

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**ACORDA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

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

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**ACORDA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532**

April 29, 2011

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., which will be held at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, commencing at 10:00 a.m., local time, on June 16, 2011.

We are proceeding under the Securities and Exchange Commission rule that allows us to furnish proxy materials to our stockholders over the Internet, although we may choose to send a full set of proxy materials to some of our stockholders. We believe that this electronic proxy process expedites stockholders' receipt of proxy materials and lowers the costs and reduces the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting.

On or about May 6, 2011 we will commence sending a Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability to our stockholders along with instructions on how to access our 2011 Proxy Statement and Annual Report and authorize a proxy to vote your shares online. The Annual Report is not to be regarded as proxy solicitation material.

Matters to be considered and voted on at the 2011 Annual Meeting are set forth in the Proxy Statement. You are encouraged to carefully review the Proxy Statement and attend the Annual Meeting in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we hope you will vote as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting in person, please authorize a proxy over the Internet or by telephone as described in the enclosed materials so that your shares will be represented at the Annual Meeting. If you receive a paper copy of the proxy card by mail, you may sign, date and mail the proxy card in the envelope provided. If you attend the Annual Meeting and wish to change your proxy vote, you may do so by voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

We look forward to meeting you on June 16, 2011 and discussing with you the business of our company.

Sincerely,

Ron Cohen, M.D.  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**ACORDA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

- Time and Date:**..... 10:00 a.m., local time, on June 16, 2011
- Place:**..... Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591
- Items of Business:** ..... (1) To elect three Class III directors for a term expiring on the date of our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or at such time as their successors have been duly elected and qualified.
- (2) To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.
- (3) An advisory (non-binding) vote on executive compensation.
- (4) An advisory (non-binding) vote on the frequency of executive compensation advisory votes.
- (5) To consider such other business as may properly come before the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “2011 Annual Meeting”).
- Adjournments and Postponements:** ..... Any action on the items of business described above may be considered at the 2011 Annual Meeting at the time and on the date specified above or at any time and date to which the 2011 Annual Meeting may be properly adjourned or postponed.
- Record Date:** ..... You are entitled to vote only if you were a stockholder of Acorda Therapeutics as of the close of business on April 19, 2011.
- Meeting Admission:** ..... You are entitled to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting only if you were an Acorda Therapeutics stockholder as of the close of business on the record date or hold a valid proxy for the 2011 Annual Meeting. You should be prepared to present photo identification for admittance. If you are not a stockholder of record but hold shares through a broker or nominee (i.e., in street name), you should provide proof of beneficial ownership as of the record date, such as your most recent account statement dated prior to April 19, 2011, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, trustee or nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership. If, upon request, you do not provide photo identification or comply with the other procedures outlined above, you will not be admitted to the 2011 Annual Meeting.
- Voting:** ..... **Your vote is very important. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting, we encourage you to read this Proxy Statement and submit your proxy or voting instructions as soon as possible. If you received your proxy materials electronically, you may submit your proxy over the internet or by telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability. If you receive your proxy materials by mail, you may submit your proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning your proxy card or voting instructions card in the pre-addressed envelope provided. For specific instructions on how to vote, please refer to the “Questions and Answers” section beginning on page 1 of the Proxy Statement.**

By the Order of the Board of Directors

Jane Wasman  
*Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary*

April 29, 2011

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**ACORDA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
**PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 16, 2011**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT**  
**THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**Q:** *Why am I receiving these materials?*

**A:** The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (which may be referred to in this proxy statement as “we,” “us,” “our,” the “Company” or “Acorda Therapeutics”), is providing these proxy materials to you in connection with our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “2011 Annual Meeting”), which will take place on June 16, 2011. As a stockholder on the Record Date (as defined below), you are invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting and are entitled and requested to vote on the items of business described in this proxy statement (the “Proxy Statement”).

**Q:** *How do I request a paper copy of this Proxy Statement if I have not received one?*

**A:** As permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), we are delivering our Proxy Statement and Annual Report via the Internet, although we may choose to send a full set of proxy materials to some of our stockholders. The Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability contains instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and Annual Report and authorize a proxy to vote your shares online or by telephone. If you wish to request a printed or e-mail copy of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report, you should follow the instructions included in the Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability.

**Q:** *What information is contained in this Proxy Statement?*

**A:** The information included in this Proxy Statement relates to the proposals to be voted on at the 2011 Annual Meeting, the voting process, the compensation of directors and the most highly paid executive officers, beneficial ownership of the Company’s common stock, and certain other required information.

**Q:** *What items of business will be voted on at the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** The items of business scheduled to be voted on at the 2011 Annual Meeting are:

- The election of three Class III directors for a term expiring on the date of our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or at such time as their successors have been duly elected and qualified.
- The ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011 (the “2011 Fiscal Year”).
- An advisory (non-binding) vote on executive compensation, referred to as a “say-on-pay” vote.
- An advisory (non-binding) vote on the frequency of future say-on-pay votes.

We will also consider other business that properly comes before the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**Q:** *How does the Board recommend that I vote?*

**A:** Our Board recommends that you:

- Vote your shares “FOR” the nominees to the Board.
- Vote your shares “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the 2011 Fiscal Year.
- Vote your shares “FOR” the approval of our executive compensation on the advisory say-on-pay vote.

- Vote your shares to select the option of every “1 YEAR” on the advisory vote on the frequency of future say-on-pay votes.

**Q:** *Who is entitled to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 19, 2011 are entitled to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting. We refer to this date as our “Record Date.”

You may vote all shares of Acorda Therapeutics common stock you own as of the Record Date, including (1) shares that are held directly in your name as the stockholder of record, and (2) shares held for you as the beneficial owner through a broker, trustee or other nominee, such as a bank.

On the Record Date, we had 39,394,760 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

**Q:** *What are the voting rights of the Company’s holders of common stock?*

**A:** Each outstanding share of the Company’s common stock owned as of the Record Date will be entitled to one vote on each matter considered at the meeting.

**Q:** *What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and holding shares as a beneficial owner?*

**A:** Most of our stockholders hold their shares through a broker or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. We have summarized below some of the distinctions between being a stockholder of record and being a beneficial owner:

*Stockholder of Record*

If your shares are registered directly in your name, or as a joint holder, with our transfer agent, Registrar and Transfer Company, you are considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record, and either written proxy materials or a Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability was sent to you directly by Acorda Therapeutics. As a stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to us or to vote in person at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

*Beneficial Owner*

If your shares are held in a brokerage account or by another nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and the Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability, together with a voting instruction card, are being forwarded to you by your broker or other nominee. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, trustee or nominee how to vote and are also invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Since a beneficial owner is not the stockholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the meeting unless you obtain a “legal proxy” from the broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Your broker, trustee or nominee has enclosed or has previously provided voting instructions for you to use in directing the broker, trustee or nominee how to vote your shares.

**Q:** *How can I attend the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** You are entitled to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting only if you were a stockholder of record of our common stock as of the close of business on the Record Date or you hold a valid proxy for the 2011 Annual Meeting. You should be prepared to present photo identification for admittance. A list of stockholders eligible to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting will be available for inspection at the 2011 Annual Meeting and for a period of ten days prior to the 2011 Annual Meeting, during regular business hours, at our principal executive office, which is located at 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532.

If you are not a stockholder of record but hold shares through a broker or nominee (i.e., in street name), you should provide proof of beneficial ownership on the Record Date, such as your most recent account statement dated prior to April 19, 2011, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, trustee or nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership. If, upon request, you do not provide photo identification or comply with the other procedures outlined above, you will not be admitted to the 2011 Annual Meeting.

The 2011 Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., local time. Check-in will begin at 9:30 a.m., local time, and you should allow ample time for the check-in procedures.

Even if you plan to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions as described above so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**Q: *How can I vote?***

**A:** Whether you hold shares directly as a stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**Internet:** By accessing the Internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) and following the instructions on the proxy card.

**Telephone:** By calling toll-free 1 (800) 690-6903 and following the instructions on the proxy card.

**Mail:** If you receive your proxy materials by mail, by signing, dating, and mailing the enclosed proxy card.

If you authorize a proxy to vote your shares over the Internet, you should **not** return your proxy card. The Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability is **not** a proxy card or ballot.

**Q: *How are my votes cast when I return a proxy card?***

**A:** When you properly authorize a proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by signing a written proxy, you appoint Dr. Ron Cohen, our President and Chief Executive Officer, and Jane Wasman, our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, as your representatives at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Either Dr. Cohen or Ms. Wasman will vote your shares at the 2011 Annual Meeting as you have instructed them in the proxy. Dr. Cohen and Ms. Wasman are also entitled to appoint substitutes to act on their behalf.

**Q: *Can I change my vote?***

**A:** Yes. You may change your vote at any time prior to the vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting. If you are the stockholder of record, you may change your vote by granting a properly authorized new proxy with a later date by mail, telephone or over the Internet (which automatically revokes the earlier proxy), by providing a written notice of revocation to our Corporate Secretary prior to your shares being voted, or by attending the 2011 Annual Meeting and voting in person. For your written notice of revocation to be effective, it must be received by our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices no later than June 15, 2011. Attendance at the 2011 Annual Meeting will not cause your previously granted proxy to be revoked unless you specifically so request or you cast a new vote. For shares you hold beneficially in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, trustee or nominee, or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, trustee or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the 2011 Annual Meeting and voting in person.

**Q: *Who can help answer my questions?***

**A:** If you have any questions about the 2011 Annual Meeting or how to vote or revoke your proxy, you should contact our investor relations department at (914) 347-4300. You may also contact them if you need additional copies of this Proxy Statement or voting materials.

**Q: *Is my vote confidential?***

**A:** Proxies, ballots and voting instructions and tabulations that identify individual stockholders will be tabulated by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge") and will be handled in a manner that protects your voting privacy. Your vote will not be disclosed either within Acorda Therapeutics or to third parties, except as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements and to allow for the tabulation of votes and certification of the vote.

**Q: *How many shares must be present or represented to conduct business at the 2011 Annual Meeting?***

**A:** The quorum requirement for holding the 2011 Annual Meeting and transacting business is that holders of a majority of shares of Acorda Therapeutics' common stock entitled to vote must be present in person or represented by proxy



at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Both abstentions and broker non-votes, which are explained below under “*what is a broker non vote?*”, are counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

**Q: *What if a quorum is not present at the 2011 Annual Meeting?***

**A:** If a quorum is not present or represented at the 2011 Annual Meeting, the stockholders present or represented at the meeting and entitled to vote, although less than a quorum, or if no stockholder is present, any officer entitled to preside or to act as secretary of such meeting, may adjourn the 2011 Annual Meeting until a quorum is present or represented. The time and place of the adjourned meeting will be announced at the time the adjournment is taken and no other notice will be given, unless the adjournment is for more than 30 days from the date of the original meeting or a new record date is set for the adjourned meeting.

**Q: *What vote is required to approve each of the proposals and how are votes counted?***

**A:** In the election of the directors, you may vote “FOR ALL” nominees, you may “WITHHOLD ALL” authority to vote for the nominees or you may vote “FOR ALL EXCEPT” which allows you to withhold the authority to vote with respect to a particular nominee. A properly executed proxy marked “FOR ALL EXCEPT” will not be voted with respect to the nominee that you indicate, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. The affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting is required to elect the three nominees to the Board. In the election of the directors, the nominees receiving the highest number of “FOR” votes at the 2011 Annual Meeting will be elected. Accordingly, abstentions and broker-non-votes will not affect on the outcome of this proposal.

For the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for the 2011 Fiscal Year, and for the advisory say-on-pay vote to approve our executive compensation, you may vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” these proposals or you may “ABSTAIN” from the vote. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy and voting at the 2011 Annual Meeting is required for approval of these matters. Because abstentions and broker-non-votes are not voted affirmatively or negatively, they will have no effect on the outcome of these proposals.

For the advisory vote on the frequency of future say-on-pay votes, you may vote for holding such votes every “1 YEAR,” “2 YEARS,” or “3 YEARS,” or you may “ABSTAIN” from the vote. The frequency which receives the most votes cast will be considered the preference of the Company’s stockholders. The Board will consider the outcome of this advisory vote, particularly the frequency of voting that receives the most stockholder votes, as described below in this Proxy Statement under the heading “Proposal FOUR – Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on the Frequency of Executive Compensation Advisory Votes.” Abstentions and broker-non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

If you provide specific instructions with regard to certain items, your shares will be voted as you instruct on such items. If no instructions are specified, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board as described above under “*How does the Board recommend that I vote?*” with respect to the four proposals described in this Proxy Statement and in the discretion of the proxy holders on any other matters that properly come before the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**Q: *What is a broker non-vote?***

**A:** If you hold shares beneficially in street name and do not provide your broker with voting instructions, your shares may constitute “broker non-votes.” Generally, broker non-votes occur on a matter when a broker is not permitted to vote on that matter without instructions from the beneficial owner and such instructions are not given. Under the rules that govern brokers, brokers have the discretion to vote on routine matters, but not on non-routine matters. The ratification of the appointment of the Company’s independent auditors is a matter considered routine under applicable rules, and your broker is allowed to vote your shares on your behalf in their discretion without instructions from you. Non-routine matters include the election of directors, the advisory say-on-pay vote, and the advisory vote regarding the frequency of future say-on-pay votes. Accordingly, if you hold your shares in street name and you want your shares voted on these matters, it is critical that you provide voting instructions to your broker. We encourage you to provide voting instructions to the organization that holds your shares in order to minimize the number of broker non-votes.

In tabulating the voting result for any particular proposal, shares that constitute broker non-votes are not considered entitled to vote on that proposal and they are also not considered affirmative or negative votes on any proposal. Thus, broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of any matter being voted on at the 2011 Annual Meeting, assuming that a quorum is obtained.

**Q:** *What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?*

**A:** If a nominee is unable to stand for election, the Board may either reduce the number of directors to be elected or substitute a nominee. If a substitute nominee is selected, the proxy holders, Dr. Cohen and Ms. Wasman, will vote your shares for the substitute nominee, unless you have withheld authority.

**Q:** *What happens if additional matters are presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** Other than the four items of business described in this Proxy Statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the 2011 Annual Meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxyholders, Dr. Cohen and Ms. Wasman, will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**Q:** *Who will serve as inspector of elections?*

**A:** Broadridge will tabulate votes and a representative of Broadridge will act as inspector of elections.

**Q:** *What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability and/or set of written proxy materials?*

**A:** If you receive more than one Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability, or more than one set of written proxy materials, it means your shares are not all registered in the same way (for example, some are registered in your name and others are registered jointly with a spouse) and are in more than one account. In order to ensure that you vote all of the shares that you are entitled to vote, you should authorize a proxy to vote all proxy cards to which you are provided access.

**Q:** *Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** Acorda Therapeutics is making this solicitation and will pay the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing and distributing these proxy materials and soliciting votes. In addition to the mailing of these proxy materials, the solicitation of proxies or votes may be made in person, by telephone or by electronic communication by our directors, officers and employees. These individuals will not receive any additional compensation for such solicitation activities. Upon request, we will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for forwarding proxy materials to stockholders.

**Q:** *Where can I find the voting results of the 2011 Annual Meeting?*

**A:** We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the 2011 Annual Meeting and after the meeting we will publish final results in a Current Report on Form 8-K.

**Q:** *What if I have questions for Acorda Therapeutics' transfer agent?*

**A:** Please contact our transfer agent, at the phone number or address listed below, if you are a registered stockholder and have questions concerning stock certificates, transfers or ownership or other matters pertaining to your stock account.

Registrar and Transfer Company  
10 Commerce Drive  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
Telephone: (908) 497-2300

**Q:** *What is the deadline for submitting proposals for inclusion in Acorda Therapeutics' proxy statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders?*

**A:** Pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, stockholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement relating to, and for consideration at, the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, by submitting their proposals to us no later than the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to the anniversary of the date of these proxy materials, December 31, 2011. Any proposal so submitted must comply with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For more information on how to submit proposals, see the section titled "Requirements, Including Deadlines, for Submission of Proxy Proposals, Nomination of Directors and Other Business of Stockholders" at the end of this Proxy Statement. You may contact the Corporate Secretary of Acorda Therapeutics, at our principal executive office, for a copy of the relevant provisions of our Amended and Restated Bylaws regarding the requirements for making stockholder proposals.

**Q:** *What is the deadline for submitting proposals to be presented on the floor of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and not in Acorda Therapeutics' proxy statement or to nominate individuals to serve as directors?*

**A:** Under our Amended and Restated Bylaws, a stockholder may nominate a director or submit a proposal for consideration at an annual meeting by giving timely notice to Acorda Therapeutics. To be timely, that notice must contain information specified in our Amended and Restated Bylaws and be received by us at our principal executive office at 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532, not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. If, however, the date of the annual meeting is advanced by more than 20 days, or delayed by more than 60 days, from the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting, a stockholder's notice must be received not earlier than the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to such annual meeting and the tenth day following the day on which notice of the date of such annual meeting was mailed or public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting was made. Therefore, we must receive your nomination or proposal on or after February 17, 2012 and prior to March 18, 2012, unless the date of the 2012 Annual Meeting is advanced by more than 20 days, or delayed by more than 60 days from the anniversary date of the 2011 Annual Meeting.

For more information on how to submit proposals, see the section titled "Requirements, Including Deadlines, for Submission of Proxy Proposals, Nomination of Directors and Other Business of Stockholders" at the end of this Proxy Statement. You may contact the Corporate Secretary of Acorda Therapeutics, at our principal executive office, for a copy of the relevant provisions of our Amended and Restated Bylaws regarding the requirements for making stockholder proposals and nominating director candidates.

### **PROPOSAL ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our Board currently consists of eight members and is divided into three classes. Each class holds office for a term of three years. These classes currently consist of authorized members in each of Classes I, II and III, whose terms expire at the 2012, 2013 and 2011 Annual Meetings, respectively.

This year's nominees for director, Ron Cohen, M.D., Lorin J. Randall, and Steven M. Rauscher, have been nominated by the Board for a term of three years expiring on the date of our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or at such time as their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. Dr. Cohen, Mr. Randall, and Mr. Rauscher are currently directors of the Company. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named above.

If any of those candidates should become unavailable for election, the shares represented by the proxies solicited for the 2011 Annual Meeting will be voted for such substitute nominee as may be determined by the Board. The Board has no reason to expect that Dr. Cohen, Mr. Randall, and Mr. Rauscher will not be a candidate for director at the 2011 Annual Meeting. In voting for directors, for each share of common stock held as of the Record Date, stockholders are entitled to cast one vote in favor of the candidate, or to withhold authority from voting for the candidate. Unless a stockholder requests that voting of the proxy be withheld for the nominee for director by so directing on the proxy card, the shares represented by the accompanying proxy will be voted "FOR" the election of Dr. Cohen, Mr. Randall, and Mr. Rauscher.

The election of a director requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of common stock present or represented and entitled to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Certain information concerning the nominees and those directors whose terms of office will continue following the 2011 Annual Meeting is set forth below.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR PROPOSAL ONE.**

The following table sets forth information as of April 19, 2011 with respect to our directors and nominees for election at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>
Ron Cohen, M.D.....	55	President, Chief Executive Officer, Director and Nominee
Barry Greene(1).....	47	Director
Peder K. Jensen, M.D. ....	56	Director
John P. Kelley(3)(4).....	57	Director
Sandra Panem, Ph.D.(3)(4).....	64	Director
Lorin J. Randall(2)(3)(4).....	67	Director and Nominee
Steven M. Rauscher(1)(2).....	57	Director and Nominee
Ian Smith(2).....	45	Director

- (1) Member of our Compliance Committee.
- (2) Member of our Audit Committee.
- (3) Member of our Compensation Committee.
- (4) Member of our Nominations and Governance Committee.

**Nominees Standing for Election for the Term Expiring 2014—Class III Directors**

*Ron Cohen, M.D.*, has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since he founded the Company in 1995. Dr. Cohen previously was a principal in the startup of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc., a biotechnology company engaged in the growth of human organ tissues for transplantation uses. Dr. Cohen received his B.A. degree with honors in Psychology from Princeton University, and his M.D. from the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia Medical Center, and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Cohen previously was a Director and Chairman of the New York Biotechnology Association. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee and as Chairman of the Emerging Company Section of the board of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). He also serves as a member of the Columbia-Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council and was awarded Columbia University’s Alumni Medal for Distinguished Service. Dr. Cohen was named NeuroInvestment’s CEO of the Year and was recognized by PharmaVoice Magazine as one of the 100 Most Inspirational People in the Biopharmaceutical Industry. Dr. Cohen is a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the New York Metropolitan Region, and an inductee into the National Spinal Cord Injury Association’s “Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame.” In 2010, Dr. Cohen was recognized by the New York Biotechnology Association as the NYBA "The Cure Starts Here" Business Leader of the Year. Dr. Cohen is the principal strategist in the Company’s commitment to being a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company that is a leading innovator in neurology. His extensive knowledge of the Company and its history provides our Board with valuable perspectives to advance Acorda Therapeutics’ business and the interests of our stockholders.

*Lorin J. Randall* has been a member of our Board since January 2006. Mr. Randall, a financial consultant, was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Eximias Pharmaceutical Corporation, a development-stage drug development company, from 2004 to 2006. From 2002 to 2004, Mr. Randall served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of i-STAT Corporation, a publicly-traded manufacturer of medical diagnostic devices that was acquired by Abbott Laboratories in 2004. From 1995 to 2001, Mr. Randall was Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of CFM Technologies, Inc. a publicly-traded manufacturer of semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Mr. Randall previously served on the board of Quad Systems Corporation, a publicly-traded manufacturer of electronics manufacturing equipment where he served as Chairman of the Audit Committee. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Athersys, Inc., Nanosphere, Inc., Tengion Inc. and MotoLogic, Inc. In addition, within the last five years, he previously served on the board of directors of Opexa Therapeutics, Inc. Mr. Randall received a B.S. in accounting from The Pennsylvania State University

and an M.B.A. from Northeastern University. As a former Chief Financial Officer of a number of publicly-traded companies, Mr. Randall possesses financial acumen acquired through working experience, including an understanding of financial matters and the preparation and analysis of financial statements. The Board has determined that Mr. Randall qualifies as an audit committee financial expert. Based on his public company and broad corporate experience, Mr. Randall serves as Chair of our Compensation Committee.

*Steven M. Rauscher* has served on our Board since March 2005. He is Founder & Principal of BioPharm Physicians, LLC, a company formed in 2010 to provide consulting services to physicians and companies in the biopharmaceutical industry. Previously, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Oscient Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a commercial stage biopharmaceutical company, from 2000 to 2009. He joined Oscient in 2000 having served as a member of the Board of Directors since 1993. Previously, Mr. Rauscher was Chief Executive Officer of AmericasDoctor, a company providing clinical research services to the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to AmericasDoctor, he held a number of leadership positions at Abbott Laboratories, including Vice President of Corporate Licensing, Vice President of Business Development, International Division and Vice President of Sales, U.S. Pharmaceuticals. Within the last five years, Mr. Rauscher previously served on the board of directors of Oscient Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Mr. Rauscher received a B.S. from Indiana University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. Having served as a Chief Executive Officer of a commercial stage biopharmaceutical company as well as in other executive roles in a variety of companies in our industry, Mr. Rauscher brings to our Board leadership skills and expertise in managing the challenges of a biopharmaceutical company.

#### **Directors Whose Terms Expire in 2012—Class I Directors**

*Barry Greene* has been a member of our Board since January 2007. Mr. Greene currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Mr. Greene joined Alnylam in September 2003, bringing over 15 years of experience in the healthcare industries and in consulting. Prior to Alnylam, he was General Manager of Oncology at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he led the company's global strategy and execution for its oncology business including strategic business direction and execution, culminating in the successful approval and launch of VELCADE (bortezomib) in mid-2003. Prior to joining Millennium in February 2001, Mr. Greene served as Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer for Mediconsult.com. Prior to Mediconsult.com, Mr. Greene's past experiences included being Vice President of Marketing and Customer Services for AstraZeneca (formerly AstraMerck); Vice President Strategic Integration with responsibility for the AstraZeneca North American post-merger integration; and, partner of Andersen Consulting, responsible for the pharmaceutical/biotechnology marketing and sales practice. Mr. Greene currently is a member of the board of directors of Regulus Therapeutics, LLC. Mr. Greene received his B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and serves as a Senior Scholar at Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. Mr. Greene brings to our Board extensive experience in the healthcare industry as well as practical experience guiding new drugs through the commercialization process. Based on his management and operational experience and expertise in the pharmaceutical industry, Mr. Greene serves as the Chair of our Compliance Committee and oversees the non-financial governance and risk management processes of the Company.

*Ian Smith* has been a member of our Board since February 2007. Mr. Smith currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a position he has held since February 2006. From November 2003 to February 2006, he was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and from October 2001 to November 2003, he served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, at Vertex. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Smith served as a partner in the Life Science and Technology Practice Group of Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Smith initially joined Ernst & Young's U.K. firm in 1987, and then joined its Boston office in 1995. Mr. Smith currently is a member of the boards of directors of Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and TolerRx Inc. In addition, within the last five years, he previously served on the boards of directors of Predix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Epix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Mr. Smith holds a B.A. in accounting and finance from Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K., is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is a Chartered Accountant of England and Wales. Mr. Smith has extensive global financial and accounting experience and possesses an understanding of financial matters and the preparation and analysis of financial statements. The Board has determined that Mr. Smith qualifies as an audit committee financial expert. Based on his extensive financial experience, Mr. Smith serves as Chair of our Audit Committee.

#### **Directors Whose Terms Expire in 2013—Class II Directors**

*Peder K. Jensen, M.D.*, has been a member of our Board of Directors since April 19, 2011. Dr. Jensen was elected to the Board of Directors to replace Wise Young, Ph.D., M.D., who resigned from the Board effective April 19, 2011. Dr. Jensen currently is president of Bay Way Consultants, LLC, a consulting firm founded by Dr. Jensen in 2010 that advises pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Dr. Jensen's experience includes over 20 years with Schering-Plough

Corporation, the global pharmaceutical company, and then Merck & Co., Inc. after the merger of Schering-Plough with Merck in 2009. During his tenure at Schering-Plough/Merck, Dr. Jensen held a number of global senior research and development positions, including most recently Corporate Senior Vice President, and General Manager, R&D for Japan and Asia/Pacific from 2006 to 2010. Dr. Jensen has more than 24 years of global drug development experience across a variety of therapeutic areas, including neurology, cardiovascular, anti-infective, oncology and immunology. Over the course of his career, Dr. Jensen has been responsible for more than 40 new drug approvals in the U.S., Europe and Japan. Dr. Jensen received his M.D. from the University of Copenhagen. Dr. Jensen's extensive experience successfully developing pharmaceutical products in neurology and other disease areas makes him well positioned to provide advice and guidance to Acorda on its research and development efforts.

*John P. Kelley* has been a member of our Board of Directors since December 2008. Mr. Kelley was the President and Chief Operating Officer of The Medicines Company, a pharmaceutical company providing acute care hospital products worldwide from 2004 to 2009. He also served on The Medicines Company's board of directors from 2005 to 2009. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Kelley held a series of positions at Aventis, a global pharmaceutical company, including Senior Vice President, Global Marketing and Medical, where he was accountable for worldwide brand management. Prior to the formation of Aventis, he held a series of positions at Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., a life sciences firm focused on pharmaceuticals, including, from 1998-1999, Vice President, Commercial Director, U.S. and, from 1995 to 1998, Vice President of Marketing. Within the last five years, Mr. Kelley previously served on the board of directors of The Medicines Company. Mr. Kelley received a B.A. from Wilkes University and an M.B.A. from Rockhurst University. Mr. Kelley's extensive knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry as well as his operations and marketing experience make him well-positioned to provide advice and guidance to Acorda at this stage of the Company's development.

*Sandra Panem, Ph.D.*, has been a member of our Board since 1998. She is currently a partner at Cross Atlantic Partners, which she joined in 2000. From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Panem was President of Vector Fund Management, the then asset management affiliate of Vector Securities International. Prior thereto, Dr. Panem served as Vice President and Portfolio Manager for the Oppenheimer Global BioTech Fund, a mutual fund that invested in public and private biotechnology companies. Previously, she was Vice President at Salomon Brothers Venture Capital, a fund focused on early and later-stage life sciences and technology investments. Dr. Panem was also a Science and Public Policy Fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, and an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Chicago. She received a B.S. in biochemistry and Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Chicago. Dr. Panem currently serves on the boards of directors of Labcyte, Inc., GenomeQuest, Inc., and MDx Medical, Inc. In addition, within the last five years, Dr. Panem previously served on the board of directors of Martek Biosciences Corp. Dr. Panem's experience investing in life sciences companies, and her long-standing relationship with the Company as a Board representative of one of its earliest investors, provides historical perspective on Acorda Therapeutics and the life sciences industry. Based on her broad industry and corporate experience, Dr. Panem serves as Chair of our Nominations Committee.

#### **Former Director**

*Wise Young, Ph.D., M.D.*, was a member of our Board from the founding of the company in 1995 until his recent resignation from the Board effective April 19, 2011. Dr. Young has been at Rutgers University since 1997, where he serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, Professor II and Director of the Neuroscience Center and founder of the W.M. Keck Center for Neuroscience. Dr. Young is one of the preeminent scientists in the fields of spinal cord injury (SCI) and neurotrauma, SCI animal models, and the pharmacological therapy of SCI. He was the Principal Investigator for the Multicenter Animal Spinal Cord Injury Study, funded by the National Institutes of Health; is editor-in-chief of *Current Concepts in Critical Care and Trauma*; and serves on numerous editorial boards, including those of *Experimental Neurology*, *Journal of Neurotrauma*, *Brain Research and Stroke*. Dr. Young has received the Wakeman Award for Research in Neurosciences, and a Jacob Javits Neuroscience Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke. He is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the American Paralysis Association and of the National Acute Spinal Cord Injury Study executive committee. Dr. Young received a B.A. in biology and chemistry from Reed College, a Ph.D. in physiology and biophysics from the University of Iowa and an M.D. from Stanford University. Dr. Young has spent his career in scientific academia at a number of well-known and highly regarded institutions where he has focused on SCI and neurotrauma. This experience provides Dr. Young with extensive scientific knowledge and a deep understanding of the research and development activities of Acorda Therapeutics, as well as enhancing the Company's stature in the medical research community. Dr. Young will continue to advise the Company in a consulting role as Special Scientific Advisor. Dr. Young is 61.

## **Board Leadership Structure**

The Board has not appointed any director to the position of Chair of the Board nor has it appointed a lead independent director. However, Dr. Cohen, who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, serves as the acting chair at Board meetings and is expected to serve as the chair at the Annual Meeting. For the reasons discussed below, the Board of Directors believes this is the most appropriate leadership structure for our Company as it continues to grow as a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company and as we execute our strategy to become a leading neurology company focused on the identification, development and commercialization of a range of nervous system therapeutics.

Dr. Cohen's role in chairing the meetings of the Board allows the Board to act efficiently and effectively to best serve the interests of the Company's stockholders and the Company as a whole. The Board believes that Dr. Cohen, in his capacity as President and Chief Executive Officer, serves as an effective bridge between the Board and management, providing the Board with a thorough understanding of the Company and its business and fostering an open dialogue between the Board and senior management. In addition, the Board believes that Dr. Cohen has been able to provide the Company with leadership for executing strategic initiatives and meeting challenges.

The Board does not believe at this time that the Company's leadership structure would be enhanced appreciably by appointing a Chairman of the Board or by calling upon a director other than Dr. Cohen to act as the chair of its meetings. The Board follows sound corporate governance practices to ensure its independence and effective functioning. Most importantly, except for Dr. Cohen, the Board is composed entirely of directors deemed to be "independent." The independent directors meet in a scheduled executive session without Dr. Cohen present at every regular meeting of the Board. In addition, each of the Board's committees is composed entirely of independent directors, which means that oversight of critical issues such as the integrity of the Company's financial statements, chief executive officer and senior management compensation, and Board evaluation and selection of directors is entrusted to independent directors. In addition to the Audit, Compensation and Nomination and Governance Committees, in May 2008, the Board established a Compliance Committee, also consisting only of independent directors, which assists the Board in overseeing the legal and regulatory aspects of our business.

The Board intends to review its leadership structure from time to time to determine whether circumstances recommend a change in such structure.

## **Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors is generally responsible for overseeing management of the various operational, financial, and legal risks faced by the Company. Particular risk management matters are brought to the Board by management in connection with the Board's general oversight and approval of corporate matters. Our Board administers its risk oversight function as a whole and through its Board Committees. For example, the Audit Committee regularly discusses with management our major financial risk exposures, their potential financial impact on our Company and our risk mitigation strategies and participates in regular reviews of our process to assess and manage enterprise risk management. In addition, our Compliance Committee works closely with senior management to review and oversee our compliance with non-financial legal and regulatory requirements, including those related to product safety and quality and the development, manufacturing, distribution and sale of our products. The individual Board committees report to the full Board, including when a matter rises to the level of a material risk. The Company's management is responsible for day-to-day risk management. This oversight includes identifying, evaluating, and addressing potential risks that may exist at the strategic, financial, operational, compliance and reporting levels. We believe the division of risk management responsibilities described above is an effective approach for addressing the risks facing our Company and that our Board leadership structure supports this approach.

## **Director Independence**

The Board has determined that Mr. Greene, Dr. Jensen, Mr. Kelley, Dr. Panem, Mr. Randall, Mr. Rauscher and Mr. Smith are "Independent Directors" as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing rules. Dr. Young, who resigned from the Board effective April 19, 2011, was also an independent director.

## **Attendance at Board, Committee and Stockholder Meetings**

Our Board met nine times during 2010 excluding committee meetings. All of the directors attended at least 75% of all Board meetings and meetings of the committees on which they serve. Although we have no formal policy with respect to director attendance at our annual meetings of stockholders, we encourage our directors to attend. All of our directors except Mr. Rauscher attended our 2010 Annual Meeting.

## Committees of the Board of Directors

The Board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Nominations and Governance Committee and a Compliance Committee, each of which is comprised solely of Independent Directors. Also, each member of the Audit Committee meets the independence requirements of Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and SEC Rule 10A-3 promulgated thereunder. The following lists the members of each committee as well as the primary responsibilities of each committee.

### *Audit Committee and Audit Committee Financial Experts*

Our Audit Committee currently consists of three members: Mr. Smith (Chair), Mr. Randall and Mr. Rauscher. Mr. Smith and Mr. Randall each qualify as an “audit committee financial expert” as that term is defined in Item 407(d) of Regulation S-K of the Securities Act. The designation of members of our Audit Committee as “audit committee financial experts” does not impose on those members any duties, obligations, or liabilities that are greater than are generally imposed on them as members of the Audit Committee and our Board, and does not affect the duties, obligations, or liabilities of any other member of the Audit Committee or our Board.

Our Audit Committee is responsible for:

- approving and retaining the independent auditors to conduct the annual audit of our books and records;
- reviewing the proposed scope and results of the audit;
- reviewing and pre-approving the independent auditors’ audit and non-audit services rendered;
- approving the audit fees to be paid;
- reviewing accounting and financial controls with the independent auditors and our financial and accounting staff;
- reviewing and approving transactions between us and our directors, officers and affiliates;
- recognizing and addressing potential prohibited non-audit services;
- establishing procedures for complaints received by us regarding accounting and financial-related matters; and
- overseeing internal audit functions when implemented.

All audit services and non-audit services to be provided to us by our independent auditor must be approved in advance by our Audit Committee. Ernst & Young LLP currently serves as our independent auditor. Our Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee that is available on our website, [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com) under “Investors—Corporate Profile—Corporate Governance—Committee Charters.” The Audit Committee met five times (including a joint meeting with the Compliance Committee) in 2010.

### *Compensation Committee*

Our Compensation Committee consists of three members: Mr. Randall (Chair), Mr. Kelley and Dr. Panem. Our Compensation Committee is responsible for:

- reviewing, approving and (where appropriate) recommending for the approval of the full Board the compensation arrangements for executives, including the compensation for our president and chief executive officer;
- establishing and reviewing general compensation policies with the objective to attract and retain superior talent, to reward individual performance and to achieve our financial goals;
- administering our stock incentive plan and annual cash bonus program; and
- reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board regarding director compensation.



Our Board has adopted a written charter for the Compensation Committee that is available on our website, [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com) under “Investors—Corporate Profile—Corporate Governance—Committee Charters.” The Compensation Committee met five times in 2010.

#### *Nominations and Governance Committee*

Our Nominations and Governance Committee consists of three members: Dr. Panem (Chair), Mr. Kelley and Mr. Randall. The Nominations and Governance Committee is responsible for:

- identifying potential candidates to serve on our Board;
- overseeing an annual evaluation of the Board;
- evaluating the composition, size, structure and practices of the Board and monitoring the independence of Board members and the overall Board composition; and
- considering and making recommendations to the Board relating to the practices, policies and performance of the Board and corporate governance.

Our Board has adopted a written charter for the Nominations and Governance Committee that is available on our website, [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com) under “Investors—Corporate Profile—Corporate Governance—Committee Charters.” The Nominations and Governance Committee met four times in 2010.

#### *Compliance Committee*

Our Compliance Committee, which was established in May 2008, currently consists of two members: Mr. Greene (Chair) and Mr. Rauscher. The Compliance Committee is responsible for overseeing our compliance with non-financial legal and regulatory requirements, including those related to product safety and quality and the development, manufacturing, distribution and sale of our products. Our Board has adopted a written charter for the Compliance Committee that is available on our website, [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com) under “Investors—Corporate Profile—Corporate Governance—Committee Charters.” The Compliance Committee met five times (including a joint meeting with the Audit Committee) in 2010.

### **Director Qualifications and Director Nomination Process**

#### *Qualifications for Director Candidates*

The Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board do not believe that it is in our best interests to establish rigid criteria for the selection of prospective director candidates. Rather, the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board recognize that the challenges and needs we face will change over time and, accordingly, believe that the selection of director candidates should be based on skill sets relevant to the issues we face or are likely to face at the time of nomination. As a result, the priorities and emphasis of the Nominations and Governance Committee and of the Board may change from time to time to take into account changes in business and other trends, and the portfolio of skills and experience of current and prospective members of our Board. At the same time, the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board strongly believe that we benefit from diversity in age, skills, background and experience. While the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board have not adopted a formal diversity policy with regard to the selection of director candidates, diversity is one of the factors that the Committee considers in identifying director candidates. As part of this process, the Nominations and Governance Committee evaluates how a particular candidate would strengthen and increase the diversity of the Board in terms of how that candidate may contribute to the Board’s overall balance of perspectives, backgrounds, knowledge, experience, skill sets and expertise. We seek director candidates who, in addition to general management experience and business knowledge, possess an expertise in one or more of the following areas: business, medicine, scientific research, drug discovery and development, health care, pharmaceuticals, finance, law, corporate governance, risk assessment, and investor relations. In addition, there are certain general attributes that the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board believe all prospective director candidates must possess in order to be recommended to the Board, including:

- a commitment to professional integrity and ethics;
- demonstrated leadership ability and the ability to exercise sound business judgment;

- independence from conflict or direct economic relationship with the Company; and
- a willingness to devote the required amount of time to attend Board and committee meetings and to otherwise carry out the duties and responsibilities of Board membership.

Other than the foregoing, there are no stated minimum criteria for director candidates. The Nominations and Governance Committee will ensure that at all times, at least a majority of the members of our Board meet the definition of “Independent Director” under the NASDAQ listing rules and that director candidates also meet the specific requirements set forth in the NASDAQ listing rules and in the rules of the SEC regarding membership on committees of the Board.

In considering re-nomination criteria, the Nominations and Governance Committee reviews each director’s past attendance at meetings and participation in and contributions to the activities of the Board, as well as whether the director’s qualifications and skills are consistent with the Company’s current needs and whether the director is willing to continue in service. If any member of our Board does not wish to continue in service or if our Board decides not to nominate a member for re-election, the Nominations and Governance Committee will identify the skills and experience desired in a new director candidate.

#### *Identification and Evaluation of Director Candidates*

The Nominations and Governance Committee uses a variety of methods for identifying director candidates. The Nominations and Governance Committee may receive suggestions for potential director candidates from current members of the Board, our executive officers or other sources, which may be either unsolicited or in response to requests from the Nominations and Governance Committee for such candidates. The Nominations and Governance Committee may also, from time to time, engage firms that specialize in identifying and evaluating potential director candidates. As described below, the Nominations and Governance Committee will also consider candidates recommended by stockholders.

The Nominations and Governance Committee regularly assesses the appropriate size and composition of the Board as a whole, the needs of the Board and the respective committees of the Board, and the qualification of director candidates in light of these needs. Once an individual has been identified by the Nominations and Governance Committee as a potential director candidate, the Nominations and Governance Committee makes an initial determination as to whether to conduct a full evaluation of the prospective director candidate based upon various factors, including, but not limited to: the information submitted with the nomination, the Board’s own knowledge of the prospective director candidate, and whether the prospective director candidate could satisfy the minimum criteria established by the Nominations and Governance Committee. The Nominations and Governance Committee then decides whether to do a comprehensive evaluation of a prospective director candidate, which includes one or more interviews with the candidate. In addition, the Nominations and Governance Committee may contact one or more references provided by the candidate or may contact other members of the business community or other persons that may have greater first-hand knowledge of the candidate’s accomplishments. After completing its evaluation, the Nominations and Governance Committee makes its recommendation to the full Board as to any person it determines should be considered by the Board. The Board then considers and designates its nominees.

#### *Stockholder Recommendations of Director Candidates*

The Nominations and Governance Committee does not have a formal policy regarding consideration of director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Nominations and Governance Committee will consider director candidates suggested by our stockholders, provided that the recommendations are made in accordance with the procedures required under our Amended and Restated Bylaws and described in this Proxy Statement in the section titled “Requirements, Including Deadlines, for Submission of Proxy Proposals, Nomination of Directors and Other Business of Stockholders.” Stockholder nominees whose nominations comply with these procedures and who meet the criteria outlined above will be evaluated by the Nominations and Governance Committee in the same manner as the Nominations and Governance Committee’s nominees.

#### **Stockholder Communication with the Board of Directors**

Stockholders may communicate with the Board by sending a letter to the Acorda Therapeutics Board of Directors c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532. The Corporate Secretary will receive and review all correspondence and forward it to the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman of the Audit Committee or to any individual director or directors to whom the communication is directed, as appropriate. Notwithstanding the above, the Corporate Secretary has the authority to discard or disregard any communication that is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal or otherwise inappropriate, or to take any other appropriate actions with respect to such communications.

## **Board and Committee Fees**

Our outside director compensation policy includes two components: (i) a cash component consisting of a base retainer for services as a director and additional cash retainers for service as a chair or a member of a committee, and (ii) an equity component consisting of an initial stock option grant and annual stock option grants. In 2010, our Compensation Committee engaged Arnosti Consulting Inc., an outside compensation consulting firm, to review our director compensation policy. Based on this review and input from Jane Wasman, our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board of Directors, and our Board of Directors approved, changes in the cash component of the policy.

The amount of each cash retainer payable under the outside director compensation policy, as updated in June 2010, is set forth in the table below. In addition, each person who becomes an outside director receives an initial stock option grant for 25,000 shares of our common stock. Individuals who became directors prior to August 2007 received an initial stock option to purchase a number of shares of our common stock equal to two times the annual total cash retainers payable to such individual divided by the exercise price. All directors receive an annual stock option grant for 10,000 shares of our common stock, which is granted on the date of the annual meeting of stockholders in each year. In the case of any director who is not first elected to our Board at an annual meeting of stockholders, that director's first annual stock option grant will be awarded on the first anniversary of his or her election to the Board, and the amount of the first annual award will be prorated based on the period of time between the grant date of the annual award and the date of the next annual stockholder meeting. All options vest over a one-year period in equal quarterly installments, have a term of ten years and will have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant (equal to the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on the date of grant).

Directors are also reimbursed for appropriate expenses related to their service on our board of directors. Upon an outside director's termination of membership on our Board, all vested stock options remain exercisable for 12 months, or such longer period as the board of directors may determine in its discretion, to the extent consistent with Internal Revenue Code Section 409A.

The cash and equity components of our compensation policy for outside directors are set forth below.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Annual Cash Retainer</u>	<u>Initial Option Grant</u>	<u>Annual Option Grant</u>
Base Fee.....	\$40,000	25,000 shares	10,000 shares
Lead Director/Chair.....	45,000	—	—
Audit Committee Chair.....	15,000	—	—
Compensation Committee Chair.....	12,000	—	—
Compliance Committee Chair.....	12,000	—	—
Nominations and Governance Committee Chair.....	10,000	—	—
Audit Committee Member.....	10,000	—	—
Compensation Committee Member.....	7,000	—	—
Compliance Committee Member.....	7,000	—	—
Nominations and Governance Committee Member.....	6,000	—	—

Under our director compensation policy, the Board also reviews and determines, based on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, what, if any, compensation shall be paid for chairs and members of active ad hoc committees not listed above, based upon the expected efforts and contributions of those members.

### 2010 Non-Employee Director Compensation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)</u>	<u>Option Awards (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Total (\$)(1)</u>
Barry Greene(2)(6)(8).....	\$99,853	\$188,995	\$288,848
John P. Kelley(4)(5)(6)(8).....	73,410	188,995	262,405
Sandra Panem, Ph.D.(4)(5)(7).....	52,883	188,995	241,878
Lorin J. Randall(3)(4)(5).....	63,883	188,995	252,878
Steven M. Rauscher(2)(3)(8).....	68,301	188,995	257,296
Ian Smith(3)(6)(8).....	81,199	188,995	270,194
Wise Young, Ph.D., M.D.(9).....	35,883	188,995	224,878

- (1) The method and assumptions used to calculate the value of the options granted to our directors are discussed in note 7 to our financial statements. The aggregate number of shares of our common stock subject to option awards outstanding and held by these individuals at December 31, 2010 was as follows: Mr. Greene, 43,740 shares; Mr. Kelley, 45,000 shares; Dr. Panem, 43,851 shares; Mr. Randall, 59,186 shares; Mr. Rauscher, 43,784 shares; Mr. Smith, 43,231 shares; and Dr. Young, 41,086 shares.
- (2) Member of our Compliance Committee.
- (3) Member of our Audit Committee.
- (4) Member of our Compensation Committee.
- (5) Member of our Nominations and Governance Committee.
- (6) Member of an Ad Hoc Business Development Committee of the Board of Directors. 2010 fees paid to this director include remuneration for 2010 participation on this Committee as well as retroactive remuneration paid in 2010 for membership on this Committee in 2008 and 2009.
- (7) Dr. Panem's 2010 cash compensation was paid to CAP Advisory Services, LLC.
- (8) Previously was a member of a Commercial Committee of the Board of Directors, which is currently not active. 2010 fees paid to this director include retroactive remuneration paid in 2010 for membership on this Committee from 2007 to 2009.
- (9) Dr. Young resigned from the Board of Directors effective April 19, 2011.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information, as of March 15, 2011, with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

- each person who is known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock;
- each of our directors and executive officers; and
- all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each person or entity named below is c/o Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532.

Beneficial ownership is determined on the basis of the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, shares of common stock subject to options held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2011 are deemed outstanding. Such shares, however, are not deemed outstanding for the purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Except as indicated in the footnotes to the following table or pursuant to applicable community property laws, each stockholder named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares set forth opposite such stockholder's name. The percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 39,384,455 shares of common stock outstanding on March 15, 2011.

	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	
	Number	Percent
<b>5% Stockholders</b>		
FMR LLC(1) .....	4,983,316	12.7%
BlackRock, Inc.(2) .....	2,944,717	7.5%
Adage Capital Partners(3) .....	2,859,682	7.3%
Wells Fargo and Company(4) .....	2,556,802	6.5%
Steven Cohen/S.A.C. Capital(5).....	2,207,283	5.6%
 <b>Executive Officers and Directors</b>		
Ron Cohen, M.D.(6).....	1,149,837	2.9%
David Lawrence, M.B.A.(7).....	206,149	*
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.(8).....	331,702	*
Jane Wasman, J.D.(9).....	277,134	*
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D.(10).....	72,896	*
Lauren M. Sabella (11).....	48,938	*
Barry Greene(12).....	41,240	*
John P. Kelley(13).....	42,500	*
Sandra Panem, Ph.D.(14) .....	42,981	*
Lorin J. Randall(15) .....	51,686	*
Steven Rauscher(16).....	41,284	*
Ian Smith(17).....	40,731	*
Wise Young, Ph.D., M.D.(18).....	55,893	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons) .....	2,402,971	5.8%

\* Less than 1%.

- (1) Based on an amendment to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2011 (the "Fidelity 13G"), by FMR LLC ("FMR") and Edward C. Johnson III, FMR owns 4,983,316 shares of common stock. According to the Fidelity 13G, Fidelity Management & Research Company ("Fidelity"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR, is the beneficial owner of 4,983,316 shares of common stock as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Fidelity Funds"). Mr. Johnson and FMR, through its control of Fidelity and the Fidelity Funds each has sole power to dispose of the 4,983,316 shares of common stock owned by the Fidelity Funds. Neither FMR nor Mr. Johnson has sole power to vote or

direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds. The address of principal business office for FMR and Mr. Johnson is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA, 02109.

- (2) Based on an amendment to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 3, 2011, by BlackRock, Inc., BlackRock, Inc. owns and has sole voting and dispositive power over 2,944,717 shares of common stock. The address of principal business office for BlackRock, Inc. is 40 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022.
- (3) Based on an amendment to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2011, by Adage Capital Partners, L.P. (ACP), Adage Capital Partners GP, L.L.C. (ACPGP), Adage Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (ACA), Robert Atchinson, and Phillip Gross, all of them share voting and dispositive power over 2,859,682 shares of common stock held directly by ACP. According to the Schedule 13G amendment: ACPGP is a general partner of ACP; ACA is a managing member of ACPGP; and Mr. Atchinson and Mr. Gross are each general partners of ACP and managing members of ACPGP and ACA. The address of principal business office for ACP, ACPGP, ACA, Robert Atchinson, and Phillip Gross is 200 Clarendon Street, 52<sup>nd</sup> floor, Boston, MA 02116.
- (4) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 25, 2011, by Wells Fargo and Company and its subsidiary Wells Capital Management Incorporated, (1) Wells Fargo and Company together with Wells Capital Management Incorporated and other subsidiaries has sole voting power over 1,717,816 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power over 2,556,802 shares of common stock, and (2) Wells Capital Management Incorporated has sole voting power over 580,983 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power over 2,540,640 shares of common stock. The address of principal business office for Wells Fargo and Company is 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104, and the address and principal business office of Wells Capital Management Incorporated is 525 Market Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.
- (5) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 31, 2011 by S.A.C. Capital Advisors, L.P., S.A.C. Capital Advisors, Inc., Sigma Capital Management LLC, and Steven A. Cohen: SAC Capital Advisors, L.P. and S.A.C. Capital Advisors, Inc., its general partner, and Mr. Cohen, who controls S.A.C. Capital Advisors, Inc., have shared voting and dispositive power over 1,432,283 shares of common stock that are subject to an investment management agreement between S.A.C. Capital Advisors, L.P. and the entities that hold those shares; Sigma Capital Management, LLC, and Mr. Cohen, who controls Sigma Capital Management, LLC, have shared voting and dispositive power over 775,000 shares of common stock that are subject to an investment management agreement between Sigma Capital Management, LLC, and the entities that hold those shares. The address and principal business office of S.A.C. Capital Advisors, L.P., S.A.C. Capital Advisors, Inc. and Mr. Cohen is 72 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, CT 06902, and the address and principal business office of Sigma Capital Management, LLC, is 540 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.
- (6) Includes 18,696 shares of common stock, 815,840 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 315,301 restricted shares.
- (7) Includes 180,004 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 26,145 restricted shares.
- (8) Includes 3,368 shares of common stock, 269,977 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 58,357 restricted shares.
- (9) Includes 212,220 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 64,914 restricted shares.
- (10) Includes 36,546 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 36,350 restricted shares.
- (11) Includes 17,558 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 31,380 restricted shares.
- (12) Includes 41,240 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.

- (13) Includes 42,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.
- (14) Includes 1,630 shares of common stock and 41,351 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.
- (15) Includes 51,686 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.
- (16) Includes 41,284 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.
- (17) Includes 40,731 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options.
- (18) Includes 13,461 shares of common stock, 38,586 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and 3,846 restricted shares. Dr. Young resigned from the Board of Directors effective April 19, 2011.

### INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Set forth below is information regarding each individual serving as an executive officer as of April 19, 2011.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>
Ron Cohen, M.D.....	55	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.....	60	Chief Scientific Officer
David Lawrence, M.B.A.....	53	Chief Financial Officer
Lauren M. Sabella .....	50	Executive Vice President, Commercial Development
Jane Wasman, J.D.....	54	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D.....	55	Chief Medical Officer

*Ron Cohen, M.D.*, is President, CEO and founder of the Company. Dr. Cohen previously was a principal in the startup of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc., a biotechnology company engaged in the growth of human organ tissues for transplantation uses. Dr. Cohen received his B.A. degree with honors in Psychology from Princeton University, and his M.D. from the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia Medical Center, and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Cohen previously was a Director and Chairman of the New York Biotechnology Association. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee and as the Chairman of the Emerging Company Section of the board of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). He also serves as a member of the Columbia-Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council and was awarded Columbia University’s Alumni Medal for Distinguished Service. Dr. Cohen was named NeuroInvestment’s CEO of the Year and was recognized by PharmaVoice Magazine as one of the 100 Most Inspirational People in the Biopharmaceutical Industry. Dr. Cohen is a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the New York Metropolitan Region, and an inductee into the National Spinal Cord Injury Association’s “Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame.” In 2010, Dr. Cohen was recognized by the New York Biotechnology Association as the NYBA “The Cure Starts Here” Business Leader of the Year.

*Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.*, has been our Chief Scientific Officer since January 2004 and previously served as our Executive Vice President, Research and Development from 2000 to 2004, and Vice President, Research and Development, from 1998 to 2000. Prior to joining Acorda Therapeutics, Dr. Blight spent approximately six years as Professor and Director of the Neurosurgery Research Laboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Blight held prior academic positions at Purdue University and New York University. Dr. Blight is a leader in SCI pathophysiology research and has made several important contributions to the field, particularly on the role of demyelination in SCI. He also pioneered the therapeutic application of 4-AP in SCI animal models and in human clinical trials. Dr. Blight is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Neurotrauma and has served as a member of the NIH NSDA review committee. He was previously Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of the National Neurotrauma Society. Dr. Blight received his B.S. in Zoology and his Ph.D. in Zoology/Neurobiology from the University of Bristol, U.K.

*David Lawrence, M.B.A.*, has been our Chief Financial Officer since January 2005. He previously served as our Vice President, Finance from January 2001 through 2004, and Director, Finance from 1999 to 2001. From 1991 to 1999, Mr. Lawrence held several positions for Tel-Air Communications, Inc. including Vice President and Controller. Prior to Tel-Air, he held financial management positions of Controller and Finance Manager for Southwestern Bell and Metromedia Telecommunications, respectively. Mr. Lawrence received his undergraduate degree in Accounting from Roger Williams College, and an M.B.A in Finance from Iona College. Mr. Lawrence is a founding member and currently serves on the board of directors and as Treasurer of The Brian Ahearn Children’s Fund.

*Lauren M. Sabella*, has been our Executive Vice President, Commercial Development since January 25, 2010. Ms. Sabella was the Founder and Principal of Tugboat Consulting Group, an independent consulting practice assisting companies in the commercialization process. Ms. Sabella also served as Corporate Officer and VP of Commercial Development at Altus Pharmaceuticals, with responsibility for all aspects of commercialization. Prior to joining Altus, Ms. Sabella was employed by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals for 18 years in positions of increasing responsibility. In her last role, she served as VP of Sales, Eastern Zone, where she led the successful sales launch of Spiriva and ran both Primary Care and Specialty Divisions, including Neurology, Urology and Cardio/Pulmonary. Prior to this role, she had over ten years of marketing experience where she led several brand launches including Mobic, an NSAID which became a \$1 billion dollar brand. Ms. Sabella holds a B.B.A. from Hofstra University.

*Jane Wasman, J.D.*, has been our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since May 2004. From 1995 to 2004, Ms. Wasman held various leadership positions at Schering-Plough Corporation, including Staff Vice President and Associate General Counsel responsible for legal support for U.S. Pharmaceuticals operations, including sales, marketing and compliance; FDA regulatory matters; global research and development; and corporate licensing and business development. She served as Staff Vice President, International in 2001 and as Staff Vice President, European Operations—Legal from 1998 to 2000. Previously, Ms. Wasman specialized in litigation at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. She also served as Associate General Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Veteran’s Affairs. Ms. Wasman graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University and earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School. Ms. Wasman is a member of the board of directors and the executive committee of the board of the New York Biotechnology Association (NYBA).

*Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D.*, joined the Company as Chief Medical Officer in November 2008. Previously, Dr. Wessel was Senior Vice President of Clinical Research at Sepracor, Inc. where he led the central nervous system and respiratory medicine development teams. He also served as the medical director for the company’s insomnia development program, expanded the company’s clinical development capabilities, initiated several projects based on isomer and metabolite technologies, and participated in various business development activities. Before joining Sepracor, Dr. Wessel worked on several CNS projects at Janssen Pharmaceuticals in Europe and the U.S., leading the U.S. regulatory submission team for an Alzheimer’s disease treatment approved by the FDA in 2000. Before working in the pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Wessel held several academic and research positions. Dr. Wessel received his M.D. from the University of Munich School of Medicine and completed his Ph.D. in experimental neurobiology at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psychiatry in Martinsried, Germany. He completed his residency in neurology at New York Hospital and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (Cornell University Medical Center).

## **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the following Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that such Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Members of the Compensation Committee  
Lorin J. Randall  
John Kelley  
Sandra Panem, Ph.D.

## **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The Compensation Committee has the responsibility to review, approve and recommend for the approval of the full Board the annual compensation and compensation procedures for our Named Executive Officers (as defined below in the section titled “Executive Compensation”).

### **Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

The primary objective of our compensation program, including compensation for our Named Executive Officers, is to provide competitive, market-based total compensation tied to Company, individual and team performance and aligned with stockholder interests. It is designed to tie annual and long-term cash and stock incentives to the achievement of established goals and to align executives’ incentives with the creation of value for our stockholders. To achieve these objectives, the Compensation Committee strives to implement and maintain compensation plans that tie a substantial portion of executives’ overall compensation to key strategic goals. For example, each Named Executive Officer’s cash bonus and equity awards are primarily dependent, respectively, on performance in achieving established corporate goals and anticipated impact on future



increases in shareholder value. The Compensation Committee also evaluates individual executive performance with the goal of setting compensation at levels that the Committee believes are comparable with the levels of executive compensation at other companies in the biotechnology/biopharmaceutical industry of similar size and stage of development, while taking into account each executive's relative performance and our strategic goals.

A further objective of our compensation program is to attract and retain highly talented, qualified executives who are dedicated to our mission and culture. We also endeavor to ensure that our compensation program is perceived as fundamentally fair to all stakeholders.

### **Setting Executive Compensation**

The implementation of our compensation program is carried out under the supervision of the Compensation Committee. The compensation for our Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Cohen, is approved by our Board, after the Compensation Committee provides its analysis and recommendation. In connection with this process, the Chief Executive Officer provides a self-evaluation. The Compensation Committee has direct responsibility for establishing the compensation for the direct reports to the CEO, including each of our other Named Executive Officers and our other executive officers. To assist the Compensation Committee, the Chief Executive Officer and our Senior Vice President, Human Resources, make recommendations to the Compensation Committee as to specific elements (i.e., salary, bonus, equity awards) of compensation. As part of this process, our Chief Executive Officer provides a review of each executive officer's performance along with his compensation recommendations. While the Compensation Committee utilizes this information, and values the Chief Executive Officer's observations with regard to other executive officers, the ultimate decisions regarding executive compensation are made by the Compensation Committee and our Board of Directors.

With the objectives described above in mind, the Compensation Committee annually reviews the pay practices for our Named Executive Officers and our other employees. For 2010 compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee retained Arnosti Consulting Inc. ("Arnosti Consulting") to conduct a review of the total compensation program for our Named Executive Officers, as well as for other employees. Arnosti Consulting also provided the Compensation Committee with relevant market data and alternatives to consider when making compensation decisions for our Named Executive Officers and to confirm that our compensation program is competitive with the market. Arnosti Consulting has been engaged again for purposes of 2011 compensation decisions.

The Compensation Committee reviews several salary surveys when making compensation decisions, including surveys produced by Radford Surveys + Consulting and Equilar, Inc. The Compensation Committee also reviews a competitive analysis of relevant peers that compares each element of total compensation against a group of biotechnology/biopharmaceutical companies. The companies used in this analysis are companies against which the Compensation Committee believes we compete both for talent and for stockholder investment. Comparable companies are also chosen based on revenues, market cap and size of employee population. The Compensation Committee makes the determination of which companies to include in the peer group but it considers the input of our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President, Human Resources, in making this determination. For the 2010 compensation determinations, 22 comparable companies were used as a basis for comparing base salaries and for comparison of long-term incentive plans. These companies include Alkermes, Inc., Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Amag Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auxilium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Biomarin Pharmaceutical Inc., Cepheid, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Genomic Health, Inc., Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Intermune, Inc., ISIS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Medarex, Inc., The Medicines Company, Nektar Therapeutics, Inc., ONYX Pharmaceuticals, Inc., OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Progenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., United Therapeutics Corporation and Viropharma, Inc.

A review of the compensation of similarly situated executives at peer companies assists the Compensation Committee and our Board in determining whether our compensation programs, and individual elements of compensation, are generally competitive. However, we do not benchmark our compensation against compensation at peer companies pursuant to any specific guidelines. We believe that such guidelines would restrict our ability to properly tailor our compensation programs to our rapidly evolving and growing organization and the individual backgrounds, expertise, and responsibilities of our executives. Therefore, the compensation for our executive officers may be at levels that are above or below the compensation paid to executives at our peers.

### **Elements of Compensation**

The compensation of Named Executive Officers consists of the following elements:

**Base Salary:** Base salaries for our Named Executive Officers are established taking into account the scope of the executive's responsibilities, the individual's qualifications and experience and the compensation paid by comparable biotechnology/biopharmaceutical companies for similar positions. Generally, we believe that executive base salaries should be targeted within the range of salaries for executives in similar positions with similar responsibilities and experience at comparable companies.

Base salaries are reviewed annually as part of our performance review process. The goal of our annual merit increase program is to provide increases in base salary, where appropriate, based upon current position and experience, past year's performance and past year's contributions to the company. Merit increase guidelines are determined each year typically based on external economic and competitive compensation trends, although other elements, such as the Company's overall resources, may be a factor. For 2010 salaries, this review occurred in the first quarter of 2010, with new salaries taking effect on March 1, 2010. The 2010 salaries for our Named Executive Officers were as follows: \$610,000 for our President and Chief Executive Officer; \$272,200 for our Chief Financial Officer; \$342,900 for our Chief Scientific Officer; \$371,100 for our Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary; and \$364,900 for our Chief Medical Officer. For 2011 salaries, this review occurred in the first quarter of 2011, with new salaries taking effect as of March 1, 2011. The 2011 salaries for our Named Executive Officers are as follows: \$640,000 for our President and Chief Executive Officer; \$283,100 for our Chief Financial Officer; \$358,300 for our Chief Scientific Officer; \$391,500 for our Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary; and \$370,400 for our Chief Medical Officer.

During the review of base salaries for Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee primarily considers:

- market data gathered both internally and by the Compensation Committee and its outside consultant;
- review of each executive's compensation, both individually and relative to other officers; and
- individual past year's performance and past year's contributions to the Company.

Based on the criteria listed above, base salaries for each Named Executive Officer (other than the President and Chief Executive Officer) are recommended by the President and Chief Executive Officer and sent to the Compensation Committee for review. The Compensation Committee either approves base salaries for those Named Executive Officers or recommends them to the full Board for approval. The Compensation Committee recommends a base salary for the President and Chief Executive Officer to the full Board for approval.

In connection with the review of base salaries for the 2010 fiscal year, our Compensation Committee, in collaboration with Company management, conducted an enhanced review of the compensation of Ron Cohen, M.D., our President and Chief Executive Officer. The Committee determined that such a review was appropriate given the successful development of, and receipt of FDA approval for, Ampyra<sup>®</sup>, the Company's lead product, and the expectation that the commercial launch of Ampyra would be a transformational event for the Company. To assist with this review, the Compensation Committee retained Robert Gore, an independent compensation consultant. Based on this review, Dr. Cohen's base salary for 2010 was set at \$610,000, which represented a 25% increase over his 2009 base salary. The Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors approved, this increase because it was determined that Dr. Cohen's base salary was not generally in a range that was competitive. Among other factors, the Committee gave consideration to Dr. Cohen's key role in leading the Company's efforts to develop and receive FDA approval for Ampyra, the importance of his ongoing leadership to the future success of the Company, and the determination, based on Mr. Gore's analysis, that Dr. Cohen's base salary was accordingly not at the appropriate level in relation to the base salaries of chief executives at peer companies.

**Cash Bonus Program:** In addition to base salaries, we believe that performance-based cash bonuses play an important role in providing incentives to our Named Executive Officers to achieve defined annual goals. In the fourth quarter of each year, the Board works collaboratively with management to develop a detailed set of overall corporate performance goals tied to the next year's operating plan. For 2010, five corporate goals were established by the Board and used as a basis for awarding cash bonuses. These goals and their respective weightings fell into the following categories, with the most substantial weight (50%) being given to the first goal below:

- Dalfampridine (Ampyra<sup>®</sup>) commercial pre-launch and launch
- Financial performance
- Dalfampridine development
- Product pipeline development
- Zanaflex<sup>®</sup> franchise sales and marketing

These corporate goals, as well as individual goals, are used to develop a program that can be utilized to measure performance at year-end. In some cases, when deemed appropriate, corporate and individual goals are supplemented with team goals. Target bonus amounts are based on a percentage of base salaries and are generally set near the target bonus amounts for comparable companies, based both on our internal research and the information provided by the Compensation Committee's outside consultant. The President and Chief Executive Officer has a bonus target of 60% of base salary, based entirely on achievement of corporate goals, although the Compensation Committee/Board may identify other, unweighted factors that should be taken into consideration in the determination of the final bonus amount, if any. Our Chief Financial Officer and our Chief Medical Officer have a bonus target of 35% of base salary, and our Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary and our Chief Scientific Officer have a bonus target of 40% of base salary. For all of these Named Executive Officers, 80% of their bonus payout is attributed to achievement of corporate goals and 20% of the payout is attributed to achievement of individual goals.

Based on the overall percentage of achievement of corporate performance goals determined by the Board and the individual performance level of each executive, bonuses may be above or below target bonus amounts. The Compensation Committee/Board does not establish formal threshold, that is, minimum, bonus amounts. Target maximum bonus amounts are set, although the Compensation Committee/Board have discretion to award amounts above or below the targets based on actual performance. During the first quarter of the following year, the Board, upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee, determines the actual percentage of achievement of corporate performance goals used in setting bonus amounts. Bonus amounts for each Named Executive Officer (other than the President and Chief Executive Officer) are recommended by the President and Chief Executive Officer and sent to the Compensation Committee for review. The Compensation Committee may approve bonus amounts for those Named Executive Officers or may recommend them to the full Board for approval. The Compensation Committee recommends a bonus amount for the President and Chief Executive Officer to the full Board for approval. Bonuses are paid to our Named Executive Officers in the first quarter of the following year.

The Company substantially exceeded its 2010 goals for the Ampyra<sup>®</sup> commercial pre-launch and launch. The Company also achieved its Zanaflex<sup>®</sup> franchise sales and marketing goals. In the case of the other goals described above, the Company's performance was mixed. In March 2011, the Compensation Committee and the Board determined, based on these results, that corporate performance of the 2010 corporate goals merited a 121% achievement grade. The Company's goals for the Ampyra commercial pre-launch and launch had the greatest weighting in the 2010 performance determination, and the Company's success with Ampyra was the most significant factor contributing to this achievement grade. Based on the bonus targets approved for 2010, as well as the achievement grade based on the corporate goals, the President and Chief Executive Officer was awarded a bonus of \$442,860, equal to 72.6% of his 2010 annual salary.

The individual goals set for 2010 for David Lawrence, our Chief Financial Officer, related to: management of the Company's finances and accounting; corporate strategy and planning; headquarters facility planning; and management of certain corporate functions. The target percentage established for Mr. Lawrence for his 2010 individual goals was 35% of base salary. The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Lawrence's achievement of these individual goals was 114.5% of target performance. Based on the percentage achievement of the corporate goals and his individual goals, Mr. Lawrence was awarded a bonus of \$114,038, equal to 41.9% of his 2010 annual salary.

The individual goals set for 2010 for Andrew Blight, Ph.D., our Chief Scientific Officer, related to: Dr. Blight's expertise and participation as a resource for our various business functions; research and development pipeline development; and business development initiatives. The target percentage established for Dr. Blight for his 2010 individual goals was 40% of base salary. The Compensation Committee determined that Dr. Blight's achievement of these individual goals was 108% of target performance. Based on the percentage achievement of the corporate goals and his individual goals, Dr. Blight earned a bonus of \$162,397, equal to 47.4% of his 2010 annual salary.

The individual goals set for 2010 for Jane Wasman, our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, related to: support of the Ampyra<sup>®</sup> launch; management of the Company's intellectual property portfolio and oversight of related matters; and her role as the senior legal adviser to the Company and the Board of Directors. The target percentage established for the Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for her 2010 individual goals was 40% of base salary. The Compensation Committee determined that Ms. Wasman's achievement of these individual goals was 124% of target performance. Based on the percentage achievement of the corporate goals and her individual goals, Ms. Wasman earned a bonus of \$180,503, equal to 48.6% of her 2010 annual salary.

The individual goals set for fiscal year 2010 for Thomas Wessel, M.D., Ph.D, our Chief Medical Officer related to: Ampyra<sup>®</sup> life cycle management and progression of our research and development pipeline; business development initiatives; drug safety initiatives; medical affairs initiatives; development of Dr. Wessel's management team; and budgetary considerations. The target percentage established for Dr. Wessel for his 2010 individual goals was 35%. The Compensation Committee determined that Dr. Wessel met 101.5% of his individual goals. Based on the percentage achievement of the corporate goals and his individual goals, Dr. Wessel earned a bonus of \$149,554, equal to 41.0% of his 2010 annual salary.

**Equity Awards:** We believe that providing a significant portion of our Named Executive Officers' total compensation package in stock options and other equity awards, such as restricted stock, aligns the incentives of our executives with the interests of our stockholders and with our long-term success. The Compensation Committee and the Board develop their equity award determinations based on their judgments as to whether the complete compensation packages provided to our executive officers, including prior equity awards, are sufficient to retain, motivate and adequately reward them. This judgment is based on benchmarking information provided both by the Company and by the Compensation Committee's outside compensation consultant and also includes a recommendation by the President and Chief Executive Officer for all vice presidents and above, including the other Named Executive Officers.

We grant equity awards under our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan, as amended, which serves as the successor to the Company's 1999 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended. The 2006 plan was adopted by our Board to permit the grant of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, performance shares and other share-based awards to our directors, officers, employees, independent contractors, agents and consultants.

#### *Stock Options*

Stock Options are granted to our Named Executive Officers in order to provide incentives for long-term creation of stockholder value. Stock options only have value to the extent that the price of Acorda Therapeutics' common stock appreciates relative to the exercise price of the stock options. The exercise price is the market price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market at the close of business on the date of grant. The Compensation Committee reviews the stock option position of each Named Executive Officer on an annual basis.

With respect to stock option grants to our Named Executive Officers other than our President and Chief Executive Officer, a recommendation is made by our President and Chief Executive Officer to the Compensation Committee for review. The Compensation Committee either approves stock option grants for those Named Executive Officers or recommends them to the full Board for approval. With respect to stock option grants to our President and Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee either approves such grants or recommends them to the full Board for approval, but in either case discusses those grants with the full Board prior to approval. Stock option grants are typically approved in the first quarter of the following year, based primarily on the individual's anticipated future contributions to the creation of stockholder value. Options typically vest quarterly over four years and have a ten-year term. The Company does not grant discounted options, nor does it re-price outstanding options. The Company does not backdate or grant options retroactively. In addition, the Company does not coordinate grants of options so that they are made before announcement of favorable information, or after announcement of unfavorable information.

The Company calculates the accounting cost of equity-based long-term incentive awards under Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 718. As such, the grant date accounting fair value, which is fixed at date of grant, is expensed over the vesting period. Consistent with SEC regulations, the aggregate grant date fair value for all stock awards or option awards granted during the applicable years to our Named Executive Officers is presented in the Summary Compensation Table.

Stock option grants to our Named Executive Officers in 2010 are shown in the 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards table. Total outstanding unexercised stock option grants are shown in the Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2010 table. The ultimate value to the employee is determined at the time of exercise.

#### *Restricted Stock*

Restricted stock has also been granted to provide long-term incentive creation of stockholder value and to retain top-performing and critical employees. With respect to restricted stock grants to our Named Executive Officers other than our President and Chief Executive Officer, a recommendation is made by our President and Chief Executive Officer to the Compensation Committee for review. The Compensation Committee either approves restricted stock grants for those Named Executive Officers or recommends them to the full Board for approval. With respect to restricted stock grants to our President and Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee either approves such grants or recommends them to the full Board for approval, but in either case discusses those grants with the full Board prior to approval. Restricted stock grants are subject to periodic vesting, with the applicable vesting schedules determined by the Board after a recommendation from the Compensation Committee.

Restricted stock awards to our Named Executive Officers in 2010 are shown in the 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards table. Total outstanding unvested restricted stock awards held by our Named Executive Officers are shown in the Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2010 table.

In March 2011, on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, and following discussion by the full Board, the Compensation Committee approved equity awards for our Named Executive Officers based primarily on their anticipated future contributions to the creation of stockholders value. These awards included a combination of stock options

and restricted stock. The stock options vest quarterly in equal installments over four years and have an exercise price equal to the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on March 3, 2011 (the grant date) and expire ten years after the grant date. The restricted stock is subject to vesting in four installments as follows: one-fourth on December 1, 2011, one-fourth on December 1, 2012, one-fourth on December 1, 2013 and one-fourth on December 1, 2014.

The specific numbers of shares covered by these awards were as follows: Ron Cohen, President and Chief Executive Officer, an option to purchase 131,250 shares and 43,750 shares of restricted stock; Andrew Blight, Chief Scientific Officer, an option to purchase 45,000 shares and 15,000 shares of restricted stock; David Lawrence, Chief Financial Officer, an option to purchase 37,500 shares and 12,500 shares of restricted stock; Jane Wasman, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, an option to purchase 56,250 shares and 18,750 shares of restricted stock; and Thomas Wessel, Chief Medical Officer, an option to purchase 26,250 shares and 8,750 shares of restricted stock.

### Tax and Accounting Considerations

We have structured our compensation program to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 409A. If an executive is entitled to nonqualified deferred compensation benefits that are subject to Section 409A, and such benefits do not comply with Section 409A, then the benefits are taxable in the first year they are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. In such case, the executive is subject to regular federal income tax, interest and an additional federal income tax of 20% of the benefit includible in income.

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following table provides certain summary information concerning the compensation earned in 2010 by our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and each of the three other most highly paid executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2010. We refer to the officers listed in the table below collectively as our “Named Executive Officers.”

#### 2010 Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(1)	Option Awards (\$)(1)	All Other Compensation (\$)(7)	Total (\$)
Ron Cohen, M.D. ....	2010	\$589,750	\$592,860(2)	\$3,817,344	\$4,549,547	\$7,350	\$9,556,851
President and Chief Executive Officer	2009	483,717	280,888(4)	514,750	823,313	7,350	2,110,018
	2008	459,800	207,410(5)	495,250	840,088	6,900	2,009,448
David Lawrence M.B.A. ....	2010	270,883	114,038(3)	470,250	558,146	7,350	1,420,667
Chief Financial Officer	2009	262,317	105,733(4)	205,900	329,325	7,350	910,625
	2008	252,400	82,067(5)	245,644	416,683	6,900	1,003,694
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D. ....	2010	339,417	162,397(3)	684,000	811,848	7,350	2,005,012
Chief Scientific Officer	2009	317,500	149,279(4)	329,440	526,920	7,350	1,330,489
	2008	295,000	112,010(5)	269,416	457,008	6,900	1,140,334
Jane Wasman, J.D. ....	2010	366,783	180,503(3)	684,000	811,848	7,350	2,050,484
Executive VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary	2009	341,833	211,139(6)	308,850	493,988	7,350	1,363,160
	2008	325,000	109,700(5)	297,150	504,053	6,900	1,242,803
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D. ....	2010	364,900	149,554(3)	—	—	48,340(8)	562,794
Chief Medical Officer	2009	364,083	65,000(4)	53,534	85,625	53,026(8)	621,268

- (1) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value for all stock awards or option awards granted during the years shown, in accordance with ASC Topic 718. The method and assumptions used to calculate the value of the stock awards and option awards granted to our Named Executive Officers are discussed in note 7 to our financial statements.
- (2) 2010 bonus paid in 2011 and additional \$150,000 bonus paid in 2010.
- (3) 2010 bonus paid in 2011.
- (4) 2009 bonus paid in 2010.
- (5) 2008 bonus paid in 2009 and \$500 bonus paid in 2008.
- (6) 2009 bonus paid in 2010 and additional \$50,000 bonus paid in 2009.
- (7) Represents the employer 401(k) matching contribution to employee deferrals. For each dollar an employee invests up to 6% of his or her earnings, the Company contributes an additional 50 cents into the funds, subject to IRS annual limits.

- (8) Represents \$7,350 in employer 401(k) matching contribution as discussed in Note 7 and \$40,990 and \$45,676 in relocation expenses (including tax gross-up) in 2010 and 2009 respectively.

### Stock Option Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2010

The following table sets forth information regarding plan-based awards to our Named Executive Officers in 2010.

#### 2010 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Grant Date</u>	<u>Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)</u>	<u>Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)</u>	<u>Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)</u>	<u>Grant Date Fair Value (\$)</u>
Ron Cohen, M.D.....	3/31/2010		100,000	\$34.20	\$2,030,000
President and Chief Executive Officer	3/31/2010	50,000		34.20	1,710,000
	6/9/2010		133,333	31.61	2,519,994
	6/9/2010	66,667		31.61	2,107,344
David Lawrence M.B.A. ....	3/31/2010		27,500	34.20	558,250
Chief Financial Officer	3/31/2010	13,750		34.20	470,250
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.....	3/31/2010		40,000	34.20	812,000
Chief Scientific Officer	3/31/2010	20,000		34.20	684,000
Jane Wasman, J.D. ....	3/31/2010		40,000	34.20	812,000
Executive VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary	3/31/2010	20,000		34.20	684,000
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D. ....	—	—	—	—	—
Chief Medical Officer					

The following table provides information regarding each unexercised stock option held by each of our Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2010.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2010**

Name and Principal Position	Option Awards				Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Options (# Exercisable)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (# Unexercisable)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (\$)
Ron Cohen, M.D.....	371,317	—	\$2.60	9/11/2013	8,333(2)	\$227,158
President and Chief Executive Officer	38,461	—	2.60	10/17/2013	37,500(3)	1,022,250
	51,265	—	8.14	1/1/2015	66,667(4)	1,817,342
	12,816	—	6.00	2/15/2016	—	—
	85,000	—	5.85	3/17/2016	—	—
	500	—	8.50	9/25/2016	—	—
	99,463	6,631(1)	15.49	12/21/2016	—	—
	42,968	19,532(1)	19.81	3/5/2018	—	—
	27,343	35,157(1)	20.59	3/2/2019	—	—
	18,750	81,250(1)	34.20	3/31/2020	—	—
	16,666	116,667(1)	31.61	6/9/2020	—	—
David Lawrence M.B.A. ....	27,109	—	8.14	1/1/2015	3,333(2)	90,858
Chief Financial Officer	17,527	—	6.00	2/15/2016	10,312(3)	281,105
	21,500	—	5.85	3/17/2016	—	—
	500	—	8.50	9/25/2016	—	—
	59,234	3,949(1)	22.13	2/14/2017	—	—
	21,312	9,688(1)	19.81	3/5/2018	—	—
	10,937	14,063(1)	20.59	3/2/2019	—	—
	5,156	22,344(1)	34.20	3/31/2020	—	—
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.....	28,777	—	2.60	9/11/2013	5,333(2)	145,378
Chief Scientific Officer	52,338	—	8.14	1/1/2015	15,000(3)	408,900
	13,085	—	6.00	2/15/2016	—	—
	32,500	—	5.85	3/17/2016	—	—
	500	—	8.50	9/25/2016	—	—
	72,506	4,834(1)	22.13	2/14/2017	—	—
	23,375	10,625(1)	19.81	3/5/2018	—	—
	17,500	22,500(1)	20.59	3/2/2019	—	—
	7,500	32,500(1)	34.20	3/31/2020	—	—
Jane Wasman, J.D. ....	44,769	—	8.14	1/1/2015	5,000(2)	136,300
Executive VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary	11,192	—	6.00	2/15/2016	15,000(3)	408,900
	25,000	—	5.85	3/17/2016	—	—
	500	—	8.50	9/25/2016	—	—
	59,234	3,949(1)	22.13	2/14/2017	—	—
	25,781	11,719(1)	19.81	3/5/2018	—	—
	16,406	21,094(1)	20.59	3/2/2019	—	—
	7,500	32,500(1)	34.20	3/31/2020	—	—
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D. ....	25,000	25,000(1)	21.42	11/3/2018	866(2)	23,607
Chief Medical Officer	2,843	3,657(1)	20.59	3/2/2019	8,333(5)	227,158

(1) Each of these options is subject to a four-year vesting schedule and vests in equal quarterly installments. The vesting commencement dates of such options are as follows: Dr. Cohen, January 1, 2007, January 1, 2008, January 1, 2009, January 1, 2010, and June 9, 2010, respectively; Mr. Lawrence, January 1, 2007, January 1, 2008, January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, respectively; Dr. Blight, January 1, 2007, January 1, 2008, January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, respectively; Ms. Wasman, January 1, 2007, January 1, 2008, January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, respectively, and Dr. Wessel, November 3, 2008 and January 1, 2009, respectively.

- (2) These restricted stock awards are subject to vesting over a three-year period as follows: 33.3% every year, with the vest dates of December 1, 2009, December 1, 2010, and December 1, 2011 for three (3) years.
- (3) These restricted stock awards are subject to vesting over a four-year period as follows: 25% every year, with the vest dates of December 1, 2010, December 1, 2011, December 1, 2012, and December 1, 2013 for four (4) years.
- (4) These restricted stock awards are subject to vesting over a three-year period as follows: 33.3% every year, with the vest dates of June 8, 2011, June 8, 2012, and June 8, 2013 for three (3) years.
- (5) These restricted stock awards are subject to vesting over a three-year period as follows: 33.3% every year, with the vest dates of November 3, 2009, November 3, 2010, and November 3, 2011 for three (3) years.

The following table provides information on option exercises with respect to our common stock in 2010 by each of the Named Executive Officers.

### 2010 Option Exercises and Stock Vested

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Option Awards</u>		<u>Stock Awards</u>	
	<u>Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)</u>	<u>Value Realized on Exercise (\$)</u>	<u>Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)</u>	<u>Value Realized on Vesting (\$)</u>
Ron Cohen, M.D.....	17,094	\$471,623	8,333	\$220,575
President and Chief Executive Officer	1,602	44,199	12,500	330,875
	93,000	3,007,654	8,333	220,575
David Lawrence M.B.A. ....	22,000	520,881	4,133	109,401
Chief Financial Officer	-	-	3,438	91,004
			3,333	88,225
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D.....	-	-	4,533	119,989
Chief Scientific Officer	-	-	5,000	132,350
			5,333	141,165
Jane Wasman, J.D. ....	-	-	5,000	132,350
Executive VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary			5,000	132,350
			5,000	132,350
Thomas C. Wessel, M.D., Ph.D. ....	-	-	867	22,950
Chief Medical Officer			8,333	217,158

### Executive Employment Agreements

We have entered into employment agreements and arrangements with current Named Executive Officers, the terms of which are summarized below.

We are a party to an employment agreement with Dr. Cohen that governs the terms and conditions of his employment as our President and Chief Executive Officer. The employment agreement originally provided for a base annual salary of \$280,000, subject to annual increases and bonuses at the discretion of the Board. Dr. Cohen's current base salary, as approved by the Board effective March 1, 2011, is \$640,000. Dr. Cohen is eligible to receive annual performance-based stock options to purchase common stock, stock appreciation rights, and/or restricted stock in an amount recommended by the Compensation Committee and approved by the Board based on Dr. Cohen's individual performance and the achievement of our goals and objectives.

Dr. Cohen's employment agreement is subject to automatic successive one-year renewal periods unless either Dr. Cohen or we give the other written notice at least 60 days prior to the expiration date that Dr. Cohen or we do not intend to renew the contract. Dr. Cohen's employment agreement has been renewed effective January 1, 2011 for a one-year period.



We are party to an employment agreement with Mr. Lawrence that governs the terms and conditions of his employment as our Chief Financial Officer. The employment agreement originally provided for a base annual salary of \$180,000, subject to annual review by Dr. Cohen and by the Compensation Committee of the Board. His current base salary, as approved by the Board effective March 1, 2011, is \$283,100.

We are party to an employment agreement with Dr. Blight that governs the terms and conditions of his employment as our Chief Scientific Officer. The employment agreement originally provided for a base annual salary of \$215,000, subject to annual review by Dr. Cohen and by the Compensation Committee of the Board. His current base salary, as approved by the Board effective March 1, 2011, is \$358,300.

We are party to an employment agreement with Ms. Wasman that governs the terms and conditions of her employment as our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. The employment agreement originally provided for a base annual salary of \$225,000, subject to annual review by Dr. Cohen and by the Compensation Committee of the Board. Her current base salary, as approved by the Board effective March 1, 2011, is \$391,500.

Pursuant to their employment agreements, Dr. Blight, Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Wasman are eligible to receive an annual bonus and to receive annual performance-based stock options to purchase common stock, stock appreciation rights awards and/or restricted stock awards of common stock in an amount to be recommended by the Compensation Committee and approved by the Board based on their respective performances and upon the achievement of our goals and objectives. Each of the employment agreements expires on December 19, 2011 but shall be automatically renewed for successive one year terms unless either we or they provide written notice of non-renewal at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the then-current term.

Dr. Wessel, our Chief Medical Officer, does not have an employment agreement with us. Dr. Wessel was offered employment with us pursuant to a letter dated October 20, 2008, which governs some of the terms and conditions of his employment as our Chief Medical Officer. The offer letter originally provided for a base annual salary of \$360,000, subject to annual increase pursuant to our annual merit increase review, and it entitles him to participate in our annual bonus program and equity compensation programs. His current base salary, as approved by the Board effective March 1, 2011, is \$370,400. Pursuant to the offer letter, upon the commencement of his employment Dr. Wessel received 50,000 options to purchase shares of our common stock, vesting over a four-year period, and 25,000 restricted shares of our common stock, vesting annually over a three-year period. Dr. Wessel is eligible to participate in our health and welfare benefit plans. The offer letter does not provide for any severance payments or payments upon termination or change-in-control.

### **Executive Officer Severance Plans**

In the event we terminate the agreement with Dr. Cohen without cause, or if Dr. Cohen voluntarily terminates the agreement with good reason, we are obligated to make severance payments equal to 15 months' base annual salary and COBRA premium payments for the severance period plus a bonus equal to his prior year's bonus pro rated for the number of days worked prior to termination. This amount would be paid in a lump sum in the seventh month after such termination. In such event, all of Dr. Cohen's options, stock appreciation rights awards, and restricted stock awards will become immediately vested, and his vested options and stock appreciation rights awards will remain exercisable for 48 months following the termination date or for a lesser period, to the extent necessary to comply with U.S. tax law or the 10 year term limit under our equity plans.

If Dr. Cohen's employment terminates for death or disability, we are obligated to pay his base salary for three months and his COBRA premiums for the COBRA coverage period. This amount would be paid, in case of death, within thirty days after death and, in case of disability, in a lump sum in the seventh month after such termination. In either such event, 65% of his unvested options, rights awards, and restricted stock awards will become immediately vested, and his vested options and stock appreciation rights will remain exercisable for 48 months following such termination or for a lesser period, to the extent necessary to comply with U.S. tax law or the 10 year term limit under our equity plans.

If Dr. Cohen voluntarily terminates his employment without good reason following a "change in control" (as defined in his employment agreement), we are obligated to make severance payments equal to 12 months' base annual salary and COBRA premium payments for the severance period and he is entitled to receive a bonus equal to his prior year's bonus pro rated for the number of days worked prior to termination. This amount would be paid in a lump sum in the seventh month after such termination. In addition, if the "change in control" constitutes a "reorganization event" (as defined in the Company's 2006 Employee Incentive Plan), 100% of his outstanding options, restricted stock and any other awards issued under the 2006 Employee Incentive Plan will become immediately vested; otherwise only 65% of his unvested awards will become immediately vested. All vested options and stock appreciation rights will remain exercisable for 48 months following

termination or for a lesser period, to the extent necessary to comply with U.S. tax law or the 10 year term limit under our equity plans. Following his termination of employment, Dr. Cohen will remain subject to confidentiality, non-competition and non-solicitation covenants for one year in the case of non-competition and non-solicitation and five years in the case of confidentiality.

In the event we terminate our employment agreement with Dr. Blight, Mr. Lawrence or Ms. Wasman without cause, or if one of them voluntarily terminates his or her agreements with good reason, we are obligated to make severance payments equal to nine months base annual salary, in the case of Dr. Blight, and seven months base annual salary, in the case of Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Wasman, as well as COBRA premium payments for the severance period. In such event, all options and stock appreciation rights awards that have vested as of the termination date shall remain exercisable for 90 days following such date, or for a lesser period, to the extent necessary to comply with U.S. tax law or the 10 year term limit under our equity plans. All unvested options, stock appreciation rights awards and stock awards will be cancelled on the date of termination.

If Dr. Blight, Mr. Lawrence or Ms. Wasman voluntarily terminates his or her employment with good reason or if we terminate his or her employment without cause within 18 months after a “change in control” (as defined in their employment agreements), we are obligated to make severance payments equal to one year’s base annual salary, in the case of Dr. Blight, and nine months base annual salary, in the case of Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Wasman, in each case paid in a lump sum within 30 days after termination, as well as COBRA premium payments for the severance period plus a bonus equal to a prior year’s bonus pro rated for the number of days worked prior to termination. We are also obligated to pay salary earned but not paid, vacation and sick leave days that have accrued, and reimbursable business expenses incurred through the date of termination. In addition, if the “change in control” constitutes a “reorganization event” (as defined in the Company’s 2006 Employee Incentive Plan), 100% of the outstanding options and restricted stock and any other awards issued under the 2006 Employee Incentive Plan then held by each such executive officer will become immediately vested; otherwise, not less than 50% of the unvested awards will become immediately vested. All vested options will remain exercisable for 18 months following such date, or for a lesser period, to the extent necessary to comply with U.S. tax law or the 10 year term limit under our equity plans. All unvested options, stock appreciation rights awards and stock awards will be cancelled on the date of termination.

The following table and summary set forth potential payments payable to those Named Executive Officers who are eligible for such payments upon termination of employment or a change in control. The table below reflects amounts payable to such Named Executive Officers assuming their employment was terminated as of December 31, 2010.

## Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Benefit</u>	<u>Termination Without Cause or Voluntary Termination by Executive With Good Reason</u>	<u>Voluntary Termination by Executive Without Good Reason Following a Change in Control</u>	<u>Termination Without Cause or Voluntary Termination by Executive With Good Reason Following a Change in Control(1)</u>
Ron Cohen, M.D. President and Chief Executive Officer	Salary	\$762,500	\$610,000	\$762,500
	Bonus	280,888	280,888	280,888
	Option and award acceleration	8,205,319	5,333,457	8,205,319
	Benefits continuation	27,795	27,795	27,795
	Total value:	9,276,502	6,252,140	9,276,502
David Lawrence M.B.A. Chief Financial Officer	Salary	158,783(1)	—	204,150
	Bonus	—	—	105,733
	Option and award acceleration	—	—	1,249,453
	Benefits continuation	12,971(1)	—	16,677
	Total value:	171,754	—	1,576,013
Andrew R. Blight, Ph.D. Chief Scientific Officer	Salary	257,175(1)	—	342,900
	Bonus	—	—	149,279
	Option and award acceleration	—	—	1,793,755
	Benefits continuation	5,499(1)	—	7,332
	Total value:	262,674	—	2,293,266
Jane Wasman, J.D. Executive VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary	Salary	216,475(1)	—	278,325
	Bonus	—	—	161,139
	Option and award acceleration	—	—	1,770,167
	Benefits continuation	4,277(1)	—	5,499
	Total value:	220,752	—	2,215,130

- (1) Shall be reduced in the event the executive obtains other employment during the severance period, except that Dr. Cohen is entitled to retain payment of his base salary without regard to any subsequent employment he may obtain.

### Other Compensation

All of our executives are eligible to participate in our health and welfare benefit plans. These plans are available to all employees and do not discriminate in favor of executive officers. It is generally our policy not to extend significant perquisites to our executives that are not available to all of our employees. We have no current plans to make changes to the levels of benefits and perquisites provided to executives.

### Compensation and Risk

We do not believe that our compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. Our compensation policies reflect a balanced approach using both quantitative and qualitative assessments of performance without unduly emphasizing any particular performance measure. The annual compensation of our executive officers and other employees consists of base salary, cash bonus, and equity awards. Base salaries do not encourage risk taking because their amount is fixed. An executive officer's annual cash bonus is 80% based on Company performance criteria (100% in the case of Ron Cohen, M.D., our President and Chief Executive Officer). The Company operates as one unit, and there are no separate business unit incentives. We believe the annual cash bonuses appropriately balance risk and our desire to focus employees on annual goals important to our success. Also, our executive officers are paid a significant portion of their compensation in the form of equity awards that align the interests of our officers with the interests of our stockholders. These equity awards do not encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking because the ultimate value of the awards is tied to the value of the Company's stock. Equity grants vest over a period of several years so that the eventual value, if any, of this compensation is tied to the long-term performance of our stock.

## **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

Our Compensation Committee currently determines the compensation levels of our executive officers as described above. None of our executive officers has served as a director or member of the Compensation Committee, or other committee serving an equivalent function, of any entity of which an executive officer is expected to serve as a member of our Compensation Committee.

## **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires our officers and directors, and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities to file reports of beneficial ownership of common stock (Forms 3, 4, and 5) with the SEC. Officers, directors, and greater-than-10% stockholders are required to furnish us with copies of all such forms that they file.

To our knowledge, based solely on our review of the copies of Forms 3, 4 and 5, and amendments thereto, received by us during or with respect to the year ended December 31, 2010, all filings applicable to our officers, directors, greater-than-10% stockholders and other persons subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 were timely, except that one Form 4 reporting the grant to Dr. Cohen of a restricted stock award and a stock option award was inadvertently filed late.

## **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

In 2010, we did not engage in any transactions with our directors or executive officers, holders of more than 5% of our voting securities, or any member of the immediate family of any of these persons.

Through approval by the Audit Committee, the Board has adopted a written policy setting forth procedures to be followed in connection with the review, approval or ratification of “related party transactions.” “Related party transaction” refers to any transaction, arrangement or relationship (except as noted below) in which we or our subsidiaries are a participant, where the amount involved is expected to exceed \$10,000, and in which any of the following has a direct or indirect material interest: any director or director nominee, executive officer, beneficial owner of more than 5% of our common stock or their immediate family members, or any entity in which any of the foregoing is employed, is a general partner or principal, owns beneficially more than 5% or, in the case of a non-profit organization, has a substantial relationship. Related party transactions exclude (i) compensation of directors and executive officers that is required to be disclosed in our SEC filings, (ii) certain transactions below a defined threshold with entities in which the related party is not an executive officer and does not beneficially own at least 10%, (iii) transactions in which the related party’s benefit is proportionate to other stockholders, and (iv) certain charitable contributions below a defined threshold.

The Audit Committee is responsible for the review and, as applicable, approval or ratification of all related party transactions. In determining whether to approve or ratify a related party transaction, the Audit Committee will take into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, whether the related party transaction is on terms no less favorable to the Company than terms generally available to an unaffiliated third party and the extent of the related party’s interest in the transaction.

If the Audit Committee decides not to approve a transaction, the Committee will notify the CEO and President and the General Counsel, who will ensure that the transaction is not entered into unless the concerns expressed by the Committee are addressed to its satisfaction. If the Audit Committee decides not to ratify a transaction, it will also notify the CEO and President and the General Counsel and provide its recommendation for how to address such transaction (including if necessary and possible, terminating the transaction), and such officers will implement the Audit Committee’s decision.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to: (1) the Company’s accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and its internal controls and procedures; (2) the Company’s financial statements and financial information to be provided to the stockholders; and (3) the independence, qualifications and performance of the Company’s independent auditors and the independent audit.

The Audit Committee is comprised of Messrs. Smith (Chair), Randall and Rauscher, each of whom has been determined independent by the Board. In addition, based upon their background and experience, each of Messrs. Smith and Randall qualifies as an audit committee financial expert. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee,

which can be viewed on the Company's website at *www.acorda.com*, under "Investors—Corporate Profile—Corporate Governance—Committee Charters."

Ernst & Young LLP was the principal accountant engaged to audit the financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2010. The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed those audited financial statements with the Company's management and Ernst & Young LLP. The Audit Committee had also discussed with Ernst & Young LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees). Effective March 18, 2010, KPMG LLP was dismissed as the registered public accounting firm of the Company and replaced with Ernst & Young LLP.

The Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young LLP the firm's independence, and received from Ernst & Young LLP the written disclosures and the letter concerning independence as required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Ethics and Independence Rule 3526 (Commission with Audit Committees Concerning Independence).

Based on the foregoing review and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Members of the Audit Committee

Ian Smith

Lorin J. Randall

Steven Rauscher

**PROPOSAL TWO: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

**Ratification of Appointment of Ernst & Young LLP**

The Audit Committee appointed Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and voting at the 2011 Annual Meeting is required to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP.

In the event the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee may reconsider its selection. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent auditing firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee believes that such a change would be in our best interests and in the best interests of our stockholders.

Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the 2011 Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL TWO.**

**Dismissal of KPMG**

KPMG LLP was the principal accounting firm engaged to audit the financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2009. On March 18, 2010, KPMG LLP was notified that the Audit Committee had determined to dismiss KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

During the Company's two fiscal years ended December 31, 2009, and the subsequent interim period through March 18, 2010, there were no (1) disagreements with KPMG LLP on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedures, which if not resolved to their satisfaction would have caused them to make reference in connection with their opinion to the subject matter of the disagreement, or (2) reportable events as such term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of SEC Regulation S-K.

The audit reports of KPMG LLP on the consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles. The audit reports of KPMG LLP on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

The Company provided KPMG LLP with a copy of the foregoing disclosures and requested that KPMG LLP review such disclosures and provide a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission as specified by Item 304(a)(3) of SEC Regulation S-K. A copy of KPMG LLP's letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission was attached as an exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the Company on March 23, 2010.

On March 18, 2010, the Audit Committee appointed Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, and the Company's stockholders ratified that appointment at our 2010 Annual Meeting. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, and the subsequent interim period through March 18, 2010 (the date of engagement of Ernst & Young LLP), neither the Company, nor any person acting on its behalf, consulted Ernst & Young LLP regarding any of the matters or events set forth in Item 304(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of SEC Regulation S-K.

### Audit and Non-Audit Fees

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for 2010 and KPMG LLP, the Company's previous independent registered public accounting firm, for 2009 in connection with audit and other services rendered during the past two fiscal years.

<u>Type of Fee</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Audit Fees(1).....	\$558,080	\$541,700
Audit-Related Fees.....	—	—
Tax Fees.....	—	—
All other fees.....	—	—
Total Fees for Services Provided.....	<u>\$558,080</u>	<u>\$541,700</u>

- (1) Audit fees represent fees for professional services rendered for the audit of our financial statements, audit of internal control over financial reporting, review of interim financial statements and services normally provided by the independent auditor in connection with regulatory filings.

### Pre-approval Policies and Procedures

Our Audit Committee Charter provides that the Audit Committee must pre-approve all services provided to the Company by the independent auditor. All of the fees in the above table were approved by the Audit Committee.

### PROPOSAL THREE: ADVISORY (NON BINDING) VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We are asking you to vote, in advisory (non-binding) manner, to approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the executive compensation tables and the related footnotes and narrative accompanying the tables.

Before you vote on this proposal, we urge you to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the executive compensation information (including the compensation tables and the accompanying footnotes and narrative) set forth earlier in this Proxy Statement. As we describe in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, our executive compensation program embodies a pay-for-performance philosophy that is designed to tie annual and long-term compensation to the achievement of established goals and to align executives' incentives with the creation of value for our stockholders. Our compensation program is also designed to attract and retain highly talented, qualified executives who are dedicated to our mission and culture. We believe our compensation philosophy and objectives support our business strategy and align the interests of our executives and our stockholders. We also believe that our compensation program does not encourage excessive risk-taking by management.

For these reasons, the Board is asking stockholders to support this proposal. This is an advisory vote and the results

will not be binding. However, we, our Board, and the Compensation Committee value the views of our stockholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future decisions on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers and on our executive compensation principles, policies, and procedures.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL THREE.**

**PROPOSAL FOUR: ADVISORY (NON BINDING) VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ADVISORY VOTES**

In Proposal Three above, we are giving the stockholders the opportunity to cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on the Company’s executive compensation. This advisory vote is commonly referred to as a “say-on-pay” vote. In this Proposal Four, we are asking you to vote, in an advisory (non-binding) manner, on the frequency of future say-on-pay votes. You will be able to cast your vote to hold future advisory say-on-pay votes every 1 year, every 2 years, or every 3 years. Alternatively, you may abstain from casting a vote.

The Board of Directors has determined that holding an advisory vote on executive compensation every year is the most appropriate policy for the Company at this time. Holding an annual say-on-pay vote is a meaningful and effective way to gather feedback from stockholders on the Company’s compensation principles, policies, and procedures. An annual vote also furthers the Company’s commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE TO SELECT EVERY 1 YEAR AS THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.** This is an advisory vote and the results will not be binding. However, our Board will review the results of the vote and take them into account in making a determination concerning the frequency of future say-on-pay votes. The Board reserves the right to make a determination different from the results of the vote, and the results of the vote will not overrule any decision by the Board or require the Board to take any action.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, we know of no other business that will be presented for consideration at the 2011 Annual Meeting other than the items referred to above. If any other matter is properly brought before the 2011 Annual Meeting for action by stockholders, the persons designated as proxies will vote all shares in accordance with the recommendation of the Board or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in accordance with their best judgment.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides information about shares of our common stock that may be issued under our 1999 Employee Stock Option Plan and our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan. As reflected in the table, we do not have any equity compensation plans under which shares of our common stock may be issued that were not approved by our stockholders. Information in the table is as of December 31, 2010.

Plan Category	Number of shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants, and rights (1) (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants, and rights (b)	Number of shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (2) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders .....	4,084,081	\$20.13	1,730,998
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders	0	0	0
Total.....	4,084,081	\$20.13	1,730,998

- (1) The number of shares disclosed in this column includes 682,578 shares of our Common Stock that are issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding under our 1999 Employee Stock Option Plan and 3,401,503 shares of our Common Stock that are issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding under our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan.
- (2) The shares of common stock disclosed in this column are available for issuance under our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan. The total number of shares of our common stock that are available for issuance under our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan automatically increases on January 1 of each year during the term of the Plan. Pursuant to the Plan, the increase is equal to 4% of the total number of issued and outstanding shares of our common stock, unless otherwise determined by our Board. The information in the table above is provided as of December 31, 2010, and therefore does not reflect the automatic increase that was effective as of January 1, 2011.

### Householding

The SEC's rules permit companies and intermediaries such as brokers to satisfy delivery requirements for proxy statements, annual reports and notices of annual meeting and internet availability with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement and annual report addressed to those stockholders.

Stockholders residing in the same household who hold their shares through a broker may receive only one Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability (or Proxy Statement, for those who receive a printed copy of the Proxy Statement) in accordance with a notice sent earlier by their broker. This practice of sending only one copy of proxy materials is called "householding," and saves us money in printing and distribution costs. This practice will continue unless instructions to the contrary are received by your broker from one or more of the stockholders within the household.

If you hold your shares in "street name" and reside in a household that received only one copy of the proxy materials, you can request to receive a separate copy in the future by following the instructions sent by your bank or broker. If your household is receiving multiple copies of the proxy materials, you may request that only a single set of materials be sent by following the instructions sent by your bank or broker. If you would like to receive a separate copy of this year's Proxy Statement, Annual Report, or Notice of Annual Meeting and Internet Availability, please contact our investor relations department at 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532, telephone number (914) 347-4300, and we will promptly deliver the requested materials.



## **Requirements, Including Deadlines, for Submission of Proxy Proposals, Nomination of Directors and Other Business of Stockholders**

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, stockholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement relating to, and for consideration at, the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, by submitting their proposals to us no later than the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to the anniversary of the date of these proxy materials, December 31, 2011. Any proposal so submitted must comply with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

If you want to nominate a director or make a proposal for consideration at next year's annual meeting without having the proposal included in our proxy materials, you must comply with the current advance notice provisions and other requirements set forth in our Amended and Restated Bylaws. Under our Amended and Restated Bylaws, a stockholder may nominate a director or submit a proposal for consideration at an annual meeting by giving timely notice to Acorda Therapeutics. To be timely, that notice must contain information specified in our Amended and Restated Bylaws and be received by us at our principal executive office at 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, NY 10532, not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. If, however, the date of the annual meeting is advanced by more than 20 days, or delayed by more than 60 days, from the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting, a stockholder's notice must be received not earlier than the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to such annual meeting and the tenth day following the day on which notice of the date of such annual meeting was mailed or public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting was made. Therefore, we must receive your nomination or proposal on or after February 17, 2012 and prior to March 18, 2012, unless the date of the 2012 Annual Meeting is advanced by more than 20 days, or delayed by more than 60 days from the anniversary date of the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Under our Amended and Restated Bylaws and as permitted by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, certain procedures are provided that a stockholder must follow to nominate persons for election to our Board or to introduce an item of business at an Annual Meeting of Stockholders. A stockholder nominating a director candidate or introducing an item of business must be a stockholder of record on the date of the giving of such notice and on the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the relevant meeting. Additionally, a director nomination or item of business must comply with the requirements as to form imposed by Sections 1.10(b) and 1.11(b), respectively, of our Amended and Restated Bylaws.

We will have discretionary authority to vote on any stockholder proposals presented at our 2012 Annual Meeting that do not comply with the notice and other requirements as described above.

The chairman of our annual meetings has the power to determine whether a nomination or other business is properly brought before an annual meeting. The chairman of such meetings may refuse to allow the nomination of any person or the transaction of any business not in compliance with the requirements described above.

### **Annual Report**

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, is enclosed or being made available with this Proxy Statement. We filed our Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC on March 1, 2011. Stockholders may obtain a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the financial statements, without charge, by writing to our investor relations department at our principal executive office located at 15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, New York 10532. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K and the other filings that we make with the SEC can also be accessed on our website at [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com). We will also furnish any exhibit to our Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, if specifically requested.

### **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to all our directors and officers and other employees and that is intended to meet the definition of "code of ethics" as set forth in the Item 406 of SEC's Regulation S-K. Any waiver of our Code of Ethics for executive officers, senior financial officers or directors requires the express written approval of the Board or the Audit Committee. To the extent required by applicable law, we will promptly disclose to our stockholders any amendments to or waivers from our Code of Ethics granted to any of our executive officers, senior financial officers or directors. We intend to satisfy SEC disclosure requirements regarding amendments to or waivers from the Code of Ethics by posting the required disclosures on our website. Our Code of Ethics, and any such disclosures of amendments or waivers, can be accessed on our website at [www.acorda.com](http://www.acorda.com).

**Please submit your proxy whether or not you plan to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting.**

By the Order of the Board of Directors,

Jane Wasman  
*Executive Vice President,  
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary*