

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Form 424B5
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Registration No. 333-164894
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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated March 9, 2010)

3,880,598 Shares

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering 3,880,598 shares of our common stock.

Our shares trade on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol MAPP. On July 31, 2012, the last sale price of the shares as reported on The Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$14.11 per share.

Investing in the common stock involves risks that are described in the Risk Factors section beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and page 1 of the accompanying prospectus.

| | Per Share | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Public offering price | \$13.40 | \$52,000,013 |
| Underwriting discount | \$.804 | \$3,120,001 |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to us | \$12.596 | \$48,880,012 |

The underwriter may also exercise its option to purchase up to an additional 582,088 shares from us, at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The shares will be ready for delivery on or about August 6, 2012.

BofA Merrill Lynch

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 1, 2012.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") using a shelf registration process. Under the registration statement, we registered the offering by us of up to \$100,000,000 of common shares, warrants, preference shares and debt securities for sale from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus supplement provides specific information about the offering by us of 3,880,598 of our common shares under the shelf registration statement, in addition to information concerning the option to purchase additional shares granted by us.

Both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include or incorporate by reference important information about us, our common stock and other information you should know before investing. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as additional information described under "Where You Can Find More Information" elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus nor any sale hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement, that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date hereof or that any information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date hereof.

This document is in two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which adds to, updates or may change information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, provides more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus supplement to "MAP Pharmaceuticals," "we," "us," and "our" and the company to MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc., its predecessors and its consolidated subsidiaries.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The following summary includes basic information about our company, this offering and information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and in the documents we incorporate by reference. This summary is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our common shares. For a more complete understanding of our company and this offering, we encourage you to read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the Risk Factors contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the financial documents and notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus.

The Company

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc., incorporated in the state of Delaware, originally was formed as a limited liability company on July 3, 2003 and converted to a corporation on December 11, 2003. Our goal is to enhance the therapeutic benefits and commercial attractiveness of proven drugs in the field of neurology, while minimizing risk by capitalizing on their known safety, efficacy and commercialization history and by applying our proprietary formulation and inhalation technologies. Our current focus is to advance the development of our product candidate, LEVADEX[®], formerly known as MAP0004, a proprietary orally inhaled version of dihydroergotamine for the potential treatment of migraine. We are in the development stage and since inception have devoted substantially all of our efforts to research and development, raising capital and recruiting personnel.

We have incurred losses and negative cash flow since our inception in July 2003. We will continue to incur losses until we generate sufficient revenue to offset our expenses, and we anticipate that we may continue to incur net losses for the next several years. We will need substantial additional capital in the future in connection with the development and potential commercialization of LEVADEX and to fund the development and potential commercialization of any future product candidates. Prior to achieving profitable operations, we intend to continue to fund operations through public or private financings, strategic partnerships or other arrangements. Such funding, if needed, may not be available on favorable terms, if at all. In the event we are unable to obtain additional capital, we may delay or reduce the scope of our current research and development programs and other expenses.

On March 26, 2012, we received a Complete Response letter, in which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, described the reasons it was unable to approve our New Drug Application, or NDA, and identified issues that we need to address in order to obtain FDA approval of LEVADEX. Specifically, the FDA requested that we address issues relating to the chemistry, manufacturing and controls, or CMC, of LEVADEX. The FDA also stated that manufacturing deficiencies identified during a recent facility inspection of one of our third party manufacturers need to be resolved to the FDA's satisfaction. The FDA also indicated that it had not been able to complete its review of inhaler usability information requested late in the review cycle by the FDA. We continue to work to address the issues identified in the Complete Response letter and recently completed an End-of-Review meeting with the FDA to discuss our proposed plan for responding to the Complete Response letter. Based upon the meeting with the FDA, we are in the process of addressing the issues in the Complete Response letter, and we plan to resubmit to the FDA in the late third quarter/early fourth quarter 2012 timeframe.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2400 Bayshore Parkway, Suite 200, Mountain View, CA 94043, and our telephone number at that address is (650) 386-3100. Our website can be found at www.mappharma.com. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus supplement or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

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The Offering

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. For more information concerning our common stock, see Description of Common Stock.

| | |
|--|---|
| Issuer | MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc. |
| The Nasdaq Global Select Market Symbol | MAPP |
| Common Stock Offered by Us | 3,880,598 shares (or 4,462,686 shares if the underwriter exercises in full its option to purchase additional shares) |
| Common Stock to be Outstanding Immediately After this Offering (1) | 34,629,028 shares (or 35,211,116 shares if the underwriter exercises in full its option to purchase additional shares) |
| Risk Factors | See Risk Factors beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and on page 1 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our common stock. |
| Use of Proceeds | We intend to apply the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes and commercialization activities for LEVADEX. For more information, see Use of Proceeds. |
| Certain Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders | You should consult with your tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal income tax considerations of owning our common stock in light of your own particular situation and with respect to any tax considerations arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction. See Certain Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders. |

(1) The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering as shown above is based on shares outstanding as of July 31, 2012. This number excludes 5,058,661 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options, and 26,903 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, 343,732 time-based and performance-based restricted stock units, and 582,088 shares subject to the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

All statements included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events or developments that we intend, expect, project, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which are subject to the safe harbor created by those sections. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement contain forward looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about us, our future performance, our business or others on our behalf, our beliefs and our management's assumptions. In some cases you can identify forward-looking statements by words such as may, will, should, could, would, expects, plan, anticipates, believes, estimates, projects, predicts, potential and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. Examples of these statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding:

governmental regulation and approval;

the process and timing for responding to the FDA's Complete Response letter with respect to the Company's LEVADEX product candidate, and the Company's belief that no new studies will need to be conducted for inclusion in the resubmission;

the implications of interim or final results of our clinical trials, the progress of our research programs, including clinical testing;

the extent to which our issued and pending patents may protect our products and technology;

our ability to identify new product candidates;

the potential of such product candidates to lead to the development of commercial products;

our anticipated timing for initiation or completion of our clinical trials for any of our product candidates;

our future operating expenses;

our future losses;

our future expenditures for research and development; and

the sufficiency of our cash resources.

Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the risks faced by us and described in Risk Factors elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this prospectus supplement. These cautionary statements should be considered in connection with any written or oral forward looking statements that we may issue in the future. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following risk factors in addition to the remainder of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference, before making an investment decision. In addition, you should carefully consider, among other things, the risk factors set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" on pages 26 through 42 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012, and in other documents that we subsequently file with the SEC, all of which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as the same may be updated from time to time by subsequent filings under the Exchange Act. The risks and uncertainties described in such incorporated documents and described below are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of those risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations would suffer. In that event, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. The risks discussed below also include forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. See "Forward-Looking Statements."

Risks Relating to this Offering

We have broad discretion in how we use the net proceeds of this offering, and we may not use these proceeds in a manner desired by our stockholders.

Our management will have broad discretion with respect to the use of the net proceeds from this offering and investors will be relying on the judgment of our management regarding the use of these proceeds. Our management could spend the net proceeds from this offering in ways that our stockholders may not desire or that do not yield a favorable return. You will not have the opportunity, as part of your investment in our common stock, to influence the manner in which the net proceeds of this offering are used. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we plan to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes and commercialization activities for LEVADEX. The amounts actually spent by us for any specific purpose may vary significantly and our future financial performance may differ from our current expectations or our business needs may change as our business and the industry we address evolve. As a result, the net proceeds we receive in this offering may be used in a manner significantly different from our current expectations.

Investors in this offering will pay a much higher price than the book value of our common stock.

If you purchase our common stock in this offering, you will incur an immediate and substantial dilution in net tangible book value of \$11.61 per share, after giving effect to the sale by us of 3,880,598 shares of common stock offered in this offering at the price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and after deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us. In addition, if the underwriter exercises its option to purchase additional shares, you will incur additional dilution. See "Dilution" on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement for a more detailed discussion of the dilution you will incur in this offering.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect to receive approximately \$48.5 million from the sale of 3,880,598 shares of our common stock in this offering, at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, (or approximately \$55.8 million if the underwriter exercises its option to purchase additional shares of common stock in full), after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We currently intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes and commercialization activities for LEVADEX.

The foregoing represents our intentions based upon our present plans and business conditions. The occurrence of unforeseen events or changed business conditions, however, could result in the application of the proceeds of the offering in a manner other than as described in this prospectus supplement. As a result, our management will retain broad discretion in the allocation and use of the net proceeds of this offering, and investors will be relying on the judgment of our management with regard to the use of these net proceeds. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we expect to invest such proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing instruments.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol MAPP. The following table sets forth, for the quarterly periods indicated, the high and low sales price per share of the common stock as reported on The Nasdaq Global Select Market:

| | High | Low |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Year Ended December 31, 2010 | | |
| First Quarter | \$ 17.83 | 9.34 |
| Second Quarter | 18.97 | 11.32 |
| Third Quarter | 15.49 | 10.61 |
| Fourth Quarter | 16.98 | 13.95 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2011 | | |
| First Quarter | \$ 16.94 | \$ 13.72 |
| Second Quarter | 17.35 | 12.93 |
| Third Quarter | 16.44 | 10.54 |
| Fourth Quarter | 16.19 | 11.95 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2012 | | |
| First Quarter | \$ 17.92 | 13.02 |
| Second Quarter | 15.08 | 11.11 |
| Third Quarter (through July 31, 2012) | 16.30 | 13.17 |

On July 31, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$14.11 per share. On July 31, 2012, we had 34 holders of record of our common stock.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid dividends since our initial public offering in October 2007 and do not anticipate paying any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future.

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

Our net tangible book value as of June 30, 2012 was \$13.6 million, or approximately \$0.44 per share. Net tangible book value is total assets minus the sum of liabilities and intangible assets. Net tangible book value per share is net tangible book value divided by the total number of shares of common stock outstanding.

Dilution in net tangible book value per share represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers of shares of common stock in this offering and the net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after this offering. After giving effect to our sale of 3,880,598 shares of our common stock in this offering at the price per share set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and after deducting the estimated offering expenses payable by us, our as adjusted net tangible book value as of June 30, 2012 would have been approximately \$62.1 million, or \$1.79 per share. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$1.35 per share to existing stockholders and immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$11.61 per share to new investors purchasing our common stock in this offering. The following table illustrates this dilution on a per share basis (without giving effect to the option to purchase additional shares we granted to the underwriter):

| | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| Public offering price per share | | \$ 13.40 |
| Net tangible book value per share as of June 30, 2012 | \$ 0.44 | |
| Increase in net tangible book value per share attributable to this offering | 1.35 | |
| Pro forma net tangible book value per share as of June 30, 2012 after giving effect to this offering | | 1.79 |
| Dilution per share to investors participating in this offering | | \$ 11.61 |

If the underwriter exercises its option to purchase additional shares in full, the pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering at the price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement would be \$1.97 per share, representing an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$1.53 per share to existing stockholders and the dilution in pro forma net tangible book value per share to investors in this offering would be \$11.43 per share.

The number of shares of our common stock in the computations above excludes:

5,065,251 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of options outstanding as of June 30, 2012 at a weighted average exercise price of \$11.44 per share;

346,898 time-based and performance-based restricted stock units issued under our 2007 Equity Incentive Plan as of June 30, 2012;

26,903 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of June 30, 2010 at an exercise price of \$7.43 per share;

2,154,317 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our 2007 Equity Incentive Plan as of June 30, 2012; and

61,747 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan as of June 30, 2012.

To the extent that outstanding options or warrants are exercised, you will experience further dilution. In addition, we may choose to raise additional capital due to market conditions or strategic considerations even if we believe we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans. To the extent that additional capital is raised through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, the issuance of these securities could result in further dilution to our stockholders.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

*The following summary of the terms of our common stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, or certificate of incorporation, and Amended and Restated Bylaws, or bylaws, copies of which are on file with the Commission as exhibits to registration statements previously filed by us. See *Where You Can Find More Information*.*

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, \$0.01 par value per share. The only equity securities currently outstanding are shares of common stock.

Common Stock

As of July 31, 2012, we had 30,748,430 shares of common stock outstanding. As of July 31, 2012, we had 5,058,661 shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options granted under our 2005 Equity Incentive Plan and our 2007 Equity Award Plan, and 343,732 time-based and performance-based restricted stock units issued under our 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. As of July 31, 2012, we had warrants to purchase an aggregate of 26,903 shares of our common stock outstanding.

Voting Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. Holders of our common stock are not entitled to cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the shares voted can elect all of the directors then standing for election.

Dividends

Subject to limitations under Delaware law and preferences that may apply to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends or other distributions, if any, as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for them.

Liquidation

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock.

Rights and Preferences

Our common stock has no preemptive, conversion or other rights to subscribe for additional securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Fully Paid and Non-Assessable

All outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

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Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. The transfer agent and registrar for any series or class of preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Nasdaq Global Select Market

Our common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol MAPP.

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CERTAIN MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX

CONSEQUENCES TO NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a summary of certain material United States federal income tax consequences to non-U.S. holders (as defined below) of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock issued pursuant to this offering. This discussion is not a complete analysis of all of the potential United States federal income tax consequences relating thereto, nor does it address any estate and gift tax consequences or any tax consequences arising under any state, local or foreign tax laws, or any other United States federal tax laws. This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial decisions, and published rulings and administrative pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, all as in effect as of the date of this offering. These authorities may change, possibly retroactively, resulting in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. No ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS with respect to the matters discussed below, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will not take a contrary position regarding the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership or disposition of our common stock, or that any such contrary position would not be sustained by a court.

This discussion is limited to non-U.S. holders who purchase our common stock issued pursuant to this offering and who hold our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). This discussion does not address all of the United States federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular holder in light of such holder's particular circumstances. This discussion also does not consider any specific facts or circumstances that may be relevant to holders subject to special rules under the United States federal income tax laws, including, without limitation, U.S. expatriates, partnerships or other pass-through entities, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid United States federal income tax, financial institutions, insurance companies, brokers, dealers or traders in securities, commodities or currencies, tax-exempt organizations, tax-qualified retirement plans, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, persons subject to unearned income Medicare tax, persons that own, or have owned, actually or constructively, more than 5% of our common stock, and persons holding our common stock as part of a hedge, straddle or other risk-reduction strategy or as part of a conversion transaction or other integrated investment.

THIS SUMMARY OF CERTAIN MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE PARTICULAR UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF ACQUIRING, OWNING AND DISPOSING OF OUR COMMON STOCK, AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN TAX LAWS, ANY OTHER UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX LAWS, AND ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.

Definition of Non-U.S. Holder

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is any beneficial owner of our common stock that is neither a U.S. person (as defined below) nor a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership) for United States federal income tax purposes. A U.S. person is any of the following:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or

a trust (1) whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and which has one or more United States persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions

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of the trust, or (2) that has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person. If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will depend on the status of such partner and the activities of such partnership. Such partners and partnerships should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to them of acquiring, owning and disposing of our common stock.

Distributions on Our Common Stock

If we make cash or other property distributions on our common stock, such distributions will constitute dividends for United States federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Amounts not treated as dividends for United States federal income tax purposes will constitute a return of capital and will first be applied against and reduce a holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits and in excess of a holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock will be treated as capital gain realized on the sale or other disposition of the common stock and will be treated as described under "Gain on Disposition of Our Common Stock" below.

Dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock that are not effectively connected with such holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States generally will be subject to United States federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% of the gross amount of the dividends, or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty. To receive the benefit of a reduced treaty rate, a non-U.S. holder must furnish to us or our paying agent a valid IRS Form W-8BEN (or applicable successor form) certifying such holder's qualification for the reduced rate. This certification must be provided to us or our paying agent prior to the payment of dividends and must be updated periodically. Non-U.S. holders that do not timely provide us or our paying agent with the required certification, but which qualify for a reduced treaty rate, may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

If a non-U.S. holder holds our common stock in connection with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and dividends paid on the common stock are effectively connected with such holder's United States trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States), the non-U.S. holder will be exempt from United States federal withholding tax. To claim the exemption, the non-U.S. holder must furnish to us or our paying agent a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI (or applicable successor form).

Any dividends paid on our common stock that are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's United States trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States) will be subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis at the regular graduated United States federal income tax rates generally in the same manner as if such holder were a resident of the United States, unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. A non-U.S. holder that is a corporation also may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty) of a portion of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year. Non-U.S. holders are urged to consult any applicable income tax treaties that may provide for different rules.

A non-U.S. holder who claims the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty generally will be required to satisfy applicable certification and other requirements prior to the distribution date. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their entitlement to benefits under a relevant income tax treaty.

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Gain on Disposition of Our Common Stock

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock, unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States;

the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the disposition, and certain other requirements are met; or

our common stock constitutes a United States real property interest by reason of our status as a United States real property holding corporation, or USRPHC, for United States federal income tax purposes at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding the disposition or the non-U.S. holder's holding period for our common stock, and the common stock has ceased to be traded on an established securities market prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the sale or other disposition occurs. The determination of whether we are a USRPHC depends on the fair market value of our United States real property interests relative to the fair market value of our other trade or business assets and our foreign real property interests.

We believe we currently are not, and we do not anticipate becoming, a USRPHC for United States federal income tax purposes.

Unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise, gain described in the first bullet point above will be subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis at the regular graduated United States federal income tax rates generally in the same manner as if such holder were a resident of the United States. A non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation also may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty) of a portion of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year. Non-U.S. holders are urged to consult any applicable income tax treaties that may provide for different rules.

Gain described in the second bullet point above will be subject to United States federal income tax at a flat 30% rate (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty), but may be offset by United States source capital losses (even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States), provided that the non-U.S. holder has timely filed U.S. federal income tax returns with respect to such losses.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder the amount of distributions on our common stock paid to such holder and the amount of any tax withheld with respect to those distributions. These information reporting requirements apply even if no withholding was required, such as because the distributions were effectively connected with the holder's conduct of a United States trade or business or withholding was reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty. This information also may be made available under a specific treaty or agreement with the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides or is established. Subject to the discussion below on foreign accounts, backup withholding generally will not apply to distributions to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock provided the non-U.S. holder furnishes to us or our paying agent the required certification as to its non-U.S. status, such as by providing a valid IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8ECI, or certain other requirements are met. Notwithstanding the foregoing, backup withholding may apply if either we or our paying agent has actual knowledge, or reason to know, that the holder is a U.S. person that is not an exempt recipient.

Information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding will apply to the proceeds of a disposition of our common stock within the United States or conducted through certain U.S.-related financial

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intermediaries, unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder on IRS Form W-8BEN or other applicable form (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a U.S. person) or such owner otherwise establishes an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Foreign Accounts

A 30% withholding tax may be imposed on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock paid to a foreign financial institution or a non-financial foreign entity (as defined in the Code), unless (1) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting, (2) the non-financial foreign entity either certifies it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial U.S. owner, or (3) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. If the payee is a foreign financial institution and is subject to the diligence and reporting requirements in clause (1) above, it must enter into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain U.S. persons or U.S.-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to non-compliant foreign financial institutions and certain other account holders. Although these rules currently apply to applicable payments made after December 31, 2012, proposed Treasury regulations provide that the withholding provisions described above will apply to payments of dividends made after December 31, 2013 and to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of stock after December 31, 2014. These proposed Treasury regulations will not be effective until they are issued in their final form, and as of the date of this prospectus supplement, it is not possible to determine whether the proposed Treasury regulations will be finalized in their current form or at all. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding these withholding provisions.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is acting as the sole underwriter in this offering. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement between us and the underwriter, we have agreed to sell to the underwriter, and the underwriter has agreed to purchase from us, the number of shares of our common stock set forth opposite its name below.

| <u>Underwriter</u> | Number of Shares |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated | 3,880,598 |
| Total | 3,880,598 |

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, the underwriter has agreed to purchase all of the shares sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares are purchased. If the underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriter is offering the shares, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by it, subject to approval of legal matters by its counsel, including the validity of the shares, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriter of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriter reserves the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Commissions and Discounts

The underwriter has advised us that it proposes initially to offer the shares to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$.48 per share. After the initial offering, the public offering price, concession or any other term of the offering may be changed.

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds before expenses to us. The information assumes either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriter of its option to purchase additional shares.

| | Per Share | Without Option | With Option |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Public offering price | \$13.40 | \$ 52,000,013 | \$ 59,799,992 |
| Underwriting discount | \$.804 | \$3,120,001 | \$3,588,000 |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to us | \$ 12.596 | \$ 48,880,012 | \$ 56,211,993 |

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$0.4 million and are payable by us.

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Option to Purchase Additional Shares

We have granted an option to the underwriter, exercisable for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, subject to the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, to purchase up to 582,088 additional shares at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount. If the underwriter exercises this option, the underwriter will be obligated, subject to conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, to purchase a number of additional shares proportionate to its initial amount reflected in the above table.

Price Stabilization, Short Positions

Until the distribution of the shares is completed, SEC rules may limit underwriter and selling group members from bidding for and purchasing our common stock. However, the underwriter may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the common stock, such as bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain that price.

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may purchase and sell our common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, purchases on the open market to cover positions created by short sales and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of shares than it is required to purchase in the offering. Covered short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares described above. The underwriter may close out any covered short position by either exercising its option to purchase additional shares or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered short position, the underwriter will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which it may purchase shares through the option granted to them. Naked short sales are sales in excess of such option. The underwriter must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriter is concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of our common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of shares of common stock made by the underwriter in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriter's purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. The underwriter may conduct these transactions on The Nasdaq Global Select Market, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Neither we nor the underwriter make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. In addition, neither we nor the underwriter make any representation that the underwriter will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Passive Market Making

In connection with this offering, the underwriter may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act during a period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of distribution. A passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of that security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, that bid must then be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may cause the price of our common stock to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of those transactions. The underwriter is not required to engage in passive market making and may end passive market making activities at any time.

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Electronic Distribution

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may distribute prospectuses by electronic means, such as e-mail.

Quotation on The NASDAQ Global Select Market

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MAPP. Our registrar and transfer agent for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

No Sales of Similar Securities

We and each of our executive officers and directors and certain of our stockholders have agreed with the underwriter, subject to certain exceptions, not to dispose of or hedge any of our shares of common stock or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock for 60 days after the date of this prospectus supplement without first obtaining the written consent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. This consent may be given at any time without public notice. The 60-day lock-up period during which we and our executive officers and directors and certain of our stockholders are restricted from engaging in transactions in our common stock or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock is subject to extension in the event that either (i) during the last 17 days of the lock-up period, we issue an earnings or financial results release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs, or (ii) prior to the expiration of the lock-up period, we announce that we will release earnings or financial results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the lock-up period, then in either case the expiration of the lock-up period will be extended until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings or financial results release or the occurrence of the material news or material event, as applicable, unless Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated waives, in writing, such an extension.

Transfers or dispositions can be made during the lock-up period in the case of gifts or for estate planning purposes where the donee agrees to hold the shares subject to such lock-up; for shares of common stock acquired in open market transactions after the completion of this offering; and in the case of distribution to partners, members or shareholders where the recipient agrees to hold the shares subject to such lock-up. In addition, any director or officer who has an existing trading plan for purposes of complying with Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) under the Exchange Act may dispose of shares of common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock pursuant to the terms of any such pre-existing plan. Our directors and officers and certain significant stockholders may also enter into a trading plan for purposes of complying with Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) under the Exchange Act during the 60-day period set forth in this paragraph provided that any sales, transfers or dispositions under such trading plan will not occur during the lock-up period.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date), no offer of shares may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- A. to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- B. to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriter; or

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C. in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of shares shall require the Company or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who initially acquires any shares or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that (A) it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive, and (B) in the case of any shares acquired by it as a financial intermediary, as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, the shares acquired by it in the offering have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the Subscribers has been given to the offer or resale. In the case of any shares being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, each such financial intermediary will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that the shares acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on a non-discretionary basis on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in circumstances which may give rise to an offer of any shares to the public other than their offer or resale in a Relevant Member State to qualified investors as so defined or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the underwriter has been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

The Company, the underwriter and their affiliates will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representation, acknowledgement and agreement.

This prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of shares in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of shares. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Company or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither the Company nor the underwriter have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of shares in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Company or the underwriter to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purpose of the above provisions, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in the Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in the Relevant Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member States) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

In addition, in the United Kingdom, this document is being distributed only to, and is directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are qualified investors (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19 (5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the Order) and/or (ii) who are high net worth companies (or persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated) falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This document must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.

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Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

The shares may not be publicly offered in Switzerland and will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX) or on any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. This document has been prepared without regard to the disclosure standards for issuance prospectuses under art. 652a or art. 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or the disclosure standards for listing prospectuses under art. 27 ff. of the SIX Listing Rules or the listing rules of any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the shares or the offering may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the offering, the Company, the shares have been or will be filed with or approved by any Swiss regulatory authority. In particular, this document will not be filed with, and the offer of shares will not be supervised by, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA (FINMA), and the offer of shares has not been and will not be authorized under the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes (CISA). The investor protection afforded to acquirers of interests in collective investment schemes under the CISA does not extend to acquirers of shares.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement relates to an Exempt Offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). This prospectus supplement is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in the Offered Securities Rules of the DFSA. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with Exempt Offers. The DFSA has not approved this prospectus supplement nor taken steps to verify the information set forth herein and has no responsibility for the prospectus supplement. The shares to which this prospectus supplement relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement you should consult an authorized financial advisor.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park, California, will pass upon the validity of the issuance and sale of the securities on behalf of MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Latham & Watkins LLP and certain attorneys and investment funds affiliated with the firm collectively own less than 0.1% of the shares of our common stock. Certain matters will be passed upon for the underwriter by Cooley LLP, Palo Alto, California.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the year ended December 31, 2011 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report, which contains an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act and file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market, and you can read and inspect our filings at the offices of The NASDAQ Stock Market at 1735 K Street, Washington, D.C. 20006. We maintain a website at www.mapharma.com. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in, and incorporated by reference in, this prospectus supplement and the registration statement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of common stock.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future information filed (rather than furnished) with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act between the date of this prospectus supplement and the termination of the offering, provided, however, that we are not incorporating any information furnished under any of Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any current report on Form 8-K:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012;

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our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 17, 2012, January 27, 2012, March 27, 2012 (excluding Item 7.01 thereof), March 29, 2012, April 12, 2012, May 18, 2012 and June 25, 2012;

the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 16, 2012 that are deemed filed with the SEC under the Exchange Act; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on October 2, 2007. You may request a copy of any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address and telephone number:

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Attn: Corporate Secretary

2400 Bayshore Parkway, Suite 200

Mountain View, CA 94043

(650) 386-3100

Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

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PROSPECTUS

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Debt Securities, Common Stock,

Preferred Stock and Warrants

We may offer and sell the securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering and the amounts, prices and terms of the securities. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our securities.

We may offer and sell the following securities:

debt securities;

common stock;

preferred stock; and

warrants.

The securities may be offered directly by us, through agents designated from time to time by us or to or through underwriters or dealers. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. See the sections entitled About This Prospectus and Plan of Distribution for more information. No securities may be sold without delivery of this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such securities.

See Risk Factors on page 1 for information you should consider before buying any securities.

Our common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol MAPP.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is March 9, 2010.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any applicable supplement to this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us is accurate only as of the date on their respective covers. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus to MAP Pharmaceuticals, we, us, our and the company refer to MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc., its predecessors and its consolidated subsidiaries.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may sell debt securities; common stock; preferred stock and warrants. This prospectus provides you with only a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the terms of the securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us, together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

All statements included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events or developments that we intend, expect, project, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward looking statements. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus contain forward looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about us, our future performance, our business or others on our behalf, our beliefs and our management's assumptions. In addition, we, or others on our behalf, may make forward looking statements in press releases or written statements, or in our communications and discussions with investors and analysts in the normal course of business through meetings, webcasts, phone calls and conference calls. Words such as expect, anticipate, outlook, could, will, target, project, intend, plan, believe, should, may, assume, or continue, and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. We have based our forward looking statements on our management's beliefs and assumptions based on information available to our management at the time the statements are made. We caution you that actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed, implied or forecast by our forward looking statements. Reference is made in particular to forward looking statements regarding product sales, regulatory activities, clinical trial results, reimbursement, expenses, earnings per share, liquidity and capital resources, and trends. Except as required under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not have any intention or obligation to update publicly any forward looking statements after the distribution of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, whether as a result of new information, future events, changes in assumptions or otherwise.

You are cautioned not to rely unduly on any forward looking statements. These risks and uncertainties are discussed in more detail under **Risk Factors**, **Business** and **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** in our reports and other documents on file with the SEC. You may obtain copies of these documents as described under **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. We maintain a website at www.mappharma.com. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

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The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future information filed (rather than furnished) with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act between the date of this prospectus and the termination of the offering and also between the date of the initial registration statement and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement, provided, however, that we are not incorporating any information furnished under any of Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any current report on Form 8-K:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, filed on March 5, 2010; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 11, 2010, January 28, 2010 and February 4, 2010.

You may request a copy of any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address and telephone number:

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Attn: Corporate Secretary

2400 Bayshore Parkway, Suite 200

Mountain View, CA 94043

(650) 386-3100

Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

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MAP PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Our goal is to use proprietary inhalation technologies to enhance the therapeutic benefits and commercial attractiveness of proven drugs while minimizing risk by capitalizing on their known safety, efficacy and commercialization history. We have proprietary product candidates in development that address large market opportunities, including our most advanced product candidate, LEVADEX, formerly known as MAP0004, our proprietary orally inhaled version of dihydroergotamine for the potential treatment of migraine. LEVADEX is designed to provide faster onset and longer lasting pain relief than triptans, the class of drugs most often prescribed for treating migraine.

For our LEVADEX migraine program, we initiated a Phase 3 clinical program in July 2008 pursuant to a special protocol assessment from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or the FDA. In May 2009, we announced results of the efficacy portion of our first Phase 3 clinical trial of LEVADEX. We announced that the clinical trial met its four primary endpoints, pain relief and being nausea, phonophobia and photophobia free as reported two hours after dosing. Additional endpoints showed that LEVADEX provided rapid and sustained pain relief for up to 48 hours after dosing. In January 2010, the FDA informed us that a second pivotal efficacy study is not required for our LEVADEX new drug application submission for the acute treatment of migraine. In order to obtain regulatory approval for LEVADEX, we will need to complete our remaining clinical studies, including our ongoing 12 month open-label safety extension of our Phase 3 clinical study, a pharmacokinetic study and a pharmacodynamic study.

We hold worldwide commercialization rights for LEVADEX and our goal is to market LEVADEX in the United States through our own focused sales force targeting neurologists and headache specialists. We may establish partnerships with pharmaceutical companies to market and sell to primary care physicians and specialists both inside and outside of the United States.

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc., incorporated in the state of Delaware, was originally formed as a limited liability company on July 3, 2003 and converted to a corporation on December 11, 2003. Our principal executive offices are located at 2400 Bayshore Parkway, Suite 200, Mountain View, CA 94043, and our telephone number at that address is (650) 386-3100. Our website can be found at www.mappharma.com. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

RISK FACTORS

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K that we have filed or will file, and all other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act, and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement before acquiring any of such securities. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities. Please also refer to the section above entitled Forward Looking Statements.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by us under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including repaying, redeeming or repurchasing debt, acquisitions, share repurchases, capital expenditures and working capital. When a particular series of securities is offered, the prospectus supplement relating to that series will set forth our intended use for the net proceeds we receive from the sale of

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the securities. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we may invest the proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing instruments or other investment-grade securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following summary is qualified by the more detailed information appearing in the computation table found in Exhibit 12.1 to the registration statement of which this prospectus is part and the historical financial statements, including the notes to those financial statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated (in thousands):

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1) | | | | | |

- (1) For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net loss or net income plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of debt expense and discount or premium related to indebtedness, whether expensed or capitalized. Due to our losses for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges for these periods. The amount of the coverage deficiency was \$6,879, \$70,872, \$38,717, \$25,574 and \$16,249 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be issued under one or more separate indentures to be entered into between us and a trustee to be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. This prospectus, together with its prospectus supplement, will describe all the material terms of a particular series of debt securities.

The following is a summary of the most important provisions and definitions of the indenture. For additional information, you should look at the indenture that is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement which includes the prospectus.

General

Debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the debt securities of any series.

We are not limited as to the amount of debt securities we may issue under the indenture, though such amount shall be limited by the aggregate principal amount of securities that we may sell under this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will set forth:

the offering price;

the title;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

the person who shall be entitled to receive interest, if other than the record holder on the record date;

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the date the principal will be payable;

the interest rate, if any, the date interest will accrue, the interest payment dates and the regular record dates;

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the place where payments may be made;

any mandatory or optional redemption provisions;

if applicable, the method for determining how the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be calculated by reference to an index or formula;

if other than U.S. currency, the currency or currency units in which principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable and whether we or the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of stated maturity, if other than the entire principal amount;

if the principal amount payable at stated maturity will not be determinable as of any date prior to stated maturity, the amount which will be deemed to be the principal amount;

any defeasance provisions if different from those described below under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance;

any conversion or exchange provisions;

any obligation to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to a sinking fund;

whether the debt securities will be issuable in the form of a global security;

any subordination provisions, if different from those described below under Subordinated Debt Securities;

any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default or covenants; and

any other specific terms of such debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement:

the debt securities will be registered debt securities; and

registered debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates.

Exchange and Transfer

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Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us.

We will not impose a service charge for any transfer or exchange, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charges associated with any transfer or exchange.

In the event of any potential redemption of debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of or exchange any debt security of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt security of that series selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion being redeemed in part.

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We may initially appoint the trustee as the security registrar. Any transfer agent, in addition to the security registrar initially designated by us, will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional transfer agents or change transfer agents or change the office of the transfer agent. However, we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Global Securities

The debt securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities. Each global security will:

be registered in the name of a depositary that we will identify in a prospectus supplement;

be deposited with the depositary or nominee or custodian; and

bear any required legends.

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities registered in the name of any person other than the depositary or any nominee unless:

the depositary has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or has ceased to be qualified to act as depositary;

an event of default is continuing; or

any other circumstances described in a prospectus supplement occur.

As long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, the depositary or nominee will be considered the sole owner and holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except in the above limited circumstances, owners of beneficial interests in a global security:

will not be entitled to have the debt securities registered in their names;

will not be entitled to physical delivery of certificated debt securities; and

will not be considered to be holders of those debt securities under the indentures.

Payments on a global security will be made to the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the global security. Some jurisdictions have laws that require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Institutions that have accounts with the depositary or its nominee are referred to as participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants and to persons that may hold beneficial interests through participants. The depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on and effected through records maintained by the depositary, with respect to participants' interests, or any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by participants on their behalf. Payments, transfers and

exchanges relating to beneficial interests in a global security will be subject to policies and procedures of the depository. The depository policies and procedures may change from time to time. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the depository's or any participant's records with respect to beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment and Paying Agent

The provisions of this paragraph will apply to the debt securities unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement. Payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the

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person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date. Payment on debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of a paying agent or paying agents designated by us. However, at our option, we may pay interest by mailing a check to the record holder.

We may also name any other paying agents in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional paying agents, change paying agents or change the office of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for payment on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such payment was due will be repaid to us. Thereafter, the holder may look only to us for such payment.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person, in a transaction in which we are not the surviving corporation, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any person, unless:

we are the surviving corporation or the successor assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

certain other conditions are met.

Events of Default

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the indenture will define an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities as one or more of the following events:

- (1) failure to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;
- (2) failure to pay any interest on any debt security of that series within 30 days following the due date;
- (3) default in the performance or breach of any covenant or warranty in the indenture continued for 90 days after being given the notice required in the indenture;
- (4) our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and
- (5) any other event of default specified in the prospectus supplement.

An event of default of one series of debt securities is not necessarily an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

If an event of default, other than an event of default described in clause (4) above, shall occur and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may declare the principal amount of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

If an event of default described in clause (4) above shall occur, the principal amount of all the debt securities of that series will automatically become immediately due and payable. Any payment by us on the subordinated debt securities following any such acceleration will be subject to the subordination provisions described below under Subordinated Debt Securities.

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After acceleration the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal, or other specified amount, have been cured or waived.

Other than the duty to act with the required care during an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request of the holders unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Generally, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

A holder will not have any right to institute any proceeding under the indentures, or to appoint a receiver or a trustee, or to any other remedy under the indentures, unless:

- (1) the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series;
- (2) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding; and
- (3) the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding and has not received direction inconsistent with the original request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series within 60 days after the original request.

Holders may, however, sue to enforce the payment of principal, premium or interest on any debt security on or after the due date or to enforce the right, if any, to convert any debt security without following the procedures listed in (1) through (3) above.

We will furnish the trustee an annual statement by our officers as to whether or not we are in default in the performance of the indenture and, if so, specifying all known defaults.

Modification and Waiver

Except as provided in the next two succeeding paragraphs, we and the trustee may make modifications and amendments to the indentures (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, outstanding securities) and may waive any existing default or event of default (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer for, outstanding securities) with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment.

However, neither we nor the trustee may make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each outstanding security of that series affected by the modification or amendment if such modification or amendment would:

change the stated maturity of any debt security;

reduce the principal of, premium, if any, on or interest on any debt security;

reduce the principal of an original issue discount security or any other debt security payable on acceleration of maturity;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt security;

change the currency in which any debt security is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment after the stated maturity or redemption date;

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waive any default or event of default in payment of the principal of, premium on or interest on any debt security;

waive a redemption payment or modify any of the redemption provisions of any debt security;

adversely affect the right, if any, to convert any debt security; or

change the provisions in the indenture that relate to modifying or amending the indenture.

Notwithstanding the preceding, without the consent of any holder of outstanding securities, we and the trustee may amend or supplement the indentures:

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

to provide for uncertificated securities in addition to or in place of certificated securities;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations to holders of any debt security in the case of a merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets;

to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of securities or that does not adversely affect the legal rights under the indenture of any such holder;

to comply with requirements of the Commission in order to effect or maintain the qualification of an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to conform the text of the indentures to any provision of the Description of Debt Securities to the extent that such provision in the Description of Debt Securities was intended to be a verbatim recitation of a provision of the indentures;

to provide for the issuance of additional securities in accordance with the limitations set forth in the indenture as of the date of the indenture;

to allow any guarantor to execute a supplemental indenture with respect to debt securities and to release guarantors in accordance with the terms of the indenture; or

to add additional obligors under the indenture and the securities.

The consent of holders is not necessary under the indentures to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

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We may be discharged from our obligations on the debt securities of any series that have matured or will mature or be redeemed within one year if we irrevocably deposit with the trustee enough cash to pay all principal, interest and any premium due on the stated maturity date or redemption date of the debt securities.

Each indenture contains a provision that permits us to elect:

to be discharged from all of our obligations, subject to limited exceptions, with respect to any series of debt securities then outstanding; and/or

to be released from our obligations under the following covenants and from the consequences of an event of default resulting from a breach of all covenants other than the obligation to pay principal and interest.

To make either of the above elections, we must deposit in trust with the trustee enough money to pay in full the principal, interest and any premium on the debt securities. This deposit may be made in cash and/or U.S. government obligations. As a condition to either of the above elections, we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the action.

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If any of the above events occurs, the holders of debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for the rights of holders to receive payments on the debt securities, the registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities.

Notices

Notices to holders will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders in the security register.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York.

Regarding the Trustee

The indenture limits the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims.

The trustee is permitted to engage in certain other transactions. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the debt securities of any series for which they are trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

Subordinated Debt Securities

Payment on subordinated debt securities will, to the extent provided in the indenture, be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness (except that holders of notes may receive and retain subordinated debt securities and payments made from either of the trusts described under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance). The subordinated debt securities also are effectively subordinated to all debt and other liabilities, including trade payables and lease obligations, if any, of our subsidiaries, if any.

Upon any distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of and interest on subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness. In the event of any acceleration of subordinated debt securities because of an event of default, the holders of any senior indebtedness would be entitled to payment in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to such holders of all senior indebtedness obligations before the holders of subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment or distribution (except that holders of notes may receive and retain subordinated debt securities and payments made from either of the trusts described under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance). The indenture requires us or the trustee to promptly notify holders of designated senior indebtedness if payment of subordinated debt securities is accelerated because of an event of default.

We may not make any payment on subordinated debt securities, including upon redemption at the option of the holder of any subordinated debt securities or at our option, if:

a default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, interest, rent or other obligations in respect of designated senior indebtedness occurs and is continuing beyond any applicable period of grace (called a payment default); or
a default other than a payment default on any designated senior indebtedness occurs and is continuing that permits holders of designated senior indebtedness to accelerate its maturity, and the trustee receives a notice of such default (called a payment blockage notice) from us or any other person permitted to give such notice under the indenture (called a non-payment default).

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We may resume payments and distributions on the subordinated debt securities:

in the case of a payment default, upon the date on which such default is cured, waived or ceases to exist; and

in the case of a non-payment default, the earlier of the date on which such nonpayment default is cured, waived or ceases to exist and 179 days after the date on which the payment blockage notice is received by the trustee, if the maturity of the designated senior indebtedness has not been accelerated.

No new period of payment blockage may be commenced pursuant to a payment blockage notice unless 365 days have elapsed since the initial effectiveness of the immediately prior payment blockage notice and all scheduled payments of principal, any premium and interest, including any liquidated damages, on the notes that have come due have been paid in full in cash. No non-payment default that existed or was continuing on the date of delivery of any payment blockage notice shall be the basis for any later payment blockage notice unless the non-payment default is based upon facts or events arising after the date of delivery of such payment blockage notice.

If the trustee or any holder of the notes receives any payment or distribution of our assets in contravention of the subordination provisions on the subordinated debt securities before all senior indebtedness is paid in full in cash, property or securities, including by way of set-off, or other payment satisfactory to holders of senior indebtedness, then such payment or distribution will be held in trust for the benefit of holders of senior indebtedness or their representatives to the extent necessary to make payment in full of all unpaid senior indebtedness in cash or payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness (except that holders of notes may receive and retain subordinated debt securities and payments made from either of the trusts described under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance).

In the event of our bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of the subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors (including our trade creditors). This subordination will not prevent the occurrence of any event of default under the indenture.

We are not prohibited from incurring debt, including senior indebtedness, under the indenture. We may from time to time incur additional debt, including senior indebtedness.

We are obligated to pay reasonable compensation to the trustee and to indemnify the trustee against certain losses, liabilities or expenses incurred by the trustee in connection with its duties relating to the subordinated debt securities. The trustee's claims for these payments will generally be senior to those of noteholders in respect of all funds collected or held by the trustee.

Certain Definitions

Senior indebtedness means the principal, premium, if any, interest, including any interest accruing after bankruptcy, and rent or termination payment on or other amounts due on our current or future indebtedness, whether created, incurred, assumed, guaranteed or in effect guaranteed by us, including any deferrals, renewals, extensions, refundings, amendments, modifications or supplements to the above. However, senior indebtedness does not include:

indebtedness that expressly provides that it shall not be senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities or expressly provides that it is on the same basis or junior to the subordinated debt securities;

our indebtedness to any of our majority-owned subsidiaries, if any; and

the subordinated debt securities.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

*The following summary of the terms of our common stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, or certificate of incorporation, and Amended and Restated Bylaws, or bylaws, copies of which are on file with the Commission as exhibits to registration statements previously filed by us. See *Where You Can Find More Information*.*

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, \$0.01 par value per share. The only equity securities currently outstanding are shares of common stock.

Common Stock

As of February 28, 2010, we had 26,302,226 shares of common stock outstanding. As of February 28, 2010, we had 4,309,516 shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options and restricted stock units granted under our 2005 Equity Incentive Plan and our 2007 Equity Award Plan. As of February 28, 2010, we had warrants to purchase an aggregate of 51,571 shares of our common stock outstanding.

Voting Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. Holders of our common stock are not entitled to cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the shares voted can elect all of the directors then standing for election.

Dividends

Subject to limitations under Delaware law and preferences that may apply to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends or other distributions, if any, as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for them.

Liquidation

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock.

Rights and Preferences

Our common stock has no preemptive, conversion or other rights to subscribe for additional securities. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Fully Paid and Non-Assessable

All outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

As of February 28, 2010, we had no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

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Our board of directors is authorized, pursuant to the Delaware General Corporation Law, to fix or alter from time to time the designation, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each such series and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions of any wholly unissued series of Preferred Stock, and to establish from time to time the number of shares constituting any such series or any of them; and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any series subsequent to the issuance of shares of that series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding. In case the number of shares of any series shall be decreased in accordance with the foregoing sentence, the shares constituting such decrease shall resume the status that they had prior to the adoption of the resolution originally fixing the number of shares of such series.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. The transfer agent and registrar for any series or class of preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Nasdaq Global Market

Our common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol MAPP.

Delaware Takeover Statute

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporate Law (DGCL). This statute regulating corporate takeovers prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to the date of the transaction, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding (a) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and (b) shares owned by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition involving the interested stockholder of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation;

subject to exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

subject to exceptions, any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of any class or series of stock or convertible security owned by the interested stockholder; or

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the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by the entity or person.

Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws Provisions

Provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or discourage a third party from attempting to acquire, control of our company by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions may also make the removal of incumbent officers and directors more difficult. These provisions are intended to discourage certain types of coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids and to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of MAP Pharmaceuticals to first negotiate with us. These provisions could also limit the price that investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock. These provisions may make it more difficult for stockholders to take specific corporate actions and could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in our control. The amendment of any of these anti-takeover provisions would require approval by holders of at least 66 ²/₃% of our outstanding common stock entitled to vote.

In particular, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide for the following:

Staggered Board of Directors

Our board of directors is divided into three classes of the same or nearly the same number of directors, each serving staggered three-year terms, which means that only one class of directors may be elected at each annual meeting or special meeting in lieu of such annual meeting. These provisions may make the removal of incumbent directors difficult and may discourage third parties from attempting to circumvent the anti-takeover effects of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws by removing our incumbent directors.

Removal of Directors, Vacancies

Directors may be removed without cause; however, removal without cause requires the affirmative vote of the stockholders holding at least 66 ²/₃% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock entitled to vote at an election of directors. Vacancies on our board of directors may be filled only by our board of directors unless the board of directors determines by resolution that any such vacancies shall be filled by the stockholders.

No Cumulative Voting

Delaware law provides that stockholders are not entitled to the right to cumulative votes in the election of directors unless our certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Our certificate of incorporation does not expressly provide for cumulative voting.

No Written Consent of Stockholders

Any action to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting and may not be effected by written consent.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the board of directors, chairperson of the board of directors, chief executive officer or president (in the absence of a chief executive officer).

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Advance Notice Requirement

Stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of our stockholders must comply with advance notice procedures. These advance notice procedures require timely notice and apply in several situations, including stockholder proposals relating to the nominations of persons for election to the board of directors. Generally, to be timely, notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which we first mailed our proxy statement to stockholders in connection with the previous year's annual meeting of stockholders.

Amendment

The approval of not less than 66 ²/₃% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock entitled to vote is required to amend the provisions of our bylaws by stockholder action, or to amend the provisions of our certificate of incorporation that are described in this section or that are described under "Limitation of Liability and Indemnification of Executive Officers and Directors" below. These provisions will make it more difficult to circumvent the anti-takeover provisions of our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws.

Issuance of Designated Preferred Stock

Our board of directors is authorized to issue, without further action by the stockholders, up to 5,000,000 shares of designated preferred stock with rights and preferences, including voting rights, designated from time to time by the board of directors. The existence of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock enables our board of directors to render more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification of Executive Officers and Directors

Delaware law authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties. Our certificate of incorporation includes a provision that eliminates, to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, the personal liability of a director to our company or our stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director. Subject to certain limitations, our bylaws provide that we must indemnify our directors and executive officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law.

We have entered, and intend to continue to enter, into separate indemnification agreements with each of our directors and officers which may be broader than the specific indemnification provisions contained in the DGCL. These indemnification agreements may require us, among other things, to indemnify our directors, officers, and some employees for all reasonable expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any action or proceeding brought against them by reason of the fact that they are or were our agents.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions in our certificate of incorporation, bylaws, and indemnification agreements may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit our stockholders and us. In addition, your investment may be adversely affected to the extent we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification provisions.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to our directors, officers and controlling persons pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, we have been advised that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is, therefore, unenforceable.

There is currently no pending material litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification is sought.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms of the warrants that we may offer and sell by this prospectus. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms and conditions for each warrant. The accompanying prospectus supplement may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the warrants as described in this prospectus.

General

We may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any securities and may be attached to or separate from those securities. The warrants will be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all of which will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants we are offering. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

Debt Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities. As explained below, each debt warrant will entitle its holder to purchase debt securities at an exercise price set forth in, or to be determinable as set forth in, the related prospectus supplement. Debt warrants may be issued separately or together with debt securities.

The debt warrants are to be issued under debt warrant agreements to be entered into between us, and one or more banks or trust companies, as debt warrant agent, as will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the debt warrants being offered by the prospectus supplement and this prospectus.

The particular terms of each issue of debt warrants, the debt warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing debt warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including, as applicable:

the title of the debt warrants;

the initial offering price;

the title, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;

the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

the title and terms of any related debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued and the number of the debt warrants issued with each debt security;

the date, if any, on and after which the debt warrants and the related debt securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price at which that principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise of each debt warrant;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum number of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

if applicable, a discussion of United States federal income tax, accounting or other considerations applicable to the debt warrants;

whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;

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anti-dilution provisions of the debt warrants, if any;

redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the debt warrants;

any additional terms of the debt warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the debt warrants; and

the exercise price.

Debt warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and, if in registered form, may be presented for registration of transfer, and debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the debt warrant agent or any other office indicated in the related prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not be entitled to payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants, or to enforce any of the covenants in the indenture.

Equity Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our equity securities, such as our preferred stock or common stock. As explained below, each equity warrant will entitle its holder to purchase equity securities at an exercise price set forth in, or to be determinable as set forth in, the related prospectus supplement. Equity warrants may be issued separately or together with equity securities.

The equity warrants are to be issued under equity warrant agreements to be entered into between us and one or more banks or trust companies, as equity warrant agent, as will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the equity warrants being offered by the prospectus supplement and this prospectus.

The particular terms of each issue of equity warrants, the equity warrant agreement relating to the equity warrants and the equity warrant certificates representing equity warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including, as applicable:

the title of the equity warrants;

the initial offering price;

the aggregate number of equity warrants and the aggregate number of shares of the equity security purchasable upon exercise of the equity warrants;

the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the equity securities with which the equity warrants are issued, and the number of equity warrants issued with each equity security;

the date, if any, on and after which the equity warrants and the related equity security will be separately transferable;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum number of the equity warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

the date on which the right to exercise the equity warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

if applicable, a discussion of United States federal income tax, accounting or other considerations applicable to the equity warrants;

anti-dilution provisions of the equity warrants, if any;

redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the equity warrants;

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any additional terms of the equity warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the equity warrants; and

the exercise price.

Holders of equity warrants will not be entitled, solely by virtue of being holders, to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice as shareholders with respect to any meeting of shareholders for the election of directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as a holder of the equity securities purchasable upon exercise of the equity warrants.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the offered securities from time to time:

through agents;

through underwriters or dealers;

directly to one or more purchasers; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We may solicit direct offers to purchase the securities being offered by this prospectus. We may also designate agents to solicit offers to purchase the securities from time to time. We will name in a prospectus supplement any agent involved in the offer or sale of our securities.

If we utilize a dealer in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, we will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

If we utilize an underwriter in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, we will execute an underwriting agreement with the underwriter at the time of sale and we will provide the name of any underwriter in the prospectus supplement that the underwriter will use to make resales of the securities to the public. In connection with the sale of the securities, we, or the purchasers of securities for whom the underwriter may act as agent, may compensate the underwriter in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions. The underwriter may sell the securities to or through dealers, and the underwriter may compensate those dealers in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions.

We will provide in the applicable prospectus supplement any compensation we pay to underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers. Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. We may enter into agreements to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments they may be required to make in respect thereof.

The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involves the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the

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price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

The underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with us, or perform services for us, in the ordinary course of business.

We will identify the specific plan of distribution in a prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park, California, will pass upon certain legal matters relating to the issuance and sale of the securities on behalf of MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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3,880,598 Shares

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

BofA Merrill Lynch

August 1, 2012