

ANTIGENICS INC /DE/
Form DEF 14A
April 27, 2009
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(RULE 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

ANTIGENICS INC.

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule, and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

ANTIGENICS INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

- Date** June 10, 2009
- Time** 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time
- Place** Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421
- Webcast** Go to <http://www.antigenics.com/investors> starting at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on June 10, 2009. The webcast will be archived on our website until June 10, 2010.
- Proposals**
1. Proposal to elect Wadih Jordan and Hyam Levitsky as directors, each for a term of three years expiring in 2012.
 2. Proposal to approve 2009 Equity Incentive Plan.
 3. Proposal to approve 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
 4. Proposal to approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to effect a one for ten reverse stock split of the Company's common stock at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
 5. Proposal to amend 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) and approve 2009 Option Exchange Plan.
 6. Proposal to approve an amendment to our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (as amended) to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance.
 7. Proposal to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.
 8. Consider any other business as may properly come before the 2009 Annual Meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting.

Record

- Date** You are entitled to vote if you were a stockholder of record on April 13, 2009.
- A list of stockholders entitled to vote will be open for examination by any stockholder for any purpose germane to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders for ten days before the meeting during ordinary business hours at our principal offices at 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421.

It is important that your shares be represented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Therefore, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please complete your proxy and return it to us. If you attend the meeting and wish to vote in person, your proxy will not be used. Many stockholders can vote their shares over the internet or by telephone. Instructions for internet or telephonic voting are also printed on your proxy card.

We are pleased to take advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow us to furnish these proxy materials and our Annual Report on Form 10-K to stockholders on the internet. We believe that posting these materials on the internet enables us to provide stockholders with the information that they need more quickly, while lowering our costs of printing and delivery and reducing the environmental impact of our annual meetings of stockholders.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Karen Higgins Valentine, *Secretary*

Proxy Material Mailing Date: April 27, 2009

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Voting Procedures</u>	2
<u>Proposal 1 Election of Directors</u>	8
<u>Our Corporate Governance</u>	12
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	17
<u>Compensation Committee Report</u>	28
<u>Compensation of Executive Officers</u>	29
<u>Director Compensation</u>	40
<u>Ownership of Our Common Stock</u>	42
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	44
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	45
<u>Equity Plans</u>	46
<u>Proposal 2 Proposal to Approve 2009 Equity Incentive Plan</u>	47
<u>Proposal 3 Proposal to Approve 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan</u>	52
<u>Proposal 4 Proposal to Approve an Amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to Effect a One for Ten Reverse Stock Split of Company's Common Stock at the Discretion of the Board of Directors</u>	55
<u>Proposal 5 Proposal to Amend 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) and to Approve the 2009 Option Exchange Plan</u>	60
<u>Proposal 6 Proposal to Amend our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (as amended) to Increase the Number of Shares Authorized for Issuance</u>	69
<u>Proposal 7 Ratify the Appointment of KPMG LLP as Our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2009</u>	71
<u>Report of the Audit and Finance Committee</u>	73
<u>Additional Information</u>	74
<u>Appendix A Antigenics Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan</u>	A-1
<u>Appendix B Antigenics Inc. 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan</u>	B-1
<u>Appendix C Reverse Stock Split Amendment</u>	C-1
<u>Appendix D Sixth Amendment to the Antigenics Inc. 1999 Equity Incentive Plan</u>	D-1
<u>Appendix E Third Amendment to Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan</u>	E-1

Table of Contents

ANTIGENICS INC.

3 Forbes Road

Lexington, Massachusetts

Telephone: (781) 674-4400

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement contains information about the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Antigenics Inc. (the 2009 Annual Meeting), including any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421 on June 10, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

In this proxy statement, we refer to Antigenics Inc. as Antigenics, us or the Company.

In accordance with the e-proxy rules approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our Board of Directors, we first sent a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials on or about April 27, 2009 and provided access to our proxy materials (consisting of this proxy statement, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and a form of proxy) over the internet, beginning on April 27, 2009, to each stockholder entitled to vote at the 2009 Annual Meeting. We first sent stockholders full sets of our proxy materials (consisting of this proxy statement, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and a form of proxy) on or about April 27, 2009.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 is available on the Investors section of our corporate website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors> and through the SEC s EDGAR system at <http://www.sec.gov>. To request a printed copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which we will provide to you without charge, write to Investor Relations, Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA 02421. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

VOTING PROCEDURES

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE. Most stockholders have a choice of voting over the internet, by telephone, by mail using a proxy card, or in person at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Please refer to the proxy card or other voting instructions included with these proxy materials for information on the voting methods available to you. **If you vote over the internet, by telephone, or in person at the 2009 Annual Meeting, you do not need to return your proxy card.**

Who can vote?

Each share of our common stock that you owned as of the close of business on April 13, 2009, the record date, entitles you to one vote on each matter to be voted upon at the 2009 Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 66,859,063 shares of Antigenics common stock issued, outstanding, and entitled to vote.

Why did I receive a one-page notice in the mail regarding the internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of printed proxy materials?

Pursuant to the notice and access rules adopted by the SEC, we have elected to provide stockholders access to our proxy materials over the internet. Accordingly, we sent a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials a (Notice) to all of our stockholders as of the record date. The Notice includes instructions on how to access our proxy materials over the internet and how to request a printed copy of these materials. In addition, by following the instructions in the Notice, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis.

Choosing to receive your future proxy materials by email will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and will reduce the impact of our annual meetings of stockholders on the environment. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by email, you will receive an email next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until you terminate it.

How do I vote?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you may vote:

Over the internet. Go to the website of our tabulator, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (Broadridge), at <http://www.proxyvote.com> and follow the instructions you will find there. You must specify how you want your shares voted or your internet vote cannot be completed and you will receive an error message. Your shares will be voted according to your instructions. If you vote over the internet, your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 9, 2009.

By telephone. Dial 1-800-690-6903 using any touch-tone telephone and follow the instructions. Your shares will be voted according to your instructions. If you vote over the telephone, your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 9, 2009.

By mail. Complete and sign the enclosed proxy and mail it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope to Antigenics Inc., c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY, 11717. Your shares will be voted according to your instructions. If you do not specify how you want your shares voted, they will be voted as recommended by our Board of Directors.

In person at the 2009 Annual Meeting. If you attend the 2009 Annual Meeting in person, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the meeting.

Table of Contents

If your shares are held in street name (held for your account by a broker or other nominee), you may provide voting instructions:

Over the internet. You will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee if you are permitted to provide voting instructions over the internet.

By telephone. You will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee if you are permitted to provide voting instructions over the telephone.

By mail. You will receive instructions from your broker or other nominee explaining how to provide voting instructions.

In person at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Contact the broker or other nominee that holds your shares to obtain a broker's proxy card and bring it with you to the 2009 Annual Meeting. **A broker's proxy is not the form of proxy enclosed with this proxy statement. You will not be able to vote shares you hold in street name at the meeting unless you have a proxy from your broker issued in your name giving you the right to vote the shares.**

If you choose to listen to the webcast, you should vote your shares using one of the methods described above. It is not possible to vote your shares via the webcast.

What is the difference between holding shares directly in my name and holding shares in street name ?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, you are considered the stockholder of record. The Notice was sent directly to you by Broadridge on behalf of Antigenics.

If your shares are held for you in an account by a broker, bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or nominee how to vote your shares by using the voting instruction card included in the mailing or by following their instructions for voting over the internet or by telephone.

How can I change

my vote?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the 2009 Annual Meeting. To do this, you must do one of the following:

Vote over the internet as instructed above. Only your latest internet vote is counted.

Vote by telephone as instructed above. Only your latest telephonic vote is counted.

Sign a new proxy and submit it as instructed above.

Attend the 2009 Annual Meeting and vote in person. **Attending the meeting will not revoke your proxy unless you specifically request it.**

If your shares are held in street name, you may submit new voting instructions by contacting your broker, bank or nominee. You may also vote in person at the 2009 Annual Meeting if you deliver a legal proxy as described in the answer to the "How do I vote?" question above.

Table of Contents

Will my shares be

voted if I do not

return my proxy?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, your shares will not be voted if you do not vote over the internet, by telephone, or return your proxy or vote by ballot at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

If your shares are held in street name, your brokerage firm, under certain circumstances, may vote your shares for you if you do not return your proxy. Brokerage firms have authority to vote customers' unvoted shares on some routine matters. If you do not give a proxy to your brokerage firm to vote your shares, your brokerage firm may either: vote your shares on routine matters, or leave your shares unvoted. Proposal 1, to elect two Class III directors, and Proposal 7, to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, are considered routine matters. Proposal 2, to approve the 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, Proposal 3 to approve the 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Proposal 4 to approve the Reverse Stock Split, Proposal 5 to amend the 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) and approve the 2009 Option Exchange Plan and Proposal 6 to approve an amendment to our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (as amended) are considered non-routine matters. Your brokerage firm cannot vote your shares with respect to Proposals 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 unless they receive your voting instructions. We encourage you to provide voting instructions to your brokerage firm by giving your proxy. This ensures your shares will be voted at the 2009 Annual Meeting according to your instructions. You should receive directions from your brokerage firm about how to submit your proxy to them at the time you receive this proxy statement.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

It means that you have more than one account, which may be at the transfer agent or brokers. Please vote over the internet or by telephone, or complete and return all proxies for each account to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

How many shares

must be present to

hold the 2009

Annual Meeting?

A majority of our outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date must be present at the 2009 Annual Meeting to hold the meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum. Shares are counted as present at the meeting if the stockholder votes in person or by proxy at the meeting. Shares that are present that vote to abstain or do not vote on one or more of the matters to be voted upon are counted as present for establishing a quorum.

If a quorum is not present, we expect that the 2009 Annual Meeting will be adjourned until we obtain a quorum.

What vote is required

to approve each

matter and how are

votes counted?

Proposal 1 Elect two Class III directors, each for a term of three years.

The two nominees for director receiving the highest number of votes FOR election will be elected as directors. This is called a plurality. Abstentions are not counted for purposes of electing directors. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm has authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 1. If the broker does not vote your unvoted shares, there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter. You may vote FOR all of the nominees, WITHHOLD your vote from all of the nominees or WITHHOLD your vote from any one of the nominees. Votes that are withheld will not be included in the vote tally for the election of directors and will have no effect on the results of the vote.

Table of Contents

Proposal 2 Approve the 2009 Equity Incentive Plan.

To approve Proposal 2, stockholders holding a majority of Antigenics common stock present or represented by proxy at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter must vote FOR Proposal 2. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm does not have the authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 2 and there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the meeting and voting on the matter. If you vote to ABSTAIN on Proposal 2, your shares will not be voted in favor of Proposal 2, will not be counted as votes cast or shares voting on Proposal 2 and will have no effect on the vote.

Proposal 3 Approve the 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

To approve Proposal 3, stockholders holding a majority of Antigenics common stock present or represented by proxy at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter must vote FOR Proposal 3. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm does not have the authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 3 and there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the meeting and voting on the matter. If you vote to ABSTAIN on Proposal 3, your shares will not be voted in favor of Proposal 3, will not be counted as votes cast or shares voting on Proposal 3 and will have no effect on the vote.

Proposal 4 Approve the Reverse Stock Split.

To approve Proposal 4, stockholders holding a majority of the outstanding shares of Antigenics common stock must vote FOR Proposal 4. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm does not have the authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 4 and will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal. If you vote to ABSTAIN on Proposal 4, your shares will not be voted in favor of Proposal 4, will not be counted as votes cast or shares voting on Proposal 4 and will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal.

Proposal 5 Amend 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) and approve the 2009 Option Exchange Plan.

To approve Proposal 5, stockholders holding a majority of Antigenics common stock present or represented by proxy at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter must vote FOR Proposal 5. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm does not have the authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 5 and there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the meeting and voting on the matter. If you vote to ABSTAIN on Proposal 5, your shares will not be voted in favor of Proposal 5, will not be counted as votes cast or shares voting on Proposal 5 and will have no effect on the vote.

Table of Contents

Proposal 6 Approve an amendment to our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (as amended) to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance.

To approve Proposal 6, stockholders holding a majority of Antigenics common stock present or represented by proxy at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter must vote FOR Proposal 6. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm does not have the authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 6 and there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the meeting and voting on the matter. If you vote to ABSTAIN on Proposal 6, your shares will not be voted in favor of Proposal 6, will not be counted as votes cast or shares voting on Proposal 6 and will have no effect on the vote.

Proposal 7 Ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

How does the Board

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote:

of Directors recommend that I vote?

FOR Proposal 1 elect two directors, each for a term of three years.

FOR Proposal 2 approve the 2009 Equity Incentive Plan.

FOR Proposal 3 approve the 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

FOR Proposal 4 approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to effect a one for ten reverse stock split of the Company's common stock at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

FOR Proposal 5 approve an amendment to the 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) and approve the 2009 Option Exchange Plan.

FOR Proposal 6 approve an amendment to our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (as amended) to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance.

FOR Proposal 7 ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

Are there other matters to be voted on at the

We do not know of any other matters that may come before the 2009 Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly presented to the meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy intend to vote, or otherwise act, in accordance with their judgment.

2009 Annual Meeting?

**Where do I find the
voting results of the**

2009 Annual Meeting?

We will announce preliminary voting results at the 2009 Annual Meeting. We will publish final results in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter of 2009, which we are required to file with the SEC by August 10, 2009. To request a printed copy of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, write to Investor Relations, Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA 02421, or e-mail Investor Relations at IR@antigenics.com. You will also be able to find a copy on the internet through our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors> or through the SEC's electronic data system called EDGAR at <http://www.sec.gov>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Who bears the costs of soliciting these proxies?	We will bear the costs of soliciting proxies. In addition to the mailing of these proxy materials, our directors, officers, and employees may solicit proxies by telephone, e-mail and in person, without additional compensation. We reserve the right to retain other outside agencies for the purpose of soliciting proxies. Upon request, we will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for distributing proxy materials to stockholders.
How can I receive future proxy statements and annual reports over the internet instead of receiving printed copies in the mail?	This proxy statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 are available on our website at http://www.antigenics.com/investors . Most stockholders can elect to view future proxy statements and annual reports over the internet instead of receiving printed copies in the mail. If you are a stockholder of record, you can choose this option when you vote over the internet and save us the cost of producing and mailing these documents. If you are a stockholder of record and choose to view future proxy statements and annual reports over the internet, you will receive a proxy card in the mail next year with instructions containing the internet address to access those documents. Your election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until you terminate it. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by email, you will receive an email next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. If your shares are held through a broker or other nominee, you should check the information provided by them for instructions on how to elect to view future proxy statements and annual reports over the internet. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors, upon recommendation of our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, has nominated the two people listed below for election as Class III directors. Each nominee currently serves as a Class III director.

Our Board of Directors (the Board) is divided into three classes. One class is elected each year and members of each class hold office for three-year terms. The Board currently is fixed at eight members and consists of eight members. Peter Thornton, formerly a Class I Director, retired from the Board on December 15, 2008. Three current members are Class III directors, with terms expiring at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Two current members are Class I directors, with terms expiring at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Three current members are Class II directors, with terms expiring at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Board, upon the recommendation of our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, has nominated Wadih Jordan and Hyam Levitsky, two of the current Class III directors, for re-election to a term expiring at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Margaret Eisen, currently a Class III director, will be departing as a director when her term expires at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Ms. Eisen has served as a member of our Board since 2003 and the Board would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her many years of excellent service and dedication to the Company and to wish her continued success in the future.

For more information on nomination of directors, see Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee below in the section entitled Our Corporate Governance Committees of the Board.

The persons named in the enclosed proxy will vote your shares to elect as Class III directors, Wadih Jordan and Hyam Levitsky, the two nominees listed below, unless you indicate on the proxy that your vote should be withheld from any or all of these nominees. If they are elected, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Levitsky will hold office until the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All of the nominees have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected, but if any of them should be unable or unwilling to serve, proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the Board.

There are no family relationships between or among any of our executive officers, directors or nominees for directors.

Below are the names and certain information about each member of the Board, including the nominees for election as Class III directors:

NOMINEES FOR CLASS III DIRECTORS TERMS TO EXPIRE IN 2012

Wadih Jordan

Age: 74

President of NearEast

Pharma

Director since 2003

Compensation Committee

(Chair)

Mr. Jordan is President of NearEast Pharma, a company marketing pharmaceuticals in Near East markets, including Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf countries, and has served in such position since 1996. From 1993 to 1995, Mr. Jordan served as a Vice President of Cyanamid International, a research-based life sciences company, and from 1976 to 1993, Mr. Jordan served as a Managing Director within Cyanamid International. Since December 2005, Mr. Jordan has served as a member of the Board of Directors at Pollex S.A.L., a company that specializes in the distribution and marketing of BASF products in the Middle East and North Africa. Since December 2003, Mr. Jordan has been a trustee of the Board of Directors of the Lebanese American University, located in Beirut, Lebanon, and incorporated under the Board of Regents in New York State. Mr. Jordan received a bachelor's degree in agriculture at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a certificate in international business from Columbia University.

Table of Contents

Hyam I. Levitsky, M.D.

Age: 50

Professor, Johns Hopkins

University Medical Center

Director since 2006

*(a) Corporate Governance and
Nominating Committee*

(b) Research and Development

Committee (Chair)

CLASS I DIRECTORS TERMS TO EXPIRE IN 2010

Dr. Levitsky is Professor of Oncology, Medicine & Urology at The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Levitsky has been a professor at Johns Hopkins since 1991, and his laboratory research has focused on basic studies of antigen processing and presentation, T-cell co-stimulation, T-cell priming versus tolerance, and the evolution of tumor-specific immunity during immune reconstitution. Dr. Levitsky's work has been translated into the creation of novel therapeutic agents that are being tested in patients with multiple myeloma, acute and chronic myelogenous leukemia, B cell lymphomas, prostate cancer, and lung cancer. His work on manipulating immune reconstitution has led to pivotal trials of tumor vaccines in the context of autologous stem cell transplantation, and he has served as scientific director of the George Santos Bone Marrow Transplant Program at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Levitsky received his undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980, and his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1984. He did his internship and residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and his fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center.

Brian Corvese

Age: 51

President and Founder of

Vencor Capital

Director since 2007

*Audit and Finance Committee
(Chair)*

Brian Corvese is President and Founder of Vencor Capital, a private equity firm with telecommunications and technology investments in the Middle East and Mediterranean regions. Prior to Vencor, Mr. Corvese worked on investments in the U.S. and global equity markets as a Managing Director and partner at Soros Fund Management, the largest hedge fund in the world at the time. From 1988 to 1996, Mr. Corvese was a partner at Chancellor Capital Management, a \$25 billion money management firm. While at Chancellor, Mr. Corvese was a Portfolio Manager with responsibility for investments made in basic industries, restructurings, and special situations, corporate governance investments, as well as founded and managed his own hedge fund. From 1981 to 1988, Mr. Corvese was with Drexel Burnham Lambert as an equity analyst following the chemical and specialty chemical industries and participated in a significant number of merger and acquisition activities. While at Drexel, Mr. Corvese was a member of the top chemical and specialty chemical research team, as ranked by Institutional Investor. Mr. Corvese currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Telecommunications Corporation, based in Cairo, Egypt. Mr. Corvese earned degrees in finance and political science from The University of Rhode Island and attended New York University Graduate School.

Timothy R. Wright

Age: 51

President of Imaging

Solutions and

Pharmaceutical Products,

Covidien

Mr. Wright is President of the Imaging Solutions and Pharmaceutical Products Sector of Covidien. Covidien is a \$10 billion global leader in medical devices and supplies, diagnostic imaging agents, pharmaceuticals and other healthcare products. Mr. Wright brings to the Antigenics Board 25 years of pharmaceutical industry experience in general management, product development and commercialization as well as business restructuring and transaction experience. From April 2004 to May 2006, Mr. Wright was President and interim CEO of AAI Pharma, a hybrid pharmaceutical, drug delivery/manufacturing, and global clinical research organization. Mr. Wright was also President of Elan Bio-Pharmaceuticals and has held several senior management positions with Cardinal Health Inc. and Dupont Merck Pharmaceutical Company. Mr. Wright has served on several Boards of Directors, including those for AAI Pharma and CeNes Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Wright earned his bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University.

Director since 2006

(a) Compensation Committee

*(b) Corporate Governance and
Nominating Committee*

*(c) Research and Development
Committee*

Table of Contents

CLASS II DIRECTORS TERMS TO EXPIRE IN 2011

Garo H. Armen, Ph.D.
 Age: 56
 Founder, Chairman, and
 Chief Executive Officer of
 Antigenics Inc.

Dr. Armen is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Antigenics Inc., the biotechnology company he co-founded with Pramod Srivastava in 1994. From mid-2002 through 2004, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors for the biopharmaceutical company Elan Corporation, plc. Dr. Armen currently serves on the Board of Directors of Protogenic Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company. Dr. Armen is also the founder and President of the Children of Armenia Fund, a charitable organization established in 2000 that is dedicated to the positive development of the children and youth of Armenia.

Director since 1999

Tom Dechaene
 Age: 48
 Director, Transics N.V.

Mr. Dechaene is a consultant to various TMT (telecom, media and technology) and life sciences companies. Since 2007, Mr. Dechaene has served on the Board of Directors and is a member of the audit committee of Transics NV, a company listed on NYSE Euronext and which develops and markets fleet management solutions for the transport and logistics sector. Mr. Dechaene was a director of Telindus N.V., listed on Euronext, from 2005 until its acquisition by Belgacom in 2006. Since 2006, Mr. Dechaene has been a director of the Telindus Foundation in the Netherlands. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Dechaene was the Chief Financial Officer of SurfCast Inc., a software development company. He was with Deutsche Bank from 1991 through 1999, most recently as a director in the principal investments group within the equity capital markets division. Mr. Dechaene holds a law degree from the Central Exam Commission, Belgium; a degree in applied economics from the University of Antwerp; and an MBA from INSEAD, France.

Director since 1999,

Lead Director since 2006

(a) Audit and Finance Committee

*(b) Corporate Governance and
 Nominating Committee*

(Chair)

John N. Hatsopoulos
 Age: 75
 Chief Executive Officer,
 American DG Energy Inc.
 Chief Executive Officer,
 Tecogen Inc.

Mr. Hatsopoulos is Chief Executive Officer of American DG Energy Inc. Headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts, American DG Energy is a leading on-site utility offering electricity, heat, hot water, and cooling to commercial, institutional and industrial facilities. Mr. Hatsopoulos is also Chief Executive Officer of Tecogen Inc., a leading manufacturer of natural gas, engine-driven commercial and industrial cooling and cogeneration systems. In addition, Mr. Hatsopoulos is Chairman of GlenRose Instruments Inc., a company that provides radiological and environmental services, as well as managing partner of Alexandros Partners LLC, a financial advisory firm. Mr. Hatsopoulos is one of the founders of Thermo Electron Corp. (currently Thermo Fisher Scientific) and the retired President and Vice Chairman of its Board of Directors. Thermo Fisher Scientific is a leading provider of analytical and monitoring instruments used in a broad range of applications, from life sciences research to telecommunications, food, drug and beverage production. Mr. Hatsopoulos graduated from Athens College in Athens, Greece, in 1953. He holds a BS in history and mathematics from Northeastern University, together with honorary doctorates in business administration from Boston College and Northeastern University. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Stock Exchange from 1994 through 2000 and the AMEX Nominating Committee from 1990 to 1994. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of TEI BioSciences Inc. and AmericanCare Source Holdings Inc., and a Member of the Corporation for Northeastern University.

Director since 2007

*Audit and Finance Committee (as of
March 12, 2009)*

Table of Contents

Vote Required

The two nominees for director receiving the highest number of votes FOR election will be elected as directors. This is called a plurality. Abstentions are not counted for purposes of electing directors. If your shares are held by your broker in street name and if you do not vote your shares, your brokerage firm has authority to vote your unvoted shares held by the firm on Proposal 1. If the broker does not vote your unvoted shares, there will be no effect on the vote because these broker non-votes are not considered present or represented at the 2009 Annual Meeting and voting on the matter. You may vote FOR all of the nominees, WITHHOLD your vote from all of the nominees or WITHHOLD your vote from any one of the nominees. Votes that are withheld will not be included in the vote tally for the election of directors and will have no effect on the results of the vote.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR Proposal 1.

Table of Contents

OUR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our Commitment to Good Corporate Governance

We believe that good corporate governance and an environment of high ethical standards are important for Antigenics to achieve business success and to create value for our stockholders. Our Board of Directors is committed to high governance standards and to continually working to improve them. We continue to review our corporate governance practices in light of ongoing changes in applicable law and evolving best practices.

Role of Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is currently fixed at eight members and consists of eight members. Changes in the Board over the past year include the departure of Peter Thornton, who retired from the Board on December 15, 2008.

The Board monitors overall corporate performance, the integrity of our financial controls, and legal compliance procedures. It elects senior management and oversees succession planning and senior management's performance and compensation. The Board also oversees our short- and long-term strategic and business planning, and reviews with management its business plan, financing plans, budget, and other key financial and business objectives.

Members of the Board keep informed about our business through discussions with the Chief Executive Officer and other members of our senior management team, by reviewing materials provided to them by the Company on a regular basis and in preparation for Board and committee meetings, and by participating in meetings of the Board and its committees. We regularly review key portions of our business with the Board. We introduce our executives and other employees to the Board so that the Board can become familiar with our key talent. Tom Dechaene, our Lead Director, engages with each new Board member to introduce each new member to our Corporate Governance policies and their responsibilities to the Company as a director. Each Board member receives a Board of Directors handbook that provides them with a summary of these practices and policies.

In 2008, the Board met six times. During 2008, each of our directors attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board held during the period during which the director served and all meetings of committees of the Board on which the director served during the periods the director served. We expect our Board members to attend our annual meetings of stockholders; in 2008 all of our then current Board members attended our annual meeting of stockholders, except for John Hatsopoulos.

Governance Guidelines

The Board is guided by our Governance Guidelines. We believe our Governance Guidelines demonstrate our continuing commitment to good corporate governance. The Board reviews these Guidelines from time to time, as needed. The Guidelines are posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Performance of Our Board

We consider it important to continually evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Board, its committees and its individual members. We do this in various ways. Each year, the Lead Director surveys the Board members to assess the effectiveness of the Board and its committees. Using these surveys, the Lead Director assesses the Board's performance, and the performance of individual members, and reports his conclusions to the full Board. The assessment also evaluates the Board's effectiveness in reviewing executive management, conducting appropriate oversight and adding value to Antigenics. Each of the Board's standing committees also conducts annual self-evaluations.

At each Board meeting, each Board member has the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the materials presented and the conduct of the meeting, and to offer suggestions for improvement at future meetings.

Table of Contents

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

The Board originally adopted our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the Code of Ethics) in 2003. The Board reviewed, revised, and updated the Code of Ethics most recently in January 2008. The Code of Ethics applies to all members of the Board and all employees of Antigenics, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Principal Accounting Officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. Our Code of Ethics prohibits the members of the Board and all employees of Antigenics from buying or selling our securities while in possession of material, non-public information about the Company. Our Code of Ethics is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement. We intend to post on our website all disclosures that are required by law or NASDAQ stock market listing standards concerning any amendments to, or waivers from, our Code of Ethics. Stockholders may request a free copy of our Code of Ethics by writing to Investor Relations, Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA 02421.

Independence of Directors

Our Governance Guidelines provide that a substantial majority of the Board as a whole should be composed of independent directors. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee annually reviews the independence of the directors, and reports to the Board which directors it recommends that the Board determine are independent, and the Board makes the final determination. The Board takes into account NASDAQ stock market listing standards, applicable laws and regulations, and other factors in making its determinations. The Board has determined that Mr. Corvese, Mr. Dechaene, Ms. Eisen, Mr. Hatsopoulos, Mr. Jordan, Dr. Levitsky, and Mr. Wright are currently independent directors and that Dr. Armen is currently not an independent director.

The Board has reviewed the independence of each director, taking into account potential conflicts of interest, transactions, and other relationships that would reasonably be expected to compromise a director's independence. In performing this review, the Board was provided a summary of information disclosed in director responses to a questionnaire inquiring about, among other things, their relationships (and those of their immediate family members) with us, their affiliations, and other potential conflicts of interest. Dr. Armen is not independent because of his employment as our Chief Executive Officer. In making independence determinations with regard to other directors, the Board considered transactions between us and a director or a director's affiliates and positions a director holds with entities with commercial relationships with us. In particular, with respect to Dr. Levitsky, the Board considered his roles as a consultant and member of the Company's Medical Advisory Committee.

Executive Sessions of Independent Directors

Directors who are independent under the NASDAQ stock market listing standards typically meet in executive session without management present immediately prior to regularly scheduled Board meetings. Two such meetings were held during 2008.

Lead Director of the Board

Mr. Dechaene, an independent director, serves as the Lead Director of the Board and as Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Mr. Dechaene also serves on the Audit and Finance Committee. Mr. Dechaene presides at the executive sessions of the independent directors, acts as the leader of the non-employee directors, and makes himself available to our management on an as needed basis to discuss significant matters.

Committees of the Board

The Board currently has four standing committees: the Audit and Finance Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, and the Research and Development Committee. The Board also appoints from time to time ad hoc committees to address specific matters.

Table of Contents

Audit and Finance Committee

Members: ***Meetings in 2008: 8***

Brian Corvese, Chair

Tom Dechaene

Margaret M. Eisen

John Hatsopoulos

The Audit and Finance Committee consists entirely of independent directors within the meaning of the NASDAQ stock market listing standards, including the requirements contemplated by Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"). The Board has determined that Brian Corvese, Chair of the Committee, Tom Dechaene, John Hatsopoulos and Margaret M. Eisen each qualify as audit committee financial experts. For the entirety of 2008, the Audit and Finance Committee consisted of three independent directors: Mr. Corvese (Chair), Mr. Dechaene, and Ms. Eisen. Mr. Hatsopoulos joined the Audit and Finance Committee on March 12, 2009.

The Audit and Finance Committee's primary function is to assist the Board in monitoring the integrity of our consolidated financial statements and our system of internal control. The Audit and Finance Committee has direct responsibility for the appointment, independence, and monitoring of the performance of our independent registered public accounting firm. The committee is responsible for pre-approving any engagements of our independent registered public accounting firm. The committee also reviews our risk management practices, strategic tax planning, preparation of quarterly and annual financial reports, and compliance processes.

The Audit and Finance Committee members meet regularly with our independent registered public accounting firm without management present and with members of management in separate private sessions, to discuss any matters that the committee or these individuals believe should be discussed privately with the committee, including any significant issues or disagreements concerning our accounting practices or consolidated financial statements. The committee also meets with our Compliance Officer annually and reviews the Code of Ethics. The committee conducts a meeting each quarter to review the consolidated financial statements prior to the public release of earnings. The Audit and Finance Committee charter is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement. The committee has the authority to engage special legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the committee. Please also see the Report of the Audit and Finance Committee on page 73.

Compensation Committee

Members: ***Meetings in 2008: 7***

Wadiah Jordan, Chair

Margaret M. Eisen

Timothy R. Wright

During the entirety of 2008, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Eisen, and Mr. Wright were members of our Compensation Committee. Our Compensation Committee consists entirely of independent directors within the meaning of applicable NASDAQ stock market listing standards. The committee's primary responsibilities are to address our executive officers' and key employees' development, retention, and performance and to oversee compensation and benefit matters. It reviews and approves compensation policy for Antigenics to ensure that our compensation strategy supports organizational objectives and stockholder interests, and considers appropriate companies for compensation comparison purposes. The committee determines the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, and reviews and approves the compensation of all other executive officers and certain key employees. It also reviews and recommends compensation for members of the Board. Additionally, the committee approves and recommends, and suggests material changes to, any employee incentive compensation or retirement plans and any director compensation plans.

Table of Contents

The Compensation Committee utilizes an outside compensation consultant to provide market reference information for compensation and benefit information. The committee has the authority to retain special legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the Committee. The committee also has the authority to delegate to subcommittees any responsibilities of the full committee. Dr. Armen, our Chief Executive Officer, makes recommendations to the committee as to individual compensation actions for the executive officers and certain key employees. The Compensation Committee charter is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement. Please also see the Compensation Discussion and Analysis starting on page 17, and the accompanying Compensation Committee Report on page 28.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

Members:

Meetings in 2008: 4

Tom Dechaene, Chair

Hyam Levitsky, M.D.

Timothy R. Wright

For the entirety of 2008, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee consisted of three independent directors: Mr. Dechaene (Chair), Dr. Levitsky, and Mr. Wright. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee consists entirely of independent directors within the meaning of applicable NASDAQ stock market listing standards. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board policies relating to the conduct of Board affairs, the process for annual evaluation of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer, and issues of corporate public responsibility, and oversees the Company's succession planning. It periodically evaluates the composition of the Board, the contribution of individual directors, and the Board's effectiveness as a whole. The committee reviews the Company's ethics and compliance activities under the Code of Ethics and meets periodically with our Compliance Officer, including meeting, as needed, for a separate private session with the Compliance Officer without management present.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also recommends to our full Board individuals to serve as directors. The committee recommends to the Board guidelines and criteria for Board membership and reviews with the Board, on a periodic basis, the appropriate skills and characteristics required of Board members in the context of the then current needs of Antigenics. The committee is responsible for reviewing with the Board the appropriate personal characteristics and professional competencies preferred of Board members who are expected to work together as a team to properly oversee our strategies and operations. In general, all directors are expected to possess certain personal characteristics necessary to create a highly functional and collegial Board, which include personal and professional integrity, practical wisdom and mature judgment, an inquisitive and objective perspective, and time availability for performing the duties of a director.

The Board as a group is expected to encompass a range of professional competencies relevant to overseeing our business. These professional competencies include accounting and financial literacy, industry knowledge, medical or scientific knowledge, and management experience. Finally, candidates should be enthusiastic about service on our Board and working collaboratively with existing Board members to create value for all of our stockholders.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee does not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of director candidates recommended by stockholders because it does not believe such a policy is necessary given that no otherwise unaffiliated stockholder has ever recommended a director candidate. If the committee were to receive a recommendation for a director candidate from a stockholder, however, the committee expects that it would evaluate such a candidate using the criteria described above for evaluating director candidates brought to its attention through other channels. The committee will consider a recommendation only if appropriate biographical information and background material is provided on a timely

Table of Contents

basis, accompanied by a statement as to whether the stockholder or group of stockholders making the recommendation has beneficially owned more than 5% of our common stock for at least one year as of the date that the recommendation is made. To submit a recommendation for a nomination, a stockholder may write to the Lead Director, Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA 02421.

In addition, our by-laws permit stockholders to nominate individuals, without any action or recommendation by the committee or the Board, for election as directors at an annual meeting of stockholders. For a description of this by-law provision, see Additional Information on page 74 of this proxy statement. The charter of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Research and Development Committee

Members:

Meetings in 2008: 3

Hyam Levitsky, M.D., Chair

Peter Thornton

Timothy R. Wright

During the period from January 1, 2008 through December 15, 2008, our Research and Development Committee consisted of Dr. Levitsky and Mr. Thornton. Mr. Thornton retired from the Board on December 15, 2008. Mr. Wright joined the Research and Development Committee on January 15, 2009. The committee reviews important matters involving protection of the Company's intellectual property rights and assets, and provides its perspective on such research and development matters to the full Board of Directors. The charter of the Research and Development Committee is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

Communications with the Board

You may contact the Board or any committee of the Board by writing to Board of Directors (or specified committee), Antigenics Inc., 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA 02421, Attn: Lead Director. You should indicate on your correspondence that you are an Antigenics stockholder. Communications will be distributed to the Lead Director, the appropriate committee chairman or other members of the Board or executive management, as appropriate, depending on the facts and circumstances stated in the communication received. Executive management will generally determine the proper response to materials of a commercial nature, which generally will not be forwarded to the Lead Director. Complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters will be forwarded to the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, and complaints involving matters governed by the Code of Ethics will be forwarded to the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and the Compliance Officer.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The members of the Compensation Committee for the year ended December 31, 2008 were Mr. Jordan (Chair), Ms. Eisen, and Mr. Wright. No member of the Compensation Committee was at any time during 2008, or formerly, an officer or employee of Antigenics or any subsidiary of Antigenics. No executive officer of Antigenics has served as a director or member of the compensation committee (or other committee serving an equivalent function) of any other entity while an executive officer of that other entity served as a director of Antigenics or member of our Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview

Our executive compensation and benefits program is designed to effectively attract and retain the highest caliber executives and reward and motivate them to pursue our strategic opportunities while effectively managing the risks and challenges inherent to a development-stage biotechnology company. We have created a compensation package that combines short- and long-term components, cash and equity, and fixed and contingent payments, in the proportions we believe are most appropriate to incent and reward our senior management to strive to achieve the following goals:

Build a creative and high performance team whose participants understand and share our business objectives and ethical and cultural values.

Demonstrate leadership and innovation in the identification, development and commercialization of product candidates that fit our strategic objectives.

Effectively manage the multiple dimensions of our business, from research and development, through clinical trials, manufacturing, strategic alliances, and all aspects of operations in order to maximize the value of each dollar deployed.

Identify and address our short- and long-term financing requirements in a highly strategic and creative manner, and deploy available funds for maximum benefit to our stockholders.

Our executive compensation strategy not only aims to be competitive in our industry, but also to be fair relative to other professionals within our organization. We seek to foster a performance-oriented culture, where individual performance is aligned with organizational objectives and is tied to the value we deliver to our stockholders.

We continually review our compensation approach in order to ensure our programs reward executives for achieving our goals and objectives that generate results consistent with other development-stage biotechnology companies. At the same time, we seek to align the risks of our executives with the downside to our stockholders if such executive's decisions result in our goals and objectives not being achieved. We evaluate and reward our executives based on their contribution to the achievement of short- and long-term goals and objectives and their capability to take advantage of unique opportunities and overcome difficult challenges within our business.

Role of Our Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee approves, administers, and interprets our executive compensation and benefit policies, including our 1999 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended) (the "1999 EIP"). Our Compensation Committee is appointed by our Board of Directors, and consists entirely of directors who are outside directors for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and non-employee directors for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the 1934 Act. Our Compensation Committee is comprised of Mr. Jordan (Chair), Ms. Eisen, and Mr. Wright.

Our Compensation Committee reviews and makes recommendations to our Board of Directors in an effort to ensure that our executive compensation and benefit program is consistent with our compensation philosophy and corporate governance guidelines. Additionally, the Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing the executive compensation packages offered to our officers. Our executives' base salary, target annual bonus levels, and target annual long-term incentive award values are set at competitive levels. Executives have the opportunity to earn above-market pay only for above-market performance as measured against our peer group of companies.

Table of Contents

Our Compensation Committee has taken the following steps to ensure that our executive compensation and benefit program is consistent with both our compensation philosophy and our corporate governance guidelines:

with the assistance of Oyster Pond Associates, our independent executive compensation and benefits consultant, evaluated the competitive level of executive pay as measured against our peer group (see discussion under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Competitive Market Review),

maintained a practice of reviewing the performance and determining the total compensation earned, paid or awarded to our Chief Executive Officer, and

reviewed on an annual basis the performance of our officers with assistance from our Chief Executive Officer, and determined what we believe to be appropriate total compensation based on competitive levels as measured against our peer group (see discussion under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Competitive Market Review).

Executive Compensation Program

Components of our Compensation Program

Our performance-driven compensation program consists of the four components listed below:

1. Short-term Compensation

a. Base Salary

b. Annual Incentive Bonuses

2. Long-term Compensation

3. Benefits

4. Severance Compensation and Termination Protection

We refer to the combination of base salary, annual adjustments to base salary, and annual incentive bonuses as Short-term Compensation. We use short-term compensation to motivate and reward our key executives in accordance with our performance management process. We have established a goal deployment program to operationalize our strategic priorities, to set and refine Company objectives, and to cascade those objectives throughout the organization.

We balance individual, functional area, and Company-wide goals and achievements. On an individual level, each member of our executive team sets goals, focusing on the categories mentioned above, with an emphasis on measurable and achievable goals. Our goal setting process is participatory. Each executive participates in establishing the objectives of our Company as a whole, and offers his or her views as to the goals of each other functional area, insofar as those goals impact the individual executive's own functional area. We also ask our executives to provide feedback not only on their own performance and that of their particular area, but also of other functional areas and our entire organization. We see this process both as the optimal means of assembling accurate information regarding the expectation and realization of performance, as well as an integral part of our culture of collaborative, team-oriented management.

In 2008, our Company goals included:

Oncophage

Register and commercialize Oncophage in Russia

File for registration in Europe

Clarify registration strategy in Glioma and complete enrollment in our phase II trial

Table of Contents

QS-21

Ensure agreements with all licensees are monitored and supported

Raise the profile of QS-21 in the context of Antigenics overall value proposition

General Research

Continue to advance the development of our preclinical pipeline and new technologies that improve our clinical programs

General Finance and Administration

Ensure the availability and effective allocation of financial, human and other resources as required to achieve our strategic priorities

Raise a minimum of \$30 million

Each year we evaluate the achievement of Company goals and objectives, functional area goals and individual executive performance. At the end of the year, we review final performance results versus our goals and objectives and begin discussions regarding goals and objectives for the next fiscal year. Incentive compensation, based on the achievement of goals and objectives, may be awarded in the form of an annual cash bonus and equity-based awards. Our annual incentive bonus rewards for the achievement of annual goals and objectives. Equity-based awards are used to align the interests of our executives with those of our stockholders and to promote a long-term performance perspective and progress toward achieving our long-term strategy.

Our senior executives' total compensation may vary significantly year to year based on Company, functional area and individual performance. Further, the value of equity awards made to our senior executives will vary in value based on our stock price performance.

1. Short-term Compensation.

Our short-term compensation program consists of base salary and annual incentive bonuses. Base salary will typically be used to recognize the experience, skills, knowledge, and responsibilities required of each officer, as well as competitive market conditions.

- a. **Base Salary:** Base salaries for our executives are generally positioned at or around the 60th percentile versus our peer group (see **Competitive Market Review** for further information on the peer group). In establishing the base salaries of the executive officers, our Compensation Committee and management take into account a number of factors, including the executive's seniority, position and functional role, and level of responsibility.

For newly hired personnel, we consider the base salary of the individual at his or her prior employment and any unique personal circumstances that motivated the executive to leave that prior position and join our Company. In addition, we consider the competitive market for corresponding positions within comparable companies of similar size and stage of development.

For individuals newly promoted to the position, as with individuals newly employed from outside the Company, we consider the competitive market and their prior salary and experience. Where these individuals may not have the same level of experience at the time of promotion as a counterpart hired from outside the Company, we may define a multi-step approach to

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

bringing their salaries in line with targeted levels. Salary increases at each of these points in time will be contingent on the continuing good performance of the individual.

The base salary of our named executive group is reviewed on an annual basis, and adjustments are made to reflect performance-based factors, as well as competitive conditions. Increases are considered within the context of our overall annual financial constraints before more specific individual and

Table of Contents

market competitive factors are considered. We do not apply specific formulas to determine increases. Generally, executive salaries are reviewed in the fourth quarter and adjusted effective January 1 of each year.

- b. Annual Incentive Bonuses: Annual incentive bonuses for our executive officers are based on the achievement of the Company's annual goals and objectives and functional area goals, as well as individual performance objectives as outlined in our 2004 Executive Incentive Plan (the "Executive Incentive Plan"). Awards under the program are based on a qualitative review of the facts and circumstances related to Company and departmental, functional and individual performance when determining each individual's annual incentive bonus. An individual may receive an award from zero to 150% of his or her target bonus based on the review of results. Generally, the annual incentive bonus is paid in cash. However, in an effort to conserve cash, the Compensation Committee elected to deliver a substantial portion of the executive's annual incentive bonus in the form of restricted stock in 2007 and all of the annual incentive bonus in the form of restricted stock in 2008.

For the 2007 and 2008 performance years, the target bonuses as a percentage of base salary were as follows:

Named Executive Officer	Target Bonus	
	2007	2008
Dr. Armen	50%	50%
Ms. Sharp	40%	40%
Ms. Valentine	30%	30%
Ms. Wentworth	40%	40%
Ms. Klaskin	30%	30%

For the 2007 and 2008 performance year, the annual incentive awards granted to our executive officers and other members of key management were based largely on total company performance with limited adjustments for the executive's individual performance. This approach was taken to acknowledge and reinforce the importance of teamwork in addressing the unique set of performance challenges facing the Company in this cycle, which included the reduction of staff and resources, the consolidation of priorities and the attendant need to optimize cross-functional cooperation.

Approximately 85% of the incentive awards granted for 2007 performance and 100% of the incentive awards granted for 2008 performance were delivered as restricted stock. The rationale for this method of payment was to:

Conserve our limited cash resources,

Further reinforce the link between executive pay and stockholder value creation, and

Reward performance while providing additional retention incentives.

The total payout (cash and restricted stock) for 2007 performance was approximately 150% of target and approximately 60% of target for 2008 performance.

2. Long-term Compensation.

At present, our long-term compensation consists of stock options and restricted stock grants. Our stock options and restricted stock grants are designed to align management's performance objectives with the interests of our stockholders. Our Compensation Committee grants options and restricted stock to key executives to enable them to participate in long-term appreciation of our stockholder value, while personally feeling the impact of any business setbacks, whether Company-specific or industry-based. Additionally, through each grant's vesting schedule, stock options and restricted stock provide a means of encouraging the retention of key executives. In general, stock options and restricted stock awards are granted annually and are subject to vesting based on the

Table of Contents

executive's continued employment. Most options vest 25% per year over four years, with no vesting from the date of grant until the first anniversary. The first long term restricted stock award was granted in September 2008 and vests 33% per year over three years. All restricted stock issued to our executive officers and other members of key management in lieu of cash for our annual incentive bonus have had shorter term vesting provisions.

On January 10, 2008, in connection with the 2007 annual incentive bonus, the Compensation Committee issued two restricted stock grants to our named executive officers and other members of key management. The first restricted stock grant vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the second stock grant vested on the twelve-month anniversary.

On September 10, 2008, the Compensation Committee issued a stock option grant to our named executive officers and other members of key management. The stock options vest in equal annual increments over three years, with no vesting from the date of grant until the first anniversary.

On January 14, 2009, in connection with the 2008 annual incentive bonus, the Compensation Committee issued a restricted stock grant to named executive officers and other key members of management which vests on the six-month anniversary of the grant.

The details of all stock options and restricted stock grants made to named executive officers in 2008 are outlined in the section entitled Compensation Actions for our Chief Executive Officer and our other Named Executive Officers and are also reflected in the Summary Compensation Table.

Our Compensation Committee has and will continue to consider alternative vesting strategies based on the achievement of milestones, determined on an individual, functional area and company-wide level, and may introduce such performance-based vesting in the future.

Initial and Promotional Stock Option Grants:

The size of the initial option grant made to executives upon joining the Company or to current employees being promoted to executive positions is primarily based on competitive conditions applicable to the executive's specific position. In addition, the Compensation Committee considers the number of options owned by other executives in comparable positions within our Company and has, with the assistance of our independent compensation consultant, established stock option guidelines for specified categories of executives. We believe this strategy is consistent with the approach of other development-stage companies in our industry and, in our Compensation Committee's view, is appropriate for aligning the interests of our executives with those of our stockholders over the long-term.

Market Comparisons:

We use a number of methodologies to make external comparisons when we set the number of options to be granted to each executive. On an individual basis, we compare:

the fair value of the grant using a Black-Scholes valuation model for equity awards that is consistent with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R, *Share-Based Payment* (SFAS No. 123R),

the face value of the grant by position,

the face value of the grant as a multiple of base salary,

the number of option shares granted by position,

the number of option shares, in total, granted, and still held, by position as a percentage of total option shares granted and of total common shares outstanding, and

the proportion of exercisable to non-exercisable option shares held, in total.

Table of Contents

On a total Company basis, when it is appropriate, we analyze:

total annual option burn rates,

total number of options remaining in the approved pool under the 1999 EIP, and

equity overhang.

We believe these comparisons provide important additional context for comparing the competitive level of our equity-based compensation practices versus the market.

Ultimately, awards to senior executives are driven by their performance over time, their ability to impact our results that drive stockholder value, their level within the organization, their potential to take on roles of increasing responsibility in our Company, and competitive equity award levels for similar positions and organization levels in our peer companies. Equity awards are not granted automatically to our executives on an annual basis.

While we expect our senior executives to hold a significant portion of their stock for the longer term, we have not yet established formal share retention guidelines. Directors, executive officers, and all other employees of our Company are required to sign our Company's Policy Statement on Securities Trades. This policy prohibits trading on, or disclosing, material non-public information, and also establishes "black-out" periods for directors, officers, and certain other members of key management to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

3. Benefits.

We provide the following benefits to our senior executives generally on the same basis as the benefits provided to all employees:

Health and dental insurance,

Life insurance,

Short- and long-term disability,

401(k) plan, and

Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

These benefits are consistent with those offered by other companies and specifically with those companies with which we compete for employees.

4. Severance Compensation and Termination Protection.

We have entered into employment and change in control arrangements with Dr. Armen, Ms. Sharp, Ms. Valentine and Ms. Wentworth and a change of control plan with Ms. Klaskin. These arrangements provide for severance compensation to be paid if the executives are terminated under certain conditions, such as a change in control of the Company or a termination without cause by us, each as is defined in the respective agreements or plan.

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

The employment and change in control arrangements between our Company and our senior executives and the related severance compensation provisions are designed to meet the following objectives:

Change of Control: As part of our normal course of business, we engage in discussions with other biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies about possible collaborations, licensing and/or other ways in which the companies may work together to further our respective long-term objectives. In addition, many larger established pharmaceutical companies consider companies at similar stages of development to ours as potential acquisition targets. In certain scenarios, the potential for a merger or being acquired may be in the best interests of our stockholders. We provide severance compensation if

Table of Contents

an executive is terminated as a result of a change of control transaction to maintain continuity in the event a potential transaction is announced and to promote the ability of our senior executives to act in the best interests of our stockholders even though they could be terminated as a result of the transaction.

Termination without Cause: If we terminate the employment of a senior executive without cause, or the executive resigns for good reason as defined in the applicable agreement, we are obligated to continue to pay the base salary, bonus, and medical and dental benefits for a defined period, as well as to provide outplacement services. We believe this is appropriate because the terminated executive is bound by confidentiality, non-solicitation and non-compete provisions covering one year after termination and because we and the executive have mutually agreed to a severance package that is in place prior to any termination event. This provides us with more flexibility to make a change in senior management if we consider such a change to be in our and our stockholders' best interests.

The payments provided under these arrangements are as follows:

Change of Control: Upon a change of control, 50% of the executives' unvested stock options immediately vest. If the executive is terminated or resigns for good reason as a result of the change of control, the remaining 50% vests.

If Dr. Armen is terminated or resigns for good reason, he is entitled to:

24 months base salary, bonus, and medical and dental benefits continuation,

outplacement services, and

a gross-up payment to cover any excise taxes required under Section 280G of the Code.

Other named executive officers with executive employment and/or change in control arrangements are entitled to 18 months base salary, bonus, and medical and dental benefits continuation, outplacement services and Section 280G of the Code gross-up payments under the same circumstances.

Termination without Cause:

If we terminate Dr. Armen's employment without cause or he resigns for good reason not involving a change of control, he is entitled to 18 months base salary, bonus, and medical and dental benefits continuation, and outplacement services.

Other named executive officers with executive employment agreements are entitled to 12 months base salary, bonus, and medical and dental benefits continuation, and outplacement services under the same circumstances.

Executive employment and change in control arrangements are covered in greater detail in the section entitled "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control."

Compensation Actions for our Chief Executive Officer and our other Named Executive Officers

Compensation actions for 2008 and 2009 reflect our management's and our Compensation Committee's assessments of performance relative to Company goals and objectives, departmental or functional area goals and individual performance objectives, and comparisons against market

references described earlier in this discussion.

Dr. Armen, our Chief Executive Officer, makes recommendations to our Compensation Committee as to individual compensation actions for the senior executives, including the named executive officers. Using the same criteria outlined above, our Compensation Committee works with the Vice President of Human Resources and the Company's independent compensation consultant to determine the specific compensation actions for our named executive officers.

Table of Contents

Our compensation actions for our Chief Executive Officer and our other named executive officers are summarized as follows:

Dr. Garo H. Armen Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Compensation Actions for 2008:

Base Salary: In 2008, our Compensation Committee, at Dr. Armen's request, did not increase Dr. Armen's base salary. His 2008 base salary remained at \$440,000.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Dr. Armen an annual incentive bonus. The Compensation Committee awarded Dr. Armen a cash incentive bonus of \$55,000 and 120,087 shares of restricted stock valued at \$287,008 as outlined in the section below entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward him for his performance in 2007.

Equity Compensation: In January 2008, Dr. Armen was granted 120,087 shares of restricted stock in two grants. One grant of 60,044 restricted shares vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the other grant of 60,043 restricted shares vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant. On September 10, 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Dr. Armen 255,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$1.57, and 45,000 shares of restricted stock. These options and shares vest in equal annual increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant. All of these options were granted with the exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

Compensation Actions for 2009:

Base Salary: On January 14, 2009 the Compensation Committee and Dr. Armen agreed that for the foreseeable future and effective February 1, 2009, Dr. Armen would receive 30% of his base salary in unrestricted shares of common stock of the Company and 70% of his base salary in cash. As of the date of this filing, our Compensation Committee has made no change to Dr. Armen's base salary for 2009.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2009, our Compensation Committee approved the granting of an annual incentive bonus to Dr. Armen. The Compensation Committee approved granting Dr. Armen 330,000 shares of restricted stock in lieu of cash as outlined in the section below entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward him for his performance in 2008 subject to stockholder approval of the 2009 EIP.

Equity Compensation: In January 2009, Dr. Armen was granted 330,000 shares of restricted stock subject to stockholder approval of the 2009 EIP and, if awarded, will vest on July 14, 2009. As part of the adjustment to his base salary, effective February 1, 2009, Dr. Armen receives 30% of his base salary in unrestricted shares of common stock which is payable monthly in arrears on the first day of each month based on the prior month's average closing price of the Company's stock.

Karen H. Valentine Vice President and General Counsel

Compensation Actions for 2008:

Base Salary: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee set Ms. Valentine's 2008 base salary at \$220,000. This base salary represents a 10% increase from the prior year's salary of \$200,000. This increase was awarded by our Compensation Committee in connection with Ms. Valentine's promotion from Vice President, Legal to Vice President and General Counsel.

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Ms. Valentine an annual incentive bonus. The Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Valentine a cash incentive bonus of \$15,000 and 32,751 shares of restricted stock valued at \$78,275 as outlined in the section below entitled Equity Compensation, to reward her for her performance in 2007.

Table of Contents

Equity Compensation: In January 2008, Ms. Valentine was granted 32,751 shares of restricted stock in two grants. One grant of 16,376 restricted shares vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the other grant of 16,375 restricted shares vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant. On September 10, 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Ms. Valentine 50,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$1.57, and 10,000 shares of restricted stock. These options and shares vest in equal annual increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant. All of these options were granted with the exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

Compensation Actions for 2009:

Base Salary: As of the date of this filing, our Compensation Committee has made no change to Ms. Valentine's base salary for 2009.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2009, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Valentine an annual incentive bonus of 67,300 shares of restricted stock in lieu of cash valued at \$24,901 as outlined in the section below entitled *Equity Compensation*, to reward her for her performance in the 2008 performance year.

Equity Compensation: In January 2009, Ms. Valentine was awarded 67,300 shares of restricted stock which vests on the six-month anniversary of the date of the grant. As of the date of this filing, the Committee has made no stock option grants to Ms. Valentine in 2009.

Shalini Sharp Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Compensation Actions for 2008:

Base Salary: Ms. Sharp's base salary for 2008 remained at \$240,000, unchanged from 2007.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Sharp a cash bonus of \$24,000 and 52,402 shares of restricted stock valued at \$125,241 as outlined in the section below entitled *Equity Compensation*, to reward her for her performance in 2007 performance year.

Equity Compensation: In January 2008, Ms. Sharp was awarded 52,402 shares of restricted stock in two grants. One grant of 26,201 restricted shares vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the other grant of 26,201 restricted shares vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant. On September 10, 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Ms. Sharp 65,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$1.57, and 15,000 shares of restricted stock. These options and shares vest in equal annual increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant. All of these options were granted with the exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

Compensation Actions for 2009:

Base Salary: As of the date of this filing, our Compensation Committee has made no change to Ms. Sharp's base salary for 2009.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2009, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Sharp an annual incentive bonus of 115,200 shares of restricted stock in lieu of cash valued at \$42,624 as outlined in the section below entitled *Equity Compensation*, to reward her for her performance in the 2008 performance year.

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

Equity Compensation: In January 2009, Ms. Sharp was awarded 115,200 shares of restricted stock which vests on the six-month anniversary of the date of the grant. As of the date of this filing, the Committee has made no stock option grants to Ms. Sharp in 2009.

Table of Contents

Kerry A. Wentworth Vice President, Clinical Operations and Regulatory Affairs

Compensation Actions for 2008:

Base Salary: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee set Ms. Wentworth's 2008 base salary at \$240,000. This base salary represents a 9% increase from the prior year's salary of \$220,000. This increase was awarded by our Compensation Committee to bring Ms. Wentworth's salary in line with our market references.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2008, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Wentworth a cash bonus of \$22,000 and 48,035 valued at \$114,804 shares of restricted stock, as outlined in the section below entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward her performance in the 2007 performance year.

Equity Compensation: In January 2008, Ms. Wentworth was granted 48,035 shares of restricted stock in two grants. One grant of 24,018 restricted shares vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the other grant of 24,017 restricted shares vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant. On September 10, 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Ms. Wentworth 65,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$1.57, and 15,000 shares of restricted stock. These options and shares vest in equal annual increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant. All of these options were granted with the exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

Compensation Actions for 2009:

Base Salary: As of the date of this filing, our Compensation Committee has made no change to Ms. Wentworth's base salary for 2009.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2009, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Wentworth an annual incentive bonus of 115,200 shares of restricted stock in lieu of cash valued at \$42,624 as outlined in the section below entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward her for her performance in the 2008 performance year.

Equity Compensation: In January 2009, Ms. Wentworth was awarded 115,200 shares of restricted stock which vests on the six-month anniversary of the grant. As of the date of this filing, the Committee has made no stock option grants to Ms. Wentworth in 2009.

Christine M. Klaskin Vice President, Finance

Compensation Actions for 2008:

Base Salary: Ms. Klaskin's base salary for 2008 remained at \$185,000, unchanged from 2007.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2008, Ms. Klaskin was awarded a cash bonus in the amount of \$13,875 and 30,295 shares of restricted stock valued at \$72,405 as outlined below in the section entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward her for her performance in 2007.

Edgar Filing: ANTIGENICS INC /DE/ - Form DEF 14A

Equity Compensation: In January 2008, Ms. Klaskin was awarded 30,295 shares of restricted stock. One grant of 15,148 restricted shares vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant and the other grant of 15,147 restricted shares vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant. On September 10, 2008, our Compensation Committee granted Ms. Klaskin 50,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$1.57, and 10,000 shares of restricted stock. These options and shares vest in equal annual increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant. All of these options were granted with the exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

Table of Contents

Compensation Actions for 2009:

Base Salary: As of the date of this filing, our Compensation Committee has made no change to Ms. Klaskin's base salary for 2009.

Annual Incentive Bonus: In January 2009, our Compensation Committee awarded Ms. Klaskin an annual incentive bonus of 66,600 shares of restricted stock in lieu of cash valued at \$24,420 as outlined in the section below entitled "Equity Compensation," to reward her for her performance in the 2008 performance year.

Equity Compensation: In January 2009, Ms. Klaskin was awarded 66,600 shares of restricted stock which vests on the six-month anniversary of the date of the grant. As of the date of this filing, the Committee has made no stock option grants to Ms. Klaskin in 2009.

Competitive Market Review

The market for top tier executive talent is highly competitive. Our objective is to attract and retain a superior leadership team. In doing so, we aim to draw upon a pool of talent that is highly sought after by both large and established pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in and outside our geographic area and by other development-stage life science companies.

We believe we have competitive advantages in our ability to offer significant upside potential through stock options and other equity instruments. Nonetheless, we must recognize market cash compensation levels and satisfy the day-to-day financial requirements of our candidates through competitive base salaries and cash bonuses. We also compete on the basis of our vision of future success, our culture and values, the cohesiveness and productivity of our teams, and the excellence of our scientists and management personnel.

In order to succeed in attracting highly talented executives, we continuously monitor market trends and draw upon surveys prepared by The Radford Biotechnology division of AON Consulting, custom research developed by our compensation consultants, and other nationally recognized surveys. Our Compensation Committee reviews data that analyzes various cross-sections of our industry as well as relevant geographical areas.

Market References: How We Define Market and How We Use Market Compensation Data. Since 2003, we have worked with Oyster Pond Associates, an independent compensation consultant, to evaluate our total compensation program and compare it to levels in the market. Our consultant works with our Vice President of Human Resources and the Compensation Committee to interpret results, make certain specific and general recommendations, and assist in the determination of next steps.

Defining the Market. For 2008, we used two market references to compare our executive total compensation practices and levels to those in the market:

1. Radford Biotechnology Executive Compensation Report by AON Consulting: A national survey of executive compensation levels and practices that covers approximately 1,300 positions in 550 life science organizations. We focus primarily on a predetermined subset of companies with between 50 and 149 employees.
2. Proxy data derived from a select peer group of biotech companies of a similar size, market capitalization, development stage and therapeutic focus. The composition of this group is reassessed on an annual basis with guidance from our compensation consultants, Oyster Pond Associates. The select peer group was updated in January 2008, and currently consists of the following fourteen (14) companies: ArQule, Biocryst Pharmaceuticals, Cell Genesys, Cell Therapeutics, CombinatoRx, Cytokinetics, Dendreon, Immunogen, Micromet, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Sunesis, Supergen, and Vical.

Table of Contents

Determining Market Levels and Specific Comparisons. We compare our practices and levels by each compensation component, by total annual compensation (including target annual incentive opportunity) and by total compensation including equity compensation components. The competitive comparisons made in this process are used to determine our approximate position relative to the appropriate market reference by compensation component and in total.

Total Compensation

We intend to continue our strategy of compensating our named executive officers at competitive levels, with the opportunity to earn above-market pay for above-market performance, through programs that emphasize performance-based incentive compensation in the form of cash and equity.

For 2008, the total compensation paid to the named executive officers generally fell between the 25th and 60th percentile of total compensation paid to executives holding equivalent positions in our peer group of companies. We believe that the total compensation was reasonable in the aggregate. Further, in light of our compensation philosophy, we believe that the total compensation package for our executives should continue to consist of base salary, annual cash incentive awards (bonus), long-term equity-based incentive compensation, and certain other benefits.

The competitive posture of our total annual compensation versus the market references will vary year to year based on Company, functional area, and individual performance, as well as the performance of the peer group companies and their respective level of annual performance bonus awards made to their executives. We believe our target total annual direct compensation is generally positioned at approximately the 50th to 60th percentile, with an emphasis on performance-based variable compensation.

Evolution of our Compensation Strategy

Our compensation strategy is necessarily tied to our stage of development. Accordingly, the specific direction, emphasis, and components of our executive compensation program continue to evolve in parallel with the evolution of our business strategy. For example, we expect that if we become a fully integrated commercial company, our executive compensation program, in particular our Executive Incentive Plan, will focus more on quantitative performance metrics. Our Compensation Discussion and Analysis would, in the future, reflect these evolutionary changes.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee of the Board consists entirely of independent directors who are not officers or employees of Antigenics. The Compensation Committee charter is posted on the corporate governance section of our website at <http://www.antigenics.com/investors/governance>. No material on our website is part of this proxy statement.

The Compensation Committee of the Board has reviewed and discussed with management the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis, and based on such review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement on Schedule 14A for filing with the SEC.

By the Compensation Committee,

Wadiah Jordan (Chair)

Margaret M. Eisen

Timothy R. Wright

Table of Contents**COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS****Summary Compensation**

This table shows certain information about the compensation earned in 2008, 2007 and 2006 by our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, our Principal Accounting Officer, and our other most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as an executive officer as of December 31, 2008. We refer to these officers as our named executive officers.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Option Awards ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Non-Equity		Total (\$)
					Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D. ⁽¹⁾ Chief Executive Officer	2008	440,000	424,431	650,878		34,804	1,550,113
	2007	440,000	132,231	882,821	55,000	35,754	1,545,806
	2006	440,000		940,359		39,910	1,420,269
Shalini Sharp Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2008	240,000	142,995	138,238		10,358	531,591
	2007	240,000	22,970	120,654	24,000	7,508	415,132
	2006	181,921	3,329	80,418	48,000	10,712	324,380
Karen H. Valentine ⁽⁵⁾ Vice President and General Counsel	2008	220,000	90,131	65,179		19,825	395,135
	2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kerry A. Wentworth Vice President, Clinical Operations and Regulatory Affairs	2008	240,000	132,520	174,142		22,830	569,492
	2007	220,000	22,788	133,578	22,000	12,653	411,019
	2006	204,046	3,329	91,563	52,586	14,901	366,425
Christine M. Klaskin Vice President, Finance and Principal Accounting Officer	2008	185,000	82,351	61,347		9,255	337,953
	2007	185,000	12,890	55,925	13,875	8,022	275,712
	2006	156,811	1,996	38,869	26,016	9,886	233,578

- (1) As an employee-director, Dr. Armen receives no additional compensation for his services to the Board.
- (2) Based on the fair value of nonvested shares on the grant date. Please see the notes to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 as filed on March 16, 2009 for assumptions applied.
- (3) We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value the options granted. Please see the notes to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 as filed on March 16, 2009 for assumptions applied.
- (4) Please see the table below.
- (5) Ms. Valentine became a named executive officer of the Company in 2008.

Table of Contents**2008:**

	Insurance	401(k) Company	Car Service to Base Office	Discounted Securities Purchases	Other Benefits	Total
Executive Officer	Premiums	Match				
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D.	14,514	3,181	15,109		2,000	34,804
Shalini Sharp	2,046	6,900		1,149	263	10,358
Karen H. Valentine	11,676	6,402		1,747		19,825
Kerry A. Wentworth	5,639	6,645			10,546	22,830
Christine M. Klaskin	2,293	5,188		574	1,200	9,255

2007:

	Insurance	401(k) Company	Car Service to Base Office	Other	Total
Executive Officer	Premiums	Match		Benefits	
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D.	14,250	3,181	15,600	2,723	35,754
Shalini Sharp	1,943	4,750		815	7,508
Kerry A. Wentworth	5,456	6,600		597	12,653
Christine M. Klaskin	2,126	4,696		1,200	8,022

2006:

	Insurance	401(k) Company	Car Service to Base Office	Discounted Securities Purchases	Other	Total
Executive Officer	Premiums	Match			Benefits	
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D.	14,347	4,569	17,769		3,225	39,910
Shalini Sharp	2,174	6,159		1,618	761	10,712
Kerry A. Wentworth	5,636	9,150			115	14,901
Christine M. Klaskin	1,927	6,759			1,200	9,886

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2008**

This table shows our grants of plan-based awards to named executive officers in 2008. All of the awards under the Non-Equity Incentive Plan were made under our Executive Incentive Plan. All Stock Awards and Other Option awards were made under our 1999 EIP.

Executive Officer	Grant Date	All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)⁽⁴⁾
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer	1/10/08 ⁽¹⁾	60,044			143,505
	1/10/08 ⁽²⁾	60,043			143,502
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾		255,000	1.57	269,714
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾	45,000			70,650
Shalini Sharp Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	1/10/08 ⁽¹⁾	26,201			62,620
	1/10/08 ⁽²⁾	26,201			62,620
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾		65,000	1.57	68,751
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾	15,000			23,550
Karen H. Valentine Vice President and General Counsel	1/10/08 ⁽¹⁾	16,376			39,139
	1/10/08 ⁽²⁾	16,375			39,136
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾		50,000	1.57	52,885
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾	10,000			15,700
Kerry A. Wentworth Vice President, Clinical Operations and Regulatory Affairs	1/10/08 ⁽¹⁾	24,018			57,403
	1/10/08 ⁽²⁾	24,017			57,401
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾		65,000	1.57	68,751
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾	15,000			23,550
Christine M. Klaskin Vice President, Finance and Principal Accounting Officer	1/10/08 ⁽¹⁾	15,148			36,204
	1/10/08 ⁽²⁾	15,147			36,201
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾		50,000	1.57	52,885
	9/10/08 ⁽³⁾	10,000			15,700

- (1) The restricted stock vested on the six-month anniversary of the grant date.
- (2) The restricted stock vested on the twelve-month anniversary of the grant date.
- (3) The shares vest in equal increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant date.
- (4) We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value the options granted. Please see the notes to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 as filed on March 16, 2009 for assumptions applied.

Table of Contents

Our compensation package for named executive officers consists of base salary, an annual incentive bonus, and long-term compensation in the form of stock options and restricted stock. We also provide benefits and severance/termination protection. In light of our stage of development and the importance of achieving our short- and long-term strategic objectives, considerable emphasis is placed on the annual incentive bonus and equity-based compensation components of the total compensation package. Dr. Armen, Ms. Sharp, Ms. Valentine and Ms. Wentworth each currently have an employment and change in control agreement providing a minimum base salary. The employment and change in control agreements for our current and former executive officers entitle them to participate in employee benefit and fringe benefit plans and programs made available to executives generally. Additionally, the employment and change in control agreements provide for the reimbursement of reasonable, customary and necessary business expenses, subject to our Travel Policy. For our executives, all other compensation items, including perquisites, comprise a small portion of overall total compensation.

As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, our Company also has the Executive Incentive Plan, the purpose of which is to provide additional incentives for executive officers to contribute to the success of the Company. The Executive Incentive Plan provides for significant competitive incentive awards which relate directly to the achievement of corporate objectives and individual performance goals. This, in turn, is expected to promote the interests of stockholders and enhance our ability to attract, motivate and retain high performing executive officers. Target incentive awards typically range from 30-50% of an executive officer's base salary. Funding for the target incentive awards is based on the extent to which we achieve a predetermined set of corporate objectives and milestones. Individual awards can be adjusted to reflect the individual executive officer's contribution to achieving these corporate objectives and milestones and range from 0 to 150% of the executive officer's target incentive award.

Furthermore, we grant stock options and restricted stock to executive officers under our 1999 EIP, including without limitation, equity compensation awards made under our Executive Incentive Plan. Our 1999 EIP is designed to directly align the long-term financial interests of our executive officers and our stockholders, to assist in the retention of executive officers by providing meaningful ownership interest in Antigenics that vests over time, and to encourage our executive officers to think and act like owners of the business. Historically, we have used a five-year vesting period and a ten-year exercise period for stock option grants. Beginning with grants made in February 2004, we changed the standard vesting period from five to four years to be more consistent with market practice and from time to time have issued grants with shorter vesting periods. In September 2008, we granted stock options with a 3 year vesting period.

Our practice is to generally make stock option awards with a four-year vesting period, although in September 2006, we made grants to executives that had a two-year vesting period, the first 33.3% on the first anniversary of the grant date and the balance on the second anniversary. Our use of restricted stock in executive compensation has thus far been primarily directed to grants made in lieu of annual cash incentive bonuses and have not been subject to four year vesting due to the nature of the grants. In January 2007, we granted restricted shares that had a two-year vesting period, the first 50% on the first anniversary of the grant and the balance on the second anniversary. In January 2008, we granted restricted shares that had a one-year vesting period and a six-month vesting period. In January 2009, we granted restricted shares that had a six-month vesting period. In September 2008 we issued our first restricted stock grant to executive officers as a long term incentive. These grants vest in equal increments over three years beginning with the first anniversary of the grant date.

The exercise price for all stock options granted in 2008 equaled the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant. Fair market value on the date of grant was determined as the closing market price of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

We typically grant stock options to new executive officers when they start employment and on an annual basis and upon promotions to positions of greater responsibility. In determining the size of an annual executive grant, we consider the position level, the degree to which the executive's contributions impacted our results in the past year, the importance of the executive's skills to our future success, the size of the executive's current equity position, and competitive market factors.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2008**

The following table shows outstanding equity awards for the named executive officers as of December 31, 2008:

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁵⁾ (\$)
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer	82,820		12.07	2/1/09		
	171,861		12.07	4/29/09		
	150,000		14.85	3/14/12		
	75,000		7.45	3/14/13		
	175,000		10.18	3/11/14		
	225,000	75,000 ⁽¹⁾	6.92	3/10/15		
	318,227		1.63	9/15/16		
				68,750 ⁽²⁾	33,000	
	52,800	158,400 ⁽³⁾	2.27	9/12/17	60,043 ⁽⁴⁾	28,821
		255,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1.57	9/10/18	45,000 ⁽⁶⁾	21,600
Shalini Sharp Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	20,000		12.45	8/5/13		
	6,800		10.36	2/18/14		
	15,000	5,000 ⁽⁷⁾	9.43	1/10/15		
	13,333	6,667 ⁽⁸⁾	5.13	3/22/16		
	30,000	30,000 ⁽⁹⁾	1.74	9/13/16		
	22,267		1.63	9/15/16		
					8,000 ⁽²⁾	3,840
	27,800	83,400 ⁽³⁾	2.27	9/12/17	26,201 ⁽⁴⁾	12,576
		65,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1.57	9/10/18	15,000 ⁽⁶⁾	7,200
Karen H. Valentine Vice President and General Counsel	15,000		10.17	3/22/14		
	5,625	1,875 ⁽¹¹⁾	6.30	3/7/15		
	3,750	3,750 ⁽¹⁴⁾	4.76	1/1/16		
	5,000	2,500 ⁽⁸⁾	5.13	3/22/16		
	12,500		1.63	9/15/16		
	15,000	15,000 ⁽¹³⁾	2.03	12/4/16		
					5,209 ⁽²⁾	2,500
	12,225	36,675 ⁽³⁾	2.27	9/12/17	16,375 ⁽⁴⁾	7,860
		50,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1.57	9/10/18	10,000 ⁽⁶⁾	4,800
Kerry A. Wentworth Vice President, Clinical Operations and Regulatory Affairs	40,000		6.77	11/1/14		
	13,333	6,667 ⁽⁸⁾	5.13	3/22/16		
	30,000	30,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	2.03	6/14/16		
	20,000		1.63	9/15/16		
					7,907 ⁽²⁾	3,795
		40,300	120,900 ⁽³⁾	2.27	9/12/17	24,017 ⁽⁴⁾
		65,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1.57	9/10/18	15,000 ⁽⁶⁾	7,200

Table of Contents

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁵⁾ (\$)
Christine M. Klaskin	1,000		13.50	2/4/10		
Vice President, Finance and Principal Accounting Officer	1,000		14.52	1/5/12		
	5,000		9.00	6/7/12		
	5,000		8.99	2/11/13		
	6,800		10.36	2/18/14		
	5,625	1,875 ⁽¹¹⁾	6.30	3/7/15		
	6,666	3,334 ⁽⁸⁾	5.13	3/22/16		
	15,000	15,000 ⁽¹²⁾	1.74	9/13/16		