

Adamas Pharmaceuticals Inc
Form DEF 14A
April 26, 2018

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

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Registrant

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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 under §240.14a-12

Adamas Pharmaceuticals, 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.

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(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:

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
1900 Powell Street, Suite 750
Emeryville, California 94608

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2018

To the Stockholders of Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or the 2018 Annual Meeting, of Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation, or Adamas, will be held on June 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. local time at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1800 Powell Street, Emeryville, California 94608 for the following purposes:

1. To elect three Class I directors to hold office until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are elected;
2. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Adamas for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2018; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the 2018 Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this Notice. Only stockholders who owned Adamas' common stock at the close of business on the record date, April 9, 2018, may vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting or any adjournments that take place.

We have elected to provide our proxy materials to our stockholders over the Internet as permitted by the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, we are mailing most of our stockholders a paper copy of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or the Notice, but not a paper copy of our proxy statement and our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders. This process allows us to provide our proxy materials to our stockholders in a timelier and more readily accessible manner, while reducing the environmental impact and lowering the costs of printing and distributing our proxy materials. The Notice contains instructions on how to access those documents over the Internet. The Notice also contains instructions on how to request a paper copy of our proxy materials, including this proxy statement, our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders, and a form of proxy card or voting instruction card. All stockholders who have previously requested a paper copy of our proxy materials will continue to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail.

You are cordially invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, please vote as soon as possible. You may vote over the Internet or by a toll-free telephone number. If, however, you requested to receive paper proxy materials, then you may vote by mailing a complete, signed and dated proxy card or voting instruction card in the envelope provided with the proxy card. Please note that any stockholder of record attending the 2018 Annual Meeting may vote in person, even if the stockholder has already returned a proxy card or voting instruction card. Please note, however, that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from that record holder.

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of the director nominees named in Proposal No. 1 of the proxy statement and "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm as described in Proposal No. 2 of the proxy statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors:

Gregory T. Went, Ph.D.
Chairman & CEO

Emeryville, California
April 26, 2018

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Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
1900 Powell Street, Suite 750
Emeryville, California 94608

PROXY STATEMENT
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2018

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2018

This proxy statement and our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, are available on our website at <http://ir.adamaspharma.com/annuals-proxies.cfm> and www.proxyvote.com.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE VOTING PROCESS

Why am I receiving these proxy materials?

We have made these proxy materials available to you on the Internet or, upon your request, have delivered paper proxy materials to you, because the Board of Directors of Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc., or Adamas, is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or the 2018 Annual Meeting, or any adjournments that take place. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on June 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. local time at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1800 Powell Street, Emeryville, California 94608. As a stockholder, you are invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting and are requested to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting to vote.

What is included in the proxy materials?

The proxy materials include:

This proxy statement, which includes information regarding the proposals to be voted on at the 2018 Annual Meeting, the voting process, corporate governance, the compensation of our directors and certain executive officers, and other required information;

Our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017; and

The proxy card or a voting instruction card for the 2018 Annual Meeting (which you will receive if you have requested paper copies of the proxy statement and our Annual Report).

The proxy materials are being mailed, or made available to stockholders on the Internet, on or about April 26, 2018.

Why did I receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or the Notice, in the mail instead of a complete set of paper proxy materials?

We have elected to provide our proxy materials to our stockholders over the Internet as permitted by the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. As a result, we are mailing most of our stockholders a paper copy of the Notice, but not a paper copy of the proxy materials. This process allows us to provide our proxy materials to our stockholders in a timelier and more readily accessible manner, while reducing the environmental impact and lowering the costs of printing and distributing our proxy materials. The Notice contains instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet, and how to request a paper copy of the proxy materials. All stockholders who have previously elected to receive a paper copy of our proxy materials will continue to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail until the stockholder terminates such election.

Why did I receive a complete set of paper proxy materials in the mail instead of a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials?

We are providing stockholders who have previously requested to receive paper copies of the proxy materials with paper copies of the proxy materials instead of the Notice. If you would like to reduce the environmental impact and the costs incurred by us in printing and distributing the proxy materials, you may elect to receive all future proxy materials electronically via email or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions provided with your proxy materials and on your proxy card or voting instruction card.

Who can vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 9, 2018 will be entitled to vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting. On this record date, there were 26,958,276 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If, at the close of business on April 9, 2018, your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the 2018 Annual Meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, please vote as soon as possible by completing and returning a proxy card or vote by proxy over the telephone or on the Internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If, at the close of business on April 9, 2018, your shares were not held in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank or other agent, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in “street name” and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the 2018 Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other agent how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting. However, because you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the 2018 Annual Meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent.

What proposals are scheduled for a vote?

There are two proposals scheduled for a vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting:

• Proposal No. 1—To elect three Class I directors to hold office until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are elected; and

• Proposal No. 2—To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Adamas for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

How do I vote?

For Proposal No. 1, you may either vote “FOR” all nominees to the board of directors, “WITHHOLD” your vote on all nominees to the board of directors, or you may “WITHHOLD” your vote for any nominee you specify. For Proposal No. 2, you may either vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” or you may abstain from voting.

The procedures for voting are as follows:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the 2018 Annual Meeting or vote by proxy by telephone or Internet or by mail. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, please vote by proxy as soon as possible to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the 2018 Annual Meeting and vote in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

• To vote in person. You may attend the 2018 Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive. If you need directions to the meeting, please visit <http://ir.adamaspharma.com/annuals-proxies.cfm>.

To vote by proxy by telephone or Internet. If you have telephone or Internet access, you may submit your proxy by following the instructions provided in the Notice, or if you received paper proxy materials by mail, by following the instructions provided with your proxy materials and on your proxy card.

To vote by proxy by mail. If you received paper proxy materials, you may submit your proxy by mail by completing and signing your proxy card and mailing it in the envelope you will receive with the proxy card. Your shares will be voted as you have instructed.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received a notice, or proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials, from that organization rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the proxy card, or vote by telephone or over the Internet as instructed by your broker, bank or other agent, to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the 2018 Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker or other agent included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker, bank or other agent to request a proxy form.

Can I vote my shares by completing and returning the Notice?

No. The Notice will, however, provide instructions on how to vote by telephone, by Internet, by requesting and returning a paper proxy card or voting instruction card, or by submitting a ballot in person at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of Adamas' common stock you owned as of April 9, 2018.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted "FOR" the election of each nominee for director (Proposal No. 1) and "FOR" the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Adamas for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 (Proposal No. 2). If any other matter is properly presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting, your proxyholder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We are making this solicitation and will pay for the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing, and distributing these proxy materials. In addition to these mailed proxy materials, our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication. Directors, officers and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the reasonable cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

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

If you receive more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete, sign, and return each proxy card to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting. If you are the stockholder of record of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of four ways:

• You may submit another properly completed proxy with a later date.

• You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Adamas' Corporate Secretary, Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 1900 Powell Street, Suite 750, Emeryville, CA 94608.

• You may attend the 2018 Annual Meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the 2018 Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

You may grant a subsequent proxy by telephone or through the Internet.

If your shares are held by your broker, bank or other agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker, bank or other agent.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if stockholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are present or represented by proxy at the 2018 Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 26,958,276 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Accordingly, the holders of 13,479,139 shares, or their proxies, must be represented at the 2018 Annual Meeting to have a quorum. If you are a stockholder of record, your shares will be counted toward the quorum at the 2018 Annual Meeting only if you vote in person at the meeting, or you submit a valid proxy vote.

Abstentions and broker non-votes (as described below) will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the holders of a majority of shares present and entitled to vote at the meeting in person or represented by proxy may adjourn the 2018 Annual Meeting to another date.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the Inspector of Elections appointed for the 2018 Annual Meeting. The Inspector of Elections will separately count “FOR,” “WITHOLD,” and broker non-votes, if any, for Proposal No. 1 (the election of directors) and “FOR” and “AGAINST” votes, abstentions, and broker non-votes, if any, for Proposal No. 2 (the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered accounting firm of Adamas for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018).

If your shares are held by your broker, bank or other agent as your nominee (that is, held beneficially in “street name”), you will need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds your shares and follow the instructions included on that form regarding how to instruct your broker, bank or other agent to vote your shares. If you do not give voting instructions to your broker, your broker can only vote your shares with respect to “routine” matters (as described below).

What are “broker non-votes”?

If you hold shares beneficially in “street name” and do not provide your broker with voting instructions, your shares may constitute “broker non-votes.” Broker non-votes occur on a matter when a broker is not permitted to vote on that matter without instructions from the beneficial owner and such instructions are not given. If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, the broker can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be “routine”, but not with respect to “non-routine” matters. Proposal No. 1 to elect directors is a “non-routine” matter, but Proposal No. 2 to ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for Adamas for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018, is a “routine” matter.

How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

Proposal No. 1—To elect three Class I directors to hold office until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are elected. The three nominees receiving the most “FOR” votes (from the votes of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors) will be elected. Broker non-votes will not be counted towards the vote total for this proposal.

Proposal No. 2—To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Adamas for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. “FOR” votes from the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote are required to approve this proposal. Because Proposal No. 2 is considered a “routine” matter, brokers will be permitted to vote uninstructed shares in their discretion so we do not expect to receive broker non-votes in connection with this proposal.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the 2018 Annual Meeting?

We will disclose final voting results in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC within four business days after the 2018 Annual Meeting. If final voting results are unavailable at that time, then we intend to file a Current Report

on Form 8-K to disclose preliminary voting results and file an amended Current Report on Form 8-K disclosing the final voting results within four business days after the date the final voting results are available.

When are stockholder proposals due for next year's annual meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in the 2019 proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by December 27, 2018, to Adamas' Secretary at Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 1900 Powell Street, Suite 750, Emeryville, California 94608, and you must comply with all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. However, if our 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is held more than 30 days before or after June 6, 2019, then the deadline will be a reasonable time prior to the time that we make our proxy materials available to our stockholders, either online or in printed form.

If you wish to submit a stockholder proposal or nominate a director at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders that is not to be included in the proxy materials for that meeting, then you must follow the procedures set forth in our bylaws and, among other things, notify Adamas' Corporate Secretary in writing between February 6, 2019, and March 8, 2019. However, if the date of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is more than 30 days before or after June 6, 2019, then you must give notice no earlier than the 120th day prior to but not later than the 90th day prior to that meeting or, if later, the 10th day following the day on which public disclosure of that annual meeting date is first made. We advise you to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements regarding advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors recommends you vote for the election of our Class I directors, William W. Ericson, Martha J. Demski, and Ivan Lieberburg, M.D., Ph.D. Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes. Each class consists, as nearly as possible, of one-third of the total number of directors, and each class has a three-year term. A director appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy in a particular class, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until such director's successor is elected and qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation, or removal.

Our Board of Directors currently consists of eight directors and no vacancies, divided into the three following classes:

The Class I directors are William W. Ericson, Martha J. Demski, and Ivan Lieberburg, M.D., Ph.D., and their terms will expire at the 2018 Annual Meeting;

The Class II directors are Gregory T. Went, Ph.D. and Mardi C. Dier, and their terms will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders; and

The Class III directors are David L. Mahoney, John MacPhee, and Michael F. Bigham, and their terms will expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Our current Class I directors have been nominated to serve as Class I directors and have agreed to stand for election. If the nominees for Class I directors are elected at the 2018 Annual Meeting, then each nominee will serve for a three-year term expiring at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal.

All of our directors, other than Ms. Dier, have previously been elected by our stockholders. Ms. Dier was recommended to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board by a non-management director. Our directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast. If a choice is specified on the proxy card by a stockholder, the shares will be voted as specified. If a choice is not specified on the proxy card, and authority to do so is not withheld, the shares will be voted "FOR" the election of the three nominees for Class I above. If any of the nominees becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, shares that would have been voted for the nominee will instead be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by Adamas' management or the Board of Directors. Our management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL NO. 1.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee seeks to assemble a Board of Directors that, as a whole, possesses the appropriate balance of professional and industry knowledge, financial expertise and high-level management experience necessary to oversee and direct our business. To that end, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has identified and evaluated nominees in the broader context of the Board's overall composition, with the goal of recruiting members who complement and strengthen the skills of other members and who also exhibit integrity, collegiality, sound business judgment, and other qualities that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee views as critical to effective functioning of the Board of Directors. The brief following biographies below include the specific and particular experience, qualifications, attributes, or skills of each director or nominee that led the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to recommend that person as a nominee.

CLASS I DIRECTORS—To be elected for a three-year term expiring at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders William W. Ericson. Mr. Ericson, age 59, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since 2005. Mr. Ericson has been a General Partner at Mohr Davidow Ventures, or MDV, a venture capital firm, since 2000, and has served as Managing Partner since 2008. Prior to joining MDV, Mr. Ericson founded and operated Venture Law Group LLP's Seattle office from 1996 to 2000. Mr. Ericson currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc., a publicly traded gene sequencing company, Rocket Fuel Inc., a publicly traded digital advertising company, Northwestern University School of Law, and a number of MDV's privately held portfolio companies. Mr. Ericson holds a B.S.F.S. from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. We believe Mr. Ericson's extensive experience in finance and service as a board member of public companies in the technology and life sciences industries and his training as a securities lawyer qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

Martha J. Demski. Ms. Demski, age 65, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since March 2014. From August 2011 to May 2017, Ms. Demski served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Ajinomoto Althea, Inc. (formerly Althea Technologies, Inc.), a fully-integrated contract development and manufacturing organization. From July 2008 to December 2010, Ms. Demski served as the Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC), a non-profit corporation that was engaged in biomedical research prior to voluntarily filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009. Previously, Ms. Demski served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Vical Incorporated, a biopharmaceutical company from December 1988 to June 2004. Ms. Demski currently serves on the board of directors, chair of the audit committee, and is a member of the nominating and governance committee of Chimerix, Inc., a publicly traded biotech company. In June 2018, Ms. Demski will become the Chair of the Board of Directors of Chimerix. At that time she will discontinue her positions as chair of the audit committee and member of the nominating and governance committee. Ms. Demski also served until January 2018 as a member of the board, chair of the audit committee and member of the compensation committee and operating committee of Neotherics, Inc., a publicly traded biotech company. Ms. Demski is a National Association of Corporate Directors Board Governance Fellow and received the Director of the Year in Corporate Governance from the Corporate Directors Forum in 2017. Additionally, Ms. Demski has over 13 years of banking experience with Bank of America and U.S. Trust. Ms. Demski earned a B.A. from Michigan State University and M.B.A. from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business with concentrations in accounting and finance. We believe Ms. Demski's more than 30 years' experience in the fields of finance and biotechnology, as well as her experience as a chief financial officer of a publicly traded company and her experience in conducting financing transactions qualifies her to serve on our Board of Directors.

Ivan Lieberburg, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Lieberburg, age 68, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since 2004. Dr. Lieberburg has been a member of the Tavistock Group, a private equity firm, since 2009, and a managing director of Boxer Capital, since 2017, where he concentrates on health care and life sciences investment opportunities. From 1987 to 2009, Dr. Lieberburg was employed by Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (formerly Athena Neurosciences, Inc.), where his most recent roles were as Executive Vice President, Corporate Office of Technology and Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Lieberburg holds an A.B. in Biology from Cornell University, a Ph.D. in Neurobiology from The Rockefeller University, and an M.D. from the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Lieberburg is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology/metabolism. We believe Dr. Lieberburg's executive experience in the life sciences industry and his medical training qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

CLASS II DIRECTORS—To continue in office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders Gregory T. Went, Ph.D. Dr. Went, age 54, has served as our Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of our Board of Directors since our inception in 2000. Previously, Dr. Went co-founded CuraGen Corporation in 1992, where he served as an Executive Vice President and director from 1996 to 1999. Dr. Went also has served as a director of Angelica Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company, since 2006. Dr. Went holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. We believe Dr. Went's extensive knowledge of our company, the pharmaceutical industry, and our competitors qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

Mardi C. Dier. Ms. Dier, age 54, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since October 2017. Ms. Dier has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Portola Pharmaceuticals since November 2013 after joining the company in August 2006. At Portola, Ms. Dier has overseen the development of the accounting, finance, global

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supply chain, investor relations, communications, IT and facilities functions, and has led the raising of over \$1.25 billion in capital. Previously, she served as Vice President of Investor Relations at Chiron Corporation from 2003 until its acquisition by Novartis Pharmaceuticals in April 2006. Prior to joining Chiron, she served as a Director in the West Coast investment banking practice at Prudential Securities, where she focused on biotechnology and other life sciences companies. Ms. Dier was previously at KPMG LLP in the audit department. She holds a B.S. in biology from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from The Anderson School at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2013, Ms. Dier was recognized as one of the most influential Bay Area business women by the San Francisco Business Times and was a finalist for its Bay Area CFO of the Year Award. We believe Ms. Dier's more than 25 years' financial management experience in the biotechnology industry, as well as her experience as a chief financial officer of a publicly traded company, qualifies her to serve on our Board of Directors.

CLASS III NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR—To continue in office until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders
Michael F. Bigham. Mr. Bigham, age 60, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since September 2016. Mr. Bigham was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the board of directors of Paratek in October 2014. Mr. Bigham has more than 25 years of senior leadership experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. Since 2003, he has been a Partner at Abingworth LLP, a leading international investment group dedicated to life sciences and healthcare. He currently serves on the boards of Avedro and Secure EDI and has held several directorships, including at Avila Therapeutics (where he was also the founding Chairman and CEO), Magellan Biosciences, Portola Pharmaceuticals, Supernus Pharmaceuticals and Valeritas. Mr. Bigham was formerly Vice Chairman of Corixa Corporation, a publicly-traded biotechnology company, and was President and Chief Executive of Coulter Pharmaceuticals, a publicly-traded oncology company, until it merged into Corixa. Previously, he was an early employee at Gilead Sciences where he served in various capacities, including Executive Vice President of Operations and Chief Financial Officer. Before joining Gilead, Mr. Bigham was a Partner at Hambrecht & Quist where he became Co-Head of Healthcare Investment Banking. Mr. Bigham received his B.S. from the University of Virginia and qualified as a C.P.A. before completing his M.B.A. at Stanford University. We believe Mr. Bigham's extensive experience on the boards of and in management positions with biopharmaceutical companies, including publicly-traded companies, qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

David L. Mahoney. Mr. Mahoney, age 63, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since 2009, and is currently the Lead Independent Director and chair of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Mahoney has served on the board of directors of Symantec Corporation, a publicly-traded software technology company since 2003, including as current chair of the Compensation and as former chair of the Nominating and Governance Committees. Mr. Mahoney also served as a member of the Audit Committee of Symantec from 2003 to 2011. Mr. Mahoney has served on the board of directors of Corcept Therapeutics Incorporated, a pharmaceutical company since 2004, including as a member of the Audit and as a chair of the Nominating and Governance Committees. He also serves on the boards of directors of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Mount Holyoke College and Mercy Corps, and is a Trustee of the Schwab/Laudis Family of Funds. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Mahoney served as co-CEO of McKesson HBOC, Inc., a healthcare supply management and information technology company and as CEO of McKesson LLC, a healthcare management and connectivity company. He joined McKesson Corporation in 1990 as Vice President for Strategic Planning. Prior to joining McKesson, Mr. Mahoney was a principal with McKinsey & Company, a management consulting firm, where he worked from 1981 to 1990. Mr. Mahoney holds a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.B.A. from Harvard University. We believe Mr. Mahoney's extensive experience in pharmaceutical distribution, fiscal management, and in operating and advising technology companies qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

John MacPhee. Mr. MacPhee, age 50, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since May 2013 and provided consulting services to us from March 2011 to May 2013, and from February 2016 to December 2016. Since 2011, Mr. MacPhee has served as the Executive Director and CEO of The Jed Foundation, a non-profit organization. From 2005 to 2011, Mr. MacPhee served as Executive Vice President of Par Pharmaceutical, Inc. and President of Par's Strativa Pharmaceuticals division, where he oversaw commercial operations, clinical development, medical affairs, alliance management, and business development. Previously, Mr. MacPhee worked at Forest Laboratories, Inc., where he led the launches of Celexa, Lexapro, and Namenda. Mr. MacPhee also serves as a board

member for Blackthorn Therapeutics, a privately-held pharmaceutical company. Mr. MacPhee holds a B.A. from Columbia College, an M.B.A. from New York University, and an M.P.H. from Columbia University. We believe Mr. MacPhee's extensive experience building successful specialty pharmaceutical companies and commercializing drug products qualifies him to serve on our Board of Directors.

PROPOSAL NO. 2**RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has selected, and our Board of Directors has affirmed the selection of, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, or PwC, as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018, and is seeking ratification of such selection by our stockholders at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Representatives of PwC are expected to be present at the 2018 Annual Meeting and will be available to answer appropriate questions.

Neither our bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, we are submitting the selection of PwC to our stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If our stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain PwC. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of Adamas and its stockholders.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting will be required to ratify the selection of PwC.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS**A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL NO. 2.****Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, PwC billed the approximate fees set forth below. All fees included below were approved by the Audit Committee.

	Fiscal Year Ended	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands)	
Audit Service Fees(1)	\$ 853	\$ 666
Audit-Related Fees(2)	341	119
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees(3)	3	2
Total	\$ 1,197	\$ 787

This category consists of fees for professional services rendered for the audit of our financial statements, review of (1) interim financial statements, assistance with registration statements filed with the SEC, and services that are normally provided by PwC in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

(2) This category consists of fees for professional services rendered in connection with the issuance of comfort letters and consents relating to registration statement filings with the SEC.

(3) This category consists of fees for PwC’s accounting research and disclosure checklist tool.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy for the pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services to be performed for Adamas by the independent registered public accounting firm. This policy is set forth in the charter of the Audit Committee and available at www.adamaspharma.com. The Audit Committee has considered the role of PwC in providing audit and audit-related services to Adamas and has concluded that such services are compatible with PwC’s role as Adamas’ independent registered public accounting firm.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, with management of Adamas. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”). The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent accountants’ communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the accounting firm’s independence. Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in Adamas’ Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

Ms. Martha J. Demski, Chair

Mr. Michael F. Bigham

Ms. Mardi C. Dier

The material in this report is not “soliciting material,” is not deemed “filed” with the SEC, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of Adamas under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Director Independence

Under the listing requirements and rules of The Nasdaq Global Market, independent directors must compose a majority of a listed company's board of directors within a specified period of time after its initial public offering. Our Board of Directors has undertaken a review of its composition, the composition of its committees, and the independence of each director. Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning his or her background, employment, and affiliations, including family relationships, our Board of Directors has determined that all members of our Board of Directors do not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that each of these directors is "independent" as that term is defined under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, and the listing requirements and rules of The Nasdaq Global Market, except Dr. Went, an employee, and Mr. MacPhee, a consultant commencing in February 2016. After prior review of the terms under our related party transaction policy, we retained Mr. MacPhee on an interim basis through December 2016 to provide advice in preparation of commercial activities. In making this determination, our Board of Directors considered the current and prior relationships that each non-employee director has with our company and all other facts and circumstances our Board of Directors deemed relevant in determining their independence, including the beneficial ownership of our capital stock by each non-employee director. Under the rules of The Nasdaq Global Market, Mr. MacPhee will not be eligible to be an independent director for at least the next two years.

Board Leadership Structure

Our Board of Directors is currently led by a combined Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. As a result, we also have a lead independent director, as described below. Our Board of Directors believes that this leadership structure is the most effective for us at this time. Because our Chief Executive Officer is closest to the many facets of our business, our Board of Directors believes that the Chief Executive Officer is in the best position to lead our Board of Directors most effectively and, accordingly, to serve in the critical role of Chairman of the Board. In addition, as the Chief Executive Officer is directly involved in managing Adamas, having a chairman who also serves as chief executive officer facilitates timely communication with the board on critical business matters. Furthermore, we believe that this combined leadership structure is appropriate for our company because (i) our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer conveys a singular, cohesive message to our stockholders, employees, industry partners, and the investment community, (ii) this structure eliminates any ambiguity as to who is accountable for Adamas' performance, and (iii) we have a lead independent director to, among other things, lead the meetings of our independent directors. Our directors and management team engage frequently and directly in the flow of information and ideas and we believe our combined leadership structure facilitates the quality, quantity, and timeliness of the information flow and communication. Our Board of Directors believes that there is a well-functioning and effective balance between strong company leadership and oversight by active, independent directors.

Lead Independent Director

Our Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Mahoney to serve as our lead independent director. As lead independent director, Mr. Mahoney presides over periodic meetings of our independent directors, serves as a liaison between our Chairman and the independent directors and performs such additional duties as our Board of Directors may otherwise determine and delegate.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees

During 2017, the Board of Directors met five times, the Audit Committee met seven times, the Compensation Committee met seven times, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met three times. In 2017, each of the directors then in office attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of any committee of which such director then served.

Board Committees

Our Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Our Board of Directors may establish other committees to facilitate the management of our business. Members serve on these committees until their resignation or until otherwise determined by our Board of Directors. The current composition of each committee and functions of each committee are described

below.

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Name of Director	Audit	Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance	
Non-Employee Director				
Michael F. Bigham(1)	X		X	
Richard Booth(2)				
Martha J. Demski(3)	X	* X		
Mardi C. Dier(4)	X			
William W. Ericson		X	X	*
Ivan Lieberburg, M.D., Ph.D.				
John MacPhee				
David L. Mahoney(5)		X		*
Employee Director				
Gregory T. Went, Ph.D.				

* Committee Chairperson

(1) Mr. Bigham joined the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in June 2017.

(2) Mr. Booth served on the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee through June 2017. In October 2017, Mr. Booth retired as a member of the Board of Directors.

(3) Ms. Demski joined the Compensation Committee in June 2017.

(4) Ms. Dier joined the Board of Directors and Audit Committee in October 2017.

(5) Mr. Mahoney served on the Audit Committee through October 2017.

Audit Committee

Our Audit Committee consists of Ms. Demski, Mr. Bigham, and Ms. Dier. Our Board of Directors determines on an annual basis that all members of the Audit Committee are independent under the Nasdaq listing standards and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or Exchange Act. The chair of our Audit Committee is Ms. Demski. Our Board of Directors has determined that each of Ms. Demski, Mr. Bigham, and Ms. Dier is an “audit committee financial expert” within the meaning of the SEC regulations. Our Board of Directors has also determined that each member of our Audit Committee can read and understand fundamental financial statements in accordance with applicable requirements. In arriving at these determinations, the Board of Directors has examined each Audit Committee member’s scope of experience and the nature of their employment in the corporate finance sector. The functions of this committee include:

- selecting a qualified firm to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements;

- helping to ensure the independence and performance of the independent registered public accounting firm;

- discussing the scope and results of the audit with the independent registered public accounting firm, and reviewing, with management and the independent accountants, our interim and year-end operating results;

- developing procedures for employees to submit concerns anonymously about questionable accounting or audit matters;

- reviewing our policies on risk assessment and risk management;

- reviewing related party transactions;

- obtaining and reviewing a report by the independent registered public accounting firm at least annually, that describes our internal quality-control procedures, any material issues with such procedures, and any steps taken to deal with such issues when required by applicable law; and

- approving (or, as permitted, pre-approving) all audit and all permissible non-audit services, other than de minimis non-audit services, to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm.

Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee consists of Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Demski, and Mr. Ericson. Our Board of Directors has determined, and on an annual basis determines, that all members of the Compensation Committee are independent under the Nasdaq listing standards, is a “non-employee director” as defined in Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act and is an “outside director” as that term is defined in Section 162(m) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or Section 162(m). The chair of our Compensation Committee is Mr. Mahoney. Under its charter, the Compensation Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees, as appropriate. The functions of this committee, as delegated to it by the Board of Directors, include:

- reviewing and approving, or recommending that our Board of Directors approve, the compensation of our executive officers;
- reviewing and recommending to our Board of Directors, at least every two years and after consultation with our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the compensation of our directors;
- reviewing and approving, or recommending that our Board of Directors approve, and also administering our incentive compensation and equity plans;
- selecting and overseeing independent compensation consultants and assessing conflicts of interests of compensation advisors;
- reviewing management succession plans; and
- reviewing and establishing general policies relating to compensation and benefits of our employees and reviewing our overall compensation philosophy.

Compensation Committee Processes and Procedures

Our Compensation Committee typically meets at least quarterly and with greater frequency if necessary. The agenda for each meeting is usually developed by the Chair of the Compensation Committee, in consultation with management. The Compensation Committee meets regularly in executive session. However, from time to time, various members of management and other employees, as well as outside advisors or consultants may be invited by the Compensation Committee to make presentations, provide financial or other background information or advice, or otherwise participate in Compensation Committee meetings. The Chief Executive Officer may not participate in, or be present during, any deliberations or determinations of the Compensation Committee regarding his compensation or individual performance objectives.

The Compensation Committee has the authority to obtain, at the expense of Adamas, advice and assistance from compensation consultants and internal and external legal, accounting, or other advisors and other external resources that the Compensation Committee considers necessary or appropriate in the performance of its duties. The Compensation Committee has direct responsibility for the oversight of the work of any consultants or advisors engaged for the purpose of advising the Committee. In particular, the Compensation Committee has the sole authority to retain, in its sole discretion, compensation consultants to assist in its evaluation of executive and director compensation, and any other programs the committee deems appropriate to ensure Adamas’ policies are competitive and reasonable in performing their fiduciary responsibilities under the Committee’s charter. The Committee has the authority to approve the consultant’s role, fees, and other retention terms. The Compensation Committee may select, or receive advice from, a compensation consultant, legal counsel, or other advisor to the Compensation Committee, other than in-house legal counsel and certain other types of advisors, only after taking into consideration six factors, prescribed by the SEC and Nasdaq, that bear upon the advisor’s independence; however, there is no requirement that any advisor be independent. In 2015, after taking into consideration these six factors prescribed by the SEC and Nasdaq, the Compensation Committee engaged Radford, an Aon Hewitt company, as the independent compensation consultant. In 2017, Radford supported the Compensation Committee in the areas of executive and equity compensation, Board of Director compensation as well as an assessment of Adamas’ various incentive plans, both cash and equity. Radford also provides support in addressing executive new hires on a case-by-case basis.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Mr. Ericson and Mr. Bigham. Our Board of Directors has determined, and determines on an annual basis, that each member of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent under the Nasdaq listing standards. The chair of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is Mr. Ericson. The functions of this committee include:

- identifying, evaluating and selecting, or recommending that our Board of Directors approve, nominees for election to our Board of Directors and its committees;
- evaluating the performance of our Board of Directors and of individual directors;
 - considering and making recommendations to our Board of Directors regarding the composition of our Board of Directors and its committees;
- reviewing developments in corporate governance practices;
- evaluating the adequacy of our corporate governance practices and reporting;
- developing and making recommendations to our Board of Directors regarding corporate governance guidelines and matters and a code of business conduct and ethics; and
- overseeing an annual evaluation of the Board of Directors' performance.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers several factors in evaluating potential candidates for the Board. The director qualifications that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has developed to date focus on what the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes to be essential competencies to effectively serve on our board, including the candidate's experience in corporate governance, such as an officer or former officer of a publicly held company, experience in our industry, experience as a board member of another publicly held company and academic expertise in an area of our operations. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee identifies potential candidates by using its network of contacts as well as solicits additional potential candidates from the Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees, but the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee strives to nominate directors with a variety of individual backgrounds and complementary skills so that, as a group, the Board will possess the appropriate talent, skills and expertise to oversee our business and operations.

Committee Charters

The Board has adopted written Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charters that are available to stockholders on our website at www.adamaspharma.com.

Role of the Board in Risk Oversight

Our Board has responsibilities and takes an active role, as a whole and also at the committee level, to monitor and assess major risks that we face and consider ways to oversee management to address those risks. The Board's role in our risk oversight process involves obtaining regular reports from management on areas of major risk, including operational, financial, legal and regulatory, and strategic risks. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is primarily responsible for overseeing our risk management processes on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Audit Committee receives reports from management at least quarterly regarding our assessment of risks. In addition, the Audit Committee reports regularly to the Board of Directors, which also considers our risk profile. The Audit Committee and the Board of Directors focus on the most significant risks we face and our general risk management strategies. While the Board of Directors oversees our risk management, management is responsible for day-to-day risk management processes. Our Board of Directors expects management to consider risk and risk management in each business decision, to proactively develop and monitor risk management strategies and processes for day-to-day activities, and to effectively implement risk management strategies adopted by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. We believe this division of responsibilities is the most effective approach for addressing the risks we face and that our Board of Directors' leadership structure, which also emphasizes the independence of the Board of Directors in its oversight of its business and affairs, supports this approach.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to all of our employees, officers and directors, including those officers responsible for financial reporting. The code of business conduct and ethics is available on our website at www.adamaspharma.com. We disclose any amendments to the code, or any waivers of its requirements, on our website to the extent required by the applicable rules and exchange requirements. The inclusion of our website address in this proxy statement does not incorporate by reference the information on or accessible through our website into this proxy statement.

Director Attendance at Annual Meetings

Our Board of Directors has a policy of encouraging director attendance at our annual meetings of stockholders, but attendance is not mandatory. All of our then continuing directors attended our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Our Board of Directors and management team encourage all of our directors to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

A stockholder may communicate with the Board of Directors, or an individual director, by sending written correspondence to Adamas' Corporate Secretary at 1900 Powell Street, Suite 750, Emeryville, California 94608. The Corporate Secretary will review such correspondence and forward it to the Board of Directors, or an individual director, as appropriate. Although we do not have a formal process related to stockholder communications with the Board of Directors, every effort has been made to ensure that the views of stockholders are heard by the Board of Directors or individual directors, as applicable, and that appropriate responses are provided to stockholders in a timely manner.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the members of our Compensation Committee has ever been an officer or employee of Adamas. None of our executive officers serve, or have served during the last fiscal year, as a member of the board of directors, compensation committee or other board committee performing equivalent functions of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as one of our Board of Directors or on our Compensation Committee.

Policy Regarding Consideration of Director Candidates Recommended by Stockholders

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to become nominees for election to the Board may do so by delivering a written recommendation to the Corporate Secretary at 1900 Powell Street, Suite 750, Emeryville, California 94608 at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the mailing of the proxy statement for the last annual meeting of stockholders and must include the following information:

- name and address of the nominating stockholder;
- a representation that the nominating stockholder is a record holder;
- a representation that the nominating stockholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the annual meeting to nominate the person or persons specified;
- information regarding each nominee that would be required to be included in a proxy statement;
- a description of any arrangements or understandings between the nominating stockholder and the nominee; and
- the consent of each nominee to serve as a director, if elected.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate candidates recommended by a stockholder in the same manner as candidates identified any other person, including members of the Board.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSONS TRANSACTIONS

Policies and Procedures for Related Party Transactions

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy that our executive officers, directors, nominees for election as a director, beneficial owners of more than 5% of any class of our common stock and any members of the immediate family of any of the foregoing persons are not permitted to enter into a related person transaction with us without the prior consent of our Audit Committee. Any request for us to enter into a transaction with an executive officer, director, nominee for election as a director, beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of our common stock or any member of the immediate family of any of the foregoing persons in which the amount involved exceeds \$25,000 and such person would have a direct or indirect interest must first be presented to our Audit Committee for review, consideration and approval. In approving or rejecting any such proposal, our Audit Committee is to consider the material facts of the transaction, including, but not limited to, whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to an unaffiliated third party under the same or similar circumstances and the extent of the related person's interest in the transaction.

Related Party Transactions During Fiscal Year 2017

During fiscal year 2017, we did not engage in any transactions with our executive officers, directors, beneficial owners of more than 5% of any class of our common stock, or any member of the immediate family of any of the foregoing persons, requiring disclosure in this proxy statement.

NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Our Board of Directors adopted a compensation policy for our non-employee directors. Under this policy, each of our non-employee directors is paid \$35,000 as an annual cash retainer. Our lead independent director receives an additional annual cash payment of \$15,000. Dr. Went, who is also an employee, is compensated for his service as an employee and does not receive any additional compensation for his service on our Board of Directors.

Annual fees are also paid to our directors who chair our board committees and to the other committee members, as follows:

Committee	Annual Chair Fee	Annual Member Fee
Audit Committee	\$15,000	\$7,500
Compensation Committee	\$10,000	\$5,000
Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	\$7,000	\$3,500
Development Committee	\$7,500	\$5,000

Our non-employee directors also receive an initial equity award upon commencement of service as a board member; thereafter, each non-employee director will receive an annual equity grant on the date of our annual meeting.

Currently, the form of award in each case will be a non-qualified stock option. The initial award is an option to purchase 30,000 shares of our common stock that vests annually over three years of service. Each subsequent annual award will be an option to purchase 15,000 shares of our common stock that will vest after one year of service. Additionally, upon the closing of a change of control, the vesting of all outstanding equity awards held by our non-employee directors will accelerate in full.

The following table shows for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, certain information with respect to the compensation of all non-employee directors:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Option Awards (\$)(1)	Total (\$)
Michael F. Bigham	44,250	147,023	191,273
Richard Booth(2)	33,000	147,023	180,023
Martha J. Demski	52,500	147,023	199,523
Mardi C. Dier(3)	10,625	410,610	421,235
William W. Ericson	47,000	147,023	194,023
Ivan Lieberburg, M.D., Ph.D.(4)	40,000	147,023	187,023
John MacPhee(5)	38,750	147,023	185,773
David L. Mahoney	63,125	361,849	424,974

The amounts in this column reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of each option award granted during the fiscal year, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The valuation assumptions used in determining such amounts are described in Note 12 to our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for (1) the year ended December 31, 2017. As of December 31, 2017, the non-employee directors had the following number of shares subject to options outstanding: Ms. Dier, 30,000 shares; Mr. Mahoney, 25,000 shares; and Mr. Bigham, Ms. Demski, Mr. Ericson, Dr. Lieberburg, and Mr. MacPee, 15,000 shares each. Mr. Booth had no options outstanding.

(2) Mr. Booth retired as a member of the Board of Directors in October 2017.

(3) Ms. Dier joined the Board of Directors and Audit Committee in October 2017.

(4) Dr. Lieberburg also received fees at a \$5,000 annual rate as a member of an ad hoc Development Committee of the Board of Directors.

(5) Mr. MacPhee also received prorated fees at a \$7,500 annual rate as the chair of an ad hoc Development Committee of the Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES

The following table sets forth information regarding our executive officers and certain key employees as of April 19, 2018:

Name	Age	Position(s)
Gregory T. Went, Ph.D.	54	Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Richard A. King	53	Chief Operating Officer
Alfred G. Merriweather	64	Chief Financial Officer
Rajiv Patni, M.D.	49	Chief Medical Officer
Jennifer J. Rhodes	48	Chief Business Officer, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary
Christopher B. Prentiss	43	Chief Accounting Officer

For biographical information for Dr. Went, see Proposal 1 – Election of Directors.

Richard A. King. Mr. King joined as our Chief Operating Officer in April 2017. Mr. King has held executive leadership roles at numerous companies in the life sciences industry throughout his career. Most recently, from May 2016 to April 2017, Mr. King was Chief Operating Officer at The Scripps Research Institute, where he was responsible for strategic planning, business development, finance, human resources, facilities, information technology and research services. He previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company developing new pain medications, from May 2010 to March 2015, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of AcelRx's business. Prior to AcelRx, he was President, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of the biotechnology company Tercica, Inc. (later sold to the Ipsen Group), where he was instrumental in the commercial launch of Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA) and Increlex™ (rhIGF-1). He also previously served as Executive Vice President of commercial operations at Kos Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he oversaw the growth of Niaspan® (niacin extended-release) and the launch of Advicor® (niacin extended-release/lovastatin). He was Senior Vice President of commercial operations at Solvay and Vice President of commercial operations at Unimed, where he launched AndroGel® (testosterone gel). Earlier in his career, he held positions of increasing responsibility at SmithKline Beecham and Lederle Laboratories. Mr. King received a B.Sc. in chemical engineering from the University of Surrey in the U.K. and an M.B.A. from the Manchester Business School in the U.K.

Alfred G. Merriweather. Mr. Merriweather joined as our Chief Financial Officer in June 2017. Mr. Merriweather has held executive leadership roles at numerous companies in the life sciences industry throughout his career. Before coming to Adamas, he was Chief Financial Officer at RainDance Technologies, Inc., a life science tools company, from November 2013 to February 2017, where he was responsible for the finance, information technology, human resources and general legal functions. Prior to RainDance, he served as Chief Financial Officer of Verinata Health, Inc., a prenatal laboratory testing company, from January 2012 to July 2013, where he was responsible for the finance and general legal functions, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Celera Corporation, a diagnostic products and laboratory testing company, from December 2010 until May 2011, where he was responsible for the finance and information technology functions. Mr. Merriweather has spent over 25 years in senior financial positions at several private and public life science companies, including Monogram Biosciences, Inc. and Laserscope. Mr. Merriweather received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Rajiv Patni, M.D. Dr. Patni joined as our Chief Medical Officer in June 2015. Prior to joining Adamas, Dr. Patni served as Chief Development Officer at Ocera Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company, from September 2014 to May 2015, where he was responsible for the management and direction of all drug development activities. From 2007 to August 2014, Dr. Patni served as SVP Chief Medical Officer at Actelion US Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company, where he was responsible for overseeing medical and regulatory activities in the United States. Dr. Patni brings over 15 years of global drug development experience and has held senior management roles including as Executive Director/VP, Product Lifecycle Team Leader, Therapeutic Area Head, at Roche Pharmaceuticals, and Senior Medical Director, Development Team Leader, at Novartis and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Patni earned a B.S. from the City University of New York Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education (accelerated BS/MD Program)

and an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Jennifer J. Rhodes. Ms. Rhodes joined as our General Counsel and Corporate Secretary in April 2016, and was subsequently appointed Chief Compliance Officer in August 2016 and Chief Business Officer in January 2017. Ms. Rhodes previously served as General Counsel at Medivation, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, from June 2012 to September 2015, where she was responsible for Medivation's legal matters, and also served as Corporate Secretary from April 2013 to September 2015 and as Chief Compliance Officer from July 2012 to October 2014. From May 2006 to June 2012, Ms. Rhodes was an Assistant General Counsel at Pfizer Inc., where she supported the U.S. Primary Care Business and its Primary Care Medicines Development Group, and served as a global product lead for Pfizer Inc.'s primary care medicines. Prior to joining Pfizer Inc., she was an associate in the regulatory law and international trade practice areas at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP from October 2000 to April 2006. Ms. Rhodes received a J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law and a B.A. in Economics from Newcomb College of Tulane University.

Christopher B. Prentiss. Mr. Prentiss joined as our Vice President, Finance and Controller in April 2015 and was subsequently appointed Chief Accounting Officer in September 2017. Prior to joining Adamas, Mr. Prentiss was the Vice President, Finance and Controller at InterMune, Inc., a biotechnology company, from June 2013 to March 2015, where he was responsible for the management of the accounting function. Prior to that, Mr. Prentiss was Senior Director, Controller at Dynavax Technologies Corporation, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company, from May 2012 to June 2013, where he was responsible for the accounting and tax functions. From June 2005 to May 2012, Mr. Prentiss was at MannKind Corporation where he served in a variety of finance roles, most recently as Senior Director, Controller. Prior to joining MannKind, Mr. Prentiss was a Senior Manager at KPMG LLP in the assurance practice. Mr. Prentiss received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting from Loyola Marymount University, and a Masters of Business Administration from Indiana University. Mr. Prentiss is a CPA licensed in California.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following is a discussion and analysis of compensation arrangements of our named executive officers, or NEOs. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that are based on our current plans, considerations, expectations and determinations regarding future compensation programs. Actual compensation programs that we adopt may differ materially from currently planned programs as summarized in this discussion. As an “emerging growth company” as defined in the Jumpstart our Business Startups Act of 2012, we are not required to include a Compensation Discussion and Analysis section and have elected to comply generally with the scaled disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies.

Our Compensation Committee, appointed by our Board of Directors, is responsible for establishing, implementing and monitoring our compensation philosophy and objectives. Our compensation philosophy strives to align the interests of our employees and board members with those of our stockholders. As part of this philosophy, we emphasize equity over cash compensation. Compensation of our executives has three basic components: base salary, cash bonus based primarily on achievement of corporate goals, and stock award consisting of stock options and restricted stock units. We seek to ensure that the total compensation paid to our executive officers is reasonable and competitive. Our NEOs for fiscal year 2017 were as follows: Gregory T. Went, Ph.D., Richard A. King, and Alfred G. Merriweather.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table shows information regarding the compensation of our NEOs for services performed in the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)(1)	Stock Awards (\$)(2)	Option Awards (\$)(3)	All Other Compensation (\$)(4)	Total (\$)
Gregory T. Went, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer	2017	517,500	384,244	397,750	1,509,780	1,058	2,810,332
Richard A. King(5) Chief Operating Officer	2016	450,000	250,000	392,725	1,476,617	690	2,570,032
Alfred G. Merriweather(6) Chief Financial Officer	2017	315,141	376,695	489,375	1,866,206	828	3,048,245
	2017	203,077	110,071	318,375	1,199,891	250,000	2,081,414

The amounts in this column reflect bonuses earned by the employee in 2017 and 2016 pursuant to Adamas’ Cash (1) Bonus Program and paid in 2018 and 2017, respectively. Also included in this column for Mr. King is an amount of \$204,250 for a signing bonus pursuant to his offer letter with Adamas.

The amounts in this column reflect the grant date fair value of the restricted stock units granted during the fiscal year, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The valuation assumptions used in determining such (2) amounts are described in Note 12 to our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

The amounts in this column reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock option awards granted during the (3) fiscal year, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The valuation assumptions used in determining such amounts are described in Note 12 to our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

The amounts in this column reflect the net premiums we paid on behalf of the employee for life insurance, (4) short-term and long-term disability insurance. Also included in this column for Mr. Merriweather is an amount of \$250,000 for a relocation allowance pursuant to his offer letter with Adamas.

(5) Mr. King joined Adamas on April 28, 2017, at an annual base salary of \$470,000.

(6) Mr. Merriweather joined Adamas on June 29, 2017, at an annual base salary of \$400,000.

Executive Compensation Narrative

For 2017, the principal components of Adamas’ executive compensation program consisted of base salary, annual cash bonus, equity incentives, and in the case of Mr. King and Mr. Merriweather a signing bonus and relocation allowance,

respectively.

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Offer Letters

We currently do not have employment agreements with any of our executive officers. All of our executive officers are employed on an “at will” basis, with no fixed term of employment, pursuant to the terms of their respective offer letters. Certain material terms of each executive officer’s employment are described below. Each offer letter also contains standard terms related to paid time off and participation in our employee benefit plans, and in addition, requires execution of our form of confidential information and proprietary information agreement.

Gregory T. Went, Ph.D. For 2017, Dr. Went’s annual base salary was \$517,500, which was increased to \$550,000, effective as of January 1, 2018. Under our cash bonus program, Dr. Went is eligible to receive a target bonus of 55% of his annual base salary.

Richard A. King. For 2017, Mr. King’s annual base salary was \$470,000, and prorated for the months of service was \$315,141. Mr. King’s annual base salary was increased to \$488,800, effective as of January 1, 2018. Under our cash bonus program, Mr. King is eligible to receive a target bonus of 40% of his annual base salary, which was pro-rated for 2017. In addition, Mr. King received a signing bonus of \$204,250, a stock option to acquire 168,750 shares of our common stock and restricted stock units to acquire 28,125 shares of our common stock, in each case vesting over four years, pursuant to the terms of his offer letter.

Alfred G. Merriweather. For 2017, Mr. Merriweather’s annual base salary was \$400,000, and prorated for the months of service was \$203,077. Mr. Merriweather’s annual base salary was increased to \$420,000, effective as of January 1, 2018. Under our cash bonus program, Mr. Merriweather is eligible to receive a target bonus of 40% of his annual base salary, which was pro-rated for 2017. In addition, Mr. Merriweather received a relocation allowance of \$250,000, a stock option to acquire 112,500 shares of our common stock and restricted stock units to acquire 18,750 shares of our common stock, in each case vesting over four years, pursuant to the terms of his offer letter.

Cash Bonus Program

The cash bonus program is a discretionary element of our compensation that links compensation to the achievement of corporate, project and individual goals. Each year, our Board of Directors approves the corporate goals and consults with the Compensation Committee to approve the other individual goals of the CEO and the other NEOs. Whether or not a bonus is paid for any year is solely within the discretion of the Board or Compensation Committee upon delegation by the Board. Accordingly, we do not consider these bonuses to be “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” within the meaning of applicable SEC rules.

Stock and Option Awards

During 2017: Dr. Went received annual equity grants consisting of a stock option to acquire 138,750 shares of our common stock, and restricted stock units to acquire 23,125 shares of our common stock, pursuant to our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan; Mr. King received new hire equity grants pursuant to our 2016 Inducement Plan as discussed above in “Offer Letters” when he joined our company; and Mr. Merriweather received new hire equity grants pursuant to our 2016 Inducement Plan as outlined above in “Offer Letters” when he joined our company.

2014 Equity Incentive Plan

Our Board of Directors adopted our 2014 Plan in February 2014, and our stockholders approved the 2014 Plan in March 2014. The 2014 Plan is the successor to our prior 2007 Plan. No further grants will be made under our 2007 Plan. Our 2014 Plan provides for the grant of ISOs to our employees and for the grant of NSOs, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock unit awards, performance stock awards, performance cash awards, and other forms of equity compensation to our employees, directors, and consultants.

2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Our Board of Directors adopted the 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or ESPP, in February 2014, and our stockholders approved the ESPP in March 2014. The purpose of the ESPP is to secure the services of new employees, to retain the services of existing employees and to provide incentives for such individuals to exert maximum efforts toward our success and that of our affiliates. The ESPP is intended to qualify as an “employee stock purchase plan” within the meaning of Section 423 of the Code.

2016 Inducement Plan

In March 2016, a majority of our independent non-employee directors approved Adamas' 2016 Inducement Plan, or the 2016 Inducement Plan, pursuant to which we may grant stock awards for up to a total of 450,000 shares of common stock to new employees of Adamas. In each of January 2017 and November 2017, the 2016 Inducement Plan was amended to increase the number of shares available for issuance by an additional 450,000 shares, for a total of 900,000 additional shares, resulting in a total of 1,350,000 shares of common stock issuable under the 2016 Inducement Plan.

Pension Benefits

Our named executive officers did not participate in, or otherwise receive any benefits under, any pension or retirement plan sponsored by Adamas during 2017. Adamas does not provide our named executive officers, or any other employee, a pension or retirement plan except our 401(k) plan.

Executive Severance Plan

Our Board of Directors adopted our Executive Severance Plan in 2014 to provide our executives with severance benefits in the event their employment with us terminates without cause or, in case of a termination of employment that occurs in connection with our undergoing a change in control, either without cause or for good reason. In March 2017, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors amended and restated the Executive Severance Plan. To be eligible for benefits under our Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan, the executive must hold the title of Vice President or above on the date of termination. To be considered to have occurred in connection with our undergoing a change in control, the termination (or resignation "for good reason") must occur at or within 12 months after our consummating the change in control.

Benefits under the Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan, other than in connection with a change in control, include both a cash portion, determined by reference to monthly base salary, and eligibility for group medical coverage (COBRA).

If the triggering termination or resignation "for good reason" occurs in connection with a change in control, benefits under the Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan include a cash portion determined by reference to monthly base salary, annual target bonus, and a pro-rata target bonus; eligibility for COBRA; equity awards that were outstanding at the time of the change in control will become fully vested; and the post-termination period to exercise options will be extended up to the earlier of 12 months after the termination or the expiration date of the option. The pro-rata target bonus payment shall be a pro-rata portion of the current fiscal year annual target bonus, calculated based on the number of full months worked in the fiscal year through the date of the change in control termination, assuming performance at target for all metrics.

The amount and timing of cash severance payments and the duration of COBRA coverage are determined by the executive's title, and whether the termination is in connection with a change in control. If the termination is not in connection with a change in control, cash severance is paid as salary continuation. If the termination is in connection with a change in control, cash severance, including monthly based pay, annual target bonus, and pro-rata target bonus is paid in a lump sum.

The following table sets forth the cash severance and COBRA benefits under our Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan:

Title	Other than in connection with a change in control		In connection with a change in control	
	Cash Severance (multiple of monthly base pay)	COBRA Period (number of months)	Cash Severance (multiple of monthly salary plus annual target bonus in months)(1)	COBRA Period (number of months)
Chief Executive Officer	12	12	18	18
Designated Executive Officer	12	12	12	12
All other executives	9	9	12	12

(1) Additionally includes pro-rata target bonus, calculated as described above.

Under the Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan, participants are eligible for severance benefits if we or our successor terminates the executive's employment other than due to (i) commission of any felony or any crime involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude under the laws of the United States or any state thereof; (ii) attempted commission of, or participation in, a fraud or act of dishonesty against Adamas; (iii) intentional, material violation of any contract or agreement between the Participant and Adamas or of any statutory duty owed to Adamas; (iv) unauthorized use or disclosure of Adamas' confidential information or trade secrets; (v) an act by the Participant which constitutes gross negligence, willful misconduct or insubordination in the course of employment; or (vi) the continued failure of the Participant to perform the essential duties and responsibilities of his or her position, after having received notice of the deficiencies and having had 30 days to cure such defects in performance. The determination that a termination of the employment of a Participant is either for Cause or without Cause will be made by Adamas, in its sole discretion.

Under the Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan, participants are also eligible for severance benefits at or within 12 months following a change in control if the participant resigns for any of the following "good reasons": (i) a decrease in a Participant's base salary or target bonus by more than 10%, (ii) a material decrease in a Participant's duties or responsibilities (but excluding a change in title or reporting relationship), (iii) a relocation of the Participant's primary work location by more than 50 miles, or (iv) Adamas' failure to obtain an agreement from a successor to continue the Plan or to substitute for it a plan or other compensation arrangement that provides equivalent or greater benefits; provided, however, that to resign for Good Reason, a Participant must (1) provide written notice to Adamas' General Counsel within 30 days after the first occurrence of the event giving rise to Good Reason setting forth the basis for his or her resignation for Good Reason, (2) allow Adamas at least 30 days from receipt of such written notice to cure such event, and (3) if such event is not reasonably cured within such period, the Participant's resignation from all positions he or she then holds with Adamas is effective not later than 30 days after the expiration of the cure period.

To receive benefits under the Amended and Restated Executive Severance Plan, in addition to having a termination or resignation that qualifies for benefits, the executive will be required to execute a full release of claims in a form satisfactory to Adamas, within certain designated timeframes.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

Our named executive officers did not participate in, or earn any benefits under, a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017

Name	Option Awards Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options		Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date	Stock Awards Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested		Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(2)
	Exercisable	Unexercisable			Units That Have Not Vested	Units That Have Not Vested	
Gregory T. Went, Ph.D.	128,216	(3)—	\$0.665	11/15/2021	—	—	—
	32,005	(4)—	\$0.665	2/21/2022	—	—	—
	605,037	(5)—	\$8.995	2/19/2024	—	—	—
	46,524	(6)19,037	\$17.310	2/24/2025	—	—	—
	75,468	(7)97,032	\$13.660				