

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549**

FORM 8-K

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

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): April 14, 2021

ABEONA THERAPEUTICS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-15771

(Commission
File Number)

83-0221517

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

**1330 Avenue of the Americas, 33rd Floor,
New York, NY 10019**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(646) 813-4701

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

<u>Title of Each Class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	ABEO	Nasdaq Capital Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On April 14, 2021, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (the "Company") appointed Leila Alland, M.D. and Donald Wuchterl to serve on the Board effective on April 14, 2021. Dr. Alland will serve as a Class 2 director whose term will expire at the Company's upcoming 2021 annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Wuchterl will serve as a Class 3 director whose term will expire at the Company's annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2022. Committee assignments, if any, for each of Dr. Alland or Mr. Wuchterl will be disclosed in a Current Report on Form 8-K once determined by the Board.

The Board has determined that each of Dr. Alland and Mr. Wuchterl qualify as an "independent director" as defined under Nasdaq Listing Rule 5605(a)(2).

As non-employee directors, Dr. Alland and Mr. Wuchterl will each receive the same compensation as the other non-employee directors of the Company under the standard arrangements and agreements described in the Company's 2021 Annual Meeting Proxy Statement. The Company is not aware of any transaction or relationship involving Dr. Alland or Mr. Wuchterl requiring disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD.

The Company has issued a press release, dated April 19, 2021, announcing the appointment of Dr. Alland and Mr. Wuchterl to the Board. The press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein. The information furnished in Exhibit 99.1 hereto shall not be considered "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be incorporated by reference into future filings by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Exchange Act, unless the Company expressly sets forth in such future filings that such information is to be considered "filed" or incorporated by reference therein.

Item 9.01 Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release, dated April 19, 2021
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

April 19, 2021

Abeona Therapeutics Inc.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Brendan M. O'Malley
Name: Brendan M. O'Malley
Title: Corporate Secretary



Abeona Therapeutics Appoints Two Industry Leaders as New Independent Members to Its Board of Directors

New board members add a wealth of experience in clinical development and manufacturing of cell therapy and gene therapy products

NEW YORK and CLEVELAND, Apr. 19, 2021 – Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq: ABEO), a fully-integrated leader in gene and cell therapy, today announced the appointment of Dr. Leila Alland and Mr. Donald Wuchterl as new independent members to its Board of Directors.

“Leila and Donald bring a collective wealth of diverse biologics experience to Abeona that spans clinical development and manufacturing of cell therapy and gene therapy products, as we continue to focus on the mission of bringing our novel gene and cell therapies to patients who currently have no approved treatment options,” said Steven H. Rouhandeh, Chairman of Abeona’s Board of Directors. “Their relevant expertise and backgrounds complement those of our current directors, and I look forward to relying on the fresh perspectives of our strengthened and expanded board to help guide Abeona’s corporate strategy and operational execution going forward.”

Dr. Alland, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist and accomplished physician-scientist, has been working in the biopharmaceutical industry since 2001 to bring novel therapies to patients. Dr. Alland is currently Chief Medical Officer of PMV Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a precision oncology company pioneering the discovery and development of small molecule, tumor-agnostic therapies targeting p53 mutants. Previously, Dr. Alland served as Chief Medical Officer at Affimed, and prior to that she held the same position at Tarveda Therapeutics. Dr. Alland also held leadership positions at AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, and Schering-Plough, where she worked on a broad range of oncology products from early to late-stage development and contributed to multiple successful drug approvals.

Dr. Alland obtained her medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, and her B.A. in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and her fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at The New York Hospital and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Earlier in her career, Dr. Alland served as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she was awarded the James S. McDonnell Foundation Scholar Award and pursued basic cancer research while also caring for children with cancer and blood disorders. Since 2020, Dr. Alland has served on the Board of Directors of Cytovia Therapeutics, Inc., an immuno-oncology company developing engineered cellular and antibody therapies to treat cancer. Dr. Alland is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of Columbia University’s Center for Radiological Research and serves as a scientific reviewer for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

Mr. Wuchterl brings over 29 years of experience in the life sciences industry, with senior roles in operations and Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC). He has significant experience building and leading current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) manufacturing organizations and facilities. Mr. Wuchterl currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Manufacturing Officer at T-knife Therapeutics, a next-generation T-cell receptor company developing innovative therapeutics for the benefit of solid tumor patients and their families. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President, Technical Operations & Quality at Audentes Therapeutics (an Astellas Company), a gene therapy company focused on developing and commercializing innovative products for patients living with serious, life-threatening rare neuromuscular diseases. Prior to Audentes, Mr. Wuchterl served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Cytovance Biologics, and held positions of increasing responsibility with Dendreon, Shire HGT, Amgen, Biogen Idec and Roche. Mr. Wuchterl has a B.S. in Business Administration from Colorado Technical University and an M.B.A. from Fitchburg State University.

About Abeona Therapeutics

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing gene and cell therapies for serious diseases. Abeona’s clinical programs include EB-101, its autologous, gene-corrected cell therapy for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa in Phase 3 development, as well as ABO-102 and ABO-101, novel AAV-based gene therapies for Sanfilippo syndrome types A and B (MPS IIIA and MPS IIIB), respectively, in Phase 1/2 development. The Company’s portfolio also features AAV-based gene therapies for ophthalmic diseases with high unmet medical needs. Abeona’s novel, next-generation AIM™ capsids have shown potential to improve tropism profiles for a variety of devastating diseases. Abeona’s fully functional, gene and cell therapy GMP manufacturing facility produces EB-101 for the pivotal Phase 3 VIITAL™ study and is capable of clinical and commercial production of AAV-based gene therapies. For more information, visit www.abeonatherapeutics.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains certain statements that are forward-looking 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, and that involve risks and uncertainties. We have attempted to identify forward-looking statements by such terminology as “may,” “will,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” and similar expressions (as well as other words or expressions referencing future events, conditions, or circumstances), which constitute and are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, numerous risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business, operations, and financial condition, continued interest in our rare disease portfolio, our ability to enroll patients in clinical trials, the outcome of any future meetings with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or other regulatory agencies, the impact of competition, the ability to secure licenses for any technology that may be necessary to commercialize our products, the ability to achieve or obtain necessary regulatory approvals, the impact of changes in the financial markets and global economic conditions, risks associated with data analysis and reporting, and other risks disclosed in the Company’s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise the forward-looking statements or to update them to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this press release, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as required by the federal securities laws.

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