationally in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Israel, India, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the United States, from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill entitled “AAV Vectors Targeted to the Central Nervous System.” This agreement provides an exclusive license to the AAV Vector Library for a number of diseases.

We licensed a patent family (U.S. Patents Nos. 7,588,772, 8,067,014, 8,574,583, and 8,906,387) from Stanford. This agreement provides an exclusive license for the use of AAV DJ in the EB-201 construct for the treatment of EB.

We licensed a patent application (62/349,411) entitled “CLN1 Genome Design for AAV Vectors” and international application number PCT/US2017/037118 entitled “Optimized CLN1 Genes and Expression Cassettes and Their Uses” from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This agreement provides an exclusive field of use license for the treatment of INCL.

We are aware of an issued U.S. patent owned by a third party directed to the AAV9 viral vector and methods for its use. This patent was issued in 2002. We understand that the owner of this patent grants licenses under the patent from time to time, and we expect that, prior to commercializing our ABO-101, ABO-102, ABO-201 or ABO-202 product candidates (which utilize the AAV9 vector), we would seek to license this patent. Other licensed technologies may also require the licensing of additional patents for commercialization.

MuGard patents

For our mucoadhesive liquid technology, used in MuGard, two U.S. patents have been issued and two European patents have been granted. Two European patents have been granted and validated in numerous European countries. Patents have also been granted in several other major territories worldwide. Our mucoadhesive liquid technology patents and applications cover a range of products for a variety of diseases and conditions affecting the oral cavity, including the management of the various phases of mucositis. MuGard mucoadhesive technology patents expire in 2022.

Government Regulation

We are subject to extensive regulation by the federal government, principally by the FDA, and, to a lesser extent, by other federal and state agencies as well as comparable agencies in foreign countries where registration of products will be pursued. Although a number of our formulations incorporate extensively tested drug substances, because the resulting formulations make claims of enhanced efficacy and/or improved side effect profiles, they are expected to be classified as new drugs by the FDA.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and other federal, state and foreign statutes and regulations govern the testing, manufacturing, safety, labeling, storage, shipping and record keeping of our products. The FDA has the authority to approve or not approve new drug applications and inspect research, clinical and manufacturing records and facilities.

Among the requirements for drug approval and testing is that the prospective manufacturer’s facilities and methods conform to the FDA’s Code of Good Manufacturing Practices regulations, which establishes the minimum requirements for methods to be used in, and the facilities or controls to be used during, the production process. Such facilities are subject to ongoing FDA inspection to insure compliance.

The steps required before a pharmaceutical product may be produced and marketed in the U.S. include preclinical tests, the filing of an Investigational New Drug (“IND”) application with the FDA, which must become effective pursuant to FDA regulations before human clinical trials may commence, numerous phases of clinical testing and the FDA approval of a New Drug Application (NDA) prior to commercial sale.

Preclinical tests are conducted in the laboratory, usually involving animals, to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the potential product. The results of preclinical tests are submitted as part of the IND application and are fully reviewed by the FDA prior to granting the sponsor permission to commence clinical trials in humans. All trials are conducted under International Conference on Harmonization, good clinical practice guidelines. All investigator sites and sponsor facilities are subject to FDA inspection to insure compliance. Clinical trials typically involve a three-phase process. Phase 1 the initial clinical evaluations, consists of administering the drug and testing for safety and tolerated dosages and in some indications such as cancer and HIV, as preliminary evidence of efficacy in humans. Phase 2 involves a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the drug for a particular indication and to determine optimal dosage and dose interval and to identify possible adverse side effects and risks in a larger patient group. When a product is found safe, and initial efficacy is established in Phase 2, it is then evaluated in Phase 3 clinical trials. Phase 3 trials consist of expanded multi-location testing for efficacy and safety to evaluate the overall benefit-to-risk index of the investigational drug in relationship to the disease treated. The results of preclinical and human clinical testing are submitted to the FDA in the form of an NDA for approval to commence commercial sales.

The process of forming the requisite testing, data collection, analysis and compilation of an IND and an NDA is labor intensive and costly and may take a protracted time period. In some cases, tests may have to be redone or new tests instituted to comply with FDA requests. Review by the FDA may also take considerable time and there is no guarantee that an NDA will be approved. Therefore, we cannot estimate with any certainty the length of the approval cycle.

We are also governed by other federal, state and local laws of general applicability, such as laws regulating working conditions, employment practices, as well as environmental protection.

License Agreements

Gene therapy license agreements

On May 15, 2015, we acquired Abeona Therapeutics LLC (Abeona Ohio) which had an exclusive license through Nationwide Children's Hospital to the ABO-101 and ABO-102 patent portfolios for developing treatments for patients with Sanfilippo Syndrome Type A and Type B. This portfolio comprises 1 patent family: "Products and methods for delivery of polynucleotides by adeno-associated virus for lysosomal storage disorders". Additionally, Abeona has secured FDA Orphan drug designation for both Sanfilippo A and B, which will provide 7 years of post-launch market exclusivity for both ABO-101 and ABO-102 in the U.S. Abeona has also secured Orphan Drug Status within the EMA for both ABO-101 and ABO-102, which will grant 10 years of post-market exclusivity in the European Union. In addition, Abeona has also received from the FDA the Rare Pediatric Disease Designation from the FDA for both ABO-101 and ABO-102 and the Fast Track Designation for ABO-102.

On June 5, 2015, we entered into an exclusive, worldwide, licensing agreement with the UNeMed Corporation, the technology transfer and commercialization office for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha, Nebraska, for an AAV gene therapy for the treatment of juvenile Batten disease. We licensed the rights to two patents (62/092,501 and 62/146,793). Under the terms of the licensing agreement, we paid a license fee of \$75,000 and will pay milestone payments on certain milestone events. Commencing with the first commercial sale of licensed products a royalty will be paid. We also entered into an eighteen month sponsored research agreement with UNMC focused on additional efficacy studies in October 2015. Additionally, Abeona has secured FDA Orphan drug designation for both Juvenile Batten disease (CLN3) and Infantile Batten Disease (CLN1), which will provide 7 years of post-launch market exclusivity for both ABO-201 and ABO-202 in the U.S. Abeona has also secured Orphan Drug Status within the EMA for ABO-201, which will grant 10 years of post-market exclusivity in the European Union.

On June 5, 2015, we entered into an exclusive, worldwide, licensing agreement with the University of Minnesota for an AAV gene therapy for the treatment of patients with FA disorder and other rare blood diseases. We licensed one patent (62/000,590), Method for Editing a Genetic Sequence. Under terms of the licensing agreement, we paid a license fee of \$80,000, will pay an additional license fee of \$50,000, will pay annual maintenance fees and a royalty fee with the first commercial sale of licensed products.

On September 17, 2015, we entered into a nonexclusive license agreement with Stanford University for an AAV delivery vector for the treatment of FA and rare blood disease platform. This license augments the University of Minnesota agreement. We licensed two patents (U.S. Patent No. 9,169,299 and EPO 12756603.2). Under terms of the licensing agreement, we paid a license fee of \$25,000, will pay annual maintenance fees and a royalty fee with the first commercial sale of licensed products.

On October 14, 2015, we entered into a sponsored research agreement with UNMC to support ongoing AAV/CLN3 projects in the amount of \$215,000.

On August 3, 2016, we announced that we entered into an agreement (the “EB Agreement”) with EB Research Partnership (“EBRP”) and Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation (“EBMRF”) to collaborate on gene therapy treatments for Epidermolysis Bullosa (“EB”). The EB Agreement became effective, August 3, 2016, on the execution of two licensing agreements with The Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University (“Stanford”) described below.

EBRP and EBMRF have the contractual right to license from Stanford EB-101 (LZRSE-Col7A1 Engineered Autologous Epidermal Sheets (LEAES)), and wish to have Abeona exercise such rights and enter into a license with Stanford for such technology, and perform preclinical development and perform clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for EB based upon such in-licensed technology. Abeona will also enter into a license with Stanford for the AAV-based gene therapy EB-201 (AAV DJ COL7A1) technology, and Abeona will perform preclinical development and perform clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for EB based upon such in-licensed technology.

In connection with the EB Agreement Abeona issued to EBRP and EBMRF an aggregate of 750,000 unregistered shares of Abeona Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 375,000 each to EBRP and EBMRF. The offer, sale, and issuance of the shares of Abeona common stock are exempt from registration pursuant to Rule 506 of Regulation D and Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The recipients of securities under the EB Agreement agreed that they are acquiring the securities for investment only and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution thereof and appropriate legends are to be affixed to the securities to be issued in conjunction with the EB Agreement. The shares are subject to restrictions on selling, transferring or otherwise disposing of such shares. These restrictions lapse with respect to an aggregate 250,000 shares on the first anniversary of the issue date; and with respect to an additional aggregate 500,000 shares on the second anniversary of the issue date. We have an option to acquire an additional license in the future for an additional amount shares as set forth in the EB Agreement.

On August 3, 2016, we also entered into two licensing agreements between us and Stanford to develop EB-101 (LZRSE-Col7A1 Engineered Autologous Epidermal Sheets (LEAES)) and EB-201 (AAV DJ COL7A1) and to license the invention “Gene Therapy for Recessive Dystrophic EB using Genetically Corrected Autologous Keratinocytes.” Under the terms of the licensing agreements, we paid upfront licensing fees in cash, and will pay annual license maintenance fees and, subject to the achievement of certain milestones, regulatory approval milestone payments, as well as royalty payments on annual net sales of the licensed product.

Additionally, Abeona has secured FDA Orphan drug designation for both EB-101, which will provide 7 years of post-launch market exclusivity in the U.S. Abeona has also secured Orphan Drug Status within the EMA for EB-101, which will grant 10 years of post-market exclusivity in the European Union. In addition, Abeona has also received from the FDA the Rare Pediatric Disease Designation from the FDA for EB-101, the Breakthrough Therapy Designation and the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy Designation (“RMAT”).

MuGard license agreements

On June 6, 2013, we entered into an exclusive license agreement with AMAG related to the commercialization of MuGard in the U.S. and its territories. Under the terms of the licensing agreement, we received an upfront licensing fee of \$3.3 million and will receive a tiered, double-digit royalty on net sales of MuGard in the licensed territories. AMAG also purchased our existing MuGard inventory. The \$3.3 million license fee is accounted for as deferred revenue and is recognized over ten years, which is the life of the license agreement. The license term expires June 6, 2023. The license can also terminate in the event of breach by either us or AMAG or by AMAG at any time with 180 days prior notice of termination.

On March 11, 2014, we announced we had entered into an exclusive license agreement with Hanmi related to MuGard commercialization in South Korea. Under the terms of the agreement, we received an upfront licensing fee and double digit royalties on sales of MuGard in the licensed territory. The license term expires February 26, 2024. The license can also terminate in the event of breach by either party or by Hanmi at any time with 180 days prior notice of termination.

On August 7, 2014, we entered into an exclusive license agreement with Norgine, a leading independent European specialty pharmaceutical company, for the commercialization of MuGard in Europe. Under the terms of the license agreement, we could receive up to \$10 million in milestone payments and an escalating double digit royalty on the net sales of the oral mucositis product, MuGard, in the licensed territories. Norgine will develop, manufacture, and commercialize MuGard in the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein. Norgine began a rolling commercial launch of MuGard in 2016.

Competition

The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry is characterized by intense competition, rapid product development and technological change. Competition is intense among manufacturers of prescription pharmaceuticals and other product areas where we may develop and market products in the future. Most of our potential competitors are large, well established pharmaceutical, chemical or healthcare companies with considerably greater financial, marketing, sales and technical resources than are available to us. Additionally, many of our potential competitors have research and development capabilities that may allow such competitors to develop new or improved products that may compete with our product lines. Our potential products could be rendered obsolete or made uneconomical by the development of new products to treat the conditions to be addressed by our developments, technological advances affecting the cost of production, or marketing or pricing actions by one or more of our potential competitors. Our business, financial condition and results of operation could be materially adversely affected by any one or more of such developments. We cannot assure you that we will be able to compete successfully against current or future competitors or that competition will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Academic institutions, governmental agencies and other public and private research organizations are also conducting research activities and seeking patent protection and may commercialize products on their own or with the assistance of major health care companies in areas where we are developing product candidates. We are aware of certain development projects for products to treat or prevent certain diseases targeted by us, and the existence of these potential products or other products or treatments of which we are not aware, or products or treatments that may be developed in the future, may adversely affect the marketability of products developed by us.

Gene therapy competition

The gene therapy industry is highly competitive and driven by several large competitors including Bluebird, Voyager, RegenXbio, Spark, Dimension, Avalanche, uniQure, and Lysogene.

MuGard competition

ActoGeniX N.V., Alder Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., Applied Protein Sciences, LLC, Avaxia Biologics, Inc., BioAlliance Pharma S.A., BMG Pharma s.r.l., Camurus AB, DARA BioSciences, Inc., Galera Therapeutics, Inc. Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Maya Biotech Ltd., NephRx, Piramal Healthcare Ltd., Soligenix, Inc. and Synedgen are developing products to treat mucositis that may compete with our mucoadhesive liquid technology. Products that are marketed to treat mucositis include Caphosol by Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Gelclair by DARA BioSciences, Inc., Episil by Camurus AB, and Kepivance by Biovitrum.

Many of these competitors have greater financial and other resources, including larger research and development, marketing and manufacturing organizations. As a result, our competitors may successfully develop technologies and drugs that are more effective or less costly than any that we are developing or which would render our technology and future products obsolete and noncompetitive.

In addition, some of our competitors have greater experience than we do in conducting preclinical and clinical trials and obtaining FDA and other regulatory approvals. Accordingly, our competitors may succeed in obtaining FDA or other regulatory approvals for drug candidates more rapidly than we do. Companies that complete clinical trials, obtain required regulatory agency approvals and commence commercial sale of their drugs before their competitors may achieve a significant competitive advantage. Drugs resulting from our research and development efforts or from our joint efforts with collaborative partners therefore may not be commercially competitive with our competitors' existing products or products under development.

In the area of advanced drug delivery, which is the focus of our early stage research and development activities, a number of companies are developing or evaluating enhanced drug delivery systems. We expect that technological developments will occur at a rapid rate and that competition is likely to intensify as various alternative delivery system technologies achieve similar if not identical advantages.

Even if our products are fully developed and receive required regulatory approval, of which there can be no assurance, we believe that our products can only compete successfully if marketed by a company having expertise and a strong presence in the therapeutic area. Consequently, we do not currently plan to establish an internal marketing organization. By forming strategic alliances with major and regional pharmaceutical companies, management believes that our development risks should be minimized and that the technology potentially could be more rapidly developed and successfully introduced into the marketplace.

Other Key Developments

On February 12, 2018, we announced that the FDA granted Orphan Drug Designation (ODD) to our ABO-202 program (AAV-CLN1), an AAV-based gene therapy for the treatment of infantile Batten disease.

ABO-202, developed with Steven Gray, Ph.D. and the support of The Saoirse Foundation, Taylor's Tale, Garrett the Grand Batten Fighter, Hayden's Batten Disease Foundation, and the Batten Disease Support and Research Association, is anticipated to enter clinical trials in 2018.

The preclinical data for ABO-202 were presented at the WORLDSymposium for Lysosomal Diseases held in San Diego, California from February 5-9, 2018. Key findings included:

- CLN1 mice recapitulate the major features of the human disease manifestations;
- The data demonstrate that a single intrathecal (IT) injection of self-complementary adeno-associated virus 9 (scAAV9) encoding the human CLN1 gene to CLN1 mice at 1 week and 1 month (pre-symptomatic) significantly increased their survival, improved behavior and reduced motor deficits;
- Higher IT doses further improved these observations, suggesting that methods increasing CNS exposure may be beneficial and provided some survival and behavioral benefit to symptomatic INCL mice; and
- A combination approach delivering ABO-202 by both intravenous and intrathecal routes of administration further increased survival efficacy 50% and improved potential treatment options for older animals with advanced disease manifestations.

On February 8, 2018 we announced updated clinical data from the ongoing Phase 1/2 trial for ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH), the Company's investigational gene therapy for the treatment of Sanfilippo syndrome Type A (MPS IIIA), a rare autosomal-recessive lysosomal storage disease. The results demonstrate robust and durable clinical effects achieved throughout various time points post-administration. To date, 10 patients have been dosed with a single intravenous injection of ABO-102. Results were reported during the WORLDSymposium.

In the trial, subjects received a single intravenous injection of ABO-102 to facilitate systemic delivery of a corrective copy of the gene associated with onset and progression of MPS IIIA. Subjects were evaluated at multiple time points post-injection for safety assessments and signals of biopotency and clinical activity.

On February 7, 2018 we reported preliminary 30-Day safety and biopotency signals from the first patient dosed in the Company's ongoing Phase 1/2 trial for ABO-101, a gene therapy treatment for patients with MPS IIIB (Sanfilippo syndrome Type B), enrolling at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. The ABO-101 therapy involves a single intravenous injection of AAV gene therapy for subjects with MPS IIIB, a rare autosomal recessive disease causing neurocognitive decline, speech and mobility loss, and premature death. Abeona plans to enroll a total of three patients in Cohort 1 (2E13 vg/kg) before dose-escalating to the Cohort 2 dose (5E13 vg/kg).

The Phase 1/2 study is designed to evaluate safety and preliminary indications of efficacy of ABO-101 in subjects suffering from MPS IIIB. In the first patient treated in Cohort 1:

- ABO-101, at a systemic dose of 2E13 vg/kg, is well-tolerated, with no treatment related adverse events or serious adverse events (SAEs) through 30 days of follow up.
- Early biopotency signals include significant heparan sulfate (HS) reductions observed in cerebral spinal fluid (50%), urine (69%), plasma (60%) and urinary total glycosaminoglycan (GAG) (67%);
- 50% decline in CSF heparan sulfate from baseline supports previous AAV9 clinical observations that ABO-101 crossed the blood brain barrier after intravenous administration;
- Normalized NAGLU enzyme activity observed represented by a greater than 300-fold increase over baseline at 30 days post administration.

Subjects in the Phase 1/2 trial receive a single, intravenous injection of ABO-101, which uses an AAV vector to introduce a corrective copy of the NAGLU gene associated with MPS IIIB disease. Subjects will be evaluated at multiple time points over the initial 30 days post-injection for safety assessments and initial signals of biopotency. Results in the first patient dosed with ABO-101 suggest strong CNS and broader systemic distribution, with the potential to reduce levels of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) that represent the lysosomal storage pathology central to MPS IIIB disease progression.

On January 29, 2018 we announced that the FDA has granted the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT) designation to EB-101, the Company's gene-corrected autologous cell therapy product for patients with recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB).

On December 20, 2017 we announced that the first patient in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial for ABO-101 (AAV-NAGLU), a single treatment gene therapy for patients with Sanfilippo syndrome type B (MPS IIIB), has been dosed at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio.

On November 9, 2017, we announced that the first patient was enrolled in our ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH) Phase 1/2 clinical trial for MPS-III A at the Hospital Clinico Universitario of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In conjunction with the initiation of the Spain clinical site, we have established a local subsidiary to manage clinical trial and regulatory developments in Europe.

On October 19, 2017, we closed an underwritten public offering of 5,750,000 shares of common stock, at a public offering price of \$16.00 per share. The gross proceeds to the Company were \$92,000,000, before deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by the Company.

On October 16, 2017, we announced a collaborative agreement between nine Sanfilippo foundations to provide up to approximately \$13.85 million of grants to Abeona in installments for the advancement of the Company's clinical stage gene therapies for Sanfilippo Syndrome Type A (MPS IIIA) and Sanfilippo Syndrome Type B (MPS IIIB), subject to achievement of certain milestones.

On October 11, 2017, we announced enrollment of our first two patients in an expansion of our Phase 1/2 clinical trial in ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH) for MPS IIIA. While we believe that the data from this expansion cohort, together with the data generated in this program to date, will allow us to submit a BLA, we have no assurance to this effect from the FDA.

On October 6, 2017, we announced top-line one year data from our ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH) MPS IIIA Trial at the Cell & Gene Meeting on the Mesa. Observations demonstrated:

- At one year post-injection, two patients in Cohort 1 demonstrated reduction of 69.3% +/- 5.7% (P<0.001) in cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) heparan sulfate (HS). One patient in the Cohort was unable to be accessed due to an adverse event unrelated to the therapy.
- Hepatomegaly — Cohort 1 subjects demonstrated normalization of liver volumes of 80% (+/- 16.2%) points at one year (P<0.005) post-injection. The natural history study in 25 subjects with MPS III demonstrated that subjects had increased liver volumes averaging 220% at baseline that was maintained over a year of follow-up.

- Initial analysis of Cohort 1 patient MRI data showed evidence of stabilization of the area of deep brain architecture in the thalamus and putamen ($P < 0.05$) at one year post-administration.
- Cognitive assessments at the 12-month time point for Cohort 1 showed evidence of stabilization in the Leiter-R non-verbal IQ ($n=2$) and Vineland (adaptive behavior) ($n=3$, $P=0.05$) scales.
- No serious adverse events related to the drug were reported in subjects in the cohort receiving ABO-102 (Cohort 1: 5E12 vg/kg) through over 2,000 cumulative follow-up days.

On October 4, 2017, we announced the dedication of a commercial gene therapy manufacturing facility in Cleveland, Ohio to support development of advanced gene and cell therapies for treatment of life-threatening rare diseases.

On September 28, 2017, we announced a collaboration with Brammer Bio for the commercial translation of ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH).

Corporate Information

Our principal executive office is located at 3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75219. Our telephone number in Dallas is (214) 665-9495. We also have offices in New York at 1330 Avenue of the Americas, Suite #33A, New York, NY 10019. Our telephone number in New York is (646) 813-4708. We also have offices and laboratory in Ohio at 6555 Carnegie Ave., 4th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44103. Our phone number in Cleveland is (216) 282-8145.

We were incorporated in Wyoming in 1974 as Chemex Corporation, and in 1983 we changed our name to Chemex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. We changed our state of incorporation from Wyoming to Delaware on June 30, 1989. In 1996 we merged with Access Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a private Texas corporation, and changed our name to Access Pharmaceuticals, Inc. On October 24, 2014 we changed our name to PlasmaTech Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. On May 15, 2015 we acquired Abeona Therapeutics LLC and on June 19, 2015 we changed our name to Abeona Therapeutics Inc.

Suppliers

Some materials used by us are specialized. We obtain materials from several suppliers based in different countries around the world. If materials are unavailable from one supplier we generally have alternate suppliers available.

Employees

As of March 16, 2018, we had 42 full-time employees, 20 of whom have advanced scientific degrees. We have never experienced employment-related work stoppages and consider that we maintain good relations with our personnel. In addition, to complement our internal expertise, we have contracts with scientific consultants, contract research organizations and university research laboratories that specialize in various aspects of drug development including clinical development, regulatory affairs, toxicology, process scale-up and preclinical testing.

Web Availability

We make available free of charge through our website, www.abeonatherapeutics.com, our annual reports on Form 10-K and other reports that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as certain of our corporate governance policies, including the charters for the audit, compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees of the Board of Directors (the "Board") and our code of ethics, corporate governance guidelines and whistleblower policy. We will also provide to any person without charge, upon request, a copy of any of the foregoing materials. Any such request must be made in writing to us at: Abeona Therapeutics Inc. c/o Investor Relations, 3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, TX 75219.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Risks Relating to our Business and Industry

We have experienced a history of losses, we expect to incur future losses and we may be unable to obtain necessary additional capital to fund operations in the future.

We have recorded minimal revenue to date and have incurred an accumulated deficit of approximately \$359.8 million through December 31, 2017 and \$332.5 million through December 31, 2016. Net loss allocable to common stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$27.3 million and the net loss for the year ended December 31, 2016 was \$21.9 million. Our losses have resulted principally from costs incurred in research and development activities related to our efforts to develop clinical drug candidates, from losses due to derivatives and from the associated administrative costs. We expect to incur additional operating losses over the next several years. We also expect cumulative losses to increase if we expand research and development efforts and preclinical and clinical trials.

We require substantial capital for our development programs and operating expenses, to pursue regulatory clearances and to prosecute and defend our intellectual property rights. We will need to raise substantial additional capital to support our ongoing and planned operations.

If we raise additional funds by issuing equity securities, further dilution to existing stockholders will result and future investors may be granted rights superior to those of existing stockholders. If adequate funds are not available to us through additional equity offerings, we may be required to delay, reduce the scope of or eliminate one or more of our research and development programs or to obtain funds by entering into arrangements with collaborative partners or others that require us to issue additional equity securities or to relinquish rights to certain technologies or drug candidates that we would not otherwise issue or relinquish in order to continue independent operations.

We do not have significant operating revenue and may never attain profitability.

To date, we have funded our operations primarily through private sales of common stock, preferred stock and convertible notes as well as public offerings of our common stock. Contract research payments and licensing fees from corporate alliances and mergers have also provided funding for our operations. Our ability to achieve significant revenue or profitability depends upon our licensee's ability to successfully market MuGard in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Korea and China or to complete the development of our drug candidates, to develop and obtain patent protection and regulatory approvals for our drug candidates and to manufacture and commercialize the resulting drugs. We are not expecting any significant revenues in the short-term from our products or product candidates. Furthermore, we may not be able to ever successfully identify, develop, commercialize, patent, manufacture, obtain required regulatory approvals and market any additional products. Moreover, even if we do identify, develop, commercialize, patent, manufacture, and obtain required regulatory approvals to market additional products, we may not generate revenues or royalties from commercial sales of these products for a significant number of years, if at all. Therefore, our proposed operations are subject to all the risks inherent in the establishment of a new business enterprise. In the next few years, our revenues may be limited to minimal product sales and royalties, and any amounts that we receive under strategic partnerships and research or drug development collaborations that we may establish and, as a result, we may be unable to achieve or maintain profitability in the future or to achieve significant revenues in order to fund our operations.

We may not successfully commercialize our drug candidates.

Our drug candidates are subject to the risks of failure inherent in the development of pharmaceutical products based on new technologies, and our failure to develop safe commercially viable drugs would severely limit our ability to become profitable or to achieve significant revenues. We may be unable to successfully commercialize our drug candidates because:

- some or all of our drug candidates may be found to be unsafe or ineffective or otherwise fail to meet applicable regulatory standards or receive necessary regulatory clearances;
- our drug candidates, if safe and effective, may be too difficult to develop into commercially viable drugs;
- it may be difficult to manufacture or market our drug candidates on a large scale;

- proprietary rights of third parties may preclude us from marketing our drug candidates; and
- third parties may market superior or equivalent drugs.

The success of our research and development activities, upon which we primarily focus, is uncertain.

Our primary focus is on our research and development activities and the commercialization of compounds covered by proprietary biopharmaceutical patents and patent applications. Research and development activities, by their nature, preclude definitive statements as to the time required and costs involved in reaching certain objectives. Actual research and development costs, therefore, could significantly exceed budgeted amounts and estimated time frames may require significant extension. Cost overruns, unanticipated regulatory delays or demands, unexpected adverse side effects or insufficient therapeutic efficacy will prevent or substantially slow our research and development effort and our business could ultimately suffer. We anticipate that we will remain principally engaged in research and development activities for an indeterminate, but substantial, period of time.

We may be unable to successfully develop, market, or commercialize our products or our product candidates without establishing new relationships and maintaining current relationships and our ability to successfully commercialize, and market our product candidates could be limited if a number of these existing relationships are terminated.

Our strategy for the research, development and commercialization of our potential pharmaceutical products may require us to enter into various arrangements with corporate and academic collaborators, licensors, licensees and others, in addition to our existing relationships with other parties. Specifically, we may seek to joint venture, sublicense or enter other marketing arrangements with parties that have an established marketing capability or we may choose to pursue the commercialization of such products on our own. We may, however, be unable to establish such additional collaborative arrangements, license agreements, or marketing agreements as we may deem necessary to develop, commercialize and market our potential pharmaceutical products on acceptable terms. Furthermore, if we maintain and establish arrangements or relationships with third parties, our business may depend upon the successful performance by these third parties of their responsibilities under those arrangements and relationships.

We may be unable to successfully manufacture our products and our product candidates in clinical quantities or for commercial purposes without the assistance of contract manufacturers, which may be difficult for us to obtain and maintain.

We have limited experience in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products in clinical quantities or for commercial purposes and we may not be able to manufacture any new pharmaceutical products that we may develop. As a result, we have established, and in the future intend to establish arrangements with contract manufacturers to supply sufficient quantities of products to conduct clinical trials and for the manufacture, packaging, labeling and distribution of finished pharmaceutical products if any of our potential products are approved for commercialization. If we are unable to contract for a sufficient supply of our potential pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical products on acceptable terms, our preclinical and human clinical testing schedule may be delayed, resulting in the delay of our clinical programs and submission of product candidates for regulatory approval. This may cause our business to suffer if there are delays or difficulties in establishing relationships with manufacturers to produce, package, label and distribute our finished pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical or other medical products, if any. Moreover, US contract manufacturers that we may use must adhere to current Good Manufacturing Practices, as required by the FDA. In this regard, the FDA will not issue a pre-market approval or product and establishment licenses, where applicable, to a manufacturing facility for the products until the manufacturing facility passes a pre-approval plant inspection. If we are unable to obtain or retain third party manufacturing on commercially acceptable terms, we may not be able to commercialize our products as planned. Our potential dependence upon third parties for the manufacture of our products may adversely affect our ability to generate profits or acceptable profit margins and our ability to develop and deliver such products on a timely and competitive basis.

We rely on third parties to conduct our preclinical studies and clinical trials and perform other tasks for us. If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties, meet expected deadlines, or comply with regulatory requirements, we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize our drug candidates and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be substantially harmed.

We have relied upon and plan to continue to rely upon third-parties, including contract research organizations, medical institutions, clinical investigators and contract laboratories to monitor and manage data for our licensed ongoing preclinical and clinical programs. Nevertheless, we maintain responsibility for ensuring that each of our clinical trials and preclinical studies is conducted in accordance with the applicable protocol, legal, regulatory, and scientific standards and our reliance on these third parties does not relieve us of our regulatory responsibilities. We and our vendors are required to comply with current requirements on good manufacturing practices, or cGMP, good clinical practices, or GCP, and good laboratory practice, or GLP, which are a collection of laws and regulations enforced by the FDA, EMA or comparable foreign authorities for all of our drug candidates in clinical development.

Regulatory authorities enforce these regulations through periodic inspections of preclinical study and clinical trial sponsors, principal investigators, preclinical study and clinical trial sites, and other contractors. If we or any of our vendors fails to comply with applicable regulations, the data generated in our preclinical studies and clinical trials may be deemed unreliable and the FDA, EMA or comparable foreign authorities may require us to perform additional preclinical studies and clinical trials before approving our marketing applications. We cannot assure you that upon inspection by a given regulatory authority, such regulatory authority will determine that any of our clinical trials comply with GCP regulations. In addition, our clinical trials must be conducted with products produced consistent with cGMP regulations. Our failure to comply with these regulations may require us to repeat clinical trials, which would delay the development and regulatory approval processes.

If any of our relationships with these third parties, medical institutions, clinical investigators or contract laboratories terminate, we may not be able to enter into arrangements with alternative contract research organizations on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. In addition, our contract research organizations are not our employees, and except for remedies available to us under our agreements with such contract research organizations, we cannot control whether or not they devote sufficient time and resources to our ongoing preclinical and clinical programs. If CROs do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or obligations or meet expected deadlines, if they need to be replaced or if the quality or accuracy of the data they obtain is compromised due to the failure to adhere to our protocols, regulatory requirements, or for other reasons, our clinical trials may be extended, delayed or terminated and we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or successfully commercialize our drug candidates.

Contract research organizations may also generate higher costs than anticipated. As a result, our business, financial condition and results of operations and the commercial prospects for our drug candidates could be materially and adversely affected, our costs could increase, and our ability to generate revenue could be delayed.

Switching or adding additional contract research organizations, medical institutions, clinical investigators or contract laboratories involves additional cost and requires management time and focus. In addition, there is a natural transition period when a new contract research organization commences work replacing a previous contract research organization. As a result, delays occur, which can materially impact our ability to meet our desired clinical development timelines. Though we carefully manage our relationships with our contract research organizations, there can be no assurance that we will not encounter similar challenges or delays in the future or that these delays or challenges will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We are subject to extensive governmental regulation which increases our cost of doing business and may affect our ability to commercialize any new products that we may develop.

The FDA and comparable agencies in foreign countries impose substantial requirements upon the introduction of pharmaceutical products through lengthy and detailed laboratory, preclinical and clinical testing procedures and other costly and time-consuming procedures to establish safety and efficacy. All of our drugs and drug candidates require receipt and maintenance of governmental approvals for commercialization. Preclinical and clinical trials and manufacturing of our drug candidates will be subject to the rigorous testing and approval processes of the FDA and corresponding foreign regulatory authorities. Satisfaction of these requirements typically takes a significant number of years and can vary substantially based upon the type, complexity and novelty of the product.

Due to the time-consuming and uncertain nature of the drug candidate development process and the governmental approval process described above, we cannot assure you when we, independently or with our collaborative partners, might submit a New Drug Application, or NDA, for FDA or other regulatory review. Further, our ability to commence and/or complete development projects will be subject to our ability to raise enough funds to pay for the development costs of these projects. Government regulation also affects the manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceutical products. Government regulations may delay marketing of our potential drugs for a considerable or indefinite period of time, impose costly procedural requirements upon our activities and furnish a competitive advantage to larger companies or companies more experienced in regulatory affairs. Delays in obtaining governmental regulatory approval could adversely affect our marketing as well as our ability to generate significant revenues from commercial sales.

Our drug candidates may not receive FDA or other regulatory approvals on a timely basis or at all. Moreover, if regulatory approval of a drug candidate is granted, such approval may impose limitations on the indicated use for which such drug may be marketed. Even if we obtain initial regulatory approvals for our drug candidates, our drugs and our manufacturing facilities would be subject to continual review and periodic inspection, and later discovery of previously unknown problems with a drug, manufacturer or facility may result in restrictions on the marketing or manufacture of such drug, including withdrawal of the drug from the market. The FDA and other regulatory authorities stringently apply regulatory standards and failure to comply with regulatory standards can, among other things, result in fines, denial or withdrawal of regulatory approvals, product recalls or seizures, operating restrictions and criminal prosecution.

The uncertainty associated with preclinical and clinical testing may affect our ability to successfully commercialize new products.

Before we can obtain regulatory approvals for the commercial sale of any of our potential drugs, the drug candidates will be subject to extensive preclinical and clinical trials to demonstrate their safety and efficacy in humans. Preclinical or clinical trials of future drug candidates may not demonstrate the safety and efficacy to the extent necessary to obtain regulatory approvals and our drug candidates could result in injury or death to patients in our clinical trials. In this regard, for example, adverse side effects can occur during the clinical testing of a new drug on humans which may delay ultimate FDA approval or even lead it to terminate our efforts to develop the drug for commercial use. Companies in the biotechnology industry have suffered significant setbacks in advanced clinical trials, even after demonstrating promising results in earlier trials, including injury or death. The failure to adequately demonstrate the safety and efficacy of a drug candidate under development could delay or prevent regulatory approval of the drug candidate. A delay or failure to receive regulatory approval for any of our drug candidates could prevent us from successfully commercializing such candidates and we could incur substantial additional expenses in our attempt to further develop such candidates and obtain future regulatory approval.

We may incur substantial product liability expenses due to the use or misuse of our products for which we may be unable to obtain insurance coverage.

Our business exposes us to potential liability risks that are inherent in the testing, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceutical products. These risks will expand with respect to our drug candidates, if any, that receive regulatory approval for commercial sale and we may face substantial liability for damages in the event of adverse side effects, including injury or death, or product defects identified with any of our products that are used in clinical tests or marketed to the public. Product liability insurance for the biotechnology industry is generally expensive, if available at all, and as a result, we may be unable to obtain insurance coverage at acceptable costs or in a sufficient amount in the future, if at all. We may be unable to satisfy any claims for which we may be held liable as a result of the use or misuse of products which we developed, manufactured or sold and any such product liability claim could adversely affect our business, operating results or financial condition.

Intense competition may limit our ability to successfully develop and market commercial products.

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are intensely competitive and subject to rapid and significant technological change. Our competitors in the U.S. and elsewhere are numerous and include, among others, major multinational pharmaceutical and chemical companies, specialized biotechnology firms and universities and other research institutions. Many of our competitors have and employ greater financial and other resources, including larger research and development, marketing and manufacturing organizations. As a result, our competitors may successfully develop technologies and drugs that are more effective or less costly than any that we are developing or which would render our technology and future products obsolete and noncompetitive.

In addition, some of our competitors have greater experience than we do in conducting preclinical and clinical trials and obtaining FDA and other regulatory approvals. Accordingly, our competitors may succeed in obtaining FDA or other regulatory approvals for drug candidates more rapidly than we can. Companies that complete clinical trials, obtain required regulatory agency approvals and commence commercial sale of their drugs before their competitors may achieve a significant competitive advantage. Drugs resulting from our research and development efforts or from our joint efforts with collaborative partners therefore may not be commercially competitive with our competitors' existing products or products under development.

Our ability to successfully develop and commercialize our drug candidates will substantially depend upon the availability of reimbursement funds for the costs of the resulting drugs and related treatments.

Market acceptance and sales of our product candidates may depend on coverage and reimbursement policies and health care reform measures. Decisions about formulary coverage as well as levels at which government authorities and third-party payers, such as private health insurers and health maintenance organizations, reimburse patients for the price they pay for our products as well as levels at which these payors pay directly for our products, where applicable, could affect whether we are able to commercialize these products. We cannot be sure that reimbursement will be available for any of these products. Also, we cannot be sure that coverage or reimbursement amounts will not reduce the demand for, or the price of, our products. We have not commenced efforts to have our product candidates reimbursed by government or third party payors. If coverage and reimbursement are not available or are available only at limited levels, we may not be able to commercialize our products. In recent years, officials have made numerous proposals to change the health care system in the U.S. These proposals include measures that would limit or prohibit payments for certain medical treatments or subject the pricing of drugs to government control. In addition, in many foreign countries, particularly the countries of the European Union, the pricing of prescription drugs is subject to government control. If our products are or become subject to government regulation that limits or prohibits payment for our products, or that subjects the price of our products to governmental control, we may not be able to generate revenue, attain profitability or commercialize our products.

As a result of legislative proposals and the trend towards managed health care in the U.S., third-party payors are increasingly attempting to contain health care costs by limiting both coverage and the level of reimbursement of new drugs. They may also impose strict prior authorization requirements and/or refuse to provide any coverage of uses of approved products for medical indications other than those for which the FDA has granted market approvals. As a result, significant uncertainty exists as to whether and how much third-party payors will reimburse patients for their use of newly-approved drugs, which in turn will put pressure on the pricing of drugs.

The market may not accept any pharmaceutical products that we develop.

The drugs that we are attempting to develop may compete with a number of well-established drugs manufactured and marketed by major pharmaceutical companies. The degree of market acceptance of any drugs developed by us will depend on a number of factors, including the establishment and demonstration of the clinical efficacy and safety of our drug candidates, the potential advantage of our drug candidates over existing therapies and the reimbursement policies of government and third-party payors. Physicians, patients or the medical community in general may not accept or use any drugs that we may develop independently or with our collaborative partners and if they do not, our business could suffer.

Healthcare reform measures could hinder or prevent our product candidates' commercial success.

The U.S. government and other governments have shown significant interest in pursuing healthcare reform. Any government-adopted reform measures could adversely impact the pricing of healthcare products and services in the U.S. or internationally and the amount of reimbursement available from governmental agencies or other third party payors. The continuing efforts of the U.S. and foreign governments, insurance companies, managed care organizations and other payors of health care services to contain or reduce health care costs may adversely affect our ability to set prices for our products which we believe are fair, and our ability to generate revenues and achieve and maintain profitability.

New laws, regulations and judicial decisions, or new interpretations of existing laws, regulations and decisions, that relate to healthcare availability, methods of delivery or payment for products and services, or sales, marketing or pricing, may limit our potential revenue, and we may need to revise our research and development programs. The pricing and reimbursement environment may change in the future and become more challenging due to several reasons, including policies advanced by the current executive administration in the U.S., new healthcare legislation or fiscal challenges faced by government health administration authorities. Specifically, in both the U.S. and some foreign jurisdictions, there have been a number of legislative and regulatory proposals to change the health care system in ways that could affect our ability to sell our products profitably.

For example, in March 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, or the PPACA. This law will substantially change the way healthcare is financed by both government health plans and private insurers, and significantly impact the pharmaceutical industry. The PPACA contains a number of provisions that are expected to impact our business and operations in ways that may negatively affect our potential revenues in the future. For example, the PPACA imposes a non-deductible excise tax on pharmaceutical manufacturers or importers that sell branded prescription drugs to U.S. government programs which we believe will increase the cost of our products. In addition, as part of the PPACA's provisions closing a funding gap that currently exists in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program (commonly known as the "donut hole"), we will be required to provide a discount on branded prescription drugs equal to 50% of the government-negotiated price, for drugs provided to certain beneficiaries who fall within the donut hole. Similarly, PPACA increases the level of Medicaid rebates payable by manufacturers of brand-name drugs from 15.1% to 23.1% and requires collection of rebates for drugs paid by Medicaid managed care organizations. The PPACA also includes significant changes to the 340B drug discount program including expansion of the list of eligible covered entities that may purchase drugs under the program. At the same time, the expansion in eligibility for health insurance benefits created under PPACA is expected to increase the number of patients with insurance coverage who may receive our products. While it is too early to predict all the specific effects the PPACA or any future healthcare reform legislation will have on our business, they could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

Congress periodically adopts legislation like the PPACA and the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, that modifies Medicare reimbursement and coverage policies pertaining to prescription drugs. Implementation of these laws is subject to ongoing revision through regulatory and sub regulatory policies. Congress also may consider additional changes to Medicare policies, potentially including Medicare prescription drug policies, as part of ongoing budget negotiations. While the scope of any such legislation is uncertain at this time, there can be no assurances that future legislation or regulations will not decrease the coverage and price that we may receive for our proposed products. Other third-party payors are increasingly challenging the prices charged for medical products and services. It will be time consuming and expensive for us to go through the process of seeking coverage and reimbursement from Medicare and private payors. Our proposed products may not be considered cost-effective, and coverage and reimbursement may not be available or sufficient to allow us to sell our proposed products on a profitable basis. Further federal and state proposals and health care reforms are likely which could limit the prices that can be charged for the product candidates that we develop and may further limit our commercial opportunities. Our results of operations could be materially adversely affected by proposed healthcare reforms, by the Medicare prescription drug coverage legislation, by the possible effect of such current or future legislation on amounts that private insurers will pay and by other health care reforms that may be enacted or adopted in the future. In September 2007, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 was enacted, giving the FDA enhanced post-marketing authority, including the authority to require post-marketing studies and clinical trials, labeling changes based on new safety information, and compliance with risk evaluations and mitigation strategies approved by the FDA. The FDA's exercise of this authority could result in delays or increased costs during product development, clinical trials and regulatory review, increased costs to assure compliance with post-approval regulatory requirements, and potential restrictions on the sale and/or distribution of approved products.

Our business could suffer if we lose the services of, or fail to attract, key personnel.

We are highly dependent upon the efforts of our senior management, including our Executive Chairman, Principal Executive Officer, and board member, Steven H. Rouhandeh; our President and Chief Executive Officer, and board member, Timothy J. Miller; our Chief Operating Officer, Jeffrey B. Davis; and our Chief Accounting Officer, Stephen B. Thompson. The loss of the services of these individuals could delay or prevent the achievement of our research, development, marketing, or product commercialization objectives. We do not have employment contracts with our other key personnel. We do not maintain any 'key-man' insurance policies on any of our key employees and we do not intend to obtain such insurance. In addition, due to the specialized scientific nature of our business, we are highly dependent upon our ability to attract and retain qualified scientific and technical personnel and consultants. In view of the stage of our development and our research and development programs, we have restricted our hiring to research scientists, consultants and a small administrative staff and we have made only limited investments in manufacturing, production, sales or regulatory compliance resources. There is intense competition among major pharmaceutical and chemical companies, specialized biotechnology firms and universities and other research institutions for qualified personnel in the areas of our activities, however, and we may be unsuccessful in attracting and retaining these personnel.

Trends toward managed health care and downward price pressures on medical products and services may limit our ability to profitably sell any drugs that we may develop.

Lower prices for pharmaceutical products may result from:

- third-party-payers' increasing challenges to the prices charged for medical products and services;
- the trend toward managed health care in the U.S. and the concurrent growth of HMOs and similar organizations that can control or significantly influence the purchase of healthcare services and products; and
- legislative proposals to reform healthcare or reduce government insurance programs.

The cost containment measures that healthcare providers are instituting, including practice protocols and guidelines and clinical pathways, and the effect of any healthcare reform, could limit our ability to profitably sell any drugs that we may successfully develop. Moreover, any future legislation or regulation, if any, relating to the healthcare industry or third-party coverage and reimbursement, may cause our business to suffer.

Security breaches and other disruptions could compromise our information and expose us to liability, which would cause our business and reputation to suffer.

In the ordinary course of our business, we collect and store sensitive data, including intellectual property, our proprietary business information and that of our suppliers and business partners, as well as personally identifiable information of clinical trial participants and employees. Similarly, our business partners and third party providers possess certain of our sensitive data. The secure maintenance of this information is critical to our operations and business strategy. Despite our security measures, our information technology and infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other disruptions. Any such breach could compromise our networks and the information stored there could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. Any such access, disclosure or other loss of information, including our data being breached at our business partners or third-party providers, could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability under laws that protect the privacy of personal information, disrupt our operations, and damage our reputation which could adversely affect our business.

Risks Related to our Intellectual Property

It is difficult and costly to protect our proprietary rights, and we may not be able to ensure protection of such rights.

Our commercial success will depend in part on obtaining and maintaining patent protection and trade secret protection of our product candidates, and the methods used to manufacture them, as well as successfully defending these patents against third-party challenges. We will only be able to protect our product candidates from unauthorized making, using, selling and offering to sell or importation by third parties to the extent that we have rights under valid and enforceable patents or trade secrets that cover these activities. The patent positions of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in biotechnology patents has emerged to date in the U.S. The biotechnology patent situation outside the U.S. is even more uncertain. Changes in either the patent laws or in interpretations of patent laws in the U.S. and other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property. Accordingly, we cannot predict the breadth of claims that may be allowed or enforced in our issued patents or in third-party patents.

The degree of future protection for our proprietary rights is uncertain because legal means afford only limited protection and may not adequately protect our rights or permit us to gain or keep our competitive advantage. For example:

- others may be able to produce compounds or molecules that are competitive with our product candidates but that are not covered by the claims of our patents;

- we may not have been the first to make the inventions covered by our pending patent applications;
- we may not have been the first to file patent applications for these inventions;
- others may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate any of our technologies;
- it is possible that our pending patent applications will not result in issued patents and it is possible that our issued patents could be narrowed in scope, invalidated, held to be unenforceable, or circumvented;
- we may not develop additional proprietary technologies that are patentable; or
- the patents of others may have an adverse effect on our business; or others may be able to misappropriate our trade secrets.

We also may rely on trade secrets to protect our technology, especially where we do not believe patent protection is appropriate or obtainable. However, trade secrets are difficult to protect. While we use reasonable efforts to protect our trade secrets, our employees, consultants, contractors, outside scientific collaborators and other advisors may unintentionally or willfully disclose our information to competitors. Enforcing a claim that a third party illegally obtained and is using our trade secrets is expensive and time consuming, and the outcome is unpredictable. In addition, courts outside the United States are sometimes less willing to protect trade secrets. Moreover, our competitors may independently develop equivalent knowledge, methods and know-how.

We may incur substantial costs as a result of litigation or other proceedings relating to patent and other intellectual property rights and we may be unable to protect our rights to, or use, our technology.

If we choose to go to court to stop someone else from using the inventions claimed in our patents, that individual or company has the right to ask the court to rule that these patents are invalid and/or should not be enforced against that third party. These lawsuits are expensive and would consume time and other resources even if we were successful in stopping the infringement of these patents. In addition, there is a risk that the court will decide that these patents are not valid and that we do not have the right to stop the other party from using the inventions. There is also the risk that, even if the validity of these patents is upheld, the court will refuse to stop the other party on the ground that such other party's activities do not infringe our rights to these patents.

Furthermore, a third party may claim that we are using inventions covered by the third party's patent rights and may go to court to stop us from engaging in our normal operations and activities, including making or selling our product candidates. These lawsuits are costly and could affect our results of operations and divert the attention of managerial and technical personnel. There is a risk that a court would decide that we are infringing the third party's patents and would order us to stop the activities covered by the patents. In addition, there is a risk that a court will order us to pay the other party damages for having violated the other party's patents. The biotechnology industry has produced a proliferation of patents, and it is not always clear to industry participants, including us, which patents cover various types of products or methods of use. The coverage of patents is subject to interpretation by the courts, and the interpretation is not always uniform. If we are sued for patent infringement, we would need to demonstrate that our products or methods of use either do not infringe the patent claims of the relevant patent and/or that the patent claims are invalid, and we may not be able to do this. Proving invalidity, in particular, is difficult since it requires a showing of clear and convincing evidence to overcome the presumption of validity enjoyed by issued patents. Because some patent applications in the U.S. may be maintained in secrecy until the patents are issued, patent applications in the U.S. and many foreign jurisdictions are typically not published until eighteen months after filing, and publications in the scientific literature often lag behind actual discoveries, we cannot be certain that others have not filed patent applications for technology covered by our issued patents or our pending applications or that we were the first to invent the technology. Our competitors have filed, and may in the future file, patent applications covering technology similar to ours. Any such patent application may have priority over our patent applications and could further require us to obtain rights to issued patents covering such technologies. If another party has filed a U.S. patent application on inventions similar to ours, we may have to participate in an interference proceeding declared by the PTO, to determine priority of invention in the U.S. The costs of these proceedings could be substantial, and it is possible that such efforts would be unsuccessful, resulting in a loss of our United States patent position with respect to such inventions.

Some of our competitors may be able to sustain the costs of complex patent litigation more effectively than we can because they have substantially greater resources. In addition, any uncertainties resulting from the initiation and continuation of any litigation could have a material adverse effect on our ability to raise the funds necessary to continue our operations.

Future litigation, including product liability claims, private securities litigation, stockholder derivative suits and contract litigation, may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations or liquidity.

The development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical products of the types that we produce entail an inherent risk of product liability claims. A number of factors could result in an unsafe condition or injury to a patient with respect to these or other products that we manufacture or sell, including inadequate disclosure of product-related risks or product-related information. In addition, we may be the subject of litigation involving contract disputes, stockholder derivative suits or private securities litigation. The outcome of litigation, particularly class action lawsuits, is difficult to assess or quantify. Plaintiffs in these types of lawsuits often seek recovery of very large or indeterminate amounts, including not only actual damages, but also punitive damages. The magnitude of the potential losses relating to these lawsuits may remain unknown for substantial periods of time. In addition, the cost to defend against any future litigation may be significant. Product liability claims, securities and commercial litigation and other litigation in the future, regardless of the outcome, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

We may not be successful in protecting our intellectual property and proprietary rights.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to obtain U.S. and foreign patent protection for our drug candidates and processes, preserve our trade secrets and operate our business without infringing the proprietary rights of third parties. Legal standards relating to the validity of patents covering pharmaceutical and biotechnological inventions and the scope of claims made under such patents are still developing and there is no consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in biotechnology patents. The patent position of a biotechnology firm is highly uncertain and involves complex legal and factual questions. We cannot assure you that any existing or future patents issued to, or licensed by, us will not subsequently be challenged, infringed upon, invalidated or circumvented by others. We cannot assure you that any patents will be issued from any of the patent applications owned by, or licensed to, us. Furthermore, any rights that we may have under issued patents may not provide us with significant protection against competitive products or otherwise be commercially viable.

Patents may have been granted to third parties or may be granted covering products or processes that are necessary or useful to the development of our drug candidates. If our drug candidates or processes are found to infringe upon the patents or otherwise impermissibly utilize the intellectual property of others, our development, manufacture and sale of such drug candidates could be severely restricted or prohibited. In such event, we may be required to obtain licenses from third parties to utilize the patents or proprietary rights of others. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain such licenses on acceptable terms, if at all. If we become involved in litigation regarding our intellectual property rights or the intellectual property rights of others, the potential cost of such litigation, regardless of the strength of our legal position, and the potential damages that we could be required to pay could be substantial.

Our products could infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, and we may be required to license technology from third parties in the future in order to market our products.

Companies in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries steadfastly pursue and protect intellectual property rights. This can result in considerable and costly litigation to determine the validity of patents and claims by third parties of infringement of patents or other intellectual property. Our gene therapy products could be found to infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. Other companies may hold or obtain patents or inventions or other proprietary rights in technology necessary for our business. We have or may be required to obtain licenses from other companies to use such proprietary rights. We may be unable to obtain licenses to use such proprietary rights. Furthermore, should we violate the terms of a license, that license could be cancelled. Our ability to achieve profitability and positive cash flow may be negatively affected by our inability to procure such a license, the cancellation of any such license, any new license fees arising out of any new license, or any increases in license fees we currently pay. Periodically companies inquire about our products and technology in their attempts to assess whether we violate their intellectual property rights. If we are forced to defend against infringement claims, we may face costly litigation and diversion of technical and management personnel, even if the allegations of infringement are unwarranted. In addition, as a result of potential infringement claims, we may be required to obtain one or more licenses from other companies to use the infringed technology, and the license fees we pay may negatively affect our ability to achieve profitability and positive cash flow. If there is a successful claim of infringement against us and we are unable to develop non-infringing technology or license the infringed or similar technology on a timely basis, our business, and our ability to grow revenue and achieve profitability and positive cash flow, could be adversely affected.

We are aware of an issued U.S. patent owned by a third party directed to the AAV9 viral vector and methods for its use. This patent was issued in 2002. We understand that the owner of this patent grants licenses under the patent from time to time, and we expect that, prior to commercializing our ABO-101 or ABO-102 product candidates (which utilize the AAV9 vector), we would seek to license this patent. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in licensing this patent or that any such patent would be on favorable terms to us. Other licensed technologies may also require the licensing of additional patents for commercialization.

We are substantially dependent on technologies we license from Nationwide Children’s Hospital for ABO-101 and ABO-102, and if we lose the license to such technologies or the applicable license is terminated for any reason, our ability to develop ABO-101 and ABO-102 would be harmed, and our business, financial condition and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected.

Our business is substantially dependent upon technology licensed from Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Pursuant to the Nationwide Children’s Hospital License Agreement, we have been granted exclusive rights for the intellectual property for ABO-101 and ABO-102. All of the intellectual property related to our ABO-101 and ABO-102 is currently owned by Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and we have the rights to use such intellectual property pursuant to the Nationwide Children’s Hospital License Agreement. Therefore, our ability to develop and commercialize our drug candidates depends entirely on the effectiveness and continuation of the Nationwide Children’s Hospital agreement. If we lose the right to license any of these key compounds, our ability to develop existing and new drug candidates would be harmed.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital has the right to terminate the Nationwide Children’s Hospital License Agreement under certain circumstances, including, but not limited to: (1) in the event of our insolvency or bankruptcy, (2) written notice with at least six months’ notice, or (3) if we default on certain of our material obligations and fail to cure the default within a specified period of time.

Risks Related to our Common Stock

The market price of our common stock may be volatile and adversely affected by several factors.

The market price of our common stock could fluctuate significantly in response to various factors and events, including:

- our ability to integrate operations, technology, products and services;
- our ability to execute our business plan;
- operating results below expectations;
- announcements concerning product development results, including clinical trial results, or intellectual property rights of others;
- litigation or public concern about the safety of our potential products;
- our issuance of additional securities, including debt or equity or a combination thereof, which will be necessary to fund our operating expenses;
- announcements of technological innovations or new products by us or our competitors;
- loss of any strategic relationship;
- industry developments, including, without limitation, changes in healthcare policies or practices or third-party reimbursement policies; economic and other external factors;
- period-to-period fluctuations in our financial results; and
- whether an active trading market in our common stock develops and is maintained.

In addition, the securities markets have from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that are unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These market fluctuations may also materially and adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We have not paid cash dividends in the past and do not expect to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any return on investment may be limited to the value of our common stock.

We have never paid cash dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. The payment of dividends on our capital stock will depend on our earnings, financial condition and other business and economic factors affecting us at such time as the board of directors may consider relevant. If we do not pay dividends, our common stock may be less valuable because a return on your investment will only occur if the common stock price appreciates.

Our quarterly operating results may fluctuate significantly.

We expect our operating results to be subject to quarterly fluctuations. Our net loss and other operating results will be affected by numerous factors, including:

- variations in the level of expenses related to our development programs;
- addition or termination of clinical trials;
- any intellectual property infringement lawsuit in which we may become involved;
- regulatory developments affecting our product candidates; and
- our execution of any collaborative, licensing or similar arrangements, and the timing of payments we may make or receive under these arrangements.

If our quarterly operating results fall below the expectations of investors or securities analysts, the price of our common stock could decline substantially. Furthermore, any quarterly fluctuations in our operating results may, in turn, cause the price of our common stock to fluctuate substantially.

Provisions of our charter documents could discourage an acquisition of our company that would benefit our stockholders and may have the effect of entrenching, and making it difficult to remove, management.

Provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws may make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us, even if a change in control would benefit our stockholders. In particular, shares of our preferred stock may be issued in the future without further stockholder approval and upon such terms and conditions, and having such rights, privileges and preferences, as our Board of Directors may determine, including, for example, rights to convert into our common stock. The rights of the holders of our common stock will be subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of any of our preferred stock that may be issued in the future. The issuance of our preferred stock, while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us. This could limit the price that certain investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock and discourage these investors from acquiring a majority of our common stock. Further, the existence of these corporate governance provisions could have the effect of entrenching management and making it more difficult to change our management.

Failure to achieve and maintain effective internal controls could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports, our operating results could be harmed. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Based on our evaluation, our management concluded that there is no material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2017 based on the criteria established in Internal Control -Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”).

While we continue to evaluate and improve our internal controls, we cannot be certain that these measures will ensure adequate controls over our financial processes and reporting in the future. Any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or difficulties encountered in their implementation, could harm our operating results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. Failure to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a material adverse effect on our stock price. Failure to comply with Section 404 could also potentially subject us to sanctions or investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or other regulatory authorities.

There can be no assurance that we will be able to comply with continued listing standards of the NASDAQ Capital Market.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to comply with the minimum bid price and the other standards that we are required to meet in order to maintain a listing of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market. Our failure to continue to meet these requirements may result in our common stock being delisted from the NASDAQ Capital Market.

Our ability to use our net operating loss carry forwards may be subject to limitation.

Generally, a change of more than 50% in the ownership of a company's stock, by value, over a three-year period constitutes an ownership change for U.S. federal income tax purposes. An ownership change may limit our ability to use our net operating loss carryforwards attributable to the period prior to the change. As a result, if we earn net taxable income, our ability to use our pre-change net operating loss carryforwards to offset U.S. federal taxable income may become subject to limitations, which could potentially result in increased future tax liability for us. At December 31, 2017, we had net operating loss carryforwards aggregating approximately \$238.2 million.

Ownership of our shares is concentrated in the hands of a few investors which could limit the ability of our other stockholders to influence the direction of the Company.

As calculated by SEC rules of beneficial ownership, SCO Capital Partners LLC and affiliates beneficially owned approximately 29.7% of our common stock as of March 15, 2018. Accordingly, they collectively have the ability to significantly influence or determine the election of all of our directors or the outcome of most corporate actions requiring stockholder approval. They may exercise this ability in a manner that advances their best interests and not necessarily those of our other stockholders.

Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not Applicable.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We have a laboratory and administrative offices and are building a manufacturing facility of approximately 15,977 square feet in Cleveland, Ohio. We have a lease agreement for the facility, which terminates in December 2025. We also have administrative offices in Dallas, Texas. We have a lease agreement for the facility, which terminates in August 2018. We also have a new office in New York, New York as of January 1, 2018 where we have approximately 5,730 square feet of business office suites for administrative offices. We have a lease agreement for the facility, which terminates in November 2022.

We believe that our existing properties are suitable for the conduct of our business and adequate to meet our present needs.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are not currently subject to any material pending legal proceedings.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

Mr. Steven H. Rouhandeh, 61, became our Executive Chairman, Principal Executive Officer, on January 1, 2015. Mr. Rouhandeh has been a director and Chairman of the Board since March 4, 2008. He has been Chief Investment Officer of SCO Capital Partners, a group of New York based life sciences funds since 1997. Mr. Rouhandeh possesses a diverse background in financial services that includes experience in asset management, corporate finance, investment banking and law. He has been active throughout recent years as an executive in venture capital and as a founder of several companies in the biotech field. His experience also includes positions as Managing Director of a private equity group at Metzler Bank, a private European investment firm and Vice President, Investment Banking at Deutsche Bank. Mr. Rouhandeh was also a corporate attorney at New York City-based Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Mr. Rouhandeh holds a J.D., from Harvard Law School, Harvard University and B.A. Political Science, from Southern Illinois University.

Timothy J. Miller, Ph.D., 46, became our President and Chief Executive Officer and Director on May 15, 2015. Dr. Miller was President & CEO of Abeona Therapeutics LLC from 2013 to 2015. He has 16 years of scientific research, product development, regulatory and clinical operations expertise, with a focus on transitioning novel biotherapeutics through pre-clinical phases and into Phase 1 and 2 human clinical trials. Dr. Miller was President & CEO of Red5 Pharmaceuticals from 2013 until 2015 and was Vice President, Business Development of BioEnterprise Inc. in 2015. He was Senior Director of Product Development at SironRX Therapeutics from 2010 to 2013. Between 1996 and 2010 Dr. Miller held various positions at several companies focusing on gene therapy and regenerative medicine. Dr. Miller earned his PhD in Pharmacology with a focus on Gene therapy/Cystic Fibrosis from Case Western University. He also holds a B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Molecular Biology from John Carroll University (Cleveland, OH).

Mr. Jeffrey B. Davis, 55, became our Chief Operating Officer on January 19, 2015. Mr. Davis was a director from March 2006 until May 2017. Mr. Davis was our Chief Executive Officer from December 26, 2007 until September 19, 2014. Mr. Davis became Acting Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary on November 1, 2013 through September 19, 2014. Previously, Mr. Davis served in a variety of senior investment banking and management positions, and in senior management at a publicly traded healthcare technology company. Prior to that, Mr. Davis was an investment banker with various Deutsche Bank banking organizations, both in the U.S. and Europe. Mr. Davis also served in senior marketing and product management positions at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he was also a member of the technical staff, and at Philips Medical Systems North America. Mr. Davis holds a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Boston University and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Stephen B. Thompson, 64, Vice President Finance, became the Chief Accounting Officer, Secretary and Treasurer on January 1, 2015. Mr. Thompson consulted with the Company from December 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. Prior to December 1, 2013 Mr. Thompson was our Vice President from 2000 and our Chief Financial Officer from 1996. From 1990 to 1996, he was Controller and Administration Manager of Access Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a private Texas corporation. Previously, from 1989 to 1990, Mr. Thompson was Controller of Robert E. Woolley, Inc., a hotel real estate company where he was responsible for accounting, finances and investor relations. From 1985 to 1989, he was Controller of OKC Limited Partnership, an oil and gas company, where he was responsible for accounting, finances and SEC reporting. Between 1975 and 1985 he held various accounting and finance positions with Santa Fe International Corporation.

PART II

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

Price Range of Common Stock and Dividend Policy

Our common stock has traded on The NASDAQ Capital Market ("NASDAQ") under the symbol ABEQ since June 22, 2015. We also changed our corporate name to Abeona Therapeutics Inc. on June 19, 2015. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices per share of our common stock as reported on NASDAQ for periods indicated.

	Common Stock	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017		
First quarter	\$ 6.15	\$ 4.60
Second quarter	6.40	4.70
Third quarter	17.20	6.60
Fourth quarter	19.95	14.33
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016		
First quarter	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.10
Second quarter	3.26	2.27
Third quarter	6.57	2.32
Fourth quarter	8.70	4.25

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock and we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. The payment of dividends, if any, in the future is within the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on our earnings, capital requirements and financial condition and other relevant facts. We currently intend to retain all future earnings, if any, to finance the development and growth of our business.

The number of record holders of our common stock at March 15, 2018 was approximately 9,300. On March 15, 2018, the closing price for the common stock as quoted on NASDAQ was \$15.25. There were 47,226,940 shares of common stock outstanding at March 16, 2018.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2017, information about shares of common stock outstanding and available for issuance under our existing equity compensation plans.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
2015 Equity Incentive Plan	5,112,967	\$ 9.07	3,106,637
2005 Equity Incentive Plan	316,760	14.31	-
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-	-	-
Total	<u>5,429,727</u>	<u>\$ 8.73</u>	<u>3,106,637</u>

Issuer Repurchases of Equity Securities

None.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Performance Graph

We are a smaller reporting company, as defined by Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for this reporting period and are not required to provide a performance graph.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

We are a smaller reporting company, as defined by Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for this reporting period and are not required to provide the information required under this item.

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included in this Form 10-K.

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (together with our subsidiaries, "we," "our," "Abeona" or the "Company") is a Delaware corporation. We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing cell and gene therapies for life-threatening rare genetic diseases. Our lead programs include EB-101 (gene-corrected skin grafts) for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB), ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH), an adeno-associated virus (AAV) based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type A (MPS IIIA) and ABO-101 (AAV NAGLU), an AAV based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type B (MPS IIIB). We are also developing ABO-201 (AAV-CLN3) gene therapy for juvenile Batten disease (JNCL), ABO-202 (AAV-CLN1) for treatment of infantile Batten disease (INCL), EB-201 for epidermolysis bullosa (EB), ABO-301 (AAV-FANCC) for Fanconi anemia (FA) disorder and ABO-302 using a novel CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing approach to gene therapy for rare blood diseases. In addition we are developing a proprietary vector platform, AIM™, for next generation product candidates.

Results of Operations

Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

Our licensing revenue for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$602,000. We recognize licensing revenue over the period of the performance obligation under our licensing agreements.

We recorded royalty revenue for MuGard of \$235,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017 and \$287,000 for the same period of 2016, a decrease of \$52,000. We licensed MuGard to AMAG and Norgine and currently receive quarterly royalties under our agreements.

Total research and development spending for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$16,989,000, as compared to \$10,655,000 for the same period of 2016, an increase of \$6,334,000. The increase in expenses was primarily due to:

- increased clinical and development work for the manufactured product for EB-101, ABO-102 & ABO-101 and other gene therapy products (\$4,449,000);
- increased salary and related costs (\$619,000) due to hiring additional scientific staff;
- increased stock option compensation expense (\$418,000);
- increased travel and entertainment expense (\$286,000);
- increased scientific consulting expense (\$236,000); and
- increased other net decreases in research spending (\$326,000).

Total general and administrative expenses were \$10,943,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017, as compared to \$13,290,000 for the same period of 2016, a decrease of \$2,347,000. The decrease in expenses was due primarily to the following:

- decreased restricted common stock based compensation expense (\$1,959,000) and decreased stock option compensation expense (\$648,000);
- decreased salary and related costs (\$252,000);
- decreases in net other general and administrative expenses (\$106,000);
- offset by increased patent expenses (\$434,000); and
- investor relation expenses (\$184,000).

Depreciation and amortization was \$741,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to \$825,000 for the same period in 2016, a decrease of \$84,000. We are amortizing the licenses for ABO-101 and ABO-201, and EB-101 and EB-102 over the life of the patents and SDF Alpha was amortized through May 26, 2017. The SDF license was transferred to a subsidiary and in December returned to the licensee, Plasma Technologies LLC. The decrease is due to less amortization of licensed technology of \$143,000 offset by increased depreciation of \$59,000 due to depreciation of new assets.

Total operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$28,673,000 as compared to total operating expenses of \$24,770,000 for the same period of 2016, an increase of \$3,903,000 primarily due to the reasons listed above which primarily caused the increase in total research and development spending.

Interest and miscellaneous income was \$525,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to \$2,014,000 for the same period of 2016, a decrease of \$1,489,000. The decrease was due to change in the fair value of our contingent consideration liability resulting in miscellaneous income in 2016 (\$1,391,000), the settlement of an agreement resulting in miscellaneous income in 2016 (\$500,000) offset by income in 2017 by the Plasma Technologies/Acestor agreement resulting in miscellaneous income (\$127,000), and by other income (\$197,000) and interest income (\$78,000).

Interest and other expense for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$8,000 as compared to \$6,000 for the same period of 2016.

Net loss for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$27,319,000, or a \$0.66 basic and diluted loss per common share as compared to a net loss of \$21,873,000, or a \$0.64 basic and diluted loss per common share, for the same period in 2016, an increased loss of \$5,446,000.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We have historically funded our operations primarily through public and private sales of common stock, preferred stock, convertible notes and through licensing agreements. Our principal source of liquidity is cash and cash equivalents. Licensing payments and royalty revenues provided limited funding for operations during the period ended December 31, 2017. As of December 31, 2017, our cash and cash equivalents were \$137,750,000.

As of December 31, 2017, our working capital was \$134,985,000. Our working capital at December 31, 2016 represented an increase of \$73,860,000 as compared to our working capital of \$61,125,000 as of December 31, 2016. The increase in working capital at December 31, 2017 reflects financings in 2017, warrant and option exercises less twelve months of net operating costs and changes in current assets and liabilities.

On October 19, 2017, we closed an underwritten public offering of 5,750,000 shares of common stock, at a public offering price of \$16.00 per share. The gross proceeds to the Company were approximately \$92,000,000, before deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by the Company.

On October 16, 2017, we announced a collaborative agreement between nine Sanfilippo foundations to provide up to approximately \$13.85 million of grants to Abeona in installments for the advancement of the Company's clinical stage gene therapies for Sanfilippo Syndrome Type A (MPS IIIA) and Sanfilippo Syndrome Type B (MPS IIIB), subject to achievement of certain milestones. As of December 31, 2017, we received \$2.6 million grants and recorded them as deferred revenue.

We have incurred negative cash flows from operations since inception, and have expended, and expect to continue to expend in the future, substantial funds to complete our planned product development efforts. Since inception, our expenses have significantly exceeded revenues, resulting in an accumulated deficit as of December 31, 2017 of \$359,792,000. We cannot provide assurance that we will ever be able to generate sufficient product sales or royalty revenue to achieve profitability on a sustained basis, or at all.

Since our inception, we have devoted our resources primarily to fund our research and development programs. We have been unprofitable since inception and to date have received limited revenues from the sale of products. We expect to incur losses for the next several years as we continue to invest in product research and development, preclinical studies, clinical trials and regulatory compliance.

If we raise additional funds by selling additional equity securities, the relative equity ownership of our existing investors will be diluted and the new investors could obtain terms more favorable than previous investors.

We plan to expend substantial funds to conduct research and development programs, preclinical studies and clinical trials of potential products, including research and development with respect to our acquired and developed technology. Our future capital requirements and adequacy of available funds will depend on many factors, including:

- the successful development and commercialization of our gene therapy and other product candidates; products derived from our EB licenses;
- the ability to establish and maintain collaborative arrangements with corporate partners for the research, development and commercialization of products;
- continued scientific progress in our research and development programs;
- the magnitude, scope and results of preclinical testing and clinical trials;
- the costs involved in filing, prosecuting and enforcing patent claims;
- the costs involved in conducting clinical trials;
- competing technological developments;
- the cost of manufacturing and scale-up;
- the ability to establish and maintain effective commercialization arrangements and activities; and
- successful regulatory filings.

We have devoted substantially all of our efforts and resources to research and development conducted on our own behalf. The following table summarizes research and development spending by project category, which spending includes, but is not limited to, payroll and personnel expense, lab supplies, preclinical expense, development cost, clinical trial expense, outside manufacturing expense and consulting expense:

(in thousands) Project	Twelve Months ended December 31,		Inception To Date (1)
	2017	2016	
Gene therapy	\$ 15,789	\$ 8,846	\$ 26,967
Plasma therapy	546	1,714	4,592
MuGard	22	45	5,434
Others (2)	632	50	40,702
Total	\$ 16,989	\$ 10,655	\$ 77,695

(1) Cumulative spending from inception of the Company or project through December 31, 2017.

(2) Includes other projects which the Company is no longer focused.

Due to uncertainties and certain of the risk factors described above, including those relating to our ability to successfully commercialize our drug candidates, our ability to obtain necessary additional capital to fund operations in the future, our ability to successfully manufacture our products and our product candidates in clinical quantities or for commercial purposes, government regulation to which we are subject, the uncertainty associated with preclinical and clinical testing, intense competition that we face, market acceptance of our products, the potential necessity of licensing technology from third parties and protection of our intellectual property, it is not possible to reliably predict future spending or time to completion by project or product category or the period in which material net cash inflows from significant projects are expected to commence. If we are unable to timely complete a particular project, our research and development efforts could be delayed or reduced, our business could suffer depending on the significance of the project and we might need to raise additional capital to fund operations, as discussed in the risk factors above, including without limitation those relating to the uncertainty of the success of our research and development activities and our ability to obtain necessary additional capital to fund operations in the future. As discussed in such risk factors, delays in our research and development efforts and any inability to raise additional funds could cause us to eliminate one or more of our research and development programs.

We plan to continue our policy of investing any available funds in certificates of deposit, money market funds, government securities and investment-grade interest-bearing securities. We do not invest in derivative financial instruments.

We do not believe inflation or changing prices have had a material impact on our revenue or operating costs in the past three years.

Climate Change

We do not believe there is anything unique to our business which would result in climate change regulations having a disproportional effect on us as compared to U.S. industry overall.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reported period. In applying our accounting principles, we must often make individual estimates and assumptions regarding expected outcomes or uncertainties. As you might expect, the actual results or outcomes are often different than the estimated or assumed amounts. These differences are usually minor and are included in our consolidated financial statements as soon as they are known. Our estimates, judgments and assumptions are continually evaluated based on available information and experience. Because of the use of estimates inherent in the financial reporting process, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Receivables

Receivables are reported in the balance sheets at the outstanding amount net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. We continually evaluate the creditworthiness of our customers and their financial condition and generally do not require collateral. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based upon reviews of specific customer balances, historic losses, and general economic conditions. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, no allowance was recorded as all accounts were considered collectible.

Licensed Technology

We maintain licensed technology on our consolidated balance sheet until either the licensed technology agreement underlying it is completed or the asset becomes impaired. When we determine that an asset has become impaired or we abandon a project, we write down the carrying value of the related intangible asset to its fair value and take an impairment charge in the period in which the impairment occurs.

Generally licensed technology is amortized over the life of the patent or the agreement. We test our intangible assets for impairment on an annual basis, or more frequently if indicators are present or changes in circumstance suggest that impairment may exist. Events that could result in an impairment, or trigger an interim impairment assessment, include the receipt of additional clinical or nonclinical data regarding our drug candidate or a potentially competitive drug candidate, changes in the clinical development program for a drug candidate or new information regarding potential sales for the drug. In connection with each annual impairment assessment and any interim impairment assessment, we compare the fair value of the asset as of the date of the assessment with the carrying value of the asset on our consolidated balance sheet.

In 2017 and 2016, we did not impair any licensed technology.

Goodwill

As of December 31, 2017, goodwill of \$32.5 million was recorded on the Company's balance sheet. The implied fair value of goodwill represented the excess of the Abeona Ohio's value over and above the fair value of its tangible assets and identifiable intangible assets. In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") No. 350 — *Intangibles — Goodwill and Other*, goodwill is tested annually for impairment and whenever changes in circumstances occur that would indicate impairment.

In 2017 and 2016, we did not impair any goodwill.

License Revenues and Royalties

Our revenues are generated from licensing, research and development agreements, royalties and product sales. We recognize revenue in accordance with SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104 (SAB 104), Revenue Recognition. License revenue is recognized over the remaining life of the underlying patent or period of performance obligation. Research and development revenues are recognized as services are performed. Royalties and product revenues are recognized in the period of sales.

Stock Based Compensation Expense

We account for stock based compensation expense in accordance with FASB ASC 718, Stock Based Compensation. We have two stock-based compensation plans under which incentive and qualified stock options and restricted shares may be granted to employees, directors and consultants. We measure the cost of the employee/director/consultant services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant date fair value for employees and directors and vesting date fair value of the award for consultants. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value our options which includes expected volatility, risk-free interest rate, dividend yield and estimated expected term.

Stock-based compensation expense recognized for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 was approximately \$4,644,000 and \$4,829,000, respectively.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Financial statements required by this Item are incorporated in this Annual Report Form 10-K on pages F-1 through F-18 hereto. Reference is made to Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

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

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal accounting officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a- 15(e) and 15d- 15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")), as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based on such evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal accounting officer have concluded that as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, our principal executive and principal accounting officers and effected by our board of directors, management and other personnel, 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 includes those policies and procedures that:

- Pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets;
- Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and 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. Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our principal executive and financial officers, we assessed our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013), issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Our management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting included testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of our internal controls. In our management's opinion, we have maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in the COSO 2013 framework.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 has been audited by Whitley Penn LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

Inherent Limitations of Internal Controls

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Accounting Officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal controls will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of a simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the control. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15(d)-15(f) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, during the fourth quarter of 2017 that have materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Abeona Therapeutics, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Opinion on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

We have audited Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *2013 Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *2013 Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, of the Company, and our report dated March 16, 2018, expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. An Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and (3) 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 the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ WHITLEY PENN LLP

Dallas, Texas
March 16, 2018

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Directors and Reports of Beneficial Ownership. The information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference from the information to be contained in our 2018 Proxy Statement to be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after December 31, 2017 in connection with the solicitation of proxies for our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Proxy Statement). Certain other information relating to the Executive Officers of Abeona appear under the heading “Executive Officers of the Registrant” in Part I of this Form 10-K.

Code of Ethics. We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the Code) that applies to all of our employees (including executive officers) and directors. The Code is available on our website at www.abeonatherapeutics.com under the heading “Investor Information.” We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement regarding any waiver of a provision of the Code applicable to any executive officer or director, by posting such information on such website. We shall provide to any person without charge, upon request, a copy of the Code. Any such request must be made in writing to Abeona Therapeutics Inc., c/o Investor Relations, 3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, TX 75219.

Our corporate governance guidelines and the charters of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors are available on our website at www.abeonatherapeutics.com under the heading “Investor Information”. We shall provide to any person without charge, upon request, a copy of any of the foregoing materials. Any such request must be made in writing to Abeona Therapeutics Inc., c/o Investor Relations, 3333 Lee Parkway, Suite 600, Dallas, TX 75219.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this Item is contained in the Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

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

The information required by this Item is contained in the Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this Item is contained in the Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by this Item is contained in the Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

	<u>Page</u>
a. <u>Financial Statements</u> . The following financial statements are submitted as part of this report:	
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	F-1
Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2017 and 2016	F-2
Consolidated Statements of Operations for 2017 and 2016	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for 2017 and 2016	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for 2017 and 2016	F-5
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-6

b. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description of Document</u>
2.1	Amended and Restated Agreement of Merger and Plan of Reorganization between the Registrant and Chemex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., dated as of October 31, 1995 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit A of our Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated December 20, 1995, Commission File No. 33-64031)
2.2	Agreement and Plan of Merger, by and among the Registrant, MACM Acquisition Corporation and MacroChem Corporation, dated July 9, 2008 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.3 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008)
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(a) of our Form 8-K dated July 12, 1989, Commission File Number 9-9134)
3.2	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed August 13, 1992 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of our Form 10-K for year ended December 31, 1995)
3.3	Certificate of Merger filed January 25, 1996 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit E of our Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated December 20, 1995, Commission File No. 33-64031)
3.4	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed January 25, 1996 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit E of our Registration Statement on Form S-4 dated December 20, 1995, Commission File No. 33-64031)
3.5	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed July 18, 1996 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.7 of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996)
3.6	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed June 18, 1998. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.8 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1998)
3.7	Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed July 31, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.8 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001)
3.8	Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock filed November 7, 2001 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1.H of our Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated December 14, 2001, Commission File No. 333-75136)
3.9	Amended and Restated Bylaws (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1996)
3.10	Certificate of Designation, Rights and Preferences of Series A Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock filed November 9, 2007 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.10 to our Form SB-2 filed on December 10, 2007)
3.11	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Designations, Rights and Preferences of Series A Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock filed June 11, 2008 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.11 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008)

<u>3.12</u>	<u>Certificate of Designations, Rights and Preferences of Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock filed October 26, 2012 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of our Form 8-K filed October 26, 2012)</u>
<u>3.13</u>	<u>Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed July 1, 2013 increasing the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock which we have authority to issue to Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) shares with a par value of one cent (\$0.01) per share (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.13 of our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013).</u>
<u>3.14</u>	<u>Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed October 23, 2014 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.14 of our Form 8-K filed October 23, 2014)</u>
<u>3.15</u>	<u>Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Designations, Rights and Preferences of Series A Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.15 of our Form 8-K filed on October 23, 2014)</u>
<u>3.16</u>	<u>Amendment to Bylaws (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Form 8-K filed January 1, 2015)</u>
<u>3.17</u>	<u>Amendment to Bylaws (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Form 8-K filed March 2, 2015)</u>
<u>3.18</u>	<u>Certificate of Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation filed June 19, 2015 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our June 22, 2015)</u>
<u>4.1*</u>	<u>2015 Equity Incentive Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Form S-8 filed May 11, 2015)</u>
<u>4.2*</u>	<u>2015 Equity Incentive Plan amendment (Incorporated by reference to our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 4, 2016)</u>
<u>4.3*</u>	<u>2015 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and in effect (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 11, 2015, Commission File No. 333-204055)</u>
<u>10.1*</u>	<u>401(k) Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999)</u>
<u>10.2*</u>	<u>2005 Equity Incentive Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 of our Proxy Statement filed on April 18, 2005)</u>
<u>10.3</u>	<u>Asset Sale Agreement dated as of October 12, 2005, between the Registrant and Uluru, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of our 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)</u>
<u>10.4</u>	<u>Amendment to Asset Sale Agreement dated as of December 8, 2006, between the Registrant and Uluru, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of our Form 10-KSB filed on April 2, 2007)</u>
<u>10.5</u>	<u>License Agreement dated as of October 12, 2005, between the Registrant and Uluru, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of our 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)</u>
<u>10.6</u>	<u>Board Designation Agreement dated November 15, 2007, between the Registrant and SCO Capital Partners LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of our Form S-1 filed on March 11, 2008)</u>
<u>10.7+</u>	<u>License Agreement, dated June 6, 2013, by and between us and AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 filed on August 14, 2013)</u>
<u>10.8</u>	<u>Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated May 5, 2015, by and among the Company, Plasmatech Merger Sub Inc., Abeona Therapeutics LLC and Paul A. Hawkins, in his capacity as Member Representative (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015 filed on August 14, 2015)</u>
<u>10.9</u>	<u>Form of Purchase Agreement, dated July 27, 2015 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 8-K filed on August 3, 2015)</u>
<u>10.10</u>	<u>Form of Common Stock Purchase Agreement, dated April 1, 2015 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015 filed on August 14, 2015)</u>
<u>10.11</u>	<u>Form of Securities Purchase Agreement dated May 6, 2015 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015 filed on August 14, 2015)</u>
<u>10.12*</u>	<u>Employment Agreement dated May 6, 2015 between the Company and Timothy J. Miller (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 filed on November 16, 2015)</u>
<u>10.13</u>	<u>Form of Indemnification Agreement, between us and directors and officers of the Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2016 filed on August 15, 2016)</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>Subsidiaries of the Registrant</u>
<u>23.1</u>	<u>Consent of Whitley Penn LLP</u>
<u>31.1</u>	<u>Principal Executive Officer Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>

31.2 [Principal Financial Officer Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)
32** [Principal Executive Officer Certification and Principal Financial Officer Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002](#)

101 The following materials from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text.

* Management contract or compensatory plan required to be filed as an Exhibit to this Form pursuant to Item 15c of the report.

** This exhibit shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of the Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filing.

+ Portions of this exhibit were omitted and filed separately with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to a request for confidential treatment.

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY.

None.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ABEONA THERAPEUTICS INC.

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Steven H. Rouhandeh
Steven H. Rouhandeh
Executive Chairman
Principal Executive Officer

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Stephen B. Thompson
Stephen B. Thompson
Sr. Vice President Finance & Administration
Principal Financial Officer and
Principal Accounting Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Steven H. Rouhandeh
Steven H. Rouhandeh
Executive Chairman
Principal Executive Officer
Chairman of the Board

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Stephen B. Thompson
Stephen B. Thompson
Sr. Vice President Finance & Administration
Principal Financial Officer and
Principal Accounting Officer

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Mark J. Alvino
Mark J. Alvino, Director

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Stephen B. Howell
Stephen B. Howell, Director

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Timothy J. Miller
Timothy J. Miller, President & CEO and Director

Date March 16, 2018 By: /s/ Todd Wider
Todd Wider, Director

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company"), as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB"), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in *2013 Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 16, 2018, expressed an unqualified opinion.

Basis for Opinion

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

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ WHITLEY PENN LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2006.

Dallas, Texas
March 16, 2018

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	<u>December 31, 2017</u>	<u>December 31, 2016</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 137,750,000	\$ 69,142,000
Receivables	107,000	124,000
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,735,000	155,000
Total current assets	<u>140,592,000</u>	<u>69,421,000</u>
Property and equipment, net	1,374,000	721,000
Licensed technology, net	3,977,000	8,384,000
Goodwill	32,466,000	32,466,000
Other assets and restricted cash	357,000	66,000
Total assets	<u>\$ 178,766,000</u>	<u>\$ 111,058,000</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,393,000	\$ 3,694,000
Payable due Plasma Technologies, LLC	-	4,000,000
Current portion of deferred revenue	3,214,000	602,000
Total current liabilities	<u>5,607,000</u>	<u>8,296,000</u>
Deferred revenue, net of current portion	3,061,000	3,664,000
Total liabilities	<u>8,668,000</u>	<u>11,960,000</u>
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock - \$.01 par value; authorized 200,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 46,888,108 at December 31, 2017; issued and outstanding 40,254,457 at December 31, 2016	469,000	403,000
Additional paid-in capital	529,421,000	431,168,000
Accumulated deficit	(359,792,000)	(332,473,000)
Total stockholders' equity	<u>170,098,000</u>	<u>99,098,000</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 178,766,000</u>	<u>\$ 111,058,000</u>

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

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	For the year ended	
	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Revenues		
License revenues	\$ 602,000	\$ 602,000
Royalties	235,000	287,000
Total revenues	<u>837,000</u>	<u>889,000</u>
Expenses		
Research and development	16,989,000	10,655,000
General and administrative	10,943,000	13,290,000
Depreciation and amortization	741,000	825,000
Total expenses	<u>28,673,000</u>	<u>24,770,000</u>
Loss from operations	(27,836,000)	(23,881,000)
Interest and miscellaneous income	525,000	2,014,000
Interest and other expense	(8,000)	(6,000)
	<u>517,000</u>	<u>2,008,000</u>
Net loss	<u>\$ (27,319,000)</u>	<u>\$ (21,873,000)</u>
Basic and diluted loss per common share	<u>\$ (0.66)</u>	<u>\$ (0.64)</u>
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding – basic and diluted	<u>41,636,752</u>	<u>34,180,253</u>

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

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Common Stock		Additional paid-in capital	Accumulated deficit	Total stockholders' equity
	Shares	Amount			
Balance, December 31, 2015	32,743,013	\$ 328,000	\$ 377,993,000	\$ (310,600,000)	\$ 67,721,000
Restricted common stock issued to employees and directors	100,000	1,000	3,431,000	-	3,432,000
Exercise of \$5.00 warrants	5,836	-	-	-	-
Restricted common stock issued for \$2.85 share	52,690	-	150,000	-	150,000
Common stock issued for \$3.27 share for licenses	750,000	8,000	2,444,000	-	2,452,000
Common stock issued for an average of \$6.44 share net of costs	158,029	2,000	967,000	-	969,000
Common stock issued for \$7.00 share net of costs	6,293,889	63,000	41,005,000	-	41,068,000
Common stock issued for cash exercise of options	151,000	1,000	349,000	-	350,000
Stock option compensation expense	-	-	4,829,000	-	4,829,000
Net loss	-	-	-	(21,873,000)	(21,873,000)
Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>40,254,457</u>	<u>403,000</u>	<u>431,168,000</u>	<u>(332,473,000)</u>	<u>99,098,000</u>
Vesting of restricted common stock issued to employees and directors	-	-	1,272,000	-	1,272,000
Exercise of \$8.00 warrants	625,000	6,000	4,994,000	-	5,000,000
Exercise of \$5.00 warrants	176,932	2,000	883,000	-	885,000
Common stock issued for an average of \$16.00 share net of costs	5,750,000	58,000	86,116,000	-	86,174,000
Common stock issued for cash exercise of options	81,719	-	344,000	-	344,000
Stock option compensation expense	-	-	4,644,000	-	4,644,000
Net loss	-	-	-	(27,319,000)	(27,319,000)
Balance, December 31, 2017	<u>46,888,108</u>	<u>\$ 469,000</u>	<u>\$ 529,421,000</u>	<u>\$ (359,792,000)</u>	<u>\$ 170,098,000</u>

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

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Year ended December 31,	
	2017	2016
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (27,319,000)	\$ (21,873,000)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	741,000	825,000
Stock option compensation expense	4,644,000	4,829,000
Restricted common stock issued to directors and employees	1,272,000	3,432,000
Net gain on write off of licensed technology	(127,000)	-
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	17,000	(9,000)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(2,580,000)	160,000
Other assets and restricted cash	(291,000)	(4,000)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(1,301,000)	2,819,000
Contingent consideration milestone	-	(2,591,000)
Deferred revenue	2,009,000	(602,000)
Net cash used in operating activities	(22,935,000)	(13,014,000)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(860,000)	(519,000)
Net cash used in by investing activities	(860,000)	(519,000)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from \$16.00 common stock offering, net of costs	86,174,000	-
Proceeds from exercise of \$8.00 warrants	5,000,000	-
Proceeds from exercise of \$5.00 warrants	885,000	-
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	344,000	350,000
Proceeds from \$7.00 common stock offering net of costs	-	41,068,000
Proceeds from an average of \$6.44 per share common stock issuances net of costs	-	969,000
Proceeds from \$2.85 restricted common stock issuance	-	150,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	92,403,000	42,537,000
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	68,608,000	29,004,000
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	69,142,000	40,138,000
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 137,750,000	\$ 69,142,000
<i>Supplemental cash flow information:</i>		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,000
<i>Supplemental disclosure of noncash transactions</i>		
Write off of licensed asset and corresponding liability	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -
Shares issued to EB Research Partnership and Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation for licenses	\$ -	\$ 2,452,000

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

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and Subsidiaries

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Two years ended December 31, 2017

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operations

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (together with our subsidiaries, “we,” “our,” “Abeona” or the “Company”) is a Delaware corporation. We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing cell and gene therapies for life-threatening rare genetic diseases. Our lead programs include EB-101 (gene-corrected skin grafts) for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB), ABO-102 (AAV-SGSH), an adeno-associated virus (AAV) based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type A (MPS IIIA) and ABO-101 (AAV NAGLU), an AAV based gene therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type B (MPS IIIB). We are also developing ABO-201 (AAV-CLN3) gene therapy for juvenile Batten disease (JNCL), ABO-202 (AAV-CLN1) for treatment of infantile Batten disease (INCL), EB-201 for epidermolysis bullosa (EB), ABO-301 (AAV-FANCC) for Fanconi anemia (FA) disorder and ABO-302 using a novel CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing approach to gene therapy for rare blood diseases. In addition we are developing a proprietary vector platform, AIM™, for next generation product candidates.

A summary of the significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements follows:

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from these estimates and assumptions.

Segments

The Company operates in a single segment.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

We consider all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, we had no such investments. We maintain deposits primarily in two financial institutions, which may at times exceed amounts covered by insurance provided by the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). We have not experienced any losses related to amounts in excess of FDIC limits.

Receivables

Receivables are reported in the consolidated balance sheets at net realizable value. We continually evaluate the creditworthiness of our customers and their financial condition and generally do not require collateral. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based upon reviews of specific customer balances, historic losses, and general economic conditions. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, no allowance was recorded as all accounts are considered collectible.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives ranging from three to five years. Expenditures for major renewals and betterments that extend the useful lives are capitalized. Expenditures for normal maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. The cost of assets sold or abandoned and the related accumulated depreciation are eliminated from the accounts and any gains or losses are recognized in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations of the respective period.

Licensed Technology

We maintain licensed technology on our consolidated balance sheet until either the licensed technology agreement underlying it is completed or the asset becomes impaired. When we determine that an asset has become impaired or we abandon a project, we write down the carrying value of the related intangible asset to its fair value and take an impairment charge in the period in which the impairment occurs.

Licensed technology is amortized over the life of the patent or the agreement and periodically reviews for impairment.

We test our intangible assets for impairment on an annual basis, or more frequently if indicators are present or changes in circumstance suggest that impairment may exist. Events that could result in an impairment, or trigger an interim impairment assessment, include the receipt of additional clinical or nonclinical data regarding our drug candidate or a potentially competitive drug candidate, changes in the clinical development program for a drug candidate or new information regarding potential sales for the drug. In connection with each annual impairment assessment and any interim impairment assessment, we compare the fair value of the asset as of the date of the assessment with the carrying value of the asset on our consolidated balance sheet.

In 2017 and 2016, we did not impair any licensed technology.

Goodwill

As of December 31, 2017, goodwill of \$32.5 million was recorded on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. The implied fair value of goodwill represented the excess of the Abeona Ohio's value over and above the fair value of its tangible assets and identifiable intangible assets. In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") No. 350 — *Intangibles — Goodwill and Other*, goodwill is tested annually for impairment and whenever changes in circumstances occur that would indicate impairment. The Company did not recognize any impairment charges related to goodwill in 2017 or 2016.

Revenue

The Company has primarily generated revenue through out-licensing arrangements including royalties on net-sales of products.

The Company recognizes licensed revenue on up-front payments on out-licensed agreements over the licensed agreement term. The upfront-payments, made in 2008-2014, were recorded in deferred revenue on the balance sheet.

The Company recognizes royalty revenue generated under out-licensing arrangements in the period of sale.

The Company also has sponsored revenue from Sanfilippo Foundation Grants to support the research, clinical trials and manufacturing for the treatment of MPSIIIA and MPSIIIB. The foundations have agreed to \$13,875,000 of grants to Abeona. \$2.6 million was received in 2017. The grants will be recorded in deferred revenue as the cash is received and revenue will be recorded to match expenses that the grant is used to support.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development costs are expensed as incurred. Research and development expenses include, but are not limited to, payroll and personnel expense, lab supplies, preclinical, development cost, clinical trial expense, outside manufacturing and consulting. The cost of materials and equipment or facilities that are acquired for research and development activities and that have alternative future uses are capitalized when acquired.

General and administrative expense

General and administrative expenses primarily consist of personnel, contract personnel, personnel expenses to support our administrative and operating activities, facility costs and professional expenses (i.e., legal expenses), and investor relations fees.

Other Income

In 2017 and 2016, we recognized miscellaneous income of \$525,000 and \$2,014,000, respectively. Miscellaneous income in 2017 was from write-offs and settlements of other accounts payable, the Plasma Technologies/Acestor agreement resulting in miscellaneous income and from manufacturing income. Miscellaneous income in 2016 was from the termination and settlement of milestones recorded as a contingent liability, a settlement with our directors and officer's liability insurance company, manufacturing income and write-offs and settlements of other accounts payable.

In some of our license agreements we are responsible as agent for arranging the manufacture of MuGard (mucoadhesive oral wound rinse) and have entered into supply agreements with our license partners. Terms vary with each agreement but generally we arrange for the manufacturing of MuGard with a third-party and receive a fee to cover our administration, handling and overhead costs. The income is recorded in other income.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the consolidated financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. A valuation allowance is provided for deferred tax assets to the extent their realization is in doubt.

We account for uncertain income tax positions in accordance with ASC 740, *Income Taxes*. Interest costs and penalties related to income taxes are classified as interest expense and general and administrative costs, respectively, in our consolidated financial statements. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, we did not recognize any uncertain tax positions or interest or penalty expense related to income taxes. It is determined not to be reasonably likely for the amounts of unrecognized tax benefits to significantly increase or decrease within the next 12 months. We are currently subject to a three year statute of limitations by major tax jurisdictions for the years ended 2014, 2015 and 2016. We and our subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction.

Loss Per Share

We have presented basic loss per share, computed on the basis of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year, and diluted loss per share, computed on the basis of the weighted average number of common shares and all dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the year. Potential common shares result from stock options and warrants. Common equivalent shares have not been included in the net loss per share calculations for years ended December 31, 2017 or 2016 because the effect of including them would have been anti-dilutive.

We did not include the following securities in the table below in the computation of diluted net loss per common share because the securities were anti-dilutive during the periods presented:

	For the year ended	
	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Warrants	2,934,685	3,736,617
Stock options	5,429,727	4,771,560
Total	8,364,412	8,508,177

Stock Based Compensation

We account for stock based compensation expense in accordance with ASC 718, *Stock Based Compensation*. We have two stock based compensation plans under which incentive and qualified stock options and restricted shares could be granted to employees, directors and consultants. Our 2015 Equity Incentive Plan was approved by shareholders in May 7, 2015. As of January 20, 2015, no further grants can be made under our old plan, the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan. We measure the cost of the employee/director/consultant services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant date fair value for the employees and directors and vesting date fair value for consultants of the award. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value our options.

The following table summarizes stock based option compensation for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 which was allocated as follows (in thousands):

	Year ended	Year ended
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
Research and development	\$ 1,668	\$ 1,219
General and administrative	2,976	3,610
Stock based compensation expense included in operating expense	4,644	4,829
Total stock based compensation expense	4,644	4,829
Tax benefit	-	-
Stock based compensation expense, net of tax	\$ 4,644	\$ 4,829

The following table summarizes restricted stock compensation for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 which was allocated as follows (in thousands):

	Year ended	Year ended
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
Research and development	\$ -	\$ 200
General and administrative	1,272	3,232
Stock based compensation expense included in operating expense	1,272	3,432
Total stock based compensation expense	1,272	3,432
Tax benefit	-	-
Stock based compensation expense, net of tax	\$ 1,272	\$ 3,432

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)* (“ASU 2014-09”), which supersedes existing revenue recognition guidance under GAAP. The standard’s core principle is that a company will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standard defines a five-step process to achieve this principle, and will require companies to use more judgment and make more estimates than under the current guidance. The guidance was originally effective for public entities for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and allows for adoption using a full retrospective method, or a modified retrospective method. Early adoption was originally not permitted. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Deferral of the Effective Date*, which delayed the effective date for public entities to annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017 and for interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption of the standard is permitted for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-08, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Principal versus Agent Considerations*, to clarify the implementation guidance on principal versus agent considerations. In April 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-10, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing*, to clarify various aspects of Topic 606, including the identification of performance obligations and the implementation of licensing guidance. In May 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-12, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Narrow-Scope Improvements and Practical Expedients*, to clarify aspects of Topic 606, including assessing the collectability criterion, presentation of sales taxes and other similar taxes collected from customers, noncash consideration, contract modifications at transition and completed contracts at transition. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of this new guidance.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases for both parties to a contract (i.e. lessees and lessors). The new standard requires lessees to apply a dual approach, classifying leases as either finance or operating leases based on the principle of whether or not the lease is effectively a financed purchase by the lessee. This classification will determine whether lease expense is recognized based on an effective interest method or on a straight line basis over the term of the lease, respectively. A lessee is also required to record a right-of-use asset and a lease liability for all leases with a term of greater than 12 months regardless of their classification. Leases with a term of 12 months or less will be accounted for similar to existing guidance for operating leases today. ASC 842 supersedes the previous leases standard, ASC 840 Leases. The standard is effective for public entities for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of this new guidance.

NOTE 2 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Equipment laboratory	\$ 627,000	\$ 473,000
Furniture and office equipment	449,000	309,000
Leasehold improvement	229,000	118,000
Construction WIP	455,000	-
	<u>1,760,000</u>	<u>900,000</u>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	386,000	179,000
Property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 1,374,000</u>	<u>\$ 721,000</u>

Depreciation and amortization on property and equipment was \$207,000 and \$148,000 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

NOTE 3 – LICENSED TECHNOLOGY

On May 15, 2015, we acquired Abeona Therapeutics LLC which had a an exclusive license through Nationwide Children’s Hospital to the AB-101 and AB-102 patent portfolios for developing treatments for patients with Sanfilippo Syndrome Type A and Type B. The license is amortized over the life of the license of 20 years.

On August 3, 2016, we announced we entered into an agreement (the “EB Agreement”) with EB Research Partnership (“EBRP”) and Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation (“EBMRF”) to collaborate on gene therapy treatments for EB. The EB Agreement became effective August 3, 2016, on the execution of two licensing agreements with The Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University (“Stanford”) described below.

We also entered into a license with Stanford for the AAV-based gene therapy EB-201 (AAV DJ COL7A1) technology, and we shall perform preclinical development and perform clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for EB based upon such in-licensed technology. EB-201 (AAV DJ COL7A1) is a pre-clinical candidate targeting a novel, AAV-mediated gene editing and delivery approach (known as homologous recombination) to correct gene mutations in skin cells (keratinocytes) for patients with recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB). The licenses are amortized over the life of the license of 20 years.

On September 22, 2014, we entered into an exclusive, worldwide, licensing agreement with Plasma Technologies LLC (“Plasmatech”) to obtain rights to utilize and to sub-license to other pharmaceutical firms, its patented methods for the extraction of therapeutic biologics from human plasma. The license was to be amortized over the life of the patent of 11 years. Under the terms of the licensing agreement, as amended on January 23, 2015, we paid a license fee of \$1 million in cash, will pay \$4,000,000 in cash or 1,096,151 shares of our common stock in 2017 and other possible milestones.

On May 26, 2017, we entered into agreements with Plasmatech and Acestor Therapeutics LLC (“Acestor”). Abeona would hold an 80% membership interest in Acestor and Plasmatech would hold the remaining 20% membership interest in Acestor. Acestor was formed for the purposes of seeking additional financing in the amount of approximately \$5,000,000 to develop and commercialize the technology of that certain license agreement for certain patent rights that was granted to Abeona from Plasmatech on September 19, 2014 and amended January 23, 2015 (“License Agreement”). The License Agreement was transferred to Acestor and the amortization of the licensed technology ceased on May 26, 2017. In addition, Abeona’s payment obligation of \$4,000,000 to Plasmatech was waived and replaced with an obligation of Acestor to pay Plasmatech 10% of the aggregate proceeds in respect of any financing (whether public or private) undertaken by Acestor on or before November 26, 2017. A gain of \$127,000 to reflect this transaction was recorded in the second quarter of 2017. In December 2017 the agreements were terminated and the technology was returned to Plasmatech.

Licensed technology consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Licensed technology	\$ 4,608,000	\$ 9,608,000
Less accumulated amortization	631,000	1,224,000
Licensed technology, net	<u>\$ 3,977,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,384,000</u>

Amortization on licensed technology was \$534,000 and \$677,000 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The aggregate estimated amortization expense for intangible assets remaining as of December 31, 2017 is as follows (in thousands):

2018	\$ 346
2019	346
2020	346
2021	346
2022	346
Thereafter	2,247
Total	<u>\$ 3,977</u>

NOTE 4 – 401(k) PLAN

We have a tax-qualified employee savings and retirement plan (the 401(k) Plan) covering all our employees. Pursuant to the 401(k) Plan, employees may elect to reduce their current compensation by up to the statutorily prescribed annual limit (\$18,000 in both 2017 and 2016) and to have the amount of such reduction contributed to the 401(k) Plan. The 401(k) Plan is intended to qualify under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code so that contributions by employees or by us to the 401(k) Plan, and income earned on 401(k) Plan contributions, are not taxable to employees until withdrawn from the 401(k) Plan, and so that contributions by us, if any, will be deductible by us when made. At the direction of each participant, we invest the assets of the 401(k) Plan in any of over 50 investment options. Company contributions under the 401(k) Plan were \$0 in 2017 and 2016.

NOTE 5 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Operating Leases

At December 31, 2017, we had an operating lease for our Cleveland office and lab until December 31, 2025 totaling \$2,107,000. We have the option to extend the lease for an additional five years. We can also terminate the lease early at December 31, 2020, at the end of year five, and pay for unamortized tenant improvements. Our total lease costs and unamortized tenant improvements would total \$1,331,000 with the early termination provision. We also had an operating lease for our New York office until April 30, 2023 totaling \$2,793,000 and a non-cancelable operating lease for our Dallas office until August 31, 2018 totaling \$12,000.

Future operating lease payments are (in thousands):

2018	\$ 629
2019	809
2020	814
2021	820
2022	825
Thereafter	1,015
Total	<u>\$ 4,912</u>

Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$742,000 and \$548,000, respectively.

At December 31, 2017, we had construction in-progress to build out manufacturing facilities at our Cleveland location. We had a remaining construction commitment of \$231,000 at December 31, 2017.

Legal

We are not currently subject to any material pending legal proceedings as of December 31, 2017.

NOTE 6 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We calculate the fair value of our assets and liabilities which qualify as financial instruments and include additional information in the notes to the consolidated financial statements when the fair value is different than the carrying value of these financial instruments. The estimated fair value of receivables, prepaids and other, accounts payable and payable to licensor approximate their carrying amounts due to the relatively short maturity of these instruments.

U.S. GAAP defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This guidance establishes a three-level fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. The hierarchy requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets and liabilities. This includes certain pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar valuation techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

The guidance requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

We have segregated all financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis (at least annually) into the most appropriate level within the fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used to determine the fair value at the measurement date in the table below.

Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring and non-recurring basis as of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 are summarized below:

(in thousands)

Description	As of December 31, 2017	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Gains (Losses)
Non-recurring					
Assets:					
Licensed technology (net)	\$ 3,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,977	\$ 127
Goodwill	32,466	-	-	32,466	-
As of December 31, 2016					
Description	As of December 31, 2016	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Gains (Losses)
Non-recurring					
Assets:					
Licensed technology (net)	\$ 8,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,384	\$ -
Goodwill	32,466			32,466	-
Recurring					
Liabilities:					
Contingent consideration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1,391

NOTE 7 – STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

2017 Financing

On October 19, 2017, we closed an underwritten public offering of 5,750,000 shares of common stock, at a public offering price of \$16.00 per share. The gross proceeds to the Company were approximately \$92,000,000, before deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by the Company.

During the third quarter of 2017 we received additional financing of \$5.0 million through warrant exercises of our \$8.00 warrants

During the second half of 2017 we received additional financing of \$0.9 million through warrant exercises of our \$5.00 warrants

2016 Financing

On November 1, 2016, we closed an underwritten public offering of 6,000,000 shares of common stock, at a public offering price of \$7.00 per share. On November 23, 2016, we closed a follow-on offering of 293,889 shares as permitted by the underwriting agreement at the same offering price of \$7.00 per share. The gross proceeds to the Company were \$44,057,000, before deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by the Company.

Warrants

There were warrants to purchase a total of 2,934,685 shares of common stock outstanding at December 31, 2017. All warrants were exercisable at December 31, 2017. The warrants had various exercise prices and terms as follows:

Summary of Warrants	Warrants Outstanding	Exercise Price	Expiration Date
2015 Financing 7/31/15 (a)	20,000	\$ 6.05	07/31/20
2015 Financing 5/11/15 agent warrants (b)	50,000	11.00	5/11/20
2014 Financing 12/24/14 (c)	2,395,949	5.00	12/24/19
2014 Financing 12/24/14 agent warrants (c)	68,735	5.00	12/18/19
2012 Series B private placement (d)	400,001	25.00	10/24/18
Total	<u>2,934,685</u>		

- a) In connection with the offering on July 31, 2015, the placement agent received warrants to purchase 20,000 share of common stock at \$6.05 per share. The warrants are exercisable and expire on July 31, 2020.
- b) In connection with the offering on May 11, 2015, the placement agent received warrants to purchase 50,000 share of common stock at \$11.00 per share. The warrants are exercisable and expire on May 11, 2020.
- c) In connection with an offering on December 24, 2014, warrants to purchase 3,500,000 shares of common stock at \$5.00 per share were purchased and issued for \$0.01 per warrant. All of the warrants are exercisable and expire on December 24, 2019. At December 31, 2017, 2,395,949 warrants are outstanding.

Also in connection with the offering on December 24, 2014, the underwriter received warrants to purchase 68,735 shares of common stock at \$5.00 per share. The warrants are exercisable and expire on December 18, 2019.

- d) In connection with a private placement offering on October 25, 2012, warrants to purchase 400,001 shares of common stock at \$25.00 per share were issued. All of the warrants are exercisable and expire on October 24, 2018.

NOTE 8 – STOCK OPTION PLANS

Our stock-based employee compensation plans are described below:

2015 Equity Incentive Plan

We have a stock awards plan, as amended, (the 2015 Equity Incentive Plan), under which 10,000,000 shares of our authorized but unissued common stock are reserved for issuance to employees, consultants, or to non-employee members of the Board or to any member of the board of directors (or similar governing authority) of any affiliate of the Company. The 2015 Equity Incentive Plan, approved by our shareholders on May 7, 2015, replaced the previously approved stock option plan (the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan).

For the 2015 Equity Incentive Plan, the fair value of options was estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions used for grants in 2017: dividend yield of 0%; volatility of 111%; risk-free interest rate of 1.81%; and expected lives of 5.0 years. The weighted average fair value of options granted was \$11.35 per share during 2017.

The assumptions for fiscal 2016 are: dividend yield of 0%; volatility of 109%; risk-free interest rate of 1.10%; and expected lives of 5.0 years. The weighted average fair value of options granted was \$2.59 per share during 2016.

Summarized information for the 2015 Equity Incentive Plan is as follows:

	Options	Weighted- average exercise price
Outstanding options at January 1, 2016	1,994,000	\$ 6.90
Granted, fair value of \$2.59 per share	2,622,500	3.29
Exercised	(151,000)	2.32
Expired/forfeited	(22,500)	3.23
Outstanding options at December 31, 2016	4,443,000	4.94
Granted, fair value of \$11.35 per share	1,077,000	14.31
Exercised	(81,719)	4.22
Expired/forfeited	(325,314)	5.52
Outstanding options at December 31, 2017	5,112,967	9.07
Exercisable at December 31, 2017	2,471,135	5.48
Options vested during the twelve months ended December 31, 2017	1,143,448	4.19
Non-vested options at December 31, 2016	3,115,313	4.24
Non-vested options at December 31, 2017	2,641,832	8.21

The intrinsic value related to the outstanding or exercisable options under this plan at December 31, 2017 was \$45,988,000 and \$25,614,000, respectively. At December 31, 2016, the intrinsic value related to the outstanding or exercisable options under this plan was \$3,806,000 and \$417,000, respectively.

The total intrinsic value of the options exercised during 2017 was \$641,000. The total intrinsic value of the options exercised during 2016 was \$450,000.

Further information regarding options outstanding under the 2015 Equity Incentive Plan at December 31, 2015 is summarized below:

Range of exercise prices	Number of options outstanding	Weighted average		Number of Options exercisable	Weighted-average	
		Remaining life in years	Exercise Price		Remaining life in years	Exercise price
\$2.31 – 4.45	2,723,092	8.9	\$ 3.64	1,137,177	8.9	\$ 3.31
\$7.34	1,497,875	8.0	\$ 7.34	1,333,958	8.0	\$ 7.34
\$16.00 – 16.70	892,000	10.0	\$ 16.06	-	10.0	-
	<u>5,112,967</u>			<u>2,471,135</u>		

At December 31, 2017 the total compensation cost related to non-vested options not recognized is \$17,384,000. The expected weighted average period over which the total compensation costs related to non-vested options not yet vested is 3.23.

2005 Equity Incentive Plan

Under the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended, shares of our authorized but unissued common stock were reserved for issuance to employees, consultants, or to non-employee members of the Board or to any member of the board of directors (or similar governing authority) of any affiliate of the Company. As of January 20, 2015 no additional shares were available for grant under the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan. A total of 317,760 options were outstanding and exercisable under this plan at December 31, 2017.

Summarized information for the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan is as follows:

	<u>Options</u>	<u>Weighted- average exercise price</u>
Outstanding options at January 1, 2016	330,084	\$ 13.49
Expired/forfeited	(1,524)	36.93
Outstanding options at December 31, 2016	328,560	14.57
Expired/forfeited	(11,800)	21.53
Outstanding options at December 31, 2017	<u>316,760</u>	<u>14.31</u>
Exercisable at December 31, 2017	316,760	14.31

The intrinsic value related to the outstanding or exercisable options under this plan at December 31, 2017 was \$1,529,000.

Further information regarding options outstanding under the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan at December 31, 2017 is summarized below:

<u>Range of exercise prices</u>	<u>Number of options outstanding</u>	<u>Weighted average</u>		<u>Number of options exercisable</u>	<u>Weighted-average</u>	
		<u>Remaining life in years</u>	<u>Exercise price</u>		<u>Remaining life in years</u>	<u>Exercise price</u>
\$3.25	120,000	3.0	\$ 3.25	120,000	3.0	\$ 3.25
\$11.50 - 18.50	189,000	7.0	\$ 18.35	189,000	7.0	\$ 18.35
\$30.50 – 150.00	7,760	3.2	\$ 86.79	7,760	3.2	\$ 86.79
	<u>316,760</u>			<u>316,760</u>		

NOTE 9 – INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense differs from the statutory amounts as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Income taxes at U.S. statutory rate	\$ (9,289,000)	\$ (7,437,000)
Current year reserve	(25,175,000)	7,423,000
Expenses not deductible	46,000	14,000
Rate change	<u>34,418,000</u>	-
Total tax expense	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Deferred taxes are provided for the temporary differences between the financial reporting bases and the tax bases of our assets and liabilities. The temporary differences that give rise to deferred tax assets and liabilities were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Deferred tax assets (liabilities):		
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 50,029,000	\$ 73,864,000
General business credit carryforwards	3,227,000	2,557,000
State credits	3,089,000	3,089,000
Property, equipment and goodwill	(28,000)	(23,000)
Stock options	5,122,000	6,450,000
Derivatives	(57,000)	(92,000)
Deferred revenue	778,000	1,464,000
Intangible assets	379,000	228,000
Accrued interest	156,000	253,000
Other	143,000	231,000
Gross deferred tax assets	62,838,000	88,021,000
Valuation allowance	(62,838,000)	(88,021,000)
Net deferred taxes	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

At December 31, 2017, we had approximately \$238,235,000 of net operating loss carryforwards and approximately \$2,654,000 of general business credit carryforwards. These carryforwards expire as follows:

	Net operating loss carryforwards	General business credit carryforwards
2018	\$ 3,324,000	\$ 112,000
2019	3,306,000	95,000
2020	5,125,000	226,000
2021	5,378,000	56,000
Thereafter	221,102,000	2,165,000
	<u>\$ 238,235,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,654,000</u>

As a result of a merger on January 25, 1996, a change in control occurred for federal income tax purposes, which limits the utilization of pre-merger net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$3,100,000 to approximately \$530,000 per year.

Additionally, we acquired MacroChem Corporation on February 25, 2009. The corporation was a loss company at the time of the acquisition. Therefore, the net operating losses related to the acquisition may be subject to annual limitations as provided by Internal Revenue Code Sec. 382.

On December 22, 2017, President Donald Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The Act reduces the US federal corporate tax rate from 34% to 21%. At December 31, 2017 we have not completed our accounting for the tax effects of enactment of the Act. However, in certain cases, as described below, we have made a reasonable estimate of the effects on our existing deferred tax balances.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities: We recalculated the deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the rates at which they are expected to reverse in the future, which is generally 21%. However, we are still analyzing certain aspects of the Act and refining our calculations, which could potentially affect the recalculation of these balances. The provisional amount recorded related to the recalculation of deferred tax balances is \$34,418,000.

Subsidiaries of the Registrant

Abeona Therapeutics LLC, an Ohio company

Abeona Therapeutics Europe, S.L., a Spanish company

MacroChem Corporation, a Delaware company

Virium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware company

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statements on Form S-1 (File No. 333-197220), Form S-3 (File Nos. 333-205128 and 333-204179), and Form S-8 (File Nos. 333-214846, 333-204055, 333-189985, 333-169067, 333-161642, 333-125796 and 333-221552) of our report dated March 16, 2018, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and subsidiaries and our report dated March 16, 2018, relating to effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 2017.

/s/ Whitley Penn LLP
Dallas, Texas
March 16, 2018

PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C.
SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Steven H. Rouhandeh, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Abeona Therapeutics Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: March 16, 2018

/s/ Steven H. Rouhandeh

Steven H. Rouhandeh
Executive Chairman
Principal Executive Officer

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C.
SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Stephen B. Thompson, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Abeona Therapeutics Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: March 16, 2018

/s/ Stephen B. Thompson

Stephen B. Thompson
Vice President Finance
Principal Financial and
Accounting Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C.
SECTION 1350 AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

This certification set forth below is hereby made solely for the purposes of satisfying the requirements of Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and may not be relied upon or used for any other purposes.

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and will be retained by Abeona Therapeutics Inc. and furnished to the SEC or its staff upon its request.

Pursuant to Section 906 of the Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted, the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act"), Steven H. Rouhandeh, Executive Chairman of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (the "Company"), and Stephen B. Thompson, Vice President Finance of the Company hereby certify that to their knowledge the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2017 of the Company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company for the period specified.

Signed at the City of Dallas, in the State of Texas, this 16th day of March, 2018.

/s/ Steven H. Rouhandeh
Steven H. Rouhandeh
Executive Chairman
Principal Executive Officer

/s/ Stephen B. Thompson
Stephen B. Thompson
Vice President Finance
Principal Financial and Accounting Officer
