Savara Inc Form DEF 14A April 23, 2018 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**

(Amendment No. )

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

#### SAVARA INC.

(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)(4) 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):
- (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:

April 23, 2018

Dear Fellow Stockholder,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Savara Inc., which will be held on June 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., located at 900 South Capital of Texas Highway, Las Cimas IV, Fifth Floor, Austin, Texas 78746.

Last year was transformative for Savara. The events of 2017 included the merger with Mast Therapeutics, Inc., which resulted in Savara becoming a public company, and two successful follow-on public offerings. These events had a significant impact on our company as reflected in the proxy statement included with this letter.

As outlined in the notice of the meeting and proxy statement, the following four items are on the agenda for the annual meeting:

- (1.) The election of seven directors to our board of directors. Each of our current directors is standing for re-election to our board. We believe that the current board is well qualified, and its re-election will help ensure organizational sustainability and effectiveness. Our board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the election of each of the nominees set forth in the proxy.
- (2.) The approval of an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation that will decrease the number of common shares we are authorized to issue from 500,000,000 to 200,000,000. Our board of directors has unanimously approved the amendment, subject to stockholder approval, because we believe that it will allow us to reduce our Delaware franchise tax liability while still allowing us to maintain an adequate reserve of shares for future issuances. Our board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR this proposal.
- (3.) The approval of the amendment and restatement of our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the 2015 Plan) to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance thereunder by 3,000,000, (ii) reflect recent changes to the federal tax code, and (iii) make certain other changes as set forth in the amended and restated plan. Our board of directors has unanimously approved the amendment, subject to stockholder approval, because the number of shares remaining available for issuance under the 2015 Plan is very minimal and not adequate to allow us to attract and retain the services of employees and non-employee directors and to motivate participants to achieve long-term objectives that we believe will benefit our stockholders. Our board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR this proposal.
- (4.) The ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP served in that capacity for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the audit committee of our board of directors has approved the appointment for the year ended December 31, 2018. Our board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR this proposal.

For more information, please review the full description of each of the above proposals included in the proxy statement. In addition to the formal business to be transacted at the meeting, management will be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, I encourage you to follow the instructions in the enclosed materials to submit your vote in order to ensure your shares are represented at the meeting.

Thank you for your continued interest in Savara.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rob Neville

Rob Neville Chief Executive Officer

# SAVARA INC.

## 6836 Bee Cave Road

# **Building III, Suite 200**

### Austin, TX 78746

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

## To Be Held On June 4, 2018

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Savara Inc. will be held on June 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., located at 900 South Capital of Texas Highway, Las Cimas IV, Fifth Floor, Austin, Texas 78746. The meeting is being held for the following purposes, as more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this notice:

1. To elect seven directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are elected and qualified or until their resignation or removal;

2. To approve an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 500,000,000 to 200,000,000;

3. To approve the amendment and restatement of our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance thereunder by 3,000,000, (ii) reflect recent changes to the federal tax code, and (iii) make certain other changes as set forth in the amended and restated plan;

4. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018; and

5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 5, 2018 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available for inspection by any stockholder for any purpose relating to the meeting during ordinary business hours at our corporate offices located at 6836 Bee Cave Road, Building III, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78746 for ten days prior to the meeting, and will also be available for inspection at the meeting.

*Your vote is important.* Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, and no matter how many shares you own, please vote as promptly as possible. This will help to ensure the presence of a quorum at the meeting and save us additional proxy solicitation costs.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

/s/ Rob Neville

Rob Neville Chief Executive Officer

Austin, Texas

April 23, 2018

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholders** Meeting To Be Held on June 4, 2018. This notice of meeting, the proxy statement for the meeting and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 are available at www.proxyvote.com.

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# SAVARA INC.

## 6836 Bee Cave Road

# **Building III, Suite 200**

Austin, TX 78746

## (512) 961-1891

## **PROXY STATEMENT**

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

#### To Be Held On June 4, 2018

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

Savara Inc., a Delaware corporation (Savara, we, us, our, or our company), is making proxy materials, including proxy statement, available to our stockholders via the Internet in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our board of directors for use at our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on June 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., located at 900 South Capital of Texas Highway, Las Cimas IV, Fifth Floor, Austin, Texas 78746 (the Annual Meeting), and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

This proxy statement, the attached notice of the Annual Meeting, a proxy card and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 are collectively referred to as the proxy materials. The proxy materials are first being made available to our stockholders on or about April 23, 2018.

#### Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials

All stockholders have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the attached notice of the Annual Meeting. Pursuant to rules adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we have elected to send a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) to our stockholders instead of mailing printed copies of the proxy materials, unless you have previously elected to receive printed materials. The Notice provides instructions on how to access the proxy materials via the Internet and how to request a printed set of the proxy materials at no charge. In addition, stockholders can elect to receive future proxy materials electronically by email or in printed form by mail, and any such election will remain in effect until terminated by the stockholder. We encourage all stockholders to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet to help reduce the cost and environmental impact of our annual meetings.

#### **Purposes of the Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting is being held for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal;

2. To approve an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 500,000,000 to 200,000,000;

3. To approve the amendment and restatement of our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance thereunder by 3,000,000, (ii) reflect recent changes to the federal tax code, and (iii) make certain other changes as set forth in the amended and restated plan;

4. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018; and

5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

### **Record Date; Shares Outstanding and Entitled to Vote**

Our board of directors has fixed April 5, 2018 as the record date for the determination of holders of our common stock entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. At the close of business on the record date, we had 30,604,366 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. Each stockholder of record as of the record date is entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting for each share of common stock held by such stockholder on the record date. Stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights. We had no other class of capital stock outstanding as of the record date. No other shares are entitled to notice of, or to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

#### How to Vote Your Shares

**If you hold your shares in your own name as the stockholder of record**: You may vote your shares by proxy over the Internet or by telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice, or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, you may vote by marking, dating and signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the postage-paid envelope provided or you may vote over the Internet or by telephone pursuant to the instructions provided in the proxy card. Additionally, you may vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting. Stockholders voting by Internet or telephone should understand that, while we and the party providing the service through which you may vote by Internet or by telephone do not charge any fees to our stockholders for voting by Internet or telephone companies, for which you are responsible.

**If your shares are held in the name of a broker or other nominee (that is, in street name**): You will receive instructions from the holder of record that you must follow for your shares to be voted. The availability of telephonic or Internet voting will depend on your broker s (or other nominee s) voting process. Please check with your broker or other nominee and follow the voting procedure your broker or other nominee provides to vote your shares. If you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must request a legal proxy from your broker or other nominee that holds your shares and present that proxy and proof of identification at the Annual Meeting.

By casting your vote by proxy, you are authorizing the holders of the proxies solicited by this proxy statement to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions.

YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT. We encourage you to submit your vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person.

#### How to Change Your Vote

If you hold your shares in your own name: You may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before your proxy is exercised by:

Delivering to our corporate secretary a written notice of revocation, dated later than the proxy you wish to revoke, before voting begins at the Annual Meeting;

Delivering to our corporate secretary a duly executed proxy bearing a date later than the proxy you wish to revoke, before voting begins at the Annual Meeting;

Voting again on a later date via the Internet or by telephone before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 1, 2018 (in which case only your latest Internet or telephone proxy submitted will be counted); or

Attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (your attendance at the Annual Meeting, in and of itself, will not revoke your proxy).

Any written notice of revocation or later dated proxy should be delivered before the close of business on June 1, 2018 to:

Savara Inc.

6836 Bee Cave Road

Building III, Suite 200

Austin, TX 78746

Attention: Corporate Secretary

Alternatively, you may hand deliver a written revocation notice or a later dated proxy to our corporate secretary at the Annual Meeting before voting begins.

If your shares are held in street name: You must follow the instructions provided by the broker or other nominee if you wish to change your vote.

#### **Proxies**

If you provide specific voting instructions on your proxy card or when voting via the Internet or by telephone, your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with your instructions. If you hold shares in your name and execute a proxy (either by submitting it via the Internet or telephone or signing and returning a proxy card) without making individual selections, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of our board of directors, which are:

For election of each of the nominees to our board of directors listed in the proxy materials;

For the amendment of our Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 500,000,000 to 200,000,000;

For the amendment and restatement of our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance thereunder by 3,000,000, (ii) reflect recent changes to the federal tax code, and (iii) make certain other changes as set forth in the amended and restated plan; and

For ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

At this time, we are unaware of any matters, other than those set forth above, that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. If any other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the holders of proxies solicited by this proxy statement, or their duly constituted substitutes acting at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof, will be deemed authorized to vote or otherwise act on such matters in accordance with their judgment.

The holders of proxies solicited by this proxy statement, or their duly constituted substitutes acting at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof, may propose and vote for one or more adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting, including adjournments or postponements to permit further solicitations of proxies. Proxies solicited may be voted only at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof and will not be used for any other meeting of our stockholders.

## **Broker Non-Votes**

A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee (typically a broker or bank) holding shares for a beneficial owner (typically referred to as shares being held in street name) submits a proxy for those shares, but indicates on the proxy that it does not have authority to vote those shares on particular proposals because it has not received specific voting instructions from the beneficial owner for those proposals. Under the rules of the New

York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, brokers and other nominees have discretion to vote shares held in street name on routine matters but lack such discretion with regard to non-routine matters. The approval of the amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2018 are considered routine matters and, as such, brokers and other nominees may vote on those proposals in the absence of specific instructions from the beneficial owner. The other proposals described in this proxy statement are considered non-routine matters and brokers and other nominees do not have discretionary authority to vote on such proposals.

#### **Quorum and Required Votes**

A majority of the aggregate number of shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting must be present in person or by proxy in order for there to be a quorum at the Annual Meeting and for any action to be taken at the Annual Meeting. If you submit a properly executed proxy via the Internet or by telephone or mail, regardless of whether you abstain from voting on one or more matters, your shares will be counted as present at the Annual Meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum. Broker non-votes will also be counted as present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

*Proposal 1:* The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock having voting power present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required for the election of each director nominee. This majority voting standard means that a director nominee will be elected if the number of shares voted For that director nominee exceeds the aggregate number of shares voted Against and that Abstain from voting with respect to that director nominee. As a result, an abstention will have the same effect as a negative vote. Broker non-votes will not be counted toward the vote total and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal. In accordance with our corporate governance guidelines, each of our incumbent directors tendered his resignation in advance of being nominated for election at the Annual Meeting, with the effectiveness of such resignation subject to and contingent upon (a) the director s failure to receive a sufficient number of votes for re-election at the Annual Meeting and (b) our board of directors is not re-elected because he does not receive the requisite affirmative votes at the Annual Meeting will be subject to our board of directors determination as to whether to accept or reject his resignation. Our board of directors will take into account and consider the voting results at the Annual Meeting, but has sole discretion to determine whether or not to accept the resignation.

*Proposal 2:* The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock on the record date is required to amend our Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 500,000,000 to 200,000,000. An abstention will have the same effect as a negative vote. Brokers and other nominees generally will have discretionary authority to vote on this proposal because it is considered a routine matter under NYSE rules; therefore, we do not expect any broker non-votes with respect to this proposal.

*Proposal 3:* The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the amendment and restatement of our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance thereunder by 3,000,000, (ii) reflect recent changes to the federal tax code, and (iii) make certain other changes as set forth in the amended and restated plan. An abstention will have the same effect as a negative vote. Broker non-votes will not be counted toward the vote total and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

*Proposal 4:* The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock having voting power present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required to ratify the appointment of

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PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal

year ended December 31, 2018. An abstention will have the same effect as a negative vote. Brokers and other nominees generally will have discretionary authority to vote on this proposal because it is considered a routine matter under NYSE rules; therefore, we do not expect any broker non-votes with respect to this proposal.

#### **Solicitation of Proxies**

We are soliciting proxies from our stockholders on behalf of our board of directors and will pay for all costs incurred in connection with the solicitation. In addition to solicitation by mail, our directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies from our stockholders in person or by telephone, facsimile, email or other electronic methods without additional compensation other than reimbursement for their actual expenses.

We may retain a proxy solicitation firm to assist us in the solicitation of proxies for the Annual Meeting. We would pay such firm, if any, customary fees, which we do not expect would exceed \$20,000 and would reimburse the firm for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Arrangements also will be made with brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for the forwarding of solicitation material to the beneficial owners of stock held of record by such persons, and we will reimburse such custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection therewith.

#### If You Receive More Than One Proxy Card

If you receive more than one proxy card, it means you hold shares that are registered in more than one account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, please mark your votes and date, sign and return each proxy card, or vote your proxy via Internet or by telephone as instructed on each proxy card.

#### **Householding Information**

The SEC has adopted rules that permit brokers, banks and other nominees to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single copy of such document addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as householding, potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

A number of brokers and other nominees with account holders who are our stockholders may be householding the proxy materials. This means that only one copy of this proxy statement and our annual report may have been sent to multiple stockholders in a household. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and annual report from the other stockholder(s) sharing your address, please (i) notify your broker or other nominee, (ii) direct your written request to Savara Inc., 6836 Bee Cave Road, Building III, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78746, Attention: Corporate Secretary or (iii) contact us by phone at (512) 961-1891. We undertake to deliver promptly, upon any such oral or written request, a separate copy of the proxy materials to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of these documents was delivered. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the proxy materials at their address and would like to request householding of their communications should notify their broker or other nominee, or contact our corporate secretary at the above address or phone number.

If you have any questions about voting your shares, please contact us at (512) 961-1891.

### Explanatory Note Regarding Our Merger with Mast Therapeutics, Inc.

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On April 27, 2017, our company, Savara Inc. (formerly known as Mast Therapeutics, Inc.), completed its business combination with Aravas Inc., a Delaware corporation formerly known as Savara Inc. (Aravas), in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Merger and Reorganization (the Merger Agreement), dated as of January 6, 2017, by and among Savara, Victoria Merger Corp., and Aravas (the Merger).

In connection with the Merger, our stockholders approved a reverse stock split at a ratio of one new share for every seventy shares then outstanding (the Reverse Split). The share and per share amounts in this Proxy Statement reflect the Reverse Split unless otherwise noted. Upon the closing of the Merger, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Savara merged with and into Aravas, with Aravas becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of Savara and Savara being the surviving corporation of the Merger. Additionally, we issued shares of our common stock to the stockholders of Aravas, at an exchange ratio of 0.5860 of a share of common stock, in exchange for each share of Aravas common stock outstanding. As a result of the Merger, the Savara (formerly Mast) equity holders owned approximately 23% of the combined company, and the Aravas (formerly Savara) pre-existing equity holders owned approximately 77%.

Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, all of the Mast executive officers and three members of the Mast board of directors prior to the Merger resigned, and the Savara executive officers and five members of the Savara board of directors were appointed to their applicable offices, concurrent with the closing of the Merger. In this Proxy Statement, we discuss both our former executive officers and members of our board of directors prior to the Merger and our current executive officers and members of our board of directors.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The current members of our board of directors, their ages as of April 1, 2018, their committee assignments, and the month and year in which they commenced service on our board, are as follows:

<b>Name</b> Robert Neville	<b>Age</b> 52	Committee Membership None	Director Since April 2017
Nevan Elam	50	Compensation Committee (Chair)	April 2017
Richard J. Hawkins	69	Audit Committee	April 2017
Matthew Pauls	47	Compensation Committee	October 2015
		Nominating & Governance Committee	
David A. Ramsay	53	Audit Committee (Chair)	June 2011
Joseph S. McCracken	64	Compensation Committee	April 2017
Yuri Pikover	56	Nominating & Governance Committee Audit Committee	April 2017

### Nominating & Governance Committee (Chair)

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, provide that each director elected or appointed to our board of directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders following such election or appointment and until the director s successor is elected and qualified, or until the director s earlier resignation or removal. Our bylaws provide that vacancies on our board of directors, including those resulting from an increase in the authorized number of directors, may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director. Any director appointed as a result of a vacancy holds office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until a successor is elected and qualified. Pursuant to our bylaws, the authorized number of directors may be not less than three nor more than nine, with the exact number, which currently is seven, to be fixed by resolutions adopted from time to time by our board of directors. At the Annual Meeting, proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of individuals than the seven nominees named in this proxy statement.

## NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

Each of our current directors has been nominated for election to our board of directors. The paragraphs below provide information about each such director nominee. There are no family relationships among any of our directors and executive officers.

*Robert Neville*. Mr. Neville has served as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since April 2017, and served as Aravas Chairman and CEO since he co-founded the company in June 2008. Mr. Neville has extensive operational and development experience spanning more than 25 years across a number of sectors, including the life sciences industry. Prior to co-founding Savara, Mr. Neville founded and served as CEO at Evity, Inc., a developer of web-based applications, which was subsequently sold to BMC Software, Inc., from June 1998 to May 2000. Based on his work at Aravas and Evity, Mr. Neville was honored as a two-time finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. Mr. Neville holds a post-graduate Engineering degree from the University of Natal South Africa. We believe Mr. Neville s experience as Chief Executive Officer of Aravas and his previous service in executive positions at various companies qualifies him to serve on the board of directors.

*Nevan Elam.* Mr. Elam has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2017 and served as a member of the Aravas board of directors beginning in February 2009. Mr. Elam is currently the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Rezolute Inc. (formerly AntriaBio, Inc.), a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel extended release therapies. Prior to his tenure at Rezolute which began in October 2012, Mr. Elam served for three years as the Chief Executive Officer and President of AeroSurgical Ltd., a medical device company operating out of Ireland. Prior to his service with AeroSurgical Ltd., Mr. Elam was Head of the Pulmonary Business Unit and Senior Vice President of Nektar Therapeutics. Earlier in his career he was a founder and Chief Financial Officer of E20pen as well as a Partner in the corporate practice of the law firm of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C. In addition to serving on the Rezolute Board of Directors, he also serves on the Board of Directors of pH Pharmaceuticals in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Elam received his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and a Bachelors of Arts from Howard University. We believe Mr. Elam s broad experience with pharmaceutical companies, including advising them of their unique legal and regulatory obligations, qualifies him to serve on the board of directors.

**Richard J. Hawkins**. Mr. Hawkins has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2017 and served as a member of the Aravas board of directors beginning in October 2010. Since September 2010, Mr. Hawkins has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lumos Pharma, Inc., a clinical stage biotechnology company focused on bringing novel therapies to patients with severe, rare, and genetic diseases, whose medical needs are unmet. From 2000 to 2010, Mr. Hawkins, founded and advised numerous pharmaceutical companies including Sensus, where he served as co-founder and Chairman until being sold to Pfizer. From 1981 to 2000, Mr. Hawkins was founder, President and CEO of Pharmaco and guided the company s growth to over 2,000 employees. The company later merged with PPD of Wilmington, NC to form PPD Pharmaco, one of the largest clinical contract research organizations in the world. Mr. Hawkins received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Ohio University. We believe Mr. Hawkins server in the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries as well as his broad management experience qualify him to serve on the board of directors.

*Joseph S. McCracken*. Dr. McCracken has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2017 and served as a member of the Aravas board of directors beginning in October 2013 and currently advises biopharmaceutical companies on the design and implementation of corporate strategy and business development initiatives. Dr. McCracken also serves on the boards of biopharmaceutical companies, including Alkahest, Inc. and Regimmune Inc. From July 2011 to September 2013, Dr. McCracken was Vice President and Global Head of Business Development & Licensing for Roche Pharma, a research-focused healthcare company, where he was responsible for Roche Pharma s global in-licensing and out-licensing activities. From October 2009 until July 2011 he was General

Manager, Roche Pharma Japan & Asia Regional Head, Roche Partnering. Prior to joining Roche Pharma, Dr. McCracken held the position of Vice President, Business Development at Genentech for

more than 10 years, and previously held similar positions at Aventis Pharma and Rhone-Poulenc Rorer. Dr. McCracken holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, a Master of Science in Pharmacology and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from The Ohio State University. We believe Dr. McCracken s extensive experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries qualifies him to serve on the board of directors.

*Matthew Pauls*. Mr. Pauls has served as a member of our board of directors since October 2015. Mr. Pauls currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Strongbridge Biopharma plc (NASDAQ: SBBP), a biopharmaceutical company focused on therapies that target rare diseases, a position he has held since August 2014. He also has served as a member of the board of directors of Strongbridge since September 2015. Prior to Strongbridge, from April 2013 to August 2014, Mr. Pauls was Chief Commercial Officer of Insmed, Inc. (NASDAQ: INSM), a publicly traded global biopharmaceutical company focused on rare diseases. Prior to Insmed, Mr. Pauls worked at Shire Pharmaceuticals, a global specialty biopharmaceutical company, from 2007 to April 2013, most recently as Senior Vice President, Head of Global Commercial Operations from May 2012 to April 2013. Earlier in his career, from 1997 to 2007, Mr. Pauls held senior positions at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Brand Management and Payor Marketing and at Johnson & Johnson in various U.S. and global commercial roles. Mr. Pauls holds B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Central Michigan University and a J.D. from Michigan State University College of Law. We believe Mr. Pauls s leadership experience and extensive commercialization, strategic planning and operations experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and particularly with therapies for rare diseases qualify him to serve as a member of the board of directors.

*Yuri Pikover*. Mr. Pikover has served as a member of our board of directors since April 2017 and served as a member of the Aravas board of directors beginning in October 2013. Since 1999, Mr. Pikover has served as Managing Director of 37Ventures, LLC, a boutique venture fund focusing on growing early-stage startups. From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Pikover was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Access360. From 1993 to 1999, Mr. Pikover was co-founder and Executive Vice President of Xylan and helped lead the fast growing organization going public in 1996 and in its acquisition by Alcatel in 1999. We believe Mr. Pikover s extensive experience as an investor and board member in pharmaceutical and life sciences companies and his knowledge gained from service on such boards qualify him to be a member of the board of directors.

David A. Ramsay. Mr. Ramsay has served as member of our board of directors since June 2011. Since February 2018, Mr. Ramsay has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Bonti, Inc., a private, clinical stage biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialization of neurotoxin products for therapeutic and aesthetic applications. Additionally, since January 2017, Mr. Ramsay has served on the board of directors of F1 Oncology, Inc., a private biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of adoptive cellular therapies for solid tumors. Mr. Ramsay served as Chief Financial Officer of Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ: HALO), a biotechnology company developing and commercializing novel oncology therapies, from May 2013 until his retirement in July 2015 and from 2003 to May 2009. He also served as Halozyme s Vice President, Corporate Development from May 2009 to May 2013. From 2000 to 2003, Mr. Ramsay was Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of Lathian Systems, Inc., a provider of technology-based sales solutions for the life science industry. From 1998 to 2000, he was with Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc. (formerly ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), a multinational specialty pharmaceutical company, where he served as Vice President, Treasurer and Director, Corporate Finance. Mr. Ramsay began his career at Deloitte & Touche, where he obtained his CPA license. Mr. Ramsay holds a B.S. in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley and a M.B.A. with a dual major in finance and strategic management from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. We believe Mr. Ramsay s significant experience as chief financial officer of life science companies, particularly his experiences at Halozyme during its successful development and its commercialization of its first products, and at a large audit and financial advisory firm, qualify him to serve on the board of directors.

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Director Independence**

Our board of directors has determined that each of our directors other than Robert Neville is independent as defined under the NASDAQ Stock Market listing standards.

#### **Board Committees**

Our board of directors currently has an audit committee, compensation committee and nominating and governance committee.

*Audit Committee*. The Audit Committee of our board of directors was established by our board of directors in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ) to oversee our corporate accounting and financial reporting processes and audits of our financial statements. For this purpose, the Audit Committee performs several functions, including, among other things:

appointing and providing for the compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm to be engaged to prepare and issue an audit report and perform other audit, review or attest services;

approving any other permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditor;

overseeing the work and evaluating the performance of the independent auditor, and, if so determined by the audit committee, terminating and replacing the independent auditor;

reviewing and discussing, including with management and the independent auditor, the annual and quarterly financial statements;

reviewing any proposed significant changes to accounting principles and practices;

reviewing any material changes to the system of internal control over financial reporting;

if applicable, reviewing management s report on effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and the independent auditor s audit of the effectiveness of Savara s internal control over financial reporting;

establishing a procedure for receipt, retention and treatment of any complaints or concerns received by Savara about accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters;

reviewing, approving and overseeing any related party transaction that would require disclosure pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K;

overseeing the implementation and enforcement of our insider trading policy; and

reviewing and evaluating any significant financial risk exposures facing Savara and the steps our management has taken to control and monitor such exposures.

Savara s management has the primary responsibility for our consolidated financial statements and the reporting process including our system of internal accounting and financial controls.

The Audit Committee consists of Mr. Ramsay, who serves as its chairman, Mr. Pikover and Mr. Hawkins. Our board of directors reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for Audit Committee members on an annual basis and has determined that all current members of the Audit Committee are independent as currently defined by listing standards and Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act. Our board of directors has also determined that Mr. Ramsay qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as defined in applicable SEC rules.

*Compensation Committee*. The Compensation Committee of our board of directors acts on behalf of our board of directors to review, adopt or recommend for adoption, and oversee Savara s compensation strategy, policies, plans and programs. For this purpose, the Compensation Committee performs several functions, including, among other things:

reviewing and recommending to our board of directors for its determination and approval the amount, form and terms of compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other officers (as such term is defined under the NASDAQ listing standards);

reviewing and making recommendations to our board of directors regarding our overall compensation strategy and policies;

reviewing and making recommendations regarding Savara s equity and/or cash incentive plans and other benefit plans and, to the extent as may be permitted or required under such plans, the committee has the power and authority to administer the plans, establishes guidelines, interpret plan documents, select participants, and approve grants and awards thereunder;

granting equity awards to non-officer employees and consultants in accordance with the terms of Savara s equity incentive plan and to establish compensation policies and practices applicable to non-officer employees;

evaluating the relationship between executive officer compensation policies and practices and corporate risk management to confirm those policies and practices do not incentivize excessive risk-taking;

evaluating and making recommendations to our board of directors regarding the compensation of non-employee directors;

retaining, obtaining the advice of, engaging, compensating and terminating compensation consultants, legal counsel and such other advisors as it deems necessary and advisable to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities and functions; and

appointing, compensating and overseeing the work of any of its compensation consultants, legal counsel and other advisors.

The Compensation Committee consists of Mr. Elam, who serves as its chairman, Dr. McCracken and Mr. Pauls. All members of the Compensation Committee are independent as currently defined under the NASDAQ listing standards and Rule 10C-1 of the Exchange Act.

*Nominating and Governance Committee*. The Nominating and Governance Committee of our board of directors is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve as directors of Savara (consistent with criteria approved by our board of directors), reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, selecting or recommending

to our board of directors for selection candidates for election to the board, making recommendations to our board of directors regarding the membership of the committees of the board, assessing the performance of the board, and developing a set of corporate governance principles for Savara. The responsibilities of the Nominating and Governance Committee relating to the nomination of directors include, among other things, the following:

identifying and recommending to our board of directors nominees for possible election to the board;

evaluating and making recommendations to our board of directors regarding its size, composition and leadership structure;

reviewing and assessing Savara s corporate governance guidelines and recommending any proposed changes thereto to our board of directors; and

reviewing and making recommendations to our board of directors regarding issues of executive officer succession planning and providing oversight with respect to corporate governance matters.

The Nominating and Governance Committee currently consists of Mr. Pikover, who serves as its chairman, Dr. McCracken and Mr. Pauls. Mr. Elam served on the Nominating and Governance Committee from April 2017 to March 2018. Mr. Pauls was appointed to the Nominating and Governance Committee in March 2018. All members of the Nominating and Governance Committee are independent as currently defined in NASDAQ listing standards.

Our board of directors may from time to time establish other committees. Charters for the audit committee, the compensation committee and the nominating and governance committee, as well as our corporate governance guidelines, are posted on our corporate website at: https://savarapharma.com/investors/corporate-governance/.

#### Meetings of the Board and its Committees

As required under applicable listing standards and our corporate governance guidelines, our board of directors meets on a regular basis to fulfill its responsibilities, including at least once each quarter, and our independent directors meet at least annually in executive session outside the presence of non-independent directors and management. During 2017, our board of directors met 14 times, the audit committee met four times, the compensation committee met three times and the nominating and governance committee met one time. Each member of our board of directors who is nominated for election at the Annual Meeting who served on our board during all or part of 2017 attended 75% or more of the aggregate of (i) the total number of board meetings held during the period of such member s service and (ii) the total number of committees on which such member served during the period of such member s service.

#### Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight

Robert Neville currently serves as both the chairman of our board of directors and as our chief executive officer. We believe that combining the roles of chairman and chief executive officer promotes unification and direction, allowing for increased operational effectiveness and strong, efficient leadership. We believe Mr. Neville is best positioned to identify strategic priorities, lead critical discussion and execute our business plans. We believe that the leadership structure of our board of directors and its committees provides independent oversight that balances Mr. Neville s combined role, which helps ensure a strong, independent, and active board of directors.

Our corporate governance guidelines do not require our board of directors to combine the roles of chairman and chief executive officer, but our board of directors believes this leadership structure is the appropriate structure for our company at this time. Pursuant to our corporate governance guidelines, our board of directors may choose its chair in any manner that it deems to be in the best interests of our company. In the future, our board of directors may designate an independent director to serve as a lead independent director, with the responsibilities specified in our corporate governance guidelines.

Our board of directors is responsible for oversight of risks facing our company, while our management is responsible for day-to-day management of risk. Our board of directors as a whole directly administers its risk oversight function. In addition, the risk oversight function is also administered through the committees of our board of directors, which oversee risks inherent in their respective areas of responsibility, reporting to our board of directors regularly and involving the board as necessary. For example, the audit committee oversees our financial exposure and financial reporting related risks, and the compensation committee reviews risks related to our compensation programs and practices and makes recommendations to our board regarding oversight of such risks. Our board of directors as a whole directly oversees our strategic and business risk, including product development risk, through regular interactions with our management. We believe our board s leadership structure supports its role in risk oversight, with our executive officers responsible for assessing and managing risks facing our company on a day-to-day basis and the members of our board of directors providing oversight of such risk management.

### **Director Resignation Policy**

Under Delaware law, an incumbent director may remain in office notwithstanding the failure to receive the required vote for re-election until the director s successor is duly elected. To address this holdover rule, our corporate governance guidelines include a director resignation policy whereby our board of directors will nominate for re-election only those directors who tender an irrevocable, contingent resignation in writing to the chair of our board. The resignation becomes effective only if (a) the director fails to receive a sufficient number of votes for re-election at a meeting of stockholders at which director elections are held and (b) our board of directors accepts the resignation. If a director fails to receive the required vote for re-election, the nominating and governance committee, or such other committee designated by our board of directors, which we refer to as the reviewing committee, will act promptly to consider the director s resignation and recommend to the full board of directors expects the director whose resignation is under consideration to abstain from participating in any decision regarding that resignation. In considering whether to accept or reject a director s resignation, each of the reviewing committee and our board of directors may consider any factors it deems relevant. Within 90 days after the date of the certification of the election results for the applicable stockholders meeting, our board of directors will act on the resignation, taking into account the reviewing committee s recommendation, and publicly disclose its decision.

## Prohibition on Hedging and Speculative Transactions Involving our Securities

As part of our insider trading policy, our directors and employees (including our executive officers) and designated consultants, advisors and contractors to our company are prohibited from engaging in speculative transactions involving our securities, including short sales, sales against the box or any equivalent transaction involving our securities (or the securities of any of our customers, vendors, suppliers or other business partners). In addition, as part of our insider trading policy, our directors, officers and other employees and consultants, advisors and contractors to our company are prohibited from engaging in hedging or derivative transactions involving our securities, such as cashless collars, forward sales, equity swaps and other similar or related transactions. Further, our insider trading policy states that our directors and employees (including our executive officers) and other persons subject to the policy are not permitted to hypothecate or pledge our securities to secure a loan and that they cannot purchase our

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securities on margin (that is, borrow funds to purchase securities, including in connection with exercising any stock

options).

# **DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS**

### Criteria for Board Membership and Process for Identifying and Evaluating Nominees

In recommending candidates for appointment or election to our board of directors, the Nominating and Governance Committee considers the appropriate balance of experience, skills and characteristics required of our board of directors and seeks to ensure that at least a majority of the directors are independent under NASDAQ listing standards and that the board s Audit Committee and Compensation Committee will be comprised of directors who meet applicable NASDAQ listing standards and SEC rules regarding qualifications to serve on such committees. Candidates for director are selected on the basis of their depth and breadth of experience, wisdom, integrity, ability to make independent analytical inquiries, understanding of our business environment, willingness to devote adequate time to board duties, the interplay of the candidate s experience and skills with those of other directors and the extent to which the candidate would be a desirable addition to our board and any of its committees. Directors generally will not be nominated for re-election at any annual or special meeting held after their 80th birthday. In addition, our corporate governance guidelines require that directors limit their service on boards of directors of public companies to a total of four (including service on our board). Other than the foregoing, there are no stated minimum criteria for director nominees, although the Nominating and Governance Committee may also consider such other factors as it may deem are in the best interests of our company and its stockholders.

The Nominating and Governance Committee does not have a policy regarding board diversity, but it takes diversity of professional experience and perspective within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries into account in identifying and selecting director nominees. In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Nominating and Governance Committee reviews these directors overall service to the company during their terms, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance and any other relationships and transactions that might impair the directors independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Nominating and Governance Committee also determines whether the nominee is independent for NASDAQ purposes, which determination is based upon applicable NASDAQ listing standards and applicable SEC rules and regulations. The Nominating and Governance Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Nominating and Governance Committee reviews into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of our board of directors. The Nominating and Governance Committee meets to discuss and consider the candidates qualifications and then selects a nominee by majority vote which is typically recommended to the full board of directors.

#### **Stockholder Recommendations**

The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Nominating and Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether or not the candidate was recommended by a stockholder. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating and Governance Committee to become nominees for election to our board of directors may do so by delivering a written recommendation to the Nominating and Governance Committee at the following address: c/o Savara Inc., 6836 Bee Cave Road, Building III, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78746, Attn: Corporate Secretary. Submissions must include the following information: the name, age, business address and residence address of the proposed nominee; a statement of the proposed nominee s business experience and educational background; the proposed nominee s principal occupation or employment; the class and number of shares of our capital stock beneficially owned by the proposed nominee; a detailed description of all relationships, arrangements or understandings between the proposing stockholder and the proposed nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which such proposed

nomination is being made by the stockholder; a detailed description of all relationships, arrangements or understandings between the proposed nominee and

any service-provider or supplier to, or competitor of Savara s; information regarding each of the criteria for board membership described above in sufficient detail to allow the Nominating and Governance Committee to evaluate the proposed nominee; and a statement from the proposed nominee that he or she is willing to be considered and willing to serve as a director if nominated and elected.